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Eagle Executive

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY
NEWS

from the College of
Business Administration
STATESBORO, GA 30460

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1 Fall 2012

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BB&T Funds Eminent Scholar

COBA and BB&T Corporation, with lead bank Branch Banking and Trust Company, the eleventh largest in the U.S., have recently signed an agreement with the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, as trustees of the Georgia Eminent Scholars Endowment Trust fund, to create a BB&T Executive in Residence in Banking under the state's Eminent Scholar Program, which began in 1985. With 28 system-wide eminent scholars in the program to attract top faculty to Georgia institutions, this represents the third for Georgia Southern's COBA and one of only two to be funded in the System since the Great Recession in 2008.

BB&T's donation of \$500,000 to the College, along with the state's matching funds, resulted in an endowment of \$1 million, the income from which will fund the Executive in Residence in Banking as a public-private partnership to help community banks meet the real world challenges of financial globalization, particularly in lesser urbanized areas of the state.

When COBA announced the establishment of a Center for Excellence in Banking in 1992, the first center of its kind for Georgia, the objective was to provide educational training and research for community banking. Today, the Center for Excellence in Financial Services serves banks and their financial services allies, but community banking remains the primary focus.

Under the leadership of center director and BB&T Executive in Residence, **Edward H. Sibbald**, the Center has developed training and education relationships with the Georgia Bankers Association, Community Bankers Association, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. These include an annual spring Community Bank Symposium in Statesboro and fall event in Valdosta, the BANKSTAT performance reporting service, and a Regulatory Advisory program.

The BB&T funding will allow the executive in residence and center to serve as an independent, objective resource for policy issues facing community banks. One current focus is regulatory compliance and the regressive cost burdens borne by smaller banks, which, in Georgia, number 213 and constitute 90 percent of the 236 FDIC insured commercial banks in the state. "The Center will be extending BANKSTAT statewide and enhancing regulatory advisory to include research and analysis of reserve, capital, and liquidity adequacy; equity and

liability funding contingency policies; and, allowance for loan loss methodologies," explained Sibbald.

Joe Brannen, president and CEO of the Georgia Bankers Association, underscores the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act's* stringent and prescriptive regulatory provisions, "Banks are looking for resources like the Center for Excellence in Financial Services and BB&T Executive in Residence to help them understand and implement these new rules."

While BB&T is one of the largest financial services companies in the country, with \$178.5 billion in assets, \$21.6 billion in market capitalization, 1,800 financial centers nationwide, and a full range of consumer and commercial banking, securities, brokerage, asset management, mortgage, insurance, and related services, its banking subsidiaries are organized as a group of community banks, each with a regional president and each allowing decisions to be made locally, where the client is located. This has made BB&T's client service more responsive, reliable, and effective according

to client satisfaction recognition awards by J. D. Power and Associates, the U. S. Small Business Administration, and Greenwich Associates, among others.

BB&T has long maintained its commitment to community-driven banking service delivery. It was founded by **Alpheus P. Branch** in Wilson, NC, in 1872 and has had a major presence in Georgia since the late 1990's, having come to Statesboro with the 1999 acquisition of First Banking Company of Southeast Georgia and lead bank First Bulloch Bank & Trust Co., originally founded as the Bank of Statesboro in 1894, the first bank to be chartered in Statesboro.

"BB&T is committed to education," said **John Lane**, BB&T city executive for Statesboro and COBA alumnus. "As part of our mission to make the communities we serve better places to live, the BB&T Executive in Residence in Banking is an investment that will return dividends to our shareholders, customers, and the communities we serve for many years to come," affirmed **Kelly King**, president of the BB&T Corporation. ♦



Edward Sibbald



Dean Wells and John Lane

"I Don't Want This Night to End" **Luke Bryan**

Thomas Luther Bryan (MGT, 1999) earned one of the four country awards presented during the 40th Anniversary American Music Awards, broadcast live on ABC from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, CA, Sunday, November 18. Luke, as he was known in COBA, received the country male artist of the year in the company of **Taylor Swift**, country female artist of the year; **Lady Antebellum**, country band, duo, or group of the year; and **Carrie Underwood's** "Blown Away," country album of the year. Then, during the American Country Awards (ACAs), aired live on FOX from The Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, NV, Monday, December 10, Luke received more than a third, nine of twenty-six, of the accolades presented, including Male Artist and Artist of the Year; Male Single and Single of the Year for "**I Don't Want This Night To End**"; Album of the Year for "**Tailgates & Tanlines**"; and, Male Music Video and Music Video of the Year, Male Most Played Radio Tracks, and Most Played Radio Tracks for "I Don't Want This Night To End."

