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 fiscal sustainability by leveraging opportunities presented by growth in demand for business education and on-line delivery, applied research and regional business-outreach, and graduate education programs.

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

Effective July 1, 2012, the Department of Finance & Economics, including finance, financial services, personal financial planning, risk management and insurance, and real estate, along with economics, international business, and regional economic development, will be merged and chaired by Geoffrey Gibbison. The Department of Management, including management, human resources, operations management, entrepreneurship, 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 been further refined by the clear unity of supporting Georgia Southern’s vision of being recognized as one of the best public, comprehensive universities in the nation.

Georgia Southern’s First Ph.D. Class

Amit Arora

Amit holds an MS in energy and environmental management from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India, and a BS in mechanical engineering from 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, strategy, market-orientation, and developing sustainability indices for the logistics and shipping services industry.

A Message from Dean Shiffer

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.

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 community lost a real trooper in Lewis M. Stewart, our beloved dean. 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.

Lewis M. Stewart
Day for Southern Record

The 38th annual A Day for Southern campaign for Georgia Southern set an all-time record in 2011 with total contributions of $1,401,739. 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, and Symphony program. 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 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, 1991) 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=IVBi695uOdo ◆

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

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 JSOM’s 2010 Harold E. Fearn Best Paper Award. After presenting his paper, he received a plaque from the journal editor and SAP Mobility applications.

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-reviewed benchmarks for banking executives involved with the SGBS. Mr. Sibbald also spoke at the 51st Annual Georgia Bankers Association Leadership Conference on St. Simon’s this past summer.

Information Systems

The on-line graduate ERP Certificate program was launched in Fall Semester 2011 with a cohort of 18 that includes IS instructor Valerie Kasay. Camille Rogers is the ERP Certificate program director. In October, Dr. Rogers joined the SAP University Alliance Curriculum Development Team for SAP’s Business ByDesign cloud computing solution. To get things rolling, Dr. Elder addressed the huge Asian demand for poultry while Kopczak explained the Japanese trade markets. Now Snug Hill organic farm entrepreneur in Garfield. Boudet welcomed speakers Noel Hollis, 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 PhD at Georgia Southern, later joined Hanley in presentation to Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honorary society.

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

School of Economic Development

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

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

### 2011 Scholarship Recipients

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

#### Knotts
- Melvin D. Zuber

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

#### Accounting Advisory Council Scholars

(1st row L-R) Nelson Padgett, Kenny Douglas, Sonia Curtis, Tracie 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 Simmons, and Brooke Jackson

#### GATE Scholars

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

#### Atlanta CPCU
- Danielle Youngs
- Mikal Lewis,
- and Keylene Burgess

#### Professional Insurance Agents
- Jeffrey M. Napman
- PCAO Board Scholar

#### Georgia Society of CPAs

2011 Southeast Chapter recipients Jennifer Riggs, Michael Hester, Shikira Roberts, Zack Stroup, and Justin Gillette pose with Dr. Chuck Harter (center).

#### Priddy-Price
- Madeline Bunn
- Sara Moore

#### Phi Eta Sigma
- Ashley L. Harrell

#### Janofsky
- Caitlin Herr

#### Susan Rebehowick
- Dana Velazquez,
- Ms. Cheryl Lansing, and Walt Howard,
- Priddy Price Scholar

#### Freeman
- Landon J. Latham

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Recipients not pictured
- Camden Satun Batchelor, Robert Morris
- Burchard Viller Blackman, LIT
- Emery Cliff Brown, Mount
- Phillip Blair Bubhan, Mark Anderson
- Wai Le Chan, LIT
- Zachary L. Dennis, Herling
- John P. Eddine, LIT and Robert Morris
- Steven Kent Flowers, Dixie Crystals
- Ruamah L. Haselden, Bolton
- Lucinda Van Haynes, Eunice Spall CoA
- Cia Nicole King, Paul Kaf
- Qingping Liu, LIT
- Steven Clark Mayfield, Atlanta CPCU
- Austin Blake McKee, LIT
- Chian Alexandra Miller, Coggings
- Rebecca Reason Paul, LIT
- Kelly Michelle Sanders, LIT
- Stephanie Powell Thomas, LIT
- Chad Douglas Troughton, LIT
- Dana Ina Velasquez, Giacomi
- Marcus A. Walker, Cox
- Christopher S. Williamson, Quiell & 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 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.

