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Eagle Executive

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY
NEWS

from the College of
Business Administration
STATESBORO, GA 30460

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1 Fall 2011

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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 **Godfrey Gibbison**. The *Department of Management*, including management, human resources, operations management, entrepreneurship-small business, 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 have the clear underlying objective of supporting Georgia Southern's vision of being recognized as one of the best public, comprehensive universities in the nation. ♦



Silver Anniversary



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the *Eagle Executive*. The first publication in Fall 1986 replaced the "Update," a newsletter which had ceased circulation, and announced the arrival of

Dean **Carl Gooding**, to replace retiring ten-year dean, **Ori James**. **Lewis Stewart** served as inaugural editor until 1991 when **Lloyd Dosier** came on board, and Lewis turned his attention to alumni affairs. Lloyd served as editor until his retirement in 1998, then **Linda Munilla** served five years until 2003, when the present editor took over, now in his ninth year of service.

Through the years, the *EE* evolved as the college grew from 1,850 to 3,245 students and its alumni base swelled from around 5,500 to more than 20,000. The scope has expanded to 16 pages, color has enhanced the format, and circulation has expanded to more than 23,000.

The single constant has been the publication staff, including Carol Waller, who has worked on the *Eagle Executive* now for seventeen years. In the words of Henry Ford, "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." Thank you, alumni and friends, for 25 successful years of working together! ♦

Georgia Southern's First Ph.D. Class

The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents approved a Ph.D. program in logistics and supply chain management (SCM) for Georgia Southern in 2009. Of the more than 180 doctoral programs in Georgia, the new degree is the only one available for the rapidly growing logistics and SCM field in a business program; for Georgia, it is the only Ph.D. offered south of the I-20 corridor; and for Georgia Southern, it is the first Ph.D. to be offered in its 105 year history.

The new program builds on COBA's nationally-recognized undergraduate degree program in logistics and the important economic role of logistics and materials management in the Georgia economy. The new degree is qualifying graduates for advanced academic and industry positions in the region.

The program advisory committee, including **Jerry Burke**, **Constance Campbell**, **Adrian Gardiner**, **Luke Pittaway**, and **Dave Shepherd** under leadership of director **Steve Rutner**, recruited the inaugural class for Fall 2010 from more than thirty applicants interviewed, prepared more than twenty new doctoral level courses, and developed support classes for minors in marketing, operations management, and information systems introduced Fall 2011.

The program requires a 60-credit hour curriculum in two years of full-time classroom study followed by research and a dissertation. It is a 3-to-4 year undertaking challenging



(Back row, l-r) Amit Arora, Maria Aviles, Scott Cox, (Front row, l-r) Sara Liao-Troth, Stephanie Thomas, and Donnie Williams

candidates to understand the dynamics of the logistics and SCM field, learn to conduct research, and share knowledge through teaching. COBA and Georgia Southern, a Carnegie Foundation doctoral research university, are proud to introduce the junior colleagues of the first Ph.D. class!

Amit Arora

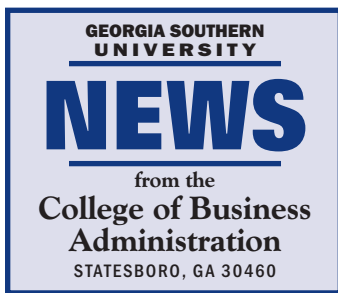
Amit holds an MS in energy and environmental management from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India, and a BS in mechanical engineering from Aligarh University, India. He has a decade of automotive industry experience in dealer warranty support, domestic and international, with Honda and Hyundai 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

(see Ph.D.'s on page 12.)

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The Eagle Executive

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STATESBORO, GA 30460
A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION / EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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 information systems program in the College of Information Technology will return to COBA. In addition, the hotel and restaurant management degree program has moved to COBA under the BBA degree to capitalize on the extensive business-related curriculum in that program. Finally, the program in construction management will also join the COBA organizational chart.

This fall, we formed a task force to determine the best organizational structure for assimilating these changes without disrupting our commitment to increasing student retention and graduation rates.

Strategically, COBA will undergo another five-year review next fall to maintain its AACSB International accreditation in business and accounting, which we have maintained for more than 30 years.

Years from now, this three-year period will be remembered as the beginning of a new era in doctoral education; significant restructuring of academic programs including information systems, hotel and restaurant management, and construction management under the COBA umbrella; and introduction and development of new on-line graduate degree programs for the Master of Science in Applied Economics, WebMAcc, and Executive MBA.

All these changes will have occurred in the midst of a tight economic climate and an AACSB reaccreditation visit.

Wow! I hope you share our excitement!

Ronald E. Shiffler

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 – Bran 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's 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!

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 jelly-worm 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 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 fondly 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,

Finance & Economics, I always thought it was interesting that two of "our" guys were remembered so well.

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,

Lewis M. Stewart

Department News

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 *JSCM*’s 2010 Harold E. Fearon Best Paper Award. After presenting his paper, he received a plaque from the journal editor recognizing his achievement.



Jerry Burke

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 H. 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 Mobility applications. She will be working with faculty members from Texas A&M and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on SAP mobile application curriculum to share with other SAP UA institutions.

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 with **Daphney Pierre** and **Hyo-Joo Han** successfully completing the TERP10 SAP Academy. Twenty-five of 27 participants in the May and July TERP10 academies passed the certification exam.

Lecturer **Bob Szymanski** has been busy serving as TERP10 SAP Instructor both on- and off-campus. In May, he taught at HEC Montreal, and he has also assisted SAP Education with TERP10 instruction at customer sites. Last summer, he taught a graduate enterprise resources planning course for Georgia State University.