His outstanding success is no surprise to his family who wanted him to move to Nashville following graduation from Lee County High



Luke Bryan and ACA "guitars"

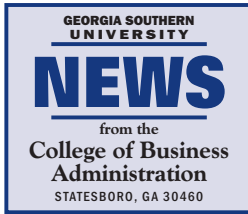
School, Leesburg. Luke grew up on a peanut farm, where his father sold fertilizer for a living. When he was 14, his folks bought him a guitar, and he developed a passion for country music while listening to **George Strait, Conway Twitty, Ronnie Milsap, Alan Jackson, and Merle Haggard**.

Luke started writing songs and planned to go to Nashville after graduating from high school, until his brother was killed in an auto accident. He opted to attend Georgia Southern instead, and he continued writing songs, formed a band, and played at local watering holes most weekends.

After graduation, Luke moved back to Leesburg to work for his dad, despite his family's ongoing encouragement to pursue his music career. His dad finally issued an ultimatum that he go to Music City or be fired! In 2001, after only two months in Nashville, Luke was contracted with a city publisher, then discovered by Capitol Records, and eventually released his 2007 album "**I'll Stay Me**," and followed in 2009 with "**Doin' My Thing**." "Doin' My Thing" peaked at number two on the country charts, number six on the Top 200, and spawned two number one singles "**Rain Is a Good Thing**" and "**Someone Else Calling You Baby**," along with "**Do I**" at number two. His third album, "**Tailgates & Tanlines**" followed in Summer 2011. ♦

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The Eagle Executive

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A Message from Dean Wells

Greetings from COBA!

This academic year will be remembered for milestones within the college and changes across both the college and university. Perhaps, the most significant change in the college is the author of this update. Dean Ron Shiffler retired after ten years of service and 20 of these columns! In Ron's absence, I have been appointed as interim dean for the college. A committee has been formed to identify a new dean.

Ron is now dean of the McColl School of Business at Queens University of Charlotte. We wish Ron and Barbara all the best in their new endeavors.

As the university has reached record enrollment of more than 20,500 students, COBA's advisors are busy, classes are full, and instructors are teaching more students than ever. Growth continues in our traditional and online undergraduate and graduate programs. We will launch our first class for the WebMAcc in Spring 2013. The program will be offered online to working professionals living anywhere in the world, putting them closer to obtaining the CPA designation. With the addition of two new faculty this year, we have begun the third cohort of Georgia Southern's first, and only, PhD program, the PhD in logistics.

COBA is saying goodbye to three long serving members of our team. **Zandra Brasington** retired on December 1 after serving the School of Accountancy for 20 years. A caring professional who always met visitors with a smile and found solutions to what, at times, seemed like a sea of problems, Zandra held steady through six directors during her term in the school. She will be hard to replace!

Dr. **Barbara Price** is retiring on January 1, after 13 years with COBA. Barbara has served the college and university in many roles, including department chair, director of student services, and founding director of the School of Information Technology. In her career, Barbara earned three Fulbright Scholarships and spent a semester in Hungary teaching students and reconnecting with her Hungarian roots.



Dr. **Bill McCartney** has announced he will retire in May. Of course, Bill has been threatening retirement for almost as long as I've been at Southern, so it was with some surprise, and more than a little reluctance, that I accepted his letter this semester. Bill has served as department chair for management and as the Harry S. Carter Endowed Chair in Leadership. He has taught undergraduate and graduate management, leadership, and strategic classes. I wonder if he'll miss the commute from Savannah?

We wish Bill, Barbara, and Zandra well as they transition into the next phases of their lives. Their families will enjoy the additional time together, as we will miss seeing them in the COBA halls.

As we say goodbye to longtime friends and colleagues, we invite you to meet, on page 9, twelve new faculty in accounting, economics, logistics, marketing, and operations management whom we welcome to the COBA team. I am particularly excited about the addition of Dr. **Tim Pearson** as the new SOA director. He brings a wealth of experience and academic accomplishments to the position. His experience and reputation in the field of fraud and forensic accounting make him uniquely qualified to lead the school. The accounting students and faculty are in good hands!

If you haven't been on campus in a few years, please make plans to visit the college. We are proud of where, and what, we are and enjoy meeting and entertaining visitors. If distance keeps you away, contact me, and I'll try to come to you, or, maybe, you would like to host or join a Dinner with the Dean! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow COBA alums and learn more about our accomplishments and dreams. We may be separated by miles, but we are all COBANs in our hearts.

Bill Wells

The 19th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

The annual COBA golf tournament was held at Forest Heights Country Club on Friday, May 18. Winning teams were Gross – **Tim Robinson, Rickey Casseedy, Tony Casseedy, and Ben Watkins**, and Net – **Mike Connolly, Al Lawson, Cleve Edenfield, and Randy Johnson**. Special awards were Closest to the Pin – **Michael Counts (#1)**, **Brad Denmark (#3)**, **Charles Patterson (#6)** and **Richard Williams (#15)**, and Longest Drive – **Cheryl Aasheim, ladies**, and **Michael Jackson, men**. Special thanks to corporate sponsor, Walmart.

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from the 'Boro!



