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 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, student success, research, scholarship, and creativity. Mission accomplishment will be measured 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 Shiffner 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 has the clear underlying objective of supporting Georgia Southern’s vision of being recognized as one of the best public, comprehensive universities in the nation.
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 Ph.D. program 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!

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 Farrish, Chris Wood, Ben Lee, and Ashley Beacher, and Net – Chris Davis, Danny Nease, Shane Holland, and Jon Burns. Special awards were Straightest Drive – Brian Anderson, Closest to the Pin – Christi Ryan (#25, #6) and Ashley Beacher (#10), 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 alumni thought of as their best teachers who would always take time to help them. Since I was in their department, Faculty Research Services, Room 3356, P. O. Box 8002, STATESBORO, GA 30460

Eagle Executive—Celebrating 25 Years

Fall 2011
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. Fearn Best Paper Award. After presenting his paper, he received a plaque from the journal editor at an annual networking event.

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’s Business ByDesign cloud computing solution. To get things rolling, Dr. Eldred attended a three-day ByDesign workshop at SAP headquarters in Waldorf Germany in October.

The department’s SAP team 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 alumni spoke to classes including Teri McRae, professor, forensic accounting class. Stephen, who owns his own IT consulting company, later joined Hanley in a presentation to Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honorary society.

Sergeant Todd Friedel of the Georgia Army Reserve and National Guard spoke to Nick DeBonis’s lecture, 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 Fereruzan 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 Accounting

KPMG’s Stephen Spiers and Will Hanley spoke to Chuck Harter’s, professor, forensic accounting class. Stephen, who owns his own IT consulting company, 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 CPAs’ Outstanding Educator Award, presented annually by its Education Foundation to the state’s outstanding educator in the field of accounting. This represents the 4th time since the 1981 inception of the award that a Georgia Southern faculty member has been selected, previously including Herb O’Keefe, associate professor emeritus, and Lowell Moonley, 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 Boulet, food safety director, Claxton Poultry, and Larry Kopczak, former Hewlett Packard engineer, now Snug Hill organic farm entrepreneur in Garfield. Boulet addressed the huge Asian demand for poultry while Kopczak addressed the Asian food demand for poultry while Kopczak explained the Japanese trade markets.

Michael Reckolak, 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 $1,403,862. 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, Business ByDesign cloud computing solution, 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

Community Spotlight: Construction

Community Spotlight: Hospitality

Hupman Scholar

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

The PCAO 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 Shiffler, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration, P. O. Box 8002, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002, phone (912) 478-COBA.

Dixie Crystals
Joshua S. Pollak
Cameron H. Randall
Greggory D. Vickers

Knotts
Melvin D. Zuber

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

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

Beta Gamma Sigma
Benjamin Woods
Freeman Scholar

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

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

Atlanta CPCU
Danielle Youngs

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 Bricett

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 Satran Batchelor, Robert Morris
Burchard Villiger Blackmore, LIT
Emery Cliff Brown, Shuart
Phillip Blair Buchhagen, Mark Anderson
Wai Le Chan, LIT
Jackie J. Dawson, Herling
John P. Ederlein, LIT and Robert Morris
Brown Kent Flowers, Dixie Crystals
Ruanush L. Hsailand, Beth
Lucyline Van Haynie, Euniv Spek Coa
Cia Nicole King, Paul Kall
Gingling Liu, LIT
Steven Clark Mayfield, Atlanta CPCU
Austin Blake McKee, LIT
Chian Alexandra Miller, Cunnings
Reneza Rhone Paul, LIT
Kelly Michelle Sanders, LIT
Stephanie Powell Thomas, LIT
Chad Douglas Troughton, LIT
Dana Jocely Velasquez, Gaussian
Marcus A. Walker, Cox
Christopher R. Williamson, Oufly & Tucker
Emily Lauren Woods, Priddy Price
Elizabeth Joy Zeller, Dixie Crystals
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 Trendway, Mary Kathryn Mason, Jessica Clemmer, Allie Jansen, Vincent Duttillo, David McIntosh, and LaShai Joshua. Next year, Landon will serve as president, Samantha will be vice president, and Madison will serve as secretary of the board.

Fraud and Forensic Education Conference

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

According to Richard Brody, conference presenter from the University of New Mexico, fraud costs U.S. businesses almost a trillion dollars annually, as much as 7 percent of business revenue, or almost $20 per employee each day of the year.

The three-day conference, offering up to 20 hours of professional continuing education credit for accountants, featured more than 175 registrants and 35 speakers discussing such topics as Ponzi schemes, black markets, fraud and bank failure, red collar crime (murder), pink collar crime (women), money mules, and cyber crimes; consumer, financial institution, insurance, health care, mortgage and real estate, corporate, securities, environmental, government, tax, and bankruptcy frauds; and public corruption.

