**COBA’s New Vision and Structure**

The second decade of the new millennium has begun in COBA with a new strategic and operational focus. The Strategic Planning Council recently presented COBA’s new vision to become a top 100 business school in the next ten years. The vision is built upon a culture of engagement, distinctive competencies, diversity of faculty, and breadth and scope of the college’s impact in the region.

In a recent analysis of competitive strengths, COBA was identified as having maintained AACSB-International accreditation for more than 30 years, consistently producing more than 20 percent of campus student hours, developing substantial research and publication reputations, engaging ten regional business-outreach centers, and offering among the best business programs nationwide, as reflected in present top two-hundred rankings at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

The strategic plan envisions COBA accomplishing missions of academic excellence, student success, research, scholarship, and creative achievement, and fiscal sustainability by leveraging opportunities presented by growth in demand for business education and on-line delivery, applied research and regional business-outreach, and graduate education programs.

Operationally, a COBA Task Force organized by Dean Ron Shiffler recently announced the new organization for integrating structural changes to accommodate return of information systems to COBA, alignment of construction management and hospitality management into COBA, along with continuing commitment to AACSB-International accreditation and increasing retention and graduation rates.

Effective July 1, 2012, the Department of Finance & Economics, including finance, financial services, personal financial planning, risk management and insurance, and real estate, along with economics, international business, and regional economic development, will be merged and chaired by Geoffrey Gibbison. The Department of Management, including management, human resources, operations management, entrepreneurship, and hospitality management, along with quantitative analysis, will be separated from Marketing & Logistics and chaired by Jerry Burke. The Department of Marketing & Logistics, including marketing, sales and sales management, fashion merchandising, and retail management, along with logistics and intermodal transportation, will be chaired by Jerry Wilson. The Department of Information Systems, including information systems, business application development, business intelligence, electronic commerce, enterprise resource planning, enterprise security, technology entrepreneurship, and technology sales and marketing, along with accounting, logistics, and human resource information systems, will return from the College of Information Technology to COBA and be chaired by Tom Case. Finally, the Department of Construction Management will move to COBA from the College of Science and Technology and be chaired by Brian Moore.

COBA’s vision, mission, and plan to become a top 100 business school in the next decade has the clear underlying objective of supporting Georgia Southern’s vision of being recognized as one of the best public, comprehensive universities in the nation.

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**Georgia Southern’s First Ph.D. Class**

Amit Arora

Amit holds an MS in energy and environmental management from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India, and a BS in mechanical engineering from Aiglath University, India. He has a decade of automotive industry experience in dealer warranty support, domestic and international, with Honda and Hyundai in India. His current research interests are supply chain sustainability, strategies, market orientation, and developing sustainability indices for the logistics and shipping services industry.

Amit has published in the 2010 *International Journal of Global Management Studies Quarterly* and won best Ph.D. paper awards at the meetings of the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute in February.
A Message from Dean Shiffler

The College of Business Administration is going through an incredible period of change at the moment. If we look back about 18 months and ahead about 18 months, then we are mid-way through one of the most significant three-year periods in COBA’s history.

What has changed? What is going to change?

For starters, about a year-and-a-half ago we launched the first-ever Ph.D. program in the 105-year history of this university. Establishing the logistics and supply chain management Ph.D. program immediately thrust Georgia Southern into a new level of higher education—the highest tier in the Carnegie Foundation classifications. You could compare this change to a baseball team moving from Triple-A to the major leagues. We are well on our way to becoming a national university that will attract students from all over the country, not just from Georgia or the Southeast.

Future students will be attracted because of our programs and our stature.

The Ph.D. program is in its second year and is thriving. To validate, one of our new Ph.D. students is from Arizona. Did she come to Georgia Southern because of the Ph.D. program? Yes! Would she have enrolled otherwise? No. That is what a Ph.D. program will do for a university. Once our doctoral students graduate and take positions in other universities, our reputation will open doors for other students to consider enrolling here.

COBA’s ability to successfully deliver a Ph.D. program yields intangible benefits in Atlanta. The Board of Regents recently approved four-year engineering degrees at Georgia Southern. The ripple effect is that a new college combining the programs in civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering with information technology and computer science will be formed.

The College of Business Administration is a member of the Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). The College of Business Administration is going through an economic climate and an AACSB reaccreditation visit.

What has changed? What is going to change?

This fall, I sent out a lot of blue cards and am looking to get them back with your updates. It really helps us to know where COBA graduates are and what they are doing. We know that, with a degree from COBA, job prospects are much better because our alums are doing so well, and we often invite alumni to interview on-campus, participate in academic events, and join us to speak to classes.

If you are thinking we might ask you for a contribution, you are right, we do need your financial support. Membership in the Eagle Executive Society is only $50 a year. If all COBA alumni joined the EEXS, the $1.1 million impact would be astounding! As you know, about half our budget comes from the state, and the Board of Regents targets tuition to cover approximately 25 percent. The balance comes from contributions, grants, and sponsorships. When you were here, someone made it possible for you to have a quality education. Now, you are gainfully employed and successful, so I hope you will heed the call to give back!

If you have not been back to the ‘Boro lately, I think you will be literally amazed at the changes in the campus, community, and region. The growth continues—the official student body count for this year is 20,212. The campus is beautifully landscaped and Sweetheart Circle is more beautiful than ever. Hope to see you soon!

Best regards,

Ronald E. Shiffler
Dean
Lewis M. Stewart, Alumni Editor

The 18th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

The annual COBA golf tournament was held at Forest Heights Country Club on Friday, May 13. Winning teams were Gross – Andy Parrish, Chris Wood, Ben Lee, and Ashley Beecher, and Net – Chris Davis, Danny Nease, Shane Holland, and Jon Burns. Special awards were Straightest Drive – Brian Anderson, Closest to the Pin – Christi Ryan (#3, #6) and Ashley Beecher (#15), and Longest Drive – Susan Williams, ladies, and Walter Garvin, men. Special thanks to corporate sponsor, Walmart Logistics.

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from the ‘Boro!

The Georgia Southern community lost a real trooper in John Budack. His passing this fall. He had lived near Charlene and me for about 25 years and our families were very close. We cried when Lisa, his older daughter, died and when Carol, his first wife, passed away. It is still hard for me to talk about John without getting teary-eyed.

He liked to play ping pong. We had a table in our playroom, and we played many, many hours. His serve was not so fast, but he could return anything! We had a table in our playroom, and we played many, many hours. His serve was not so fast, but he could return anything!

John related, once, he had never caught a big bass; so, one day we went fishing at Smith Pond. He was using one of my rods with a tight drag. When a bass hit the blue jellyworm and took off, I thought he would never get the fish to the boat. I could tell he was tiring because of the drag and offered to reel it in, but John would not give up. He was elated to see the bass take off, I thought he would never get the fish to the boat. I could tell he was tiring because of the drag and offered to reel it in, but John would not give up. He was elated to see the bass weigh-in at more than five pounds.

COBA once held alumni socials around the state, Atlanta, Macon, etc., and former students often asked about their favorite professors—sometimes, about those who were not so favorite! As I recall, the two professors who were asked about most frequently were John Budack and Bobby Smith. Sure, others were mentioned, but Budack and Smith were consistently the ones our alums thought of as their best teachers who would always take time to help them. Since I was in their department,
Day for Southern Record

The 38th annual A Day for Southern campaign for Georgia Southern set an all-time record in 2011 with total contributions of $1,401,739 for 2008. Last year, the campaign raised $1.3 million, while the previous record was $1,401,739 for 2008.

Volunteers, led by community chair and Georgia Southern alumna Jenny Lynn Anderson called upon individuals, local and regional businesses, faculty, staff, students, retirees, alumni, and friends of the university seeking support for the university academic and athletic foundations. Money raised goes for scholarships and programs not supported by state funding including the Museum, Wildlife Center, Botanical Garden, Performing Arts Center, Symphony, Community Education programs, and many aspects of the athletic programs.

“In 1906, it was local and regional support that brought Georgia Southern to Statesboro. Today, that support is stronger and more important that ever. The 2011 A Day for Southern campaign speaks volumes about community support for this University,” concluded the elated Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. ◆

Business Beat

COBA has begun a new video program, “Business Beat,” focusing on business in the ‘Boro and COBA successes as part of our City Campus program. Each week, we provide a five- to seven-minute video segment for alumni and friends of COBA.