On behalf of COBA's faculty and staff, we always enjoy visiting with our returning alums. The students just voted to add \$100 to their athletic fees each semester to begin the process of raising the money needed for the move to the Football Bowl Division, formerly division I-A. I do not know how many students got approval from their parents

before voting, but, students gave their approval along with the Chancellor and University System.

The need for outside funds for our universities today is illustrated in a recent interview with retiring President Michael Adams of The University of Georgia. When he became UGA president, the state contribution to the university budget was around 50 percent; yet, for the most recent budget year, it was only 30 percent. My guess is that all of the system's

universities have experienced a similar reduction in state funding. It is not really the case that your "tax dollars" and tuition cover the cost of your college degree. Your financial support for COBA is needed more now than in the past.

I am still mailing those blue cards to our alumni. It really is important to the academic process to know what kinds of jobs our COBA folks have. It also helps to place internships when the faculty knows where our people are employed. If you are modest or hiding from someone, we will not put your info in the *Eagle Executive*, but, please let me know where you are and how you are doing. The alumniville section has a lot of good networking opportunities, so, please, keep those blue cards coming in.

Let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best regards,

Lewis M. Stewart

Department News

Finance & Economics

A study by the *Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development* indicates Georgia Southern University, including its athletic events, graduation ceremonies, conferences, and recruiting drew 163,339 tourists to Bulloch County in 2011, accounting for an economic impact of more than \$47.4 million. **Ben McKay**, BBRED researcher, explained, "The study found that more than 131,000 of the visitors stayed overnight and helped support 748 jobs, generating more than \$3 million in state and local tax revenue."

Chris Paul, professor and chair, serves as an accreditation team member for the Commission of Academics Accreditation in the United Arab Emirates. His most recent accreditation visit was to Abu Dhabi University in November where he reviewed the bachelor of finance program for reaccreditation. Dr. Paul is scheduled to go to the American University of Sharjah in February where he will be reviewing an MS in accounting program.

Information Systems

Tom Case, professor and chair, traveled to Villahermosa, Mexico, in September to give a keynote address at the 2012 CONAIS Congress hosted by Juarez Autonomous University of Tabasco. He will be the Information Systems Education and Curriculum track chair for the ICIS 2013 conference in Milan, Italy, next summer. Tom's fourth textbook *Business Data Communications: Infrastructure, Net-working, and Security* (7th edition), co-authored by **William Stallings**, is now in print.

Geoff Dick, senior lecturer, has been appointed an ABET Commissioner, external reviewer for the Multimedia University in Malacca, Malaysia's, Knowledge Management program; Online Education Advisory Board member for the master in IS program, George Washington University, School of Business; and, Education track co-chair for the 2013 European Conference on Information Systems. He was a keynote speaker at the 2012 Asociación Nacional de Instituciones de Educación en Informática, A.C. Conference, Mexico City, in October.

Kevin Elder and **Camille Rogers**, associate professors, contributed to SAP University Alliances curriculum for cloud-based Enterprise Resources Planning solution: Business ByDesign and one of SAP's hottest new solutions: SAP Mobility. Camille is coordinator of the online, graduate ERP Certificate program for IS.

Adrian Gardiner, associate professor, and **Bob Szymanski**, lecturer, team-taught the first SAP HANA course at Georgia Southern. HANA is an in-memory database solution, supporting real-time analysis for online transaction and analytic processing in a single-database environment, that offers students experience in in-memory computing, data modeling, provisioning, and analytics. Georgia Southern is one of the first universities in the world to expose students to SAP HANA.

Adrian Gardiner was recently named conference chair for the 2013 conference of the Southern Association of Information Systems (SAIS). The conference will be held in early March at the Desoto Hilton in Savannah.

Bob Szymanski has also been selected by SAP to lead the SAP University Alliances HANA curriculum program for SAP Americas. He will be speaking at the ICIS 2012, Orlando, FL, in December and the 2013 SAP Americas Curriculum Congress, Milwaukee, in February. Bob holds two certifications in SAP ERP Integration and a recently added a third: Global Certification in SAP ERP Procurement.

Hsiang-Jui Kung, associate professor, is now secretary and vice president for the Association for Chinese Management Educators.



John Lewis, MBA, Mercer University, MA, West Georgia College, joins us from Kennesaw State University as a visiting professor. He has been a certified project management professional, PMP, in telecommunications and IT project management for the past 15 years. John's experience includes telecommunications, computer hardware and software, information technology services, soft-ware development, state and local government, and insurance and financial services and is teaching project management, management information systems, and advanced business applications. John recently graduated from the AACSB Professional Qualification Bridge Program.

Manouchehr Tabatabaei, associate professor, will be track chair for the 2013 International Decision Sciences Institute (IDSI) to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in July.