The department hosted an on-campus IS alumni reunion during the third week of October. Several IS alums spoke to classes including **Mark Moore** (1981), global lead for computer forensics at Coca-Cola, **Buddy Lichty** (1991), senior consultant with Clarkston Consulting, **Wayne Heibling**, BI team lead for McKesson Provider Technologies, **Russell Thackston**, Ph.D. candidate at Auburn University, and **Laura Thackston** (1996) and **Samantha Lee** (2005), consultants for Wolters Kluwer Software. The reunion included a reception at the Alumni Center hosted by the department’s student groups and wine-tasting and dinner at the home of **Steve** and **Paige Rutner**. The wine-tasting was coordinated by in-house sommelier **Geoffrey Dick**. The department’s Association for Information Systems student chapter and

the SAP@GSU Student Advantage group assisted the department in hosting the COBA tailgate before the Presbyterian game on October 22. Hats off to administrative secretary **Donna Orme** for ensuring the IS Reunion’s success.

Fall semester has been filled with information sessions and recruiting interviews many of which have included IS alums. Companies presenting information sessions for recruiting purposes have included SAP America, Capgemini (**Raymond Richards**), Coca-Cola Refreshments (**Noel Hollis**), Goodrich, McKesson (**Jason Dean** and **Ryan Mendall**), and Rural Sourcing Inc. **Zach Sines** (SNI Technologies, Inc.) has been back to campus for both TechPro and the career fair, and **Darren Bridges** and **Brent Moore** (Safe Systems) came to recruit at the career fair. To ensure that our visitors have a good on-campus experience, Paige Rutner stepped up to coordinate multiple on campus recruiting events and was assisted by Bob Szymanski.

Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Sergeant **Todd Friedel** of the Georgia Army Reserve and National Guard spoke to **Nick De Bonis**’s, lecturer, professional selling class on the art of selling a military career, quite different from selling products, services, or ideas.

COBA’s Society for Human Resource Management student chapter, under the guidance of faculty advisors **Bob Hoell** and **Feruzan Irani**, assistant professors, has earned the Superior Merit award for 10 of the last 11 years. The award was presented this past summer in Alexandria, VA.

Misty Loughry, assistant professor, chaired the Management Education and Development division of the 2011 Academy of Management which met in San Antonio, TX, this summer and was awarded the McGraw Hill/Irwin Best Symposium in Management Education and Development Award citing most significant contributions to the advancement and development of management education. Dr. Loughry’s symposium was titled “The Compelling Need to Do Team-Based Learning Well and Why It Is Challenging.”

Rod Thomas, assistant professor, is serving on the editorial advisory board of two top journals in logistics, the *International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management* and the *Journal of Business Logistics*.

School of Accountancy

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

Jill 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**, professor emeritus, **Bill Bostwick**, associate professor emeritus, and **Lowell Mooney**, 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.

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 \$1,403,062. This represents the 14th year in a row the annual one-day fundraising event, held the second week in September each year, has topped the \$1 million mark, remarkable in the difficult economic environment. 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, Continuing 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 than 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=YhPG5tpzXvU>

Community Spotlight: Construction

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMjdB75AI9M>

Community Spotlight: Hospitality

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifB605kuOdo> ♦



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. Jeffrey will enter the MAcc program in the spring.

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



2011 Scholarship Recipients

If you would like to support COBA's scholarship programs, please contact Dean Ron Shiffer, 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



Greggory 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, Trae 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 Strutchen, Stacey Ferris, Lee Sellinger,
Dr. Dwight Sneathen, Karley Weiner, Meredith Barfield, and Brenden Adams

Atlanta CPCU



Danielle Youngs, Mikal Lewis,
and Keylene Burgess

Professional Insurance Agents



Jeffrey M. Hupman
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
Lansing, and Walt Howard,
Priddy Price Scholar

Freeman



Landon J. Latham

Priddy-Price



Madeline Bunn

Phi Eta Sigma



Sara Moore

Janofsky



Ashley L. Harrell

Susan Rebstock Williams

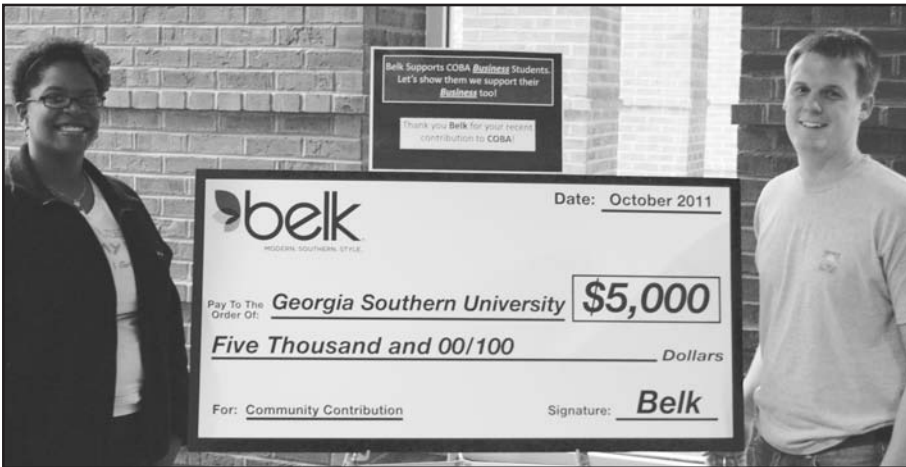


Caitlin Herr

Recipients not pictured

Camden Saturn Batchelor, Robert Morris
Burchard Villiger Blackburn, LIT
Emery Cliff Brown, Blount
Phillip Blair Buelterman, Mark Anderson
Wai Ee Chan, LIT
Zachary J. Damon, Herring
John P. Ebberwein, LIT and Robert Morris
Bowen Kent Flowers, Dixie Crystals
Reannah L. Haselden, Bolen
Lucretia Van Haynie, Evelyn Spain Coe
Cia Nicole King, Paul Kidd
Qingqing Liu, SOA
Steven Clark Mayfield, Atlanta CPCU
Austin Blake McAtee, LIT
Chian Alexandria Miller, Cummings
Rebecca Reason Paulk, LIT
Kelly Michelle Sanders, LIT
Stephanie Powell Thomas, LIT
Chad Douglas Troughton, LIT
Dana Ixchel Velasquez, Giacomo
Marcus A. Walker, Cox
Christopher R. Williamson, Draffin & Tucker
Emily Lauren Woods, Priddy-Price
Elizabeth Joy Zettler, Duke Kramer

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**, **Josh Pollack**, **Marcus Walker**, **Jayson Treadway**, **Mary Kathryn Mason**, **Jessica Clemmer**, **Allie Jansen**, **Vincent Datillo**, **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.