The “Statesboro Is Growing” video with Allen Muldrew, executive director of the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority; along with “Community Spotlights,” hosted by Cindy Randall, interviewing Keely Fennel (MGT, 1991), about the residential construction, and Doug Lambert (MKT, 1971) about the hospitality industry, are presently available via the QR code or on-line at Statesboro Is Growing
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhPzFpZ2xU
Community Spotlight: Construction
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSjdB75A9M
Community Spotlight: Hospitality
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ulb60kQaOdo ◆

Hupman Scholar

Senior accounting and finance major Jeffrey Hupman has been awarded a $10,000 Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Scholarship, a first for COBA scholars. The scholarship is offered to encourage students to pursue careers in auditing. Jeffery will enter the MAcc program in the spring.

The PCAOB oversees audits of public companies and broker-dealers in the interest of protecting investors and the public. ◆

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

In a crowded professional development workshop entitled, “Journal of Supply Chain Management Best Paper Session: Crafting a High Quality Research Paper,” Ed Bernardes, associate professor of operations management, was recognized during the 2011 Academy of Management meeting for being a finalist for AOM’s 2010 Harold E. Fearn Best Paper Award. After presenting his paper, he received a plaque from the journal editor, presenting his paper, he received a plaque from the journal editor.

Jerry Burke, associate professor, has been appointed chair of the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis. The Center for Excellence in Financial Services, under the leadership of Edward II. Sibbald, director and BB&T Executive in Residence, supported the South Georgia Banking Symposium (SGBS) at Valdosta State University. Mr. Sibbald and his team produced and provided hundreds of timely, peer-benchmarked reports for banking executives involved with the SGBS. Mr. Sibbald also spoke at the 51st Annual Georgia Bankers Association Leadership Conference on St. Simons this past summer.

Information Systems

The on-line graduate ERP Certificate program was launched in Fall Semester 2011 with a cohort of 18 that includes IS instructor Valerie Kasay. Camille Rogers is the ERP Certificate program director. In October, Dr. Rogers joined the SAP University Alliance Curriculum Development Team for SAP’s Business ByDesign cloud computing solution. To get things rolling, Dr. Elder attended a three-day ByDesign workshop at SAP headquarters in Waldorf Germany in October.

The department now has seven SAP Certified faculty members, and the first student. A new degree in Management Information Systems is also being developed.

Kevin Elder is also playing a leadership role in developing enterprise systems curriculum. Georgia Southern is one of four U.S. schools named to the Core Design Team for SAP’s Business ByDesign cloud computing solution. To get things rolling, Dr. Elder attended a three-day ByDesign workshop at SAP headquarters in Waldorf Germany in October.

The department now has seven SAP Certified faculty members, and the first student. A new degree in Management Information Systems is also being developed.

School of Accounting

KPMG’s Stephen Spiers and Will Hanley spoke to Chuck Harter’s, professor, forensic accounting class. Stephe, who earned his Ph.D. at Georgia Southern, later joined Hanley in a presentation to Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honorary society.

Jack Lockwood, professor, was recently awarded the 2011 Georgia Society of CPA’s Outstanding Educator Award, presented annually by its Education Foundation to the state’s outstanding educator in the field of accounting. This represents the 4th time since the 1981 inception of the award that a Georgia Southern faculty member has been selected, previously including Herb O’Keefe, associate professor emeritus, and Lowell Money, professor. Only the University of Georgia and Georgia State University have received more awards.

School of Economic Development

Greg Brock’s, professor, international business class welcomed speakers Allen Boudet, food safety director, Claxton Poultry, and Larry Kopczak, former Hewlett Packard engineer, now Snug Hill organic farm entrepreneur in Garfield. Boudet addressed the huge Asian demand for poultry while Kopczak explained the Japanese trade markets.

Michael Reksulak, associate professor, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel in the German Army Reserves.
2011 Scholarship Recipients

If you would like to support COBA’s scholarship programs, please contact Dean Ron Shiffler, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration, P. O. Box 8002, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002, phone (912) 478-COBA.

Dixie Crystals
- Joshua S. Pollak
- Cameron H. Randall
- Gregory D. Vickers

Knotts
- Melvin D. Zuber

Paul LaGrone
- Samantha Williams
- and Lauren Hughes
- with Ms. Abbie Gail Parham (center)

Accounting Advisory Council Scholars
- (1st row L-R) Nelson Padgett, Kenny Douglas, Sonia Curtis, True Taylor, and Taiwo Adegbite
- (2nd row) Katelyn Stephens, Steven Pecko, Mr. Billy Hickman, and Matt Dempsey

Beta Gamma Sigma
- Benjamin Woods
- Freeman Scholar

Nichols Cauley
- 2011 Jessica Farrell, Mr. William Sammons, and Brooke Jackson

GATE Scholars
- (1st row L-R) Erin Winter and Christina Payne
- (2nd row) Michael Struchten, Stacey Ferris, Lee Sellinger, Dr. Dwight Sueathen, Karley Weiner, Meredith Barfield, and Brenden Adams

Atlanta CPCU
- Danielle Youngs
- Freeman Scholar

Professional Insurance Agents
- Jeffrey M. Humphans
- PCAO Board Scholar

Georgia Society of CPAs
- 2011 Southeast Chapter recipients Jennifer Riggs, Michael Hester, Shekira Roberts, Zack Stroup, and Justin Gillette pose with Dr. Chuck Harter (center)

Habif Arogeti Wynne
- Allie Jansen
- Cox Scholar
- Mr. Alex Knight, and Kristen Birchett

Savannah CFO
- Dana Velasquez
- Ms. Cheryl Lanxing, and Walt Howard
- Priddy Price Scholar

Priddy-Price
- Madeline Bunn

Phil Eta Sigma
- Sara Moore

Janofsky
- Ashley L. Harrell

Susan Reback Williams
- Caitlin Herr

Freeman
- Landon J. Latham

Recipients not pictured
- Camden Saturn Batchelor
- Robert Morris
- Burchard Wiggler Blackmore, LIT
- Emily Cliff Brown, Emory
- Phillip Blair Bushman, Mark Anderson
- Wii Ee Chan, LIT
- Zachary J. Daniels, Emory
- John P. Eilander, LIT and Robert Morris
- Brown Kent Flowers, Dixie Crystals
- Rasmalh H. Hasselden, Emory
- Loretta Van Haynes, Emory Quinn Coa
- Cha Nicole King, Paul Kauf
- Qingping Liu, LIT
- Steven Clark Mayfield, Atlanta CPCU
- Austin Blake McAfee, LIT
- Chian Alexandra Miller, Cargilles
- Rebecca Ramo Paul, LIT
- Kelly Michele Sanders, LIT
- Stephanie Powell Thomas, LIT
- Chad Douglas Troughton, LIT
- Dana Jochn Velasquez, Geesco
- Marcus A. Walker, Cox
- Christopher S. Williams, Quilty & Tucker
- Emily Lauren Woods, Priddy Price
- Elizabeth Jay Zellner, Zellner

2011 Southeast Chapter recipients Jennifer Riggs, Michael Hester, Shekira Roberts, Zack Stroup, and Justin Gillette pose with Dr. Chuck Harter (center).
Belk Builds Relationship with Center for Retail Studies

COBA’s Center for Retail Studies recently received a $5,000 donation from the Belk Foundation. The Belk family of department stores was founded in 1888 by William Henry Belk and Dr. John M. Belk, who believed that education is a basis for success in society.

Student Advisory Board

The COBA Student Advisory Board serves as ambassadors of the college, joining faculty and staff for recruitment, including open-house, interview, and scholarship events. The board, now in its third year, also seeks to enrich the academic experience through an annual “Meet the Majors” program. The 2011-2012 members are Landon Latham, Samantha Hairston, Madison Stanford, Jennifer Riggs, Chris Williamson, Mary Kathryn Mason, Jessica Clemen, Allie Jansen, Vincent Duttillo, David Mcintosh, and LaShai Joshua. Next year, Landon will serve as president, Samantha will be vice president, and Madison will serve as secretary of the board.