Management

The *Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership* held its 8th Venture Concept Exhibition in the College of Information Technology Atrium in April. The Venture Concept Exhibition allows students to present venture ideas from their entrepreneurship classes to students, faculty, and the community. Students come up with innovative ideas, undertake basic research, develop the concept for a panel of "prospective investors," and present a trade show booth that demonstrates their business concept. The show typically lasts two-to-three hours, and the students engage in conversations about their businesses and ideas for success. Judges for this year's event were **Joan McNeal**, Exodus Payment Systems, LLC, and **Ellwood G. Ivey**, The Invention Ingen, LLC.



COBA's *Society for Human Resource Management* student chapter received the Superior Merit Award for 2012. Award levels are based on chapter size, with smaller chapters, less than 20 members, required to complete at least 38 of 70 activities to receive a Superior Merit Award and larger chapters, more than 20 members, required to complete at least 50 activities to receive a Superior Merit Award. With 89 chapters nationwide, Georgia Southern was the only major university in Georgia to receive recognition.

Misty L. Loughry, professor of management, received an Outstanding Reviewer Award from the Management Education and Development Division of the Academy of Management at its Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, in August 2012.

For the Center for Academic Technology Support's premier show of TechTalk, in August, **Ashlea Rogers** interviewed **Jan Grimes**, instructor of management, regarding the summer pilot program of Folio, Georgia Southern's new classroom teaching and communication platform.

Marketing & Logistics

Karl Manrodt, professor of logistics, presented the results of his 9th annual study on distribution center metrics at the Warehouse Education and Research Council Annual meeting in Atlanta in May.

School of Accountancy

Alain Garrido (Acet 2012), staff accountant with Ernst & Young, Atlanta, and **Dr. Leslie B. Fletcher**, professor of accounting, were recognized in *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly* with an article, "Overview and Analysis of the Proposed Revenue Recognition Standard Under Consideration by the IASB and the FASB."



Lamont A. Belk, Criminal Division assistant U. S. Attorney, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, United States Department of Justice, Augusta Office, spoke to the *Student Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners* on October 29 on "Fraud-Related Crimes in the United States Attorney's Office."

Mooney Receives Georgia Society of CPAs Award



Ellen Sweat, chair, Educational Awards Committee, and Martha Merrit, president, Educational Foundation present to Lowell Mooney.

The Educational Foundation of The Georgia Society of CPAs, (GSCPAs) awarded the Howard Herman Distinguished Service Award to **Lowell Mooney**, professor of accounting, during its fall Leadership Council meeting at Callaway Gardens on November 4. This award is the highest honor the Foundation bestows for outstanding service to the accounting profession.

Over the years as a professor at Georgia Southern University, Dr. Mooney has dedicated numerous hours to the profession and the Foundation, serving as Foundation president in 2008-2009. During his term, he was instrumental in creating and implementing the strategic operational plan for the Foundation used by board members and officers today. "Lowell has been the most influential Educational Foundation leader in the Foundation's recent history," explained **Harvey Tarpley**, past president of the GSCPAs and Immediate Past President of the Educational Foundation of the GSCPAs, and CEO of Tarpley and Underwood, CPAs, Norcross.

In his accounting career, Dr. Mooney has written numerous articles, reviewed textbooks, as well as served on numerous committees and task forces related to the profession. Dr. Mooney currently serves on the six member board of The Georgia Society of CPAs Board of Directors and is active with GSCPA's student initiatives, as well as accounting student initiatives at Georgia Southern. In addition, he is a member of the finance committee of the Bulloch County Council on Child Abuse. One of his current passions is helping students find student internships and full-time employment opportunities upon graduation. ♦

Mackelprang Receives International Awards

Alan Mackelprang, assistant professor of operations management, has received the 2012 Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award, an internationally competitive award co-sponsored by Hercher Publishing and the Decision Sciences Institute, recognizing outstanding dissertation research in the decision sciences.



Alan Mackelprang

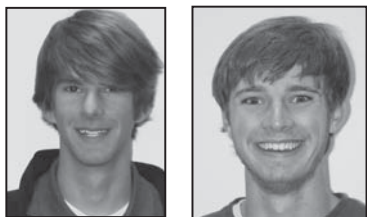
The Buffa Award was presented at the Decision Sciences Institute's 40th annual meeting in San Francisco in November where Dr. Mackelprang presented his research, "Beyond Firm Boundaries: Exploring the Interdependence between Supply Chain Partners," which he published at the University of South Carolina. In addition, Dr. Mackelprang was named to the Decision Sciences Institute's Hall of Fame joining a distinguished list of previous winners including professors from the University of North Carolina, Northwestern University, The Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, and Boston College, among others.

This is not the first research award honor for Dr. Mackelprang, who joined COBA this year. His co-authored paper, "Supply Chain Integration: A Meta-Analysis and Future Directions," was selected for the 2012 Young Researchers Award at the Annual Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals Educator's Conference to be held in Atlanta in September.