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 Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center in November 2011. This represented the 16th annual Executive-in-Residence event for the School of Accountancy.

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

Mr. Search holds a BS in political science with a minor in economics from Ohio State University and 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!
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 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 Shiffer. “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.”

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 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 Shiffer 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.

WebMBA® Earns Tier One Ranking

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 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 Spring 2012, the average GMAT score has moved up to 546 from 535 in fall, while the average 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.

For more information on any of our graduate programs, please contact COBA Graduate Studies, PO Box 8050 • Room 3300, Statesboro, GA 30460-8050, Phone: (912) 478-5767, E-Mail: mba@georgiasouthern.edu, Website: http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/grad.htm.
Sonji Fields Leach (MKT, 1991) is the principal at Swainsboro High School. She came back to Georgia Southern to get her MEd in middle grades and an add-on in educational administration and supervision in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

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

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

Frode Kittelsen (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 Kragerøe, on the southern coast of Norway, or their winter cabin in the Norwegian Valdres Mountains. ◆

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. ◆

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
Faces of Homecoming 2011

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

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

Jason L. Anderson
Director
Small Business Development Center

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

Shantanu Bagchi
Assistant Professor
School of Economic Development

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

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

Leslie Furr, Ph.D., Texas A&M University; MEd Springfield College; BA Louisiana State University, began his hospitality career with the 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. Petersburgh 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.

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

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

Alan Mackelprang
Assistant Professor
Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., University of South Carolina; MS, University of Rochester; two BS’s, Arizona State University, comes to COBA from 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 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 Market 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 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 forums, entrepreneurship, and small business events, including an Entrepreneurial Food for Thought lecture by Benjamin Karpf, “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 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 entrepreneur 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 Montgomery counties, and 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


Ph.D. students Amit Arora, Stephanie Thomas, Donna Williams, and Sara Linnenbrock, 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 J. Deal, CPA, Statesboro, to the Georgia Board of Accountancy, the state’s seven member board responsible for licensing certified public accountants and public accounting firms in Georgia, since 1908. Julian received his bachelor degree in business from Georgia Southern University and was admitted to Georgia certified public accounting practice in 1966. His wife, Frances Smith Deal, is a Georgia Southern accounting graduate and certified public accountant since 1967.

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

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

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

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

City Campus Wins Award

City Campus, a partnership between the University’s College of Business Administration and the City of Statesboro’s Downtown Development Authority, received the Georgia Downtown Association’s Best 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. ◆
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 Ampsahnah
Thomas C. Avant
Don C. Bagwell, Sr
J. Kenneth Baker
Rhonda O. Banks
Perry C. Barnett*
Paul T. Bennett
H. Robert Bennett, Jr.
Donald L. Berezcz
Ednision 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. Cooe*
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. Durdin
Jacqueline K. Eastman*
Kevin L. Eastman*
Anthony S. Eiler
Nancy Elrod
Eric H. Engel
Robert Fennakes
Donna K. Fisher
Olivia S. Flanagan*
Sara Fountain*
Peter L. Fraley*
Frank L. Gaudry
John M. Giddens III

William I. Griffs*
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. Herrings
William T. Herrings*
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 Lich*
M. J. Lockwood*
Lurie L. Lord*
Sanford Loyd
Carolyn Luckadoo*
David M. Luckie*
Chandan Maltrani
Lori Mallard
Todd Manack*
Mike McDonald*
Samuel A. McDuffie*
C. William McGahee*
Robert McGregor*
Britton A. McKay*
William S. Mclean II
Edward James Meadows, Jr
J. Lowell Mooney*
J. 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
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. Ruiner
Michael R. Sanders*
Brandon T. Sayers
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 Speathen*
Olga Snigur
Joseph D. Speight, III
Jean Carol Spoolstra*
Ashby Stembridge, Jr.*
Charlene Stewart*
Lewis Stewart*
Robert H. Stoddard
William N. Straw, 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. Traior*
F. Ward Trulock*
Scott C. Tuten*
Milidades Tzimourtas
Michael B. Waidler
Loren P. Wald
Carol L. Waller
Lee A. Weddle
Mark A. Weeks*
Christopher P. Welch
Karen R. Wells
William H. Wells*
Joy A. West
Linda Wilke*
Bobbi Williams*
Richard S. Williams*
Russell K. Williams, Jr.*
Susan R. Williams*
James E. Wilson III
Jerry Wilson*
John K. Wilson
Steven J. Wilson
Jonathan D. Woodard*
William R. Woolford*
Thomas O. Yarbrough
Andreas Zangemeister
Karl Van Zeigler*
Wendy H. Zittrauer

*Charter Members
Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture

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 agents through a series of mock financial crime investigations.