Fraud and Forensic Education Conference

The 5th Annual Fraud and Forensic Accounting Education Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency, Savannah Riverfront, Savannah this summer. Ernest A. Almonte, CPA, MST, CFF, CITP, and CGFM, former auditor general for the state of Rhode Island, and immediate past chair of the American Institute of CPAs, was this year’s keynote speaker. Almonte is an internationally-known expert on fraud and government finance.

According to Richard Brody, conference presenter from the University of New Mexico, fraud costs U.S. businesses almost a trillion dollars annually, as much as 7 percent of business revenue, or almost $20 per employee each day of the year. The three day conference, offering up to 20 hours of professional continuing education credit for accountants, featured more than 175 registrants and 35 speakers discussing such topics as Ponzi schemes, black markets, fraud and bank failure, red collar crime (murder), pink collar crime (women), money mules, and cyber crimes; consumer, financial institution, insurance, health care, mortgage and real estate, corporate, securities, environmental, government, tax, and bankruptcy frauds; and public corruption.

Demand for accountants trained to deal with these issues has surged in recent years. The Internet has increased information sharing and exposed fraud that may previously have been undetected. Scandals at Enron and WorldCom spawned the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley law, toughening audit and reporting requirements for public companies. The Dodd-Frank Act last year, a response to the 2008 financial crisis, increased regulation of the financial services industry and included whistleblower provisions aimed at preventing frauds such as the Madoff scheme. The conference highlighted the increasing demand for fraud and forensic professionals.

The annual conference is sponsored by the Center for Forensic Studies and Porter Keade Moore, LLP and has been held previously in Statesboro, Charleston, and Atlanta.

Next year, the 6th annual event will be held May 15-17, 2012, at the Hilton DeSoto, Historic District, Savannah. More information, including registration, may be found at http://www.pkm.com/fraudconference/information.php. Almost 20 speakers have already committed to present at the conference.

SOA’s 16th Annual EIR

Mr. Boyd E. Search, chief staff executive of the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants (GSCPA) and a Certified Association Executive, spoke as the 2011 School of Accountancy Executive in Residence at the Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center in November 2011. This represented the 16th annual Executive-in-Residence event for the School of Accountancy.

In his leadership role with the Georgia Society, Mr. Search is responsible for the Society’s vision of enhancing the accounting profession; its mission of achieving excellence in the practice of accounting; and its purpose of providing superior advocacy, leadership, service, lifelong learning, and personal and professional development opportunities for its membership. Under his leadership, the GSCPA’s blueprint for success underscores the Society’s commitment to enhancing resources, information, and leadership for CPAs; delivering value to members by safeguarding the profession’s high professional standards; providing high-quality, timely continuing professional education, and attracting the best and brightest students and professionals to careers as CPAs.

Mr. Search holds a BS in political science with a minor in economics from Ohio State University along with accounting and MBA degrees from Franklin University, Columbus, OH. Prior to his current position, he served as vice president of education and training for the Ohio Society of CPAs, managing a professional education programs of more than 500 courses, events, and program annually.

As keynote speaker for the 2011 Executive-in-Residence program, Boyd led a very informative and spirited lecture to more than 400 Georgia Southern students in attendance. Feedback from students on his topic, “Life in the Accounting World: Lessons Learned,” was excellent. Discussions centered on change and learning from mistakes. Quoting futurist David Pearce Snyder, Search stressed increasing demand for accounting services, career diversification in a dynamic profession, and technology as the driving force of opportunity. Identified keys to success for the industry included standards of accounting for private U.S. companies, international financial reporting standards for U.S. public companies, and legislative advocacy against tax, medical procedure, and nuclear weapon patenting.

The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants is the premier professional organization for CPAs in Georgia. The School of Accountancy works with the Southeast Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs to invite executives to speak to students to illustrate career opportunities that exist for accounting graduates. “The Executive-in-Residence events rank among students’ favorite programs,” said Lowell Mooney, professor of accounting, who introduced Mr. Search. “Students hear about the accomplishments of these executives and their stories of challenges, perseverance, and success.” These programs have become a highlight of the academic year in the College of Business Administration.

Mr. Search and his wife, Kristin, have three daughters; Abigail (11), Madeline (8), and Elizabeth (5). The girls will tell you that there is most certainly a dog in the family’s future!
We are excited the College of Business Administration has earned recognition the 2012 edition of *The Princeton Review*’s guidebook, “The Best 294 Business Schools,” which is now available in bookstores nationwide and on-line. This is the sixth consecutive year COBA has been recognized among the best in the annual survey of business school students and graduates.

A Georgia Southern MBA is no longer only for those in the region. The popular WebMBAs program has a good reputation, as well as AACSB accreditation, according to Robert Franek, *The Princeton Review*’s senior vice president and publisher. “We recommend Georgia Southern University … as one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA,” *The Review* concludes.

COBA’s graduate MBA programs are now available in three options. The traditional MBA is offered on the main campus, Statesboro, or at the Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah on either a full- or part-time basis. Concentrations, or emphasis areas, are available in information systems, including SAP Certification, health services administration, and international business. The Georgia WebMBAs is completely on-line, perfect for working business professionals pursuing their degrees. It was recently named one of the best in the country by GetEducated.com. The Executive MBA in entrepreneurial leadership, offers business leaders an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial principles for any environment, from small business to multinational corporations.

“To continue to be ranked among the nation’s best is testament to our professors and the variety of MBA programs we offer,” said Dean Ron Shiffler. “We recognize business professionals want to earn their degrees from a reputable, accredited university, and offer them the value and flexibility to fit the MBA into their lives.”

**WebMBAs Earn Tier One Ranking**

The Georgia WebMBAs program—an on-line MBA program delivered through a consortium of six Georgia institutions—was recently awarded a Tier One ranking by *CEO Magazine*, a British publication, in its 2011 Global MBA Rankings. The rankings are grouped into on-line, executive, and part-time classifications and twelve global regions, including three emerging markets. Key performance indicators considered by the *CEO* review panel for the rankings included faculty qualifications, tuition and fees, international reach, innovation, delivery alternatives, and career progression.

This represents the first time the WebMBAs has earned recognition in Europe, among other U.S. on-line MBA programs, including Babson College, Boston College, Duke University, George Washington University, Indiana University, and Rochester Institute of Technology, as well as international schools such as the University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, Warwick University, Coventry, UK, and the Swiss Business School, Kloten, Switzerland.

In a separate three page article, *CEO Magazine* editor Jonathan Calens interviewed WebMBAs, Executive Director Joe Bocchi and COBA Dean Ron Shiffler about the program, highlighting the importance of accreditation as the benchmark of quality, advice and recommendations of former students, and price competitiveness of the program. They assessed key strategic success factors of the program to include focuses on student quality, managed growth, and the on-line experience approaching the face-to-face experience.

The entire article is available for review at: http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/pdf%20files/ceo_article_winter_2011.pdf.

**MAcc Update**

The planned Fall 2012 launch of our on-line Web MAcc is under way, and the program for working professionals promises to expand our reach beyond the Statesboro-Savannah area, while continuing to serve existing students.

With a curriculum second to none, our forensic MAcc program continues to attract students from around the world. Their success is a testament to the program’s quality with all big four international accounting firms, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and Deloitte and Touche, hiring our students.

As reported previously, the growth of our reputation enhances our applicant pool. For Spring 2012, the average GMAT score has moved up to 546 from 535 in fall, while the average verbal GPA is 3.58, up from 3.42 in fall. So, when our graduates perform well in the profession, our reputation grows, and we attract better students, a positive cycle!

Three new faculty will join us in the Fall 2012, allowing us to offer more sections, reduce class sizes, and challenge students even more, better preparing them for accounting careers. We are excited about the opportunities. If you are interested in more information, please check our website: www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/soa.
Sonji Fields Leach

Sonji Fields Leach (MKT, 1991) is the principal at Swainsboro High School. She came back to Georgia Southern to get her MEd in middle grades and an add-on in educational administration and supervision in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

For the past two years, Sonji has hosted a “Ladies Night Out” at Swainsboro High School for teaching middle and high school girls using motivational sessions about learning to love and respect themselves. She also hosts a “Women’s Health and Empowerment” workshop in Pembroke to promote making healthy choices for longevity. She loves working with young ladies and women with the hope that she can make a difference and have a positive impact on their lives.

Sonji has been married to her college sweetheart, Derwin “Derkie” Leach, former Georgia Southern basketball player, for 19 years, and they have three sons, Devin (18), Donovan (13), and Dontavian (8).