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 Savannah College of Art and Design Performing Arts Center in November 2011. This represented the 16th annual Executive-in-Residence event for the School of Accountancy.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Search and his wife, Kristin, have three daughters; Abigail (11), Madeline (8), and Elizabeth (5). The girls will tell you that there is most certainly a dog in the family’s future.

SOA’s 16th Annual EIR

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 Thiaghen 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.

Southern Bass Anglers

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Parker and Thiaghen display their “catch of the day.”
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 online. 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 earned recognition in Europe, China, and elsewhere. The Georgia WebMBA® is one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA. The Review concludes.

WebMBA® Earns Tier One Ranking

The Georgia WebMBA® programs—our on-line MBA program delivered through a consortium of six Georgia institutions—was recently awarded a Tier One ranking by the 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 international schools such as the University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, Warwick University, Coventry, UK, and the Swiss Business School, Kloten, Switzerland.

In a separate three page article, CEO Magazine editor Jonathan Calens interviewed 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://cob.georgiasouthern.edu/pdf%20files/ceo_article_winter_2011.pdf.

From the MBA Director

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 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

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
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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Polytechnic University, as a visiting professor. Prior to moving to academia, Larry worked for eleven years in hotel management in New York City, Texas, and Puerto Rico and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica. His research interests are hospitality human resources and hotel operations.

Charles Williamson
Lecturer of Accounting
School of Accountancy

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

Wells and Randall New Administrators

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

Wells had served as chair of the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis since 2007. He came to Georgia Southern in 2001 as assistant professor of finance following assignments in Alabama, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. He received his Ph.D. in finance from the University of Mississippi in 1999. Professionally, he has published 16 journal articles and presented 17 papers at academic meetings. Cindy Randall received her BBA from Georgia Southern and MBA from University of Memphis. She joined the Department of Management in September 1982, became assistant professor of management in 1989, and earned tenure in 1993. Over the years, Mrs. Randall’s teaching has included computer information systems, decision science, business statistics, and quantitative analysis. Randall has published more than fifty articles in journals and conference proceedings and, in 2009, received COBA’s highest honor, the Eugene M. Bishop Award. She led and advised Beta Gamma Sigma for ten years and chaired COBA’s Assessment Committee for AACSB in 2005.
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 of 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 Karoff, “Copyrigh ts, Trademarks, & Licenses”; forums by Thomas J. Weisenbach, Tim “Bubba” Hunt, and Linda Mullen, “Selling Tips for Small Businesses”; Leslie Fletcher, Allen Torpie, Chad Avret, and Brannon 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 Screven counties.

Binglin Li

Frances, Nathan, Sandra, & Julian Deal

Governor Appoints Deal

Governor Nathan Deal recently appointed Julian J. Deal, CPA, Statesboro, to the Georgia Board of Accountancy, the state’s seven member board responsible for licensing certified public accountants and public accounting firms in Georgia, since 1916.

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 Charter Honorary Member of 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.

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 Office 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
Rhooda O. Banks
Perry C. Barnett*
Paul T. Bennett
H. Robert Bennett, Jr.
Donald L. Berezc
Ednilson Bernardes*
William H. Bolten*
Thomas P. Bond, Jr.*
William J. Bostwick*
Edward S. Bowles*
Brian C. Brennaman*
Theresa S. Brennan*
Gregory J. Brock*
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.*
Bryan R. Burke*
Steve Bussoletti
Lisa Butler*
Michael R. Calhoun*
Mikelie 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. Eiller
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
Urifee Harrison
Larry F. Harrison*
Consuelo Hart*
Charles Harter*
Jacquie 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. Iranti-Williams
Matthew H. Janofsky*
John F. Jennings*
Lindsey D. Johnson, Jr.*
Michael K. Johnson*
Brian J. Joiner
Thomas W. Jones*
Victoria N. Jones
Kauffman Tire, Inc.
Christopher W. Kimbrough
Vicki King
William C. Kirby*
John F. Kohm*
Douglas H. Lombert*
Jamie Lane*
David W. Leopard
John Leaptrott, Jr.*
Robert Andrew Leven
Buddy Lichy*
M. Jill Lockwood*
Lurie L. Lord*
Sanford Loyd
Carolyn Luckadoo*
David M. Luckie*
Chandan Maltrani
Lori Mallard
Todd Manack*
Mike McDonald*
Samuel A. McDuffie*
C. William McGaher*
Robert McGregor*
Britton A. McKay*
William S. Mclean II
Edward James Meadows, Jr.
J. Lowell Mooney*
J. Brien 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
Curis L. Quinn
RadioJones, LLC*
Cindy H. Randall*
James Randall*
Stephen E. Rary*
Danny K. Ricks*
Jason A. Roberts
James Q. Roop, Ill
Joseph P. Ruhlman*
Madeline Ruhlman*
Stephen M. Rutner
Michael R. Sanders*
Brandon T. Sauers
Moni F. Schofill*
Matthew E. Selph
Andrew G. Sharp
Howard C. Sheppard III
Barbara Shiffer*
Ron Shiffer*
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 Spoonstra*
Ashbury Stembridge, 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. Trainar*
F. Ward Trulock*
Scott C. Tuten*
Milliades 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. Zittrauer

*Charter Members
Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture

C O B A 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.