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 core 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 emerging era included multiple careers, latticed career paths, and flatten hierarchies within the profession; and finally, his assessments of challenges 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! ♦



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.



Ernest A. Almonte

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 Keadle 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. ♦

Southern Bass Anglers

Tanner Parker, construction management major, minoring in business, is president of the *Southern Bass Anglers* fishing club at Georgia Southern. Since 2009, the team has won nearly \$40,000 in *FLW Outdoors Tour* bass fishing tournaments.

Tanner and partner **Jed Thigpen** expect to be ranked nationally again this year after the FLW Qualifiers, as well as the *Boat U. S. National Championship* on Pickwick Lake, AL, in May.

The club is active in charity events, including the *Annual Lee King Benefit Tournaments* at Lake Eufaula, AL. ♦



Parker and Thigpen display their "catch of the day."



Spotlight on Graduate Studies

From the MBA Director

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 WebMBA® 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 WebMBA® is completely on-line, perfect for working business professionals pursuing their degrees. It was recently named one of the best buys 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



Melissa Holland

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." ♦

Melissa Holland

WebMBA® Earns Tier One Ranking

The Georgia WebMBA® program—our 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 WebMBA® 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 inter-

national 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 WebMBA® 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. ♦



Charles Russell "Russ" Dedrickson

From his corner office window, **Russ Dedrickson** (MBA, 1990) does not have a view of the big city—just a nuclear plant that produces enough electricity to power one. Russ is the plant manager for Vogtle Electric Generating Facility—home of the largest single power generating unit for Southern Company which, along with its sister nuclear-site, Plant Hatch near Baxley, generates approximately 20 percent of Georgia Power's electricity each day. Southern Company provides provides electricity to 4.4 million customers in four states.

Vogtle is located about 40 miles south of Augusta. Russ has been plant manager since 2005 and oversees a staff of more than 970 employees in operations, maintenance, chemistry, health, physics, and other departments. Construction is under way for two new units at Vogtle—the first new nuclear reactors to be built in America in 30 years.

Russ was first exposed to nuclear power in the Navy. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 with a BS in mechanical engineering. He entered the nuclear naval officer course, qualifying in submarines and working primarily as an engineering officer. In 1983, he joined Georgia Power Company at Plant Hatch as a supervisor and, later, managed the engineering and operations departments. In 1987, as assistant to plant vice president, he entered the Executive MBA program at Georgia Southern, was transferred to Southern

Company's corporate headquarters in Alabama, and finished the MBA by commuting from Birmingham.

Russ recalls the things he liked most about the MBA program, including professors who were involved outside the classroom with real businesses. "They had credibility because of their experience," he said. Harvard case studies were analyzed using real data. "The sales, marketing data, and projections were scattered—just like in the real world," he emphasized. He also recalls the opportunity to work in teams with people of diverse backgrounds, and the use of business simulation and modeling. "They laid a good foundation to be able to play 'what if' scenarios and assess business risk," Russ noted. "Earlier in my career, I used these techniques to develop a 70-room Holiday Inn Express in Calvert County, MD."

Away from work, Russ enjoys boating and fishing on Lake Thurman, where he has a home. He is a licensed pilot and enjoys flying. Family is very important to him and his favorite activity away from work is spending time with his family. Russ and his wife, **Susan**, have three children. The oldest, son **Tray**, graduated from Georgia Southern in June 2011 with a degree in applied mathematics and is now in graduate school.

Younger son, **Richard**, is a systems operator at Plant Vogtle and daughter, **Heather**, a UGA landscape architect graduate, is in the real estate business in Augusta. ♦



MAcc Update



Dr. Sneathen

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 spring 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. ♦

Dr. Sneathen

For more information on any of our graduate programs, please contact COBA Graduate Studies, P. O. Box 8050 • Room 3300, Statesboro, GA 30460-8050, Phone: (912) 478-5767, E-Mail: mba@georgiasouthern.edu, Website: <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/grad.htm>.

ALUMNI **in the** SPOTLIGHT

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). ♦



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. ♦



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 Krageroe, 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.

Recently, Kenny and his girlfriend, Teri, moved to Monroe, and he has created and begun publishing his own printed and online magazine, *Georgia Connector*, which serves twelve counties east of Atlanta. The magazine focuses on business, industry, economic development, tourism, and other aspects that make the area such a great place to live.

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! ♦

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 professor 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. ♦



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. ♦



Shantanu Bagchi

*Assistant Professor
School of Economic Development*

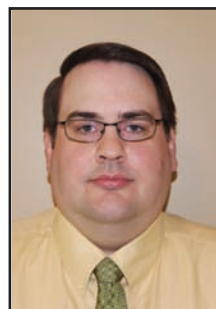
Prior to joining Georgia Southern, Shantanu Bagchi, Ph.D., Utah State University; and MA and BA, Jadavpur University, was a visiting professor at Weber State University, where he taught courses in macroeconomics and mathematical economics. Shantanu's current research focuses on the macroeconomic aspects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



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 Columbia, 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*. ♦



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 Capital 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. ♦



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. ♦



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. ♦



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. ♦



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



Randall and Wells

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. ♦

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 of an intelligence-based agency.

He also discussed internship, cooperative education, and employment opportunities in

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



Binglin Li

economics, on international monetary relations, money, and banking issues.

Dr. Li has a Ph.D. in statistics from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. His teaching is concentrated in the areas of statistics, econometrics, economics, and corporate finance; his research focuses on financial time series analysis, capital asset pricing, and application of statistical theory and methods.

Welcome to Georgia Southern, Dr. Li. ♦

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 rights, Trade-marks, & Licenses";



Jim Williams, Delmus Mosley, Butch Parrish, and Luke Pittaway

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.