Frode Kittelsen

Frode Kittelsen (MKT, 1986) is CEO of Kemetyl Norway and Kemetyl Denmark, one of Europe’s largest consumer product companies. After finishing his degree at Georgia Southern, Frode moved back to his hometown of Oslo, Norway, and began his business career in banking. Frode received a master degree in retail management and marketing communication and now has more than 15 years experience as CEO for various companies in the oil production and downstream industries, along with the IT-telecom industry. In addition, he has worked for several years as a marketing director and as a senior retail management consultant.

Frode is married to Lisbeth, who works with the largest bank in Scandinavia. They have two sons, Christian (25) and Vetle (13). Outside work, they enjoy vacationing at their summer house in Kragere, on the southern coast of Norway, or their winter cabin in the Norwegian Valdres Mountains.

Kenny Smiley

Kenny Smiley (MKT, 1996) began his career in the mortgage business before becoming executive director of the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce in Hinesville in 1999. Under his leadership, the Chamber more than doubled its membership, restructured and expanded its program of work, and created the “Leadership Liberty” program. Kenny graduated from the U.S. Chamber’s Southeast Institute for Organization Management in 2008 and became one of only 13 Georgia Certified Chamber Executives in 2009. He is also a graduate of Leadership Southeast Georgia.

Kenny remains active as a volunteer in the communities and chambers in which he lives and serves, and is currently a member of the Legacy Lions Club in Loganville and a participant in Leadership Walton. Kenny still enjoys coming down to Statesboro for as many Georgia Southern Football games as possible—Go Eagles!

Alvie Coes, III

Alvie Coes, III (BBA, 2007; MBA 2010) was recently appointed executive director of the Hearts and Hands Clinic, Inc., Statesboro, a non-profit organization that provides healthcare to uninsured citizens under a partnership of local medical professionals.

In addition to his business degrees, Alvie has an MEd (2009) from Georgia Southern and, in 2012, will receive an AS in funeral services from Ogeechee Technical College.

He was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and awarded the 2011 Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership, or GOAL award, as Georgia’s “Student of the Year” in technical education. The GOAL student serves as an ambassador for technical education in Georgia. Alvie was also named to the Statesboro Herald’s “20 Under 40” list in 2011.

Alvie has five years of experience in human resources. He serves as the treasurer of the Men’s Ministry United Fellowship Worship Center. He is also a member of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association, Bulloch County NAACP, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Bulloch County Democratic Party.

Mark Your Calendars NOW for . . .

COBA Golf Tourney
May 18, 2012
The 2011 homecoming tailgate was held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium on November 5 before the Citadel Game. Special thanks are extended to Jan Grimes, Yaseen Alhaj-Yaseen, Godfrey Gibbison, Nick DeBonis, Stephanie Williams, Chris Lundy, Bill and Karen Wells, Les Furr, Brian Hooks (grad student), Christy Duncan, Emily Laughinghouse and Matthew Whitaker (high school volunteers who attended with Christy), and Cindy and Jim Randall for their help with this event. Later that day, Georgia Southern’s Eagles slipped by The Citadel’s Bulldogs with a score of 14–12.
COBA Welcomes New Faculty

We welcome the newest members of the COBA team presented below, along with the talents and skills they bring. We presently have twelve faculty and administrative searches for the 2012–2013 academic year: two assistant professors of accountancy and a director for the School of Accountancy; two assistant professors of economics; two assistant professors of operations management; two assistant professors of marketing; one assistant professor of entrepreneurship; and two assistant professors of logistics. Searches for eight of these twelve positions have been concluded and the remaining four searches are ongoing.

Jason L. Anderson  
Director  
Small Business Development Center

Jason Anderson, MPA, University of Texas–Arlington and BA, Austin College, assumed his duties as the incoming director of the Small Business Development Center on July 25. Prior to joining Georgia Southern, he practiced law in Texas and, more recently, performed legal contract work in the Atlanta area. Jason also has experience in small business operations, corporate communications, and web administration and design.

Shantanu Bagchi  
Assistant Professor  
School of Economic Development

Prior to joining Georgia Southern, Shantanu Bagchi, Ph.D., Utah State University; and MA and BA, Jadavpur University, was a visiting professor at Weber State University, where he taught courses in macroeconomics and mathematical economics. Shantanu’s current research focuses on the macroeconomic aspects of social insurance, especially issues in Social Security and Medicare.

H. Leslie Furr  
Associate Professor  
Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Leslie Furr, Ph.D., Texas A&M University; MEd Springfield College; BA Louisiana State University, began his hospitality career with the Captain Hyatt, Springfield Marriott, and Brinker’s Steak and Ale Chain. He was responsible for developing the curriculum and directing the hospitality programs at California State University–Chico and Georgia Southern University. Leslie has served as a management and tourism consultant for companies such as Colonial Insurance, Fiji, and the Tampa–St. Petersburg Tourism Council.

Dominique Halaby  
Director  
Bureau of Business Research & Economic Development

Dominique Halaby, DPA, Nova Southeastern University Public Administration; MBA, University of Texas–Pan American; BA, University of Texas, is the new BBRED director. He comes to COBA and Georgia Southern from the Center for Community and Business Research at the University of Texas–San Antonio’s Institute for Economic Development. Dominique is a member of the Southwestern Economics Association, the Association for Research on Non-profit Organizations, and Voluntary Action.

Wells and Randall New Administrators

William H. Wells, associate dean, and Cindy H. Randall, assistant dean, assumed their new positions in August.

Wells had served as chair of the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis since 2007. He came to Georgia Southern in 2001 as assistant professor of finance following assignments in Alabama, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. He received his Ph.D. in finance from the University of Mississippi in 1999. Professionally, he has published 16 journal articles and presented 17 papers at academic meetings. Cindy Randall received her BBA from Georgia Southern and MBA from University of Memphis. She joined the Department of Management in September 1982, became assistant professor of management in 1989, and earned tenure in 1993. Over the years, Mrs. Randall’s teaching has included computer information systems, decision science, business statistics, and quantitative analysis. Randall has published more than fifty articles in journals and conference proceedings and, in 2009, received COBA’s highest honor, the Eugene M. Bishop Award. She led and advised Beta Gamma Sigma for ten years and chaired COBA’s Assessment Committee for AACSB in 2005.

Jin-Woo Kim  
Assistant Professor  
Department of  
Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Jin-Woo Kim, Ph.D., University of Texas–Arlington; MA and BA, Sogang University, comes to us from Arlington, TX, where he recently completed his Ph.D. in marketing with a minor in operations management and taught principles of marketing. His honors include American Marketing Association, Sheth Foundation, and Society for Marketing Advances Doctoral Consortium Fellowships.

Alan Mackelprang  
Assistant Professor  
Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., University of South Carolina; MS, University of Rochester; two BS’s, Arizona State University, comes to COBA from Columbus, SC. His research interests include supply chain contagion and flexibility, operations–marketing interface and operations management, and supply chain strategy. Alan has published in top empirical research journals, including the Journal of Operations Management.

Lawrence D. Stalcup  
Associate Professor  
Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Larry Stalcup, Ph.D., Purdue University; MPS and BS, Cornell University, comes to COBA from Hospitality, Tourism, & Consumer Sciences where he has taught hotel and restaurant management since 1997. In 2008, he taught in the School of Hotel and Tourism Management, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, as a visiting professor. Prior to moving to academia, Larry worked for eleven years in hotel management in New York City, Texas, and Puerto Rico and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica. His research interests are hospitality human resources and hotel operations.

Charles Williamson  
Lecturer of Accounting  
School of Accountancy

Charles Williamson, MPA, University of Texas–Arlington and BA Austin College, comes to COBA with 34 years of experience—most recently as special agent in charge of the Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the State of New Mexico. In addition to being a CPA, Charles is a certified fraud examiner, certified in financial forensics, and has taught graduate tax at the University of New Mexico’s Anderson School of Management. His areas of interest are white collar crime, fraud examinations, tax fraud, and taxation.
Special Agent Vic Hartman, Atlanta FBI, Guest speaker

Special Agent Vic Hartman of the Atlanta FBI spoke to a university wide group of students at the Nessmith Lane Performing Arts Center in September. His presentation included a description of the FBI’s transition subsequent to the events of 9/11 from a predominantly criminal investigative-based agency to more law enforcement and the FBI. He encouraged students to consider business minors, and particularly, the fraud and forensics options. Special Agent Hartman also appeared as a guest speaker in forensic classes. In the white collar crime classes, he discussed his supervision of more than 125 FBI agents and 10 SEC attorneys conducting searches of the 50 floor offices of ENRON. In the forensic interviews and interrogation classes, he shared his experiences and offered advice from lessons learned in acquiring information and confessions from witnesses and subjects in complicated white collar crime investigations.