PROJECT ADRIAN

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

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

The Professional Development Center’s upscale facility was staged to mimic an intelligence center, squad rooms, business offices, accountant offices, judge’s chambers, and everyday life locations, including residences. The IRS coaches prepared students by fine-tuning their investigative procedures. Teams were assigned to conduct record checks, serve subpoenas, analyze 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 Berecz, 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.”

Ph.D.’s

(continued from page 2)

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

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

Donnie received his BBA in finance from Georgia Southern. His professional back- ground 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.

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

John Steve Odum (1970), 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: saifan37@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: mp3353@tidecast.net.

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

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

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

Gwendolyn “Wendi” O’Connor (1999) 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 five years. The Bank of Ozarks acquired Oglethorpe Bank on January 14, 2011. Wendi currently resides on Sts. Simons Island.

Sean Hendley (1997), Abilene, TX, is 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 4th 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: tripfitz@gmail.com.

Jessica Ard (2003) (IMacc 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) (IMacc 2004), Acworth, is a CPA and senior financial analyst for Wellstar Health System, Marietta. Email: sb130@ga.com.

Patrick R. Simmons (2005) (MEd Ed 2000), Savannah, is a staff auditor with Deemer & McGuire, CPAs, Macon. He is married to Diana Davidson. Email: rvers@hmmpca.go.com.

Joe T. Wood (2006) (MBA 2010), Charlotte, NC, is a funds management analyst with Bank of America. Email: joe.wood01@bmi.com.

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

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

Jaimie Laine Carraway (2009), Hampton, VA, is an accountant for Riverside Health Systems, Newport News, VA. Jamie was on the women’s soccer team that is enrolled in William & Mary’s MBA program. Email: jaimiecarraway@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 married to Richard Lindahl, a 2009 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: richlandl@audits.ga.gov.

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

Computer Science
Ryan S. Thompson, 2010, Savannah, is a software developer for Hypercom. Email: rtompson@hypercom.com.

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

Wendell H. Dixon (1975), Vidalia, is now senior VP for the Montgomery Bank and Trust in Hiramian, SC. Email: wendell@montgomerybt.com.

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

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

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

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 Millicent, a 2003 Georgia Southern history education graduate. Email: swilson25@yahoo.com.

Finance
Steve Hein (1983), Statesboro, director, Coastal Georgia Wildlife Education Program Q. Ball Raptor Center at Georgia Southern, logged more than 4,000 hours of volunteer work and 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 was selected Georgia Outdoor’s 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 Claughton. Email: gshaefer@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), Chicago, IL, is the regional manager for Charts Insurance, Inc.

Shannon N. Reynolds (2005), Atlanta, is an account manager with the Bank of America. Email: shannon.reiffer2@bmo.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 Estes, a 2007 Georgia Southern child and family development graduate. Email: jdhunt@gmail.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: chaz008401@gmail.com.

Charles B. Helliwell (2008), Statesboro, is a financial institution specialist with Steve H. Powell & Co. Email: charleshelliwell22@gmail.com.

Kelly Gagne (2009), Evans, is now a regional manager with Mars, the world’s largest producer of chocolate confectionery. She has been appointed senior vice president of the Montgomery Bank and Trust.

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 administrator with State Farm Mutual Ins. Co. He is married to Laura Michelle Bennett, a 2010 Georgia Southern math graduate. Email: r.s.blair@mfn.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), Glennwood, has retired. He is married to Sue Sikes, a 1971 Georgia Southern graduate and has been mayor of Glennwood since 1983.

Frank C. Parker (1969), Statesboro, president of Parker Realty, has been named interim city manager for Statesboro after serving as interim city manager for several months. He is married to Marica Brill, 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 to Ann Price Priddy, a 1977 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: rpbranch@gmail.com.

David Gramhant (1984), Warner Robins, is now the project manager for FYTs International Fruit Company, San Miguel, Costa Rica. He is married to Helen Smart.
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: soyadenve@yahoo.com.

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


Email: lsdreammakers@gmail.com.