Parrish, a leader in the Georgia pharmacy profession, is now in his 14th term representing District 156, Georgia's House of Representatives, which includes Emanuel, Candler and portions of

Bulloch and Johnson counties, and is vice chair, House Appropriations Committee, and chair, Economic Development and Tourism subcommittee; a member of House Rules, Economic Development & Tourism, and Banks & Banking Committee; and One Georgia Authority and Georgia World Congress Center Overview Committees. In the entrepreneurial arena, Mr. Parrish is owner of Parrish Properties real estate holding company, and chair, Medical Center Pharmacy, Inc.

Mosley, longtime business leader in the Georgia funeral industry, is a Vietnam veteran and ordained minister. Mr. Mosley began his tenure in the funeral home business in 1963, rejecting an executive opportunity with Goodyear in its Akron, OH, headquarters, to return to his hometown of Swainsboro and join the family-owned Mosley's Funeral Home. He emphasized students should always strive to be their very best, not reflect negatively on competitors, and rely upon consistency, quality, and professionalism in their performance. ♦

Logistics Career Fair



The logistics and sales faculty, under the leadership of **Karl Manrodt**, hosted a career fair in November for soon-to-be graduates. Companies participating included *C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.*, *C. L. Services, Inc.*, *CSX*, *Exel*, *Expeditors*, *Georgia Ports Authority*, *Hilt*, *J. B. Hunt*, *Saia*, *Schneider National*, *Southeastern Frieght Lines*, *Superior Carriers, Inc.*,

Tennessee Commerical Warehouse, *TICO*, and *Unisource*.

Ph.D. students **Amit Arora**, **Stephanie Thomas**, **Donnie Williams**, and **Sara Liao-Troth**, along with Provost **Ted Moore**, greeted students and recruiters. More than 120 students presented résumés or interviewed. ♦

Governor Appoints Deal

Governor **Nathan Deal** recently appointed **Julian I. 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 Honoree 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 search, 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. ♦



Frances, Nathan, Sandra, & Julian Deal

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 Commercial Redevelopment Activity Award for 2011. The award honors projects that apply quality growth principles to existing structures.

City Campus houses the College of Business Administration's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development along with an E-Zone, which is part of the University's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning. The E-Zone consists of classroom and meeting space, and also

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. ♦



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 Amponsah
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. Berecz
Ednilson Bernardes*
William H. Bolen*
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. Eller
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

William I. Griffis*
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. Kohn*
Douglas H. Lambert*
Jamie Lane*
David W. Leopard
John Leaptrott, Jr.*
Robert Andrew Leven
Buddy Lichty*
M. Jill Lockwood*

Lurue L. Lord*
Sanford Loyd
Carolyn Luckadoo*
David M. Luckie*
Chandan Maitrani
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 Gail Parham*
David K. Pitman*
Luke A. Pittaway*
Patrick L. Pittman
James Pollak*
Sharon D. Ponder
Barbara A. Price
Curtis L. Quinn
RadioJones, LLC*
Cindy H. Randall*
James Randall*
Stephen E. Rary*
Danny K. Ricks*
Jason A. Roberts
James Q. Roop, III
Joseph P. Ruhland*

Madeline Ruhland*
Stephen M. Rutner
Michael R. Sanders*
Brandon T. Sauers
Mona F. Schofill*
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 Snigur
Joseph D. Speight, III
Jean Carol Spoolstra*
Asbury Stembbridge, Jr.*
Charlene Stewart*
Lewis Stewart*
Robert H. Stoddard
William N. Strawn, Jr.*
C. Steven Stringer
Gloria J. Stuart
Jody P. Stubbs*
Cathy Owens Swift*
Robert E. Thigpen, Jr.*
Susan S. Thigpen
Michael Thomas
Thomas A. Thompson*
Joseph G. Tompkins*
Kris M. Trainor*
F. Ward Trulock*
Scott C. Tuten*
Miltiades Tzimourtas
Michael B. Waidler
Loren P. Waldo
Carol L. Waller
Lee A. Weddle
Mark A. Weeks*
Christopher P. Welch
Karen R. Wells
William H. Wells*
Joy A. West
Linda Wilke*
Bobbie 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. Zittrouer

*Charter Members



Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture



Jimmy Dunne

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, a global investment banking firm formerly headquartered in the Twin Towers, lost 66 of its 171 partners and employees in the World Trade Center attacks on September

11, 2001. Mr. Dunne was the lone survivor of the three executives who ran the firm. His story "Sandler O'Neill's Journey From Ground Zero" was published in *Fortune* magazine in September.

Today, 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 Professor **Jim Randall's** MBA class. Dunne accepted her invitation to tell his story as part of the Fries Lecture series.



Shiffler thanks Dunne.

The Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture Series was created by an endowment in honor of the late **Norman Fries**, founder of nearby Claxton 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 COBA'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



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 Berez**, CPA, has been

bringing PROJECT ADRIAN to campus since 2007. "We're not training our students in



arrest procedures; we are providing them experience in investigative accounting and law enforcement interaction needed to bring white collar criminals to justice." Dean **Ron Shiffler** observed, "We can teach these concepts in the classroom 'til the cows come home, but PROJECT ADRIAN lets them see the 'real deal' in white collar crime." ♦



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



Ph.D.'s

(continued from page 1)

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

Maria Aviles

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

Maria'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 MMIS 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-seller 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 Berez's white collar crime and interview and interrogation classes hosted three interesting speakers in December, specifically, **Linda Downing** (MBA,



Linda Downing

2008), U.S. Attorney's Office, explaining audit command language and **Benford's** law; **Marty Bragg**, U.S. Probation Office, speaking on federal sentencing



Marty Bragg

guidelines; and, finally, **Scott Hilsen**, JD, MBA, CFE, director in investigations, KPMG Forensic, discussing his new book, *Fraudulent Intention\$*.



Scott Hilsen

These guests are involved 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! ♦

ALUMNIVILLE

Accounting

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

John Steve Odom (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: salfan57@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: mpg35@comcast.net.