SED Welcomes Visiting Scholar

Dr. Binglin Li, associate professor of statistics and economics in the Department of Economics and Trade, Chongqing University of Science and Technology, Chongqing, China, has joined the School of Economic Development as research collaborator and visiting professor. Dr. Li is particularly interested in collaboration on the measurement and policy implications of financial bubbles. He will be working with Dr. Bill Yang, SED professor of classroom and meeting space, and also Leadership and Learning. The E-Zone consists of classroom and meeting space, and also Leadership and Learning. The E-Zone consists of

Center for Entrepreneurship Events

Luke Pittaway and the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership have recently hosted a series of forum, entrepreneurship, and small business events, including an Entrepreneurial Food for Thought lecture by Benjamin Karpf, “Copy-rig hts, Tradem arks, & Licenses”; forums by Thomas J. Weisenbach, Tim “Bubba” Hunt, and Linda Mullen, “Selling Tips for Small Businesses”; Leslie Fletcher, Allen Torpie, Chad Avret, and Brannen Smith, “How to Avoid Running out of Cash”; Billy Hickman and Charles Williamson, “How to Detect Fraud in Business”; and Diane L. Katz, “Conflict Resolution Without Confrontation”; as well as a program on developing community entrepreneurship by Dr. Kathleen Lang, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Vermont; the 2011 MBA and SIB Business Plan Competitions; and a Statesboro Downtown Master Plan workshop.

The Center has also hosted Senator Jack Hill, Ellwood G. Ivey, Jr., Tim Redding, and Lynn Lilly to entrepreneurship classes while Jim Williams, entrepreneurship fellow and chair of the Advisory Council for the Center, hosted guests Delmus Mosley and Butch Parrish to share their entrepreneurial experiences with students. Representative Parrish discussed the economy, economic development policy, and job creation while Mr. Mosley presented keys to success in business, including quality product, competitiveness, and persistence.

Governor Appoints Deal

Governor Nathan Deal recently appointed Julian J. Deal, CPA, Statesboro, to the Georgia Board of Accountancy, the state’s seven member board responsible for licensing certified public accountants and public accounting firms in Georgia, since 1908.

Julian received his bachelor degree in business from Georgia Southern University and was admitted to Georgia certified public accounting practice in 1966. His wife, Frances Smith Deal, is a Georgia Southern accounting graduate and certified public accountant since 1967.

Deal has long been a leader in the accounting profession in Georgia. He is a member and past president of the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants and past recipient of its state-wide Public Service and prestigious Meritorious Service awards. He has also been a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts since 1966.

Julian is a recipient of Georgia Southern’s Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award and has been inducted into the College of Business Administration’s Hall of Fame. He was recognized as Business Leader of the Year by the Statesboro Bulloch Chamber of Commerce, Alumnus of the Year by Beta Alpha Psi, Zeta Delta Chapter, and Chapter Honor, and by Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society sponsored by AACSB.

Deal serves on the board of directors of the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation where he has held numerous positions since the 1980’s, including chair, finance, nominating, investment, and executive committees, along with chair and vice-chair offices. He is past chair of the COBA Business Advisory Council, past president of the Georgia Southern University Foundation, and past chair of the Ogeechee Technical College Foundation.

Julian serves on the board of directors of the Bethany Foundation, Bethany Home, and Bethany Assisted Living, all charitable affiliations sponsored by the Primitive Baptist denomination. Julian and Frances are members of the Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church. They have two children, Barry and Becky, both Georgia Southern accounting graduates residing in Savannah.

City Campus Wins Award

City Campus, a partnership between the University’s College of Business Administration and the City of Statesboro’s Downtown Development Authority, received the Georgia Downtown Association’s Best Commerical Redevelopment Activity Award for 2011. The award honors projects that apply quality growth principles to existing structures.

City Campus houses areas that small businesses can utilize during their initial start-up phases. A branch of the University Store is also located in City Campus.

“City Campus brings professors and economic development specialists into the heart of downtown Statesboro,” said Downtown Statesboro Development Authority Executive Director Allen Muldrew. “This facility can be used by business owners and those who hope to open their own business in the future. It is a resource we think will help grow and start new downtown Statesboro businesses in years to come,” he added.

Logistics Career Fair

Thank You 2011 Eagle Executive Society Members!

The Eagle Executive Society is an annual membership society of COBA alumni and friends. The fifty dollar annual membership investment supports educational activities beyond the classroom, including travel scholarships, student engagement, and research activities to ensure the best technology, facilities, and learning opportunities are available for today's students. The Society's funding is directed 100 percent to prepare the next generation's business leaders. Members receive an Eagle Executive Society stock certificate, recognition in the Eagle Executive, and invitations to special events sponsored by the college. Memberships are accepted on-line at http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/, phone to Linda Wilke, 912-478-5050, QR Code on page 15, or mail form on page 15. Active members, including charter, renewed, and new, are acknowledged below. We appreciate your support.