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

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

Center for Forensic Studies Director Don Berecz, CPA, has been bringing PROJECT ADRIAN to campus since 2007. “We’re not training our students in concepts in the classroom ‘til the cows come home, but PROJECT ADRIAN lets them see the 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 3)

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.

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 paces and attention to detail was challenging!
Accounting
William J. “Billy” Griffin (1969), Statesboro, has retired from Georgia Southern, where he had been VP of advancement—foundation for Georgia Southern. He is married to Eileen Griffin, a 1969 Georgia Southern office administration graduate.

John Steve Odum (1978), Tallahassee, FL, retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons on May 1 after 21+ years of service there and 32+ years with the federal government. Email: sallfan57@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: mp3533@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 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, FL, is now in Altamonte Springs, FL, where she is a staff auditor and CPA for FIS, Orlando. Email: mayress01@cf.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 a few years. The Bank of Ozarks acquired Oglethorpe Bank on January 14, 2011. Wendi currently resides on St. Simons Island.

John A. “Tripp” Fitzter, 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: triffit97@yahoo.com.

John A. “Tripp” Fitzter, 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: triffit97@yahoo.com.

Jessica Ard (2003) (MACc 2004), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Charlotte, NC, where she is the income tax manager for Sunbelt Accounting, LLC. Her wife is Anna, and they have two sons. Email: hendley97@yahoo.com.

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

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

Wendell H. Dixon (1975), Vidalia, is now senior VP for the Montgomery Bank and Trust in Chattooga, AL. Email: whd1001@gmail.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: dlkersey@gmail.com.

Mathematics
Patrick R. Simmons (2005) (Mus Ed, 2000), sblair130@gmail.com. Wellstar Health System, Marietta. Email: is a CPA and senior financial analyst for @gmail.com.

She is the income tax manager for Sunbelt Accounting, LLC. Her wife is Anna, and they have two sons. Email: hendley97@yahoo.com.

Leadership Emanuel Class of 2011. Tripp is married to Jennifer Price, a 1969 Georgia Southern COE graduate.

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 Baker, a 1969 Georgia Southern COE graduate.

Russell A. Priddy (1977), Immokalee, FL, a ranch co-trustee and a natural resources manager for J.B. Ranch, has been appointed to the board of trustees for Florida Gulf Coast University by Florida Governor Rick Scott. He is married to Melissa Price Priddy, a 1977 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: rjpbranch@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), Blackshears, is the director of business development for the Alma Telephone Company. He is married to Dean Tutlen, and they have two sons, Mike (14) and Blaine (15). Email: shpaul@atc.com.

Duane C. Arnold (1988), formerly in Waycross, is now in Santa Jose, Costa Rica, where he is the project manager for Fyfeeyes 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: sonyadeven@yahoo.com.

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


Megan R. Campbell (2008), Alpharetta, is now the web app specialist for Campus Labs. Email: jadedust@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 Georgia Southern criminal justice graduate. Email: luke@lud odom.com.

DeMarco Williams (2008) Delta Sigma, 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 Kennesaw State. Email: nhollis@coca-cola.com.

Logistics
Bart A. Keleher (1997), Nashville, TN, is a development manager for Ryder Logistics.

Craig A. Pritz (2009), Powder Springs, is an account manager with LogiTrans Express. Craig is married to Doug Giacone. Email: christina.giacone@gaap.com.

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

Tyler M. Gartman (2010), Hiram, GA, is the driver business leader for Schneider National, Lebanon, TN. Email: tgar tm1@gmail.com.

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

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

Dr. Daryl W. Fineran (1984), Claxton, is now the director of student support services for the Evans County Board of Education. His wife is Christine. Daryl was on one of Georgia Southern’s early football teams. Email: dliner@evans.k12.ga.us.

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

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

Sharon Pontier Fore (1990), Seymour, TN, and her husband Warren K. Fore, are retired and travel the U.S in their AirStream Travel Trailer with their two children and six grandchildren. Email: sharon751@ charter.net.

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


Shana L. Strong (2001), formerly in Ebensburg, is now in Carter, where she is the HR supervisor for Pilgrim’s Pride. She is now the Devlin Hester: Email: shester10@windstream.net.