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

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

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

Gwendolyn "Wendi" O'Connor (1994) has been appointed senior vice president of the Bank of Ozarks and is overseeing the Brunswick banking 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 six years. The Bank of Ozarks acquired Oglethorpe Bank on January 14, 2011. Wendi currently resides on St. Simons Island.

Sean Hendley (1997), Albany, a CPA, after 13 years in public accounting, is now controller of Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Moultrie. His wife is Anna, and they have two sons. Email: hendley97@yahoo.com.

John A. "Tripp" Fitzner, III (1998), Swainsboro, is the chief assistant district attorney for the District Attorney Middle 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: trippfitz@gmail.com.

Jessica Ard (2003) (MAcc 2004), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Charlotte, NC, where she is the income tax manager for Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., Fort Mill, SC. Email: jessicaard@gmail.com.

Scott B. Blair (2003) (MAcc 2004), Acworth, is a CPA and senior financial analyst for Wellstar Health System, Marietta. Email: sblair130@gmail.com.

Patrick R. Simmons (2005) (Mus Ed, 2000), Savannah, is a staff auditor with Deemer Dana Froehle, CPAs, Savannah.

James M. Rivers (2006), Warner Robins, is now a staff accountant with Howard, Moree

& McDuffie, CPAs, Macon. He is married to Ashley Davidson. Email: jrrivers@hmmcpa.ga.com.

Joe T. Wood (2006) (MBA 2010), Charlotte, NC, is a funds management analyst with Bank of America. Email: joewood41@gmail.com.

Julianne M. Cushen (2007), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Marietta, where she is a property accountant with Carter and Associates, Atlanta. Email: jmcushen@yahoo.com.

Christina A. Jenkins (2008), Statesboro, an accountant with Reddick, Riggs, Hunter, & Kennedy, CPAs, is engaged to Douglas Hugh Harrell, Jr., a Bulloch County deputy sheriff.

Jamie Laine Carraway (2009), Hampton, VA, is an accountant for Riverside Health Systems, Newport News, VA. Jamie was on the women's soccer team and is enrolled in William & Mary's MBA program. Email: jamiecarraway@gmail.com.

Whitney Howard (2009) (MGT 2009), Statesboro, is a staff auditor with the Georgia Department of Audits. She is a CPA and will soon be a Certified Governmental Financial Manager. Whitney is married to Andrew Richland, a 2009 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: richland@audits.ga.gov.

Corey R. Miller (2009), formerly in Rising Faun, is now in Savannah, where he is employed by Telfair Museums of Art. He recently married Megean Leigh Harden, a 2007 Georgia Southern graduate.

Computer Science

Ryan S. Thompson (2010), Savannah, is a software developer for Hypercom. Email: rthompson@hypercom.com.

Economics

Edward J. Meadows, Jr. (1971), Hanahan, SC, is the owner of Accounting Practitioners, North Charleston, SC. His wife, Cynthia, is a 1970 graduate of USC. Email: ejmeadows@charleston.net.

Wendell H. Dixon (1975), Vidalia, is now senior VP for the Montgomery Bank and Trust. His wife is Elaine. Email: whd@montgomerybt.com.

Donna D. Kersey (1976), formerly in Bloomingdale, is now in Brooklet. She has returned to school to try a new career after many years as a controller for a construction company. Email: ddkersey@gmail.com.

Jimmy R. Lane (1994), Key West, FL, is the new owner of Century 21 Schwartz Realty, a large and successful firm. Email: jimmy@jimmylane.com.

Jolie Sue Brant (2004), Midway, is now the practice manager for Savannah Age Management Medicines.

Steven J. Wilson (2007), Temple, is the data manager in the Governor's Office, Atlanta. He is in the master of applied economics program at Georgia Southern. Steven is married to Katherine Tsahkis, a 2007 Georgia Southern history education graduate. Email: swilso26@yahoo.com.

Finance

Steve Hein (1983), Statesboro, director, Center for Wildlife Education and Lamar Q. Ball Raptor Center at Georgia Southern and an acclaimed wildlife artist was honored with an exhibition of his

works, "Birds of Prey," in the main gallery of the Averitt Center beginning October 7. He has won the Georgia Wildlife Management Area Stamps design twice and has been selected Georgia Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year three times. Steve's wife is Kathleen Dotson, a Georgia Southern graduate. Email: shein@georgiasouthern.edu.

Sean M. Harrison (1996), formerly in Cedar Park, TX, is now in Savannah, where he is the manager of decision support for Memorial Health. He is married to Margaret Cloughton. Email: gsueaglefan@gmail.com.

Bacari T. Nelson (1999), Buford, is married to Monica Thompson, a 2003 Georgia Southern COE graduate. They have a daughter named Addison Elizabeth Nelson. Email: bacari.nelson@hotmail.com.

Leslie Carol Liles (2003), Fitzgerald, is now the territory sales manager for the Southern Mutual Insurance Company, Athens. She is married to Tyler Clemons. Email: leslie@southernmutual.com.

Craig R. Valentine (2003), Chicago, IL, is the regional manager for Chartis Insurance, Chicago, IL.

Shannon N. Reynolds (2005), Atlanta, is an account manager with the Bank of America. Email: shannon.nicole.reynolds@gmail.com.

Whitney C. Williams (2006), formerly in Perry, is now in Cordele, where she is the owner of Crimson and Clover. She is married to Matt Clover.

J. D. Hunt, Jr. (2007), Fortson, is a service manager with Wells Fargo Bank, Ft. Benning. He is married to Dren Estess, a 2007 Georgia Southern child and family development graduate. Email: jd_hnt@yahoo.com.

Bonita M. Coles (2008), Statesboro, who is employed by Heritage Bank, is married to Chaz Edwards, a 2008 Georgia Southern finance graduate.

Chaz D. Edwards (2008), formerly in Decatur, is now in Statesboro, where he is the managed repair representative with Progressive Insurance. He is married to Bonita Coles, a 2008 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: chazedwards101@gmail.com.

Charles B. Heller (2008), Statesboro, is a financial institution specialist with Steve H. Powell & Co. Email: charlesheller22@gmail.com.