Don G. Aaron, Sr.
Linda Aguilar-Espinal
Richard E. Aldredge
William Ampmansah
Thomas C. Avant
Don C. Bagwell, Sr
J. Kenneth Baker
Rhonda O. Banks
Perry C. Barnett*
Paul T. Bennett
H. Robert Bennett, Jr.
Donald L. Berezcz
Ednilson Bernardes*
William H. Bolten
Thomas P. Bond, Jr.*
William J. Bostwick*
Edward S. Bowles*
Brian C. Brennan*
Theresa S. Brennan*
Gregory J. Brock*
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.*
Bryan R. Burke*
Steve Bussoletti
Lisa Butler*
Michael R. Calhoun*
Mikelle Calhoun
Michael Callaghan
James Campbell
Harry S. Carter*
Brenda S. Carter*
Tom Case*
Kate A. Channell
Leslie L. Clemons
James T. Coe*
Alvie Coes III*
Nathan C. Coleman
Doug Collins III*
Lisa Conti-Bacon*
Carl B. Coolidge
Charles C. Cox, III
Jack L. Culpepper, Jr.*
W. Mike Cummings
Allen Curreri
James E. Davis, Jr.*
Julian I. Deal*
Frances S. Deal*
Charles R. Dedrickson
Trey Denton, III*
D. Morgan Derst*
Jeffrey J. Dion
John Franklin Dismuke*
Roger M. Doty
Lori S. Durden*
Jacqueline K. Eastman*
Kevin L. Eastman*
Anthony S. Elker
Nancy Elrod
Eric H. Engel
Robert Fernekes
Donna K. Fisher
Olivia S. Flanagan*
Sara Fountain*
Peter L. Fraley*
Frank L. Gaudry
John M. Giddens III
John M. Giddens III
Lorraine I. Griffin
Sara Jeanette Grimes*
Kathleen H. Gruben
Dena Hale
Mark D. Hanna
Ulrike Harrison
Larry F. Harrison*
Consuelo Hart*
Charles Harter*
Jackie W. Hartley
Mary F. Hazeldine*
William D. Head*
Susan S. Herring
William T. Herring*
Jeremy R. Hinton*
Melissa Holland
Donald D. Howard*
Karen D. Hudspeth
Lee P. Huggins
Angelia Aaron Huggins*
Feruzan S. Irani-Williams
Matthew H. Janofsky*
John F. Jennings*
Lindsey D. Johnson, Jr.*
Michael K. Johnson*
Brian J. Joiner
Thomas W. Jones*
Victoria N. Jones
Kauffman Tire, Inc.
Christopher W. Kimbrough
Vicki King
William C. Kirby*
John F. Kohm*
Douglas H. Lambert*
Jamie Lane*
David W. Leopard
John Leaptrott, Jr.*
Robert Andrew Leven
Buddy Lichte*
M. Jill Lockwood*
Lurve L. Lord*
Sanford Loyd
Carolyne Luckadoo*
David M. Luckie*
Chandan Maltrani
Lori Mallard
Todd Manack*
Mike McDonald*
Samuel A. McDuffie*
C. William McGahee*
Robert McGregor*
Britton A. McKay*
William S. Mclean II
Edward James Meadows, Jr
J. Lowell Mooney*
J. Brian Morris
Janet Moss
Steven E. Moss
Linda Mullen*
Roger C. Murphey
Donald M. Nelson, Jr.
Jonathan R. Newman
Maurice H. Nimmons, Jr.*
F. Shaun O'Quinn
Abbie Gil Parham*
David K. Pitman*
Luke A. Pittaway*
Patrick L. Pittman
James Pollak*
Sharon D. Ponder
Barbara A. Price
Curis L. Quinn
RadioJones, LLC*
Cindy H. Randall*
James Randall*
Stephen E. Rary*
Danny K. Ricks*
Jason A. Roberts
James Q. Roop, III
Joseph P. Ruhlman*
Madeline Ruhlman*
Stephen M. Rutner
Michael R. Sanders*
Brandon T. Sauser
Mona F. Schoffil*
Matthew E. Selph
Andrew G. Sharp
Howard C. Sheppard III
Barbara Shiffler*
Ron Shiffler*
Edward Sibbald*
Maria Sibbald*
Ralph S. Sikes, Jr.*
Michael W. Skinner*
Carole J. Smith*
L. Dwight Sneathen*
Olga Snigir
Joseph D. Speight, III
Jean Carol Sposostra*
Asbury Stembridge, Jr.*
Chariene Stewart*
Lewis Stewart*
Robert H. Stoddard
William N. Strow, Jr.*
C. Steven Stringer
Gloria J. Stuart
Jody P. Stubb*
Cathy Owens Swift*
Robert E. Thigpen, Jr.*
Susan S. Thigpen
Thomas A. Thompson*
Joseph G. Tompkins*
Kris M. Trainor*
F. Ward Trulock*
Scott C. Tuten*
Miltiades Tzimourtas
Michael B. Wadler
Loren P. Wald
Carol L. Waller
Lee A. Weddle
Mark A. Weeks*
Christopher P. Welch
Karen R. Wells
William H. Wells*
Joy A. West
Linda Wilke*
Bobbi Williams*
Richard S. Williams*
Russell K. Williams, Jr.*
Susan R. Williams*
James E. Wilson III
Jerry Wilson*
John K. Wilson
Steven J. Wilson
Jonathan D. Woodard*
William R. Woolford*
Thomas O. Yarbrough
Andreas Zangemeister
Karl Van Zeigler*
Wendy H. Zittrauer
*Charter Members
Georgia Southern and COBA hosted Jimmy Dunne, senior managing principal of Sandler O’Neill, for the 11th Annual Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture in December. Sandler O’Neill is one of the largest full-service investment banking firms in the country. Dunne oversees Sandler O’Neill’s strategic functions and is active in the firm’s key client relationships. His lecture at Georgia Southern focused on how he and his firm carried on personally and professionally after the 9/11 attacks.

COBA student Tonya Cole read the Fortune article and contacted Sandler O’Neill’s New York office, while preparing a strategic marketing report for Project Adrian’s MBA class. Dunne accepted her invitation to tell his story as part of the Fries Lecture series.

The Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture Series was created by an endowment in honor of the late Norman Fries, founder of nearby Clayton Poultry and longtime icon of the Georgia poultry industry. In his more than 50 years in business, Fries, who died in 2001, built the company from a one-man operation into one of the nation’s largest poultry production plants. The family-owned company is now operated under the leadership of his widow, Doris Fries, and her very capable executive staff.

**PROJECT ADRIAN**

Project Adrian returned to campus this summer with 28 white collar crime students sworn in as honorary criminal investigative “special” agents joined by fifteen agents of the Internal Revenue Service from Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah who led C O B A’ s fraud and forensic students through a series of mock financial crime investigations.

Students opened their criminal investigations on information of wrongdoing and pursued subjects of tax crimes including corrupt tax preparation, drug money laundering, fraudulent marketing of tax shelters, and evasion of taxes on gambling winnings.

The Professional Development Center’s upscale facility was staged to mimic an intelligence center, squad rooms, business offices, accountant offices, judge’s chambers, and everyday life locations, including residences. The IRS coaches prepared students by fine-tuning their investigative procedures. Teams were assigned to conduct record checks, serve subpoenas, analyse financial information, conduct interviews, setup surveillance, and monitor undercover operations. They also prepared and executed search warrants, collected evidence, and even arrested a subject or two.

Center for Forensic Studies Director Don Berezic, CPA, has been bringing Project Adrian to campus since 2007. “We’re not training our students in concepts in the classroom ‘til the cows come home, but PROJECT ADRIAN lets them see the real deal in white collar crime.”

2011 and the Southeastern Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences in October 2011.

María Aviles

María’s educational background includes an EdSpec in higher education and an MBA with emphasis in information systems (IS) and a BBA. Previously, María advised and mentored undergraduate information technology students (IT) for several years and taught IS courses.

María’s research interests include logistics and supply chain risk, or disruption, management, and strategies. Also, leveraging technologies, e.g., cloud computing, to achieve firms’ strategic objectives and improve performance. Her pedagogical research is focused on providing tools for educators to adequately serve millennial students’ needs.

Scott Cox

Scott is currently both a lecturer of IT at Macon State College and a Ph.D. student in logistics and transportation.

Scott received both his MBA and MMS from Georgia College & State University. He also earned a BS in IT from Macon State College and a BS in manufacturing technology from Georgia Southern. His professional background includes serving as a government contractor for logistics and information technology services to the Supply Chain Management Office at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Warner Robins. He has also been a project manager in the manufacturing industry.

Scott’s research interests include logistics information systems, supply chain relationships, the management of information technology resources, and privacy issues in technology. He has published in the Communications of the International Information Management Association and proceedings of the 2011 International Association for Computer Information Systems conference.

Sara Liao-Troth

Sara earned an MBA from Western Washington University and BA in biology from Oberlin College. Her professional background includes production management and business consultancy for Razorfish, Inc., and Thomson Reuters. She started, owned, and operated a small grocery-restaurant business.

Her research interests include supply chain governance, buyer-supplier relationships, customer experience management and innovation. Currently, Sara has research under review at a leading logistics journal and has published in multiple conference proceedings.

Stephanie Thomas

Stephanie earned an MBA in marketing and logistics as well as a BA in speech communication at the University of Tennessee. She has held a number of industry positions, including merchandise buyer and vendor logistics specialist for Lowe’s, purchasing manager at IBM, and warehousing and distribution with Stanley Tools, developing managerial expertise in customer service, purchasing, negotiation, logistics planning, category management, supplier management, and supply chain strategy.

Stephanie’s research interests focus on negotiations, buyer-vendor relationships, and retail supply chain management. Her research has been published in several conference proceedings and is currently under review at two leading logistics journals.

Donnie Williams

Donnie received his BBA in finance from Georgia Southern. His professional background includes financial service positions with Financial Design Associates, Mass-Mutual Financial Group, and Primerica Financial Services. Most recently, he has been employed as a project manager at Georgia Southern.

His research interests include innovation and entrepreneurship in logistics, integration in supply chain management, and human resource-teamwork issues in logistics and supply chain firms. His work has been published in the proceedings of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals conference.

**Forensic Lecturers**

Don Berezic’s white collar crime and interview and interrogation classes hosted three interesting speakers in December, specifically, Linda Downing (MBA, 2008), U.S. Attorney’s Office, explaining audit command language and Benford’s law; Marty Bragg, U.S. Probation Office, speaking on federal sentencing guidelines; and, finally, Scott Hilsen, JD, MBA, CFE, director in investigations, KPMG Forensic, discussing his new book, Fraudulent Intentions.

These guests are invited daily in the real world of white collar crime investigation, interview, and interrogation. Their presentations were extremely interesting, but keeping up with their paces and attention to detail was challenging!
Accounting

William J. “Billy” Griffis (1969), Statesboro, has retired from Georgia Southern, where he had been VP of advancement–foundation officer for Georgia Southern. He is married to Eileen Griffis, a 1969 Georgia Southern office administration graduate.