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

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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 Georgia Southern. 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. Danko (2004), formerly in Alpharetta, is a commercial project manager with Probuild, Kennesaw. He is married to Alenna Melas, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: jdknark@hotmail.com.

Jeff Michael Joynes (2005), Kingsland, is the owner of several businesses. He is married to Debra L. Huggins, a 2005 Georgia Southern kinesiology graduate, and they have two daughters, ages 7 and 3. Email: jjoynes455@gmail.com.

J. Ryan Merritt (2005), White Plains, is an account manager for Spectrum Business, a division of Charter Communications. He is married to Sybil Hogan, a Georgia Southern alumna, and they have a daughter, Kate, born July 15, 2010. Email: jrmerritt42@hotmail.com.

Drew Bowen (2006), Monroe, is the owner of Southern Traditions Landscaping. Drew was on the men’s golf team. Email: drew.bown10@gmail.com.

Scott T. Sheltton (2006), Pooler, is an applications engineer/sales with Mingledoff’s, Savannah. He is married to Kristin 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.

Charles Weisserberger (2006) Delta Sigma, Pooler, is the regional sales coordinator for APLC in Savannah. Email: charles_weisserberger@us Alloc.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 ½). Email: wesbridges666@gmail.com.

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

Stephen K. Ogletree (2008) MBA 2008, Statesboro, currently employed by Razer Ford, is engaged to Rebecca Nance, a 2006 Georgia Southern psychology graduate. Email: l ogletree@comcast.net.

Mason D. Raley, II (2008), formerly in Orange Park, FL, now in Middleburg, FL, grew up in a special forces family 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: mraley@us.army.mil.

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: wagner2212@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: kbowl7@gmail.com.

Spencer Windham (2010), Montezuma, is an accounting officer with Julie Windham, Marshallville. Email: swindham7777@gmail.com.

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


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

Abbe Huffman 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: abbedor hald@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.


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

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

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

**ALUMNIVILLE**

Clint Clouatre (MBA, 1990) has been appointed Vice president of marketing for Embraer Executive Jets. Clouatre 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 aircraft, 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: bethang.thomas@hotmai.com.

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

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

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

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

Brianna Dean Boutelle (2009) (MBA 2010), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Savannah. Her husband is Stephen Boutelle, a 2009 Georgia Southern construction management major. Email: bgruben@yahoo.com.

Christy D. Mote (2006), formerly in Liberty, 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: swaltstewart@hotmail.com.

Kristen Wyatt Sweat (2007), Dublin, is a CPA/accountant with Newprint Co., LLC, East Dublin. She received her CPA license in July 2009. Kristen is married to Matthew 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 Jazette. Email: joseph_02@hotmail.com.

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 Hugh C. Huggins, and they have a son, Henry H. Huggins, born March 28, 2011. Grandmother is Dr. Kathleen Gruben.

Jennifer E. Chinault (2008), formerly in Columbus, 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. Waldos (2010), Richmond Hill, is a business analyst for Gulfstream Aerospace, Savannah. His wife is Melanie. Email: lorenwaldos@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/EE group head for Gulfstream Aerospace. Email: sweit19@comcast.net.

**MBA**

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

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

Bonne 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, 2011. Grandmother is Dr. Kathleen Gruben.

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

**WebMBA™**

Mark Walltmouth (2010), Auburn, is a financial analyst for VHS-Pruitt, Narcos. He is married to Marion Marshall, a 2000 Georgia Southern biology graduate. Email: marmwat@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.


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


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**Eagle Executive Society and “Blue Card”**

- I would like to become a member of the Eagle Executive Society. Enclosed is my $50.00 payment.
- I am not interested in the Eagle Executive Society. Please update my information as shown below.

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

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 deanshhip 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; Masssey 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.”

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.

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

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 "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 Allison and Robin Rich, along with Doug Lambert, general partner at Holiday Inn, and ended with the Eagles caying at The Citadel 14–12 at Paulson Stadium.


COBA Advisory Council

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

Student accounting organizations officers, including Kenny Douglas, Beta alpha Psi, Mark Fletcher, Accounting Association; and Aaron Cohen, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, updated the Council on events and activities. Council Chair Phil Moore presided over the annual business meeting of the Council. A luncheon honoring retired SOA faculty Bill Bostwick, Lynda Hamilton, Nancy 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 Herrng, Tim Veal, and Bill Woodward.

Fall 2011 — by the Numbers

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