Kelly Gagne (2009), Evans, is now a registered sales assistant with Morgan Keegan, Augusta. She has her Series 7 brokerage license, Series 66 financial advisor license, and is working on her Series 9 and 10 licenses. Email: gagne_kelly@yahoo.com.

James L. Ledford (2009), formerly in Buford, is now in Lawrenceville, where he is a credit analyst for the United Community Bank, Lawrenceville. Email: ledford_672@yahoo.com.

Robert S. Blair (2010), Statesboro, is an associate financial rep with Northwestern Mutual Ins. Co. He is married to Laura Michelle Bennett, a 2010 Georgia Southern math graduate. Email: r.s.blair@nmfn.com.

Alan S. Bryan (2010), Douglasville, is a financial administrator III for Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta. Email: alan.bryan4@gmail.com.

General Business

G. M. Joiner, Jr. (1969), Glenwood, has retired. He is married to Sue Sikes, a 1971 Georgia Southern graduate and has been mayor of Glenwood since 1983.

Frank C. Parker (1969), Statesboro, president of Parker Realty has been named city manager for Statesboro after serving as interim city manager for several months. He is married to Marcia Lanier, a 1969 Georgia Southern COE graduate.

Russell A. Priddy (1977), Immokalee, FL, a ranch co-trustee and a natural resources manager for JB Ranch, has been appointed to the board of trustees for Florida Gulf Coast University by Florida Governor Rick Scott. He is married Aliese Price Priddy, a 1977 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: rpjbranch@gmail.com.

David Grantham (1984), Warner Robins, is now the associate pastor for the First Baptist Church, Centerville. His wife is Christy. Email: dgrantham@fbccenterville.org.

Steven N. Paul (1985), Blackshear, is the director of business development for the Alma Telephone Company. He is married to Dean Tuten, and they have two sons, Mike (16) and Blaine (15). Email: shpaul@atc.com.

Duane C. Arnold (1988), formerly in Waycross, is now in San Jose, Costa Rica, where he is the project manager for FyFees International Fruit Company, San Miguel, Costa Rica. He is married to Helen Smart.



Elizabeth Cook (ACCT and IS, 1996) graduated from Georgia Southern and began her accounting career with a Big Four accounting firm in Nashville, TN, but soon learned her true passion was music. She left the accounting profession and ventured out to become a country music singer, making her debut at The Grand Ole Opry in 2000.

Since, Elizabeth has released five albums and has written most of the songs on them. Her latest album, "Welder," was released in 2010 and earned the #23 ranking on *Rolling Stone's* list of the "30 Best Albums of 2010." Most recently, Elizabeth has become the host of her own radio show, "Elizabeth Cook's Apron Strings," on Sirius XM's *Outlaw Country* (Sirius 60 and XM 60). During the year, she stays busy touring the States and abroad but always stays close to her roots, Florida and Pierce County, Georgia.

Elizabeth was interviewed on *The David Letterman Show* this summer and literally had Letterman wrapped around her little finger with her candor and charm! The interview is a real hoot if you are interested: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-6PHDWQZqc>.

ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

ACC 1969 - GB 1988

ALUMNIVILLE

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: sonyadeven@yahoo.com.

Mark A. Metler (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 Shontae, and they have a business, "Online Resellers." See www.lsmomentum.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. Odom (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 Soy, a 2009 Georgia Southern criminal justice graduate. Email: luke@lukeodom.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. mgr. for Georgia Pacific, Atlanta. She is married to Doug Giaccone. Email: christina.giaccone@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. Brigrman, a Georgia Southern education graduate.

Craig A. Pritz (2009), Powder Springs, is an account manager with LogiTrans Express. Email: cpritz22@gmail.com.

Tyler M. Gartmand (2010), Hermitage, TN, is the driver business leader for Schneider

National, Lebanon, TN. Email: tgartmo1@gmail.com.

Corey A. Rhodes (2011), Augusta, is the production team leader for RBW Logistics. Email: corey_rhodes@rbwlogistics.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 Christine. Daryl was on one of Georgia Southern's early football teams. Email: dfineran@evans.k12.ga.us.

Lance E. Smith (1986) (MBA 1986), Acworth, is now the manager of human resources and corp. affairs for Yanmar America, Adairsville. He is married to Constance Rimes, a 1987 Georgia Southern education graduate, and they have two children attending Georgia Southern, McKensie and Brooke Smith. Email: lancesmith44@gmail.com.

Tracy Merrow Pleau (1989), Galena, IL, is a spa clerk at Eagle Ridge Resort and homemaker with two daughters involved in sports. The elder one, a senior in high school, is a basketball player whose team finished second in the state. The younger, a freshman, is a volleyball player. Tracy's husband is Don.

Sharon Fortner Fore (1990), Seymour, TN, and her husband Warren K. Fore, are retired and travel the U.S. in their Airstream Travel Trailer visiting their two children and six grand-children. Email: sharonrt@charter.net.

Matthew M. Carter (1995), Blackshear, is now the executive director of the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority, Blackshear. Email: ida@piercecountyga.org.

David C. Cunningham (1995), Tucson, AZ, is a paralegal for the Department of Homeland Security.

Michael S. Andrew (1998), Jacksonville, FL, is the SACP Jax/Tampa M&R manager for Consolidated Chassis Management, Jacksonville, FL. Email: mandrew46@hotmail.com.

Shana L. Strong (2001), formerly in Elberton, is now in Comer, where she is the HR supervisor for Pilgrim's Pride. She is married to Devin Hester. Email: shester10@windstream.net.

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



David L. Shelnutt (MKT, 1969) has been named director of asset based lending at Park Sterling Corporation. Shelnutt oversees a team of veteran bankers for the newly formed line of business, which will operate out of Greenville, SC. Park Sterling Corporation is the holding company for Park Sterling Bank, headquartered in Charlotte, NC. The Bank's primary focus is to provide banking services to small and mid-sized businesses, owner-occupied and income-producing real estate owners, professionals, and other customers doing business or residing within its target areas. Shelnutt has more than 30 years of banking experience, including senior credit and line positions, at Carolina First Bank and other regional institutions.