John Steve Odum (1978), Tallahassee, FL, retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons on May 1 after 21+ years of service there and 32+ with the federal government. Email: salfan37@yahoo.com.

Myra Phillips Hill (1979), Savannah, is the senior vice president, wealth management director for Sea Island Bank, Savannah. She is married to Robert Hill. Email: mgsp35@gmail.com.

Tammy Metts (1980), Hazlehurst, is the owner of Tammy Metts Dyals, CPA, in Hazlehurst. Email: tammy@tdcpca.com.

Billy L. Chavers, Jr. (1992), formerly in Americus, is now in Vero Beach, FL, where he is a partner and CPA in Collins and Williams, CPAs. He is married to Mary Lewis, and they have a daughter, Madeline (8) and son, Colin (1). Email: bllcpea@yahoo.com.

Martina Lynn Ayres (1994), formerly in Tallahassee, is now in Altamonte Springs, FL, where she is a staff auditor and CPA for FIS, Orlando. Email: mayres001@citr.com.

Gwendolyn “Wendi” O’Connor (1994) has been appointed senior vice president of the Bank of Oquals and is overseeing the Brunswick bank operations. She has been in the banking industry for 14 years. Wendi worked at the Oglethorpe Bank for eight years and another local bank in Brunswick for five years. The Bank of Oquals acquired Oglethorpe Bank on January 14, 2011. Wendi currently resides on St. Simons Island.

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John A. “Tripp” Fitzter, III (1998), Swainsboro, is the chief assistant district attorney for the 33rd Judicial Circuit, Swainsboro. He is a member of the board of the State Bar of Georgia and of Leadership Emanuel Class of 2011. Tripp is married to Jennifer Price, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: trifitz79@yahoo.com.

[Image 209x69 to 770x842]

[Image 209x69 to 770x842]
Information Systems

Sonya Denise Manderville-Lawton (1995), Sylvania, office manager for the Effingham County Department of Family and Children’s Services, Springfield, is married to Kelvin V. Lawton. Email: sonyademven@yahoo.com.

Mark A. Metter (2000) is now in Springfield. He is married to Ruth Newton.

Larry M. Williams (2001), Jonesboro, is now the network/security administrator for the Dekalb County Government. His wife is Shantae, and they have a business, “Online Resellers.” See www.1ramomentum.com. Email: lsdreammakers@gmail.com.

Megan R. Campbell (2008), Alpharetta, is now the web app specialist for Campus Labs. Email: jadeddust@gmail.com.

Luke D. Odum (2008) (MBA 2009), formerly in Sylmar, CA, is now in Los Angeles, CA, where he is the datacenter operation administrator for New Dream Network. He is married to Mary Georgia Southern criminal justice graduate. Email: luke@ludodem.com.

DeMarco Williams (2008) (Delta Sig), Stone Mountain, is the software systems analyst for NCR, Duluth.

Noel E. Hollis (2010), formerly in Austell, is now in Marietta, where she is a business system analyst for Coca-Cola Refreshments, Atlanta. She is also the university talent recruitment coordinator for Georgia Southern and Kennesaw State. Email: nhollis@coca-cola.com.

Logistics

Bart A. Keleher (1997), Nashville, TN, is a sales rep with Smith and nephew. He is married to 2000 Georgia Southern marketing graduate Abbe Aderhold. Email: bartkeleher@gmail.com.

Christina Ramos (2005), formerly in Senoia, is now in Dacula, where she is in sales/OSB acct mgm for Georgia Pacific, Atlanta. She is married to Doug Giacone. Email: christina.giacone@gapac.com.

Lee G. Yeomans (2008), formerly in Brunswick, is now in Pooler, where he is manager of operations for the Georgia Ports Authority, Savannah. He is engaged to Jessica D. Brigman, a Georgia Southern management graduate.

Craig A. Fritz (2009), Powder Springs, is an account manager with LogTrans Express. Email: cpnitr22@gmail.com.

Tyler M. Gartmard (2010), Hiramstoge, TN, is the driver business leader for Schneider National, Lebanon, TN. Email: tgartmo1@gmail.com.

Corey A. Rhodes (2011), Augusta, is the product management team leader for BBW Logistics. Email: carey_rhodes@bbwlogistics.com.

Management

Frank “Andy” Chisholm (1980), Savannah, is now a financial consultant with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. His wife is Alice; and they have two children.

Dr. Daryl W. Fineran (1984), Claxton, is now the director of student support services for the Evans County Board of Education. His wife is Christin. Daryl was on one of Georgia Southern’s early football teams. Email: dlfineran@evans.12.us.

Lance E. Smith (1986) (MBA 1986), Alcovor, is now the manager of human resources and corp. affairs for Yamaris America, Adairsville. He is married to Constance Ennis, a 1987 Georgia Southern education graduate, and they have two children attending Georgia Southern.

Tracy Merrall Fires (1989), Galena, IL, is a spa coach at Eagle Ridge Resort and homeowner with two daughters involved in sports. The older one, a senior in high school, is a basketball player whose team finished second in the state. The younger, is a volleyball player. Tracy’s husband is Dan.

Sharon Fontner Fore (1990), Seymour, TN, and her husband Warren K. Fore, are retired and travel the U.S. in their Arstream Travel Trailer. They have two children and six grandchildren. Email: sharonrfontner@charternet.com.

Matthew M. Carter (1995), Blackshear, is now the executive director of the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority, Blackshear.


Michael S. Andrew (1998), Jacksonville, FL, is the SAP/Max/Saga M&M & product consultant/Chambers CHM. His wife is Shannon NRees, a 2001 Georgia Southern education graduate, and they have two children and six grandchildren.

Jessica Hillard Storey (2003), formerly in NJ, is now a manager, where she is the customer development manager for Ryder Logistics. Jessica’s husband recently passed away. Email: jhillard@hotmail.com.

Bryan Rush. Email: hrush3@gmail.com.

Deidre L. Nugent, a 2005 Georgia Southern psychology graduate, is now a volleyball player. Tracy’s husband is Don.

Christine. Daryl was on one of Georgia Southern’s early football teams. Email: christine.daryl@gmail.com.

Scott T. Shelton (2006), Pooler, is a salesperson for the Georgia Southern’s football team. Email: steshelton@poolerlacrosse.org.

Charlie Weisserger (2006) (Delta Sig), Pooler, is the regional sales coordinator for Alarm in Savannah. Email: charles_weisserger@alarmsecurity.com.

Wesley R. Bridges (2007), formerly in Duluth, is now in Cumming, where he is assistant manager for Walmart, Chamblee. He is married to Jessica Lee Wells, and they have a daughter, Lauren A. Bridges (2 ½). Email: wesbridges66@gmail.com.

W Wesley Oliff (2007), Savannah, is now an assistant vice president of The Coastal Bank, Savannah. He is married to Jessica June Hammonds, a Georgia Southern alumna. Wesley is a graduate of Leadership Effingham.

Shane A. Gamble (2009) (MBA 2009), Valdosta, is the owner of Graystone Acquisitions, Montezuma. Email: shaneagamble@Gmail.com.

Heather Louise Rush (2000), Greenwood, SC, is now assistant director, career programs for Presbyterian College. She is married to Bryan Rush. Email: hru3@gmail.com.


Eric B. Smithson (2004), Atlanta, is employed with J. Byrd Properties. He is married to Lindsay Davenport. Email: ericsmithson@gmail.com.

Ashley Mize Alderman (2005), Atlanta, is an account manager with Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Ridgefield, CT. She is married to Bernard “Bart” Keleher, a 1997 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: abbeaderhold@hotmail.com.

Marketing

Kenneith “Gray” Koonce, Jr. (1981), Gaston, SC, is the owner of Graystone Acquisitions, LLC. Email: gkoonce@bellsouth.net.


Julie Joiner (1993), formerly in Conway, AR, is now in Dalton, where she is the store manager for Belk in the Walmart Square Mall. She is married to Brent Fisher.

Abbe Huffman Ardelt (2000), Nashville, is a specialty sales rep with Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Ridgefield, CT. She is married to Bernard “Bart” Keleher, a 1997 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: abbe_hard@hotmail.com.

Deborah Louis Rush (2000), Greenwood, SC, is now the assistant director, career programs for Presbyterian College. She is married to Bryan Rush. Email: hru31@gmail.com.