Mackelprang earned a PhD from the University of South Carolina, an MS from the University of Rochester, and a BS from Arizona State University. His research interests include supply chain contagion and flexibility, operations-marketing interface, and supply chain strategy. He has published in top empirical research journals, including the *Journal of Operations Management*. ♦

2012 Scholarship Recipients

Dixie Crystals



Joshua S. Pollak Gregory D. Vickers

Freeman



Landon J. Latham

Knotts



Melvin D. Zuber

Paul LaGrone



Courtney E. Martin and Delaney Tuggle and Cox with Dr. Jill Lockwood (center)

Mauldin & Jenkins



Grevie R. Neymour (left) with Kristin Lord and Alain R. Garrido

International Student



Yue Audry Xu and Dr. Leslie Fletcher (right)

Beta Gamma Sigma



Samantha Williams and Nichols Caulty

Porter Keadle Moore



Gale A. Blackmore with Debbie Sessions (right)

Cox



Delaney Tuggle

Evelyn Spain Coe



Melissa G. Cook

Janofsky



Shanna Lawson

GATE Scholars



Dr. Dwight Sneathen (center) with Qingqing Liu, Jeremy Story, Kristen Birchett, Rebecca Beck, Amry Stanley, and Rachel Neely

SE GA Society of CPAs



2012 scholarship winners Lauren Hughes, Jonathan C. Eargle, and LaShaie E. Joshua with Dr. Chuck Harter

Recipients not pictured

- Dixie Crystals: Laura Elizabeth Anderson and Bowen Kent Flowers
- Draffin & Tucker Scholarship: Sarah Kaye Foster
- Giacomo Family Memorial: Jazmin M. Tribble
- Holland, Henry & Bromley: Jordan Craig Klebe
- Leonard & Betty Blount: Lee Charles Guentert
- LIT: Shelby Elaine McCarter
- Mark Anderson: Patrick Dennis Mimbs
- Matthew Janofsky: Shanna Monique Lawson
- Priddy-Price: Christopher Dominic Sells and Emily Lauren Woods
- Robert F. Morris: Emily Erin Hall and Adam Peter Silcox
- Robert T. Cox: Emily A. Archer
- Susan Rebstock Williams: Courtney Leigh Rogers
- Thomas Puckett: Jeffery Allen Smith
- William T. Herring: Matt Clayton Rodgers

Debt and the U. S. Economy

The Courage to Care

Immediately following the U. S. Presidential and Congressional elections in November, the Finance and Economics Department hosted a guest seminar, "Debt and the U. S. Economy," at which Dr. **Kaiji Chen**, Emory



Dr. Shantanu Bagchi and Dr. Kaiji Chen

University professor of economics and visiting fellow at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, discussed the U. S. publicly-held debt to GDP ratio, which has risen from 36 percent in 2007 to 68 percent in 2011. It is expected to continue rising with the Congressional Budget Office's recently reported \$1.089 trillion fiscal 2012 deficit, the fourth consecutive, in as many years, of U. S. government operating deficits in excess of \$1 trillion.

Based upon the presented analysis and assessment forecasts by Drs. Chen and **Ayşe Imrohoroğlu**, finance and business economist from the University of Southern California, it appears it will be difficult for the U. S. debt to GDP ratio to return to its previous average level of approximately 40 percent. In fact, unless there is a significant increase in the U. S. economic growth rate, a debt to GDP ratio in excess of 100 percent may become the future norm.

In the presenters' research, the CBO's benchmark baseline scenario debt to GDP ratio of 73 percent compared favorably with the model's 84 percent ratio projected in 2035, a 25 year outlook, with both forecasts assuming higher marginal and capital gains tax rates. When the adverse effects of higher taxes on

people's incentive to work and save are included in the model, ratios of debt to GDP increase 30 to 70 percent to a midpoint approximation of 128 percent debt to GDP in 2035.

When researchers relaxed the assumption of higher taxes, the 2035 projected debt to GDP ratio further increased to 172 percent, yet when CBO's projected government spending cuts were modeled, the ratio exceeded 200 percent, an actual 221 percent model output estimate. All model estimates assume the 2 percent inflation standard reflected in current Federal Reserve policy, but when inflation rates are allowed to increase to 4 percent, and taxes are held to historical tax rates, i.e., no increase over current rates, the 2035 debt to GDP ratio stabilizes at a more modest 131 percent.

Finally, for perspective, the 2011 *Bowles-Simpson Plan*, which includes a phased-in balance of higher taxes and government spending cuts, models out a fully calibrated equilibrium debt to GDP ratio of 95 percent in 2035.

Dr. Chen's macroeconomic research and modeling on consumer consumption and savings, business investment, business cycles, and social security have been published in the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, and *Economic Theory*. His presentation to COBA students was coordinated by Dr. **Shantanu Bagchi**. ♦

Mr. **T. Farrell Nichols**, chair of the Georgia State Board of Accountancy, spoke as the 2012 School of Accountancy Executive in Residence at the Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center in November, 17th annual event.