John G. Donkar (2004), formerly in Alpharetta is now in Cumming, where he is a commercial project manager with Probuild, Kennesaw. He is married to Athena Mellas, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: jdonkar@hotmail.com.

Jeff Michael Joiner (2005), Kingsland, is the owner of several businesses. He is married to Deidre L. Nugent, a 2005 Georgia Southern kinesiology graduate, and they have two daughters, ages 7 and 3. Email: gsujeff55@gmail.com.

J. Ryan Merritt (2005), White Plains, is employed by J. M. Logging, Inc., Greensboro, and co-owner of "Down South Diesel Performance, LLC." He is married to Sybil Hogan, a Georgia Southern alumna, and they have a daughter, Kate, born July 15, 2010. Email: ryan_merritt42@hotmail.com.

Drew Bowen (2006), Monroe, is the owner of Southern Traditions Landscaping. Drew was on the men's golf team. Email: drew.bowen.10@gmail.com.

Scott T. Shelton (2006), Pooler, is an applications engineer/sales with Mingledorff's, Savannah. He is married to Kristen Peterson, a 2006 Georgia Southern business education graduate. Scott was a starting punter and kicker on the football team from 1999–2002. Email: kickpunt40@hotmail.com.

Charlie Weissberger (2006) (Delta Sig), Pooler, is the regional sales coordinator for AFLAC in Savannah. Email: charles_weissberger@us.aflac.com.

Wesley R. Bridges (2007), formerly in Duluth, is now in Cumming, where he is an assistant manager for Walmart, Chamblee. He is married to Jessica Lee Wells, and they have a daughter, Lauren A. Bridges (2 1/2). Email: wesbridges66@gmail.com.

W. Wesley Olliff (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.

Stephen K. Ogletree (2008) (MBA 2010), Statesboro, currently employed by Rozier Ford, is engaged to Rebecca Nance, a 2011 Georgia Southern psychology graduate. Email: l.ogletree@comcast.net.

Mason D. Raley, II (2008), formerly in Orange Park, FL, is now in Middleburg, FL, where he is a special forces sergeant in the U. S. Army. He graduated from Infantry School in November 2010, Airborne in December 2010, and his approximate graduation date for special forces qualification is February 2013. Mason has an MBA in homeland security counter-terrorism from the National Defense University. He was a member of Georgia Southern's football team. Email: mason.raley@us.army.mil.

John R. Wagner (2008), Atlanta, an IT recruiter for The Intersect Group, recently married Heather L. Reynolds, a 2006 Georgia Southern sport management graduate and a 2008 MBA. She is now an attorney. Email: jwagner1221@gmail.com.

William A. Gaines (2009), Tybee Island, is now a sales associate in the midtown office of Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners, Savannah.

Kevin M. Bowles (2010), Statesboro, is a sales representative with the National Distributing Company, Savannah. Kevin was on the baseball team. Email: kbowles@gmail.com.

Spencer Windham (2010), Montezuma, is an accounting officer with Jule Windham, Marshallville. Email: swindham@777@gmail.com.

Marketing

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

Michael A. Holsonback (1988), Statesboro, recently married Brittany Rose Cartee.

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 Aderhold (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: abbeaderhold@hotmail.com.

Heather Louise Rush (2000), Greenwood, SC, is now the assistant director, career programs for Presbyterian College. She is married to Bryan Rush. Email: hrush3@gmail.com.

Shanae M. Gamble (2003), Valdosta, is the owner/CEO of Myths and Fables. In 2009, she started the business and published her first book, *The Earache Myth*, in 2010 and then, *God's Dogs Go to Heaven*, in 2011. Her website is www.shanaegamble.webs.com. Email: shanaemarie99@hotmail.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 Warner Chilcott. She is married to Brandon Alderman. Email: ashleyalderman@live.com.

Bethany E. Griffis (2005), Marietta, is an executive assistant with the First Landmark



Daniel E. Ellis (MGT, 1991) was named to the positions of Senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for Carmike Cinemas, Inc., in August 2011. Carmike Cinemas is a leading entertainment, digital cinema, and 3-D motion picture exhibitor headquartered in Columbus.

Since 1999, Dan had been executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary for Lodgian, Inc., a leading owner of hotels in the United States, and LSREF Peach Investments, LLC, a private equity firm which owns Lodgian. Previously, he was an associate attorney at Stokes Lazarus & Carmichael, LLP, Atlanta, and assistant district attorney for the State of Georgia. Dan is member of the State Bar of Georgia, treasurer of Georgia's chapter of the American Corporate Counsel Association, and serves on the board of the Foster Care Support Foundation of Georgia.

ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

IS 1995 - MKT 2005

ALUMNIVILLE



Clint Cloutre (MBA, 1990) has been appointed Vice president of marketing for Embraer Executive Jets. Cloutre will be responsible for worldwide marketing initiatives of the Executive Jets division. Headquartered in Brazil, Embraer employs more than 17,000 people around the globe designing and manufacturing commercial airliners, agricultural airplanes, defense aircraft and executive jets. Prior to joining Embraer in 2006, he held marketing positions at other leading executive aircraft manufacturers. Clint, who is also a licensed pilot, was a flight test engineer in Savannah at the start of his career.

Bank. She is married to Andrew Thomas, a 2006 Georgia Southern construction management major. Email: bethanygthomas@hotmail.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. Akerman (2006), formerly in Fayetteville, is now in Roswell, where she is a marketing specialist with Verint. She is married to Eric Barstow, a 2008 Georgia Southern IS graduate. Email: emilyackerman@yahoo.com.

Selina A. Knappenberger (2006), Edge-water, MD, is with Sherwin-Williams, Beltsville, MD. Email: s1sweetness@yahoo.com.

Brianna Dean Boutelle (2009) (MBA 2010), Duluth, is with McKesson in inside sales. She is still involved with the American Red Cross. Email: brianna.boutelle@mckesson.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@delta.com.

MAcc

Katherine Diane Braswell (2004) is now in Soperton. Email: kbraswell@nlamerica.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 Lilburn, is now in Loganville, where she is a staff accountant with SKC, 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: stewartwalt@hotmail.com.