Eric B. Smithson (2004), Atlanta, is employed with J. Byrd Properties. He is married to Lindsay Davenport. Email: ericsmithson@gmail.com.

Ashley Mize Alderman (2005), Atlanta, is an account manager with Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Ridgefield, CT. She is married to Bernard “Bart” Keleher, a 1997 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: abbeaderhold@hotmail.com.

Bethany E. Griffiths (2005), Marietta, is an executive assistant with the First Landmark
**KYLE J. RANDALL** (2010), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Detroit, MI, where he is a second grade teacher via Teach for America at Marvin. Email: kyle.randall@gmail.com.

Kristy J. Sampson (2005), formerly in Thomasville, is now in Atlanta, where she is the corporate sales coordinator for JAS Forwarding (USA), Inc. Email: ksampson@jasusa.com.

Sarah Louise Strobach (2005), formerly in Lawrenceville is now in Duluth, where she is a project manager with AT&T, Atlanta. She is married to Jonathan Wallace.

Emily R. Ackerman (2006), formerly in Fayetteville, is now in Roswell, where she is a marketing specialist with Verizon. She is married to Eric Bartow, a 2008 Georgia Southern IS graduate. Email: emily.ackerman@yahoo.com.

Selena A. Knappenberger (2006), Edge-water, MD, is with Sherwin-Williams, Beltsville, MD. Email: s.lmeehness@yahoo.com.

Brianne Dean Boutelle (2009) (MBA 2010), Duluth, is with McKesson in inside sales. She is still involved with the American Red Cross. Email: brianneboutelle@mcckesson.com.

Kyle J. Randall (2010), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Detroit, MI, where he is a second grade teacher via Teach for America at Marvin Wynn’s Fine Arts Charter School. Email: kyle.j.randall@gmail.com.

Nathan A. Ward (2010), Fayetteville, is a ramp operator manager for Delta Air Lines, Inc, Atlanta. Email: nathan.ward@d Delta.com.

**MACC**

Katherine Diane Braswell (2004) is now in Sopernton. Email: kbraswell@nlanfrica.com.

Katherine Tyre (2005), Jesup, is the accounting manager for Lewis & Raulerson, Waycross. She is married to Michael Manning. Email: k_tyre@yahoo.com.

Christy D. Mote (2006), formerly in Lithonia, is now in Loganville, where she is a staff accountant with SJC, Inc. Covington. Email: christymote@hotmail.com.

S. Walt Stewart (2006), Norcross, is a CPA with Nichols, Cauley, and Associates, Atlanta. He is married to Whitney Adams. Email: swaltstewart@hotmail.com.

Kristen Wyatt Swad (2007), Dublin, is a CPA/accountant with Newprint Co., LLC, East Dublin. She received her CPA license in July 2009. Kristen is married to Matthew Swad; a 2008 Georgia Southern MBA.

Joseph E. Snowden, III (2008), Atlanta, is a Georgia Southern management major. He is married to Whitney Adams.

Adam J. Beedenbendes (2009), Atlanta, is an Atlanta, is a second year law student at Emory University’s School of Law. He received the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Torts after his first year.

Ernst & Young. His wife is Jozette. Email: joseph_02@hotmail.com.

Josh L. Gardner (2009), Dublin, is a staff accountant and CPA in the tax department of Thigon, Jones, Seaton, CPAs, Dublin. Email: jgardner@tjcpa.com.

Maria A. Waller (2011), Pooler, is a senior staff accountant with Hancock Aske & Co., Savannah. Email: mwaller@hancockaskew.com.

**MBA**

Dwayne E. Rocker (1991), Metter, the CFO for Farmers and Merchants Bank, Statesboro, recently married Dr. Karla J. Qualls, who has been on the music faculty of Georgia Southern since 2002.

Nicole Brown (1995), Alpharetta, is the vice president-professional risk group for Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Atlanta.

Binnie J. Gruben (2002), Myrtle Beach, SC, is a business ed teacher at Socastee High School, Myrtle Beach, SC. She is married to Hugh C. Huggins, and they have a son, Henry H. Huggins, born March 28, 1011.

Georgia Southern biology graduate. Email: sweit19@comcast.net.

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Grandmother is Dr. Kathleen Gruben.


**WEBMBA™**

Mark Wallatham (2010), Auburn, is a financial analyst for VHS-Prout, Narcace. He is married to Marion Marshall, a 2000 Georgia Southern biology graduate. Email: marwall@hotmail.com.

**NYG**

Rebecca Lynn Holloway Prasser (Undeclared), formerly in Summerville, SC, is now in Rabun Gap. She graduated from Armstrong State College in 1977 and received her MAT in early childhood education from College of Charleston in 1994. Becky is married to Wayne A. Prasser.

**In Memoriam**

Frank Moss (Gen Bus, 1972) died recently on Saint Simons Island.


James Robert Clark (MGT, 1972) died on January 9, 2008.

Burns Named President of Gordon College

O. Maxie Burns, former COBA information systems professor, will become the third president of Gordon College, Barnesville, on January 1, 2012. Dr. Burns is presently dean of the Mike Cottrell School of Business at North Georgia College & State University, Dahlonega.

Prior to assuming deanship of the Cottrell School at North Georgia College & State University, Dr. Burns was associate dean and chair of its business administration department. Previously, he has also served in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 12th congressional district of Georgia and as a senior policy advisor at Thelen, Reid and Priest, LLP, in Washington, DC, as well as holding professorships at Georgia Southern University; Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand; the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; and Georgia State University, Atlanta. Dr. Burns holds a Ph.D. and master of business information systems degrees from Georgia State University along with a bachelor of industrial engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.

“I appreciate the Board of Regents’ confidence in this appointment as president of Gordon College,” said Burns, “and look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, and community to further the excellence of Gordon College.”

COBA Advisory Councils’ Fall Meetings

The COBA Business Advisory Council held its 24th annual meeting at the City Campus on Friday, November 4 before Homecoming weekend at Georgia Southern. The council received updates on the City Campus, new COBA strategic and organizational structure, Business Beat, upcoming AACSB reaccreditation, and an overview of graduate programs, including MBA and EMBA.

COBA Dean Ron Shiffler highlighted record fall enrollment of 20,212, a 1.6 percent increase from Fall 2010; COBA being named in The Princeton Review’s “Best Business School” list for the sixth consecutive year; COBA leadership in developing the “City Campus”; and preparations for the University’s forthcoming Capital Campaign.

The traditional breakout sessions addressed COBA’s new vision, mission statements, and board structures for 2012, including the Leadership Board for COBA and Program Advisory Boards for majors and programs.


SOA Advisory Council

The School of Accountancy’s Advisory Council met November 4, at the Nessmith Lane Building. University Provost Ted Moore set a strategic tone in delineating the University’s vision of being one of the best comprehensive universities in the country and its emerging role as a Carnegie Doctoral Research University. Lowell Mooney, chair of SOA’s Strategic Planning Committee, along with members LeVon Wilson, Chuck Harter, Leslie Fletcher, and Harry Wright then engaged members in developing an ambitious 2012 Action Plan for the Council.

Student accounting organizations officers, including Kenny Douglas, Beta alpha Psi; Mark Fletcher, Accounting Association; and Aaron Cohen, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, updated the Council on events and activities. Council Chair Phil Moore presided over the annual business meeting of the Council. A luncheon honoring retired SOA faculty Bill Bostwick, Lynda Hamilton, Nancy Herrig, Horace Harrell, and Chuck Johnson was enjoyed by council, faculty, and staff.

SOA Advisory Council members attending were Phil Moore, Alex Knight, Don Daniels, Elaine Norton, Tommy Jones, Raiford Hodges, Greg Morgan, Charles Martin, Mike McCarthy, Richard Henry, Rhonda Norris, Bill Herrig, Tim Veal, and Bill Woodward.

Fall 2011 — by the Numbers

Georgia Southern University’s enrollment has topped 20,000 students for the first time ever. After receiving a record number of fall applications, official enrollment was recorded at 20,212, a 1.6 percent increase over last year, representing 49 states and 101 countries.

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<th>COBA Students</th>
<th>Undergraduate BBA Program Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-business</td>
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<td>BBA program</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<th>COBA Faculty and Staff</th>
<th>Graduate Program Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tenure and tenure-track</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Tenure</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
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