In his leadership role with the State Board of Accountancy, the state's seven member board responsible for licensing certified public accountants and public accounting firms in Georgia since 1908, Mr. Nichols is responsible for regulation of the profession and adopting rules and standards for licensure, standards of professional conduct, disciplinary processes, and attracting the best and brightest students and professionals to careers in the industry.

Mr. Nichols holds a BBA with honors in accounting from The University of Georgia and is active in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina Society of Certified Public Accountants; the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy; and the Institute of Internal Auditors. In addition to his current position, he has served, since 1985, as the managing professional for Nichols, Cauley, & Associates, LLC, Certified Public Accounting firm, with offices in Dublin, Warner Robbins, Clarkesville, and Atlanta. He has more than 30 years in public accounting and has held numerous board positions in privately-held and publicly-owned companies, as well as not-for-profits.

As keynote speaker for the 2012 Executive-in-Residence program, Nichols was introduced by **Julian I. Deal**, Statesboro CPA, who was appointed to the Georgia Board of Accountancy by Governor Nathan Deal last year. Deal received his bachelor's degree in business education from Georgia Southern and was admitted to Georgia certified public accounting practice in 1966. His wife, Frances, is also a Georgia Southern accounting graduate and a certified public accountant since 1967.

Nichols led a very informative lecture to Georgia Southern students, "The Courage to Care." Discussions centered on profes-

sionalism, ethics, and leadership. Quoting former Harvard Business School Professor **David Maister**, Nichols stressed taking care of your employees, your clients, and your career as the driving opportunity in the profession. Identified keys to success for students included knowing what is right, doing what is right, managing competing rights, and recognizing that everything counts. His assessments of challenges for the industry included effective communication, positive energy, and commitment, concluding "everyone is tested, repeatedly, in life; it is vision, purpose, and commitment that brings us through the storm."

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 professional opportunities that exist for accounting graduates. "The Executive in Residence has always been a student favorite," said **Lowell Mooney**, professor of accounting, who concluded the program by thanking Mr. Nichols for his service to the profession and to COBA's School of Accountancy. "Students enjoy hearing about the accomplishments of these leaders and their stories of challenges, perseverance, and success." The Executive-in-Residence program has become a highlight of the academic year in the College of Business Administration.

Mr. Nichols has served as president of the Dublin Rotary, Chamber, and Scouts. He and his wife, **Alice**, reside in Dublin and are members of the First Baptist Church. They have three children and ten grandchildren. ♦

Sneathen Is Volunteer of the Year

Junior Achievement has empowered students across the country in the basics of free enterprise, entrepreneurship, and financial responsibility for the past 80 years. For the past thirteen years, the coastal region Junior Achievement of Georgia has sponsored the **Savannah Business Hall of Fame**, to recognize business leaders, mentors, and volunteers who have set "role model" examples for students in finance, economic, and workforce development throughout the region.

At the 2012 Savannah Business Hall of Fame, COBA's own **L. Dwight Sneathen, Jr.** was recognized as volunteer of the year for his leadership in the "Economics for Success" program in Bulloch County schools. Sneathen, who received his PhD from the University of Arizona and teaches financial accounting, has worked with Junior Achievement for the past several years to deliver the "Economics for Success" program in middle schools, reinforcing the importance of personal financial responsibility for youth.

The 2012 *John F. Hodges Volunteer of the Year Award* was presented to Sneathen by **Dale Critz, Sr.**, honorary chair, Savannah Business Hall of Fame, and **Johnathan Barrett**, CPA, vice president, Junior Achievement of Georgia, during its annual banquet, November 14, at the Savannah International Trade and Convention

Center. Awardees, including **Monica Daughtry**, Beach High School, *Teacher of the Year* and **Weyerhaeuser, Business Partnership of the Year**, were also recognized along with business leaders **Donald A. Kole** and **Robert H. Demere, Jr.**, who were inducted as the 39th and 40th laureates of the Savannah Business Hall of Fame, chosen for their business accomplishments as well as contributions to the community. Awardees and honorees serve as role models for students, reflecting the Junior Achievement principles of integrity, respect, and excellence. Colonial Oil—Colonial Group, Inc. was the lead sponsor for the 2012 event. ♦



A Day for Southern



A reception was held in COBA November 9 to celebrate the Dean's Office, the MBA Office, Department of Management, and Office of Publications & Faculty Research Service's 100 percent participation in Georgia Southern's 2012 "A Day for Southern" fundraising campaign.



Spotlight on Graduate Studies

New MBA Director

As director of MBA Programs at Georgia Southern, coming from the University of Utah, I'd like to share my excitement about Georgia Southern's MBA programs. Even as COBA looks for a new dean, we are actively reexamining all of our programs and the educational experiences of our students. To date, we have surveyed our students and MBA faculty on a number of issues to identify structural weaknesses and opportunities. In addition, we are looking at areas of excellence in other Georgia Southern colleges for potential synergies. Finally, we'll be meeting with companies to make sure our programs and students are

delivering the kind of value they seek now and in the future. Whatever we do will be a joint effort of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and industry partners. I'm excited to be part of this effort. If you have ideas and would like to be a part of the process, please contact me at gsmith@georgiasouthern.edu or (912) 478-2357.