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

Joseph E. Snowden, III (2008), Atlanta, is a senior associate and CPA and CFE with

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 Thigpen, Jones, Seaton, CPAs, Dublin. Email: jgardner@tjscpa.com.

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

MBA

Dwayne E. Rucker (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.

Bonnie 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. Grandmother is Dr. Kathleen Gruben. Email: bgruben@yahoo.com.

Jennifer E. Chinault (2008), formerly in Columbia, SC, and now in Savannah, recently married Kristopher Whitley, a UGA graduate. Jennifer is a pharmaceutical sales representative.

Heather L. Reynolds (2008), Atlanta, is an attorney with Broel Childs, LLC. She graduated from the Georgia State Law School summa cum laude and passed the bar exam. Heather was on the Georgia Southern women's tennis team and is married to John R. Wagner, a 2008 Georgia Southern management major. Email: hwanger918@gmail.com.

Adam J. Beedenbendes (2009), Atlanta, is now 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.

Adam is slated for graduate in 2013. Email: abeeden@emory.edu.

Loren P. Waldo (2010), Richmond Hill, is a business analyst for Gulfstream Aeospace, Savannah. His wife is Melanie. Email: lorenwaldo@yahoo.com.

Dana Webb (2010), St. Augustine, FL, is the controller of Land South Construction Co., Jacksonville, FL.

Stephanie Weitman (2010), Springfield, is the ME/IE group head for Gulfstream Aerospace. Email: sweit19@comcast.net.

WebMBA™

Mark Waltamath (2010), Auburn, is a financial analyst for VHS-Pruitt, Norcross. He is married to Marion Marshall, a 2000 Georgia Southern biology graduate. Email: marwalt@hotmail.com.

NYG

Rebecca Lynn Holloway Prosser (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. Prosser.

In Memoriam


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

Michael R. Adkins (Gen Bus, 1980), Powder Springs, died on March 25, 2010.

Latosha White (Log, 1997) died on August 28, 2006.

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


Robert Don Kelley (MGT, 1982) died on February 12, 2004.



Eagle Executive Society and “Blue Card”

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Preferred Address for delivery ☐ Home ☐ Office

Please return this form to Lewis Stewart, COBA Alumni Editor,
P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002 or
use the QR code, right, to join the Eagle Executive Society.



Burns Named President of Gordon College



Max Burns

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." ♦

"Godfather of Real Estate" Passes Away

John Budack, assistant professor of finance emeritus, who taught real estate classes for many years, passed away in October at the age of 73 in Virginia. He and his wife, Alice, had a second home in Virginia, and he had been battling a brain tumor.

Many alumni will remember Mr. Budack. He taught in COBA for 26 years from 1974 until 2000, when he retired. He returned to the classroom part-time after retirement and taught periodically until his death.

Mr. Budack was considered the godfather of real estate at Georgia Southern because he created the real estate emphasis in the finance major and taught all the courses himself for many years. Mr. Budack also supervised interns in real estate, linking



John and Alice Budack

literally hundreds of students to real world experience prior to graduation.

Mr. Budack served on the original greek housing committee that formed the Southern Greek Housing Corporation and developed "Greek Row" at Georgia Southern. He led the establishment of a Phi Delta Theta chapter at Georgia Southern, served as the chapter advisor, and was province president for Georgia.

Mr. Budack earned a BBA degree in 1959 from the University of Michigan and an MBA degree in 1970 from Drake University. He is survived by a daughter, Karen, who is married to Todd Deal, professor of chemistry at Georgia Southern, and his wife, Alice. A memorial service was held for Mr. Budack in Statesboro on October 1. ♦

COBA Advisory Councils' Fall Meetings

COBA Business Advisory Council



COBA's Business Advisory Council

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.

The two-day program began with a reception at the Holiday Inn sponsored by **Alison** and **Robin Rich**, along with **Doug Lambert**, general partner at Holiday Inn, and ended with the Eagles easing by The Citadel 14-12 at Paulson Stadium.

Council members in attendance included **Paul Bennett**, **Leonard Blount**, **Edwin Boyd**, **Hoke Brunson**, **Bill Herring**, **Lee Huggins**, **Gary Johnson**, **Kelly Jones**, **Doug Lambert**, **Lurue Lord**, **J. T. Marburger**, **David Pittman**, **Robin Rich**, **Mike Sanders**, **Asbury Stembridge**, **Helen Stembridge**, **Lee Tompkins**, **Cleve White**, and **Lynda Williamson**.

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



Ted Moore

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 Herring**, **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 Herring**, **Tim Veal**, and **Bill Woodward**. ♦

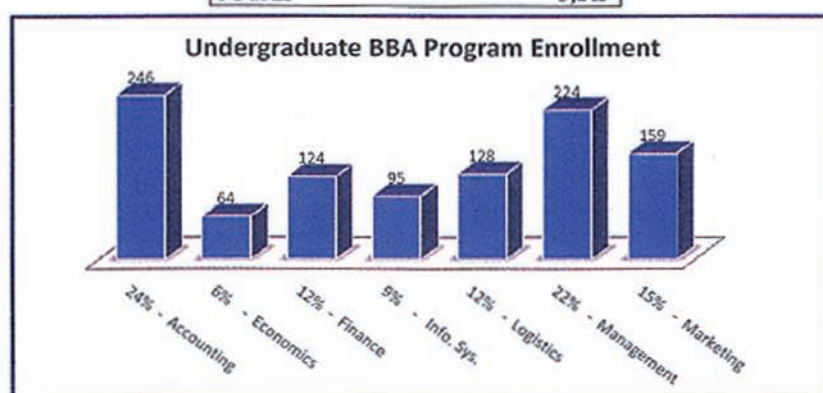


SOA's Advisory Council

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.

COBA Students	
Pre-business	1,787
BBA program	1,040
Graduate program	418
TOTAL	3,245



COBA Faculty and Staff	
Tenure and tenure-track	78
Non-Tenure	21
Staff	41
TOTAL	140