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

Luke D. Odum (2008) MBA 2009, formerly in Sylmar, CA, is now in Los Angeles, CA, where he is the datacenter operation administrator for New Dream Network. He is married to Jerry Leigh Georgia Southern criminal justice graduate. Email: luke@lukedom.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 systems analyst for Coca-Cola Refreshments, Atlanta. She is also the university talent recruitment coordinator for Georgia Southern and Kerns 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 Abee Aderhold. Email: barthkeleher@gmail.com.

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

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

Craig A. Fritz (2009), Powder Springs, is an account manager with LogiTrans Express. Email: cpntr222@gmail.com.

Tyler M. Gartman (2010), Hiramstagne, TN, is the driver business leader for Schneider National, Lebanon, TN. Email: tgarimu1@gmail.com.

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

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

Dr. Daryl W. Fireman (1984), Clayton, 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: dfireman@evans312.us.

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

John G. Danker (2004), formerly in Alpharetta, is a commercial project manager with Probuild, Kennesaw. He is married to Theresa Millas, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: jdanker@hotmail.com.

Jeff Michael Joiner (2005), Kingsland, is the owner of several businesses. He is married to Déa L. Hogans, a 2005 Georgia Southern kinesiology graduate, and they have two daughters, ages 7 and 9. Email: jmjoiner55@gmail.com.

J. Ryan Merritt (2005), White Plains, is employed by D. S. 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, 2015. Email: jrmerritt43@gmail.com.

Drew Bowen (2006), Monroe, is the owner of Southern Traditions Landscaping. Drew was on the men’s golf team. Email: drew Bowen.100@gmail.com.

Scott T. Shelton (2006), Poiler, is an applications engineer/sales with Mingledoff’s, Savannah. He is married to Kristin Peterson, a 2006 Georgia Southern business administration graduate. Scott was a starting punter and kicker on the football team from 1999-2002. Email: kickpunt40@hotmail.com.

Charles Weisser (2006) (Delta Sig), Pooler, is the regional sales coordinator for APR in Savannah. Email: charles_weisser@us.allco.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: wesbridges666@gmail.com.

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


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: wesbridges666@gmail.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-operated 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 R. Wagner (2008), Atlanta, an IT recruiter for The Interested Group, recently married Heather L. Reynolds, a 2006 Georgia Southern sport management graduate and a 2008 MBA. She is now an attorney. Email: wagner222@ gmail.com.

William A. Goves (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: kbowles1@gmail.com.

Spencer Windham (2010), Moneumoza, is an accounting officer with Julie Windham, Marshallville. Email: swindham777@gmail.com.

Marketing
Kenneth “Gray” Koonce, Jr. (1981), Gaston, SC, is the owner of Graystone Acquisitions, LLC. Email: kgoonce@beloitnews.com.


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

Abbe Huffman Adendorf (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: abbeadendorf@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.


Email: shanegaamble99@hotmail.com.

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

Ashley Mize Alderman (2005), Atlanta, is an account manager with Wachovia Bank. She is married to Brandon Alderman. Email: ashleyaldermanlive.com.

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

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Bank. She is married to Andrew Thomas, a 2006 Georgia Southern construction management major. Email: bethany.thomas@student.gsu.edu.

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

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

Emily R. Ackerman (2006), formerly in Fayetteville, is now in Roswell, where she is a marketing specialist with Verizon. She is married to Eric Barstow, a 2008 Georgia Southern MBA.

Selina A. Knappenberger (2006), Edge-water, is married to Jonathan Wallace. She is still involved with the American Red Cross. Email: selinaknappenberger@yahoo.com.

KYLE J. RANALD (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: kylej.randall@gmail.com.

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

Katherine Diane Braswell (2004) is now in Soperton. Email: kbraswell@nlamerica.com.

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

Christy D. Mote (2006), formerly in Lumberton, 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: steve.stewart@hotmail.com.

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

Joseph E. Snowden, III (2008), Atlanta, is an attorney with Brookins, Steelman, & Reade. Email: jsnowden@blueorange.com.

Latosha White (Log, 1997) died on August 12, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Curtis. Email: latosha.white@gmail.com.

Rebecca Lynn Holloway Prosser (Undeclared), formerly in Summerville, SC, is now in Savannah, where she is a staff accountant with SKC, Inc, St. Simons Island. Email: rebecca.prosser@gmail.com.

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

Mark Waltmann (2010), Auburn, is a financial analyst for HVS-Pruit, Norcross. He is married to Marion Marshall, a 2000 Georgia Southern biology graduate. Email: mwaltmann@hotmail.com.

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


James Robert Clark (MGT, 1972) died on January 9, 2010.

COBA Advisory Councils’ Fall Meetings

COBA 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.


SOA Advisory Council

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

Student accounting organizations officers, including Kenny Douglas, Beta Alpha Psi, and the 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.

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 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 lead the establishment of a Phi Delta Theta chapter at Georgia Southern, served as the chapter advisor, and was province president for Georgia.

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.