Gordon Smith

Go Eagles and GATA! ♦

Smith Mathews



as the head brewer and first employee of a start-up brewery, moving his brewing career to Charleston, SC. This was a great experience and the perfect stepping stone to opening and running a new brewery.

Throughout his time working and while in the MBA program, Smith continuously planned the start-up. With the help of his MBA team, he put together a great brewery business plan they later used for seeking capital and business planning. Upon graduation from the MBA program, Smith started planning the business full time. He immediately brought in his friend, **Carly Wiggins**, as the marketing director and, with her help, has been working toward opening Southbound Brewing Co. around the first of the year 2013.

Smith Mathews (WebMBA 2011) is the brewmaster and managing partner of Southbound Brewing Co. He earned his undergraduate degree in business administration from the Georgia Institute of Technology while working at Sweetwater Brewing Co. He started in the back of the house, working on the bottling line but later joined the events and marketing staff of Sweetwater's tap room.



After experiencing all facets of the brewing industry, Smith was accepted into the Fall 2009 class of The Seibel Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL, and Doemens Academy in Munich, Germany. Later, he obtained an international diploma in brewing technology from the World Brewing Academy and, then, returned to Sweetwater as a brewer while simultaneously starting work on his MBA through Georgia Southern's Georgia WebMBA program.

Since his first day of employment at Sweetwater, Smith knew he wanted to open a brewery. Fortunately, he was later hired on

Southbound will be one of the newest craft micro-breweries in the Southeast. It will strive to produce incredible beers that are inspired by Smith's love for different beer styles and great music. The company recently purchased a 13,000 sq ft warehouse of off West Bay Street in Savannah and should begin reconstruction shortly. The brewing equipment is currently being manufactured and should arrive in mid-December. Smith noted, "If all stays on schedule, we are looking to start production in either late January or mid-February. The production facility plans to host daily educational tours and tastings. Look out for Southbound beers in 2013!" ♦

MAcc Update



Dr. Sneathen

The School of Accountancy is excited to kick off the WebMAcc in Spring 2013. This is a two year, entirely online program designed for working professionals.

The first cohort of approximately 20 students from all over the United States are signed up and ready to go. We went across the pedestrian to create a unique program that will combine the Master of Accounting core courses with an emphasis in enterprise resources planning

(ERP) through the Information Systems department. This is a phenomenal mix for our students, and will make them more marketable in today's technological environment. The ERP courses will prepare the students to pursue the TERP10 SAP® Certification, while the accounting core will give them the tools they need for the CPA Exam. ♦

MBA Ranked One of the Nation's Top Online MBA Programs

"Georgia Southern's MBA program is continuing to grow and our online degree program offers working professionals the flexibility to earn their degree no matter their location or family commitments," said **Bill Wells**, dean of Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration. "I am particularly proud of our outstanding professors who understand the demands of working professionals. They have designed the program to not only work with the busiest of schedules, but to help graduates take the next step in their career." Georgia Southern University's Master of Business Administration (MBA) has been named one of the nation's Top Online MBA programs by *M Magazine* (mbaonline.com), the number one online MBA magazine for students. The University's online MBA was ranked 8th in the national rankings.

According to the publication, the rankings include a compilation of data students will find useful as they go through the program selection process. One of the top criteria used to rank schools is the affordability of the education, including tuition rates and financial aid options.

Affordability also boils down to how long it takes to complete a program and how many credits are required to earn a degree. The value of the school may also be determined by additional benefits the school provides, such as student perks, program perks, and alumni resources.

M Magazine also looks at reputation and prestige which takes into account accreditation and awards the school has received. The quality of the institution is determined by enrollment statistics, as well

as retention and graduation rates. Academic quality is of high importance and includes factors like the competitiveness of admission, design and efficiency of the online program, and flexibility of coursework. Profiles of the faculty and diversity of the student body are also considered, as well as additional resources available to students beyond the virtual classroom.

The Georgia Southern University Online MBA is offered through the Georgia WebMBA program, a 30-hour program that appeals to professionals from a broad business background. In addition to being ranked among the nation's best, the magazine also noted that Georgia Southern is "ranked at the top among regional schools with similar online MBA programs."

Georgia Southern University and all of its programs contained under the univer-

sity's umbrella are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College of Business has undergraduate and graduate accreditation through AACSB International: Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Only about 30 percent of all U. S. colleges of business have AACSB accreditation. ♦



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

ALUMNI **in the** SPOTLIGHT



Steffany Dixon Farmer



Steffany Dixon Farmer (MGT, 1993), after obtaining her real estate license in 1993, worked for Ben Farmer Realty where she met her husband, **Jeff** (FIN, 1993).

Shortly thereafter, she joined Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners where she worked as a manager and, with her extensive experience in new homes sales, now manages a sales team of three agents.

Among the 1,300 agents in the greater Savannah marketplace, Steffany consistently ranks in the top 20, is listed in the top 2 percent of all Coldwell Banker agents internationally, and was voted a “40 under 40” award winner by the *Business Report and Journal*. She has also served on the boards of the Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah and the Savannah Board of Realtors.

Steffany and Jeff are residents of Pooler with their children, **Hannah** (13) and **Brice** (11). ♦

Dustin Lewis



Dustin Lewis (FIN, 1995), of Dustin Lewis Appraisal Associates, Inc., Saint Simons Island, was recently awarded the Appraisal Institute’s prestigious Member, Appraisal Institute (MAI) membership designation. This designation requires completion of 11 examinations covering 380 hours of graduate-level classroom curriculum, passing a four-module, two-day

comprehensive examination, a written demonstration appraisal report, and attaining 4,500 hours of qualifying experience. Designees of the MAI title are further required to abide by both the appraisal profession’s Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) and the Appraisal Institute’s Standards of Professional Practice and Code of Ethics. ♦

Jeffery Grant



Jeffery Grant (MGT, 2003) is director of Human Resources for the City of Statesboro and is responsible for, among other things, recruitment, staffing, strategic planning, compensation, and information management. He is certified as a senior professional in human resources (SPHR), as an ASA staffing professional (CSP), and currently holds the office of president of the Statesboro Area Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management and state representative for the Society of Human

Resource Management. He also serves as a Junior Achievement of America instructor, Ogeechee Technical College Career Services Advisory Board member, and founder of Maximum Potential, a career training and development business. Most recently, Jeffery has been recognized as one of Bulloch County’s Top “20 under 40” business leaders.

Prior to assuming his directorship for the City of Statesboro, Jeffery worked as a senior personnel manager for Advantage Human Resources, one of the world’s leading staffing companies, where he managed and directed staffing activities for more than 300 employees.

In addition to being named Georgia Southern’s Homecoming King in 2000, Jeffery was the recipient of the Student Leadership and Civic Engagement – John F. Nolan Hall of Leaders Award as well as the Southern Talon Award and the University Housing Robbie L. Steele Scholarship Award.

Jeffery and his wife, **Erica Grant**, have two children, Jeffery and Victoria. ♦

Cathy Butler Gregory



Cathy Butler Gregory (MKT, 1975), a Broker for Re/Max Accent in Richmond Hill, has more than 33 years of experience selling real estate in the Richmond Hill area. She, her husband **Keith**, and children, **Kirk** and **Taylor**, are very proud of their deep-seeded family roots in the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Coastal Georgia.

Cathy is past president of the Hinesville Board of Realtors, past vice president of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, and past director of the Coastal Georgia Development Authority as well as a member of the St. Vincent’s Academy School Board. She is a distressed properties professional (DPP) and holds the Re/Max Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement, and Top Agent in Coastal Georgia awards. ♦

Faces of Homecoming 2012

The 2012 COBA homecoming tailgate was held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium on November 10 before game. Special thanks are extended to Rachael Barrett, Janice Brown, Wallace Brown, Jerry Burke, Cindy Glover, Jan Grimes, Deborah Hilton, Cindy Randall, Dora Schmit, Lewis Stewart, and Bill Wells for their help with this event. Later that day, Georgia Southern's Eagles soared over the defense of Howard University's Bison with a score of 69-26.



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 eight faculty and administrative searches for the 2012–2013 academic year: a dean of the college and a chair of Finance & Economics; one assistant or associate professor of quantitative analysis; one assistant or associate professor of hospitality management; two assistant or associate professors of management; and two assistant or associate professors of finance. Each of these searches continues to be ongoing.

Christopher Boone

*Assistant Professor of Logistics
Marketing & Logistics Department*



Chris Boone, PhD, Auburn University and MS, Air Force Institute of Technology, comes to Georgia Southern from Albuquerque, NM, where he was a career logistics officer in the U. S. Air Force. Chris held leadership command positions for two logistics squadrons and served as professor of logistics management at the Air Force's Air Command and Staff College. His teaching and research interests are in logistics and supply chain management, logistics strategy, and supply chain disruptions. ♦

Robert Marley

*Assistant Professor of Accounting
School of Accountancy*



Robert Marley, PhD, University of South Florida and CA and BS, University of Illinois, joins COBA following the completion his PhD. He is a CPA with 11 years of accounting experience in a variety of roles in both public and corporate accounting, consulting, and entrepreneurship. Prior to returning to academia, Robert established a successful virtual goods marketplace and was an independent consultant to Fortune 500 companies. His research interests are behavioral research in accounting information systems, audit judgment, and decision making. ♦

Christopher Brunt

*Associate Professor of Economics
Finance & Economics Department*



Before joining the faculty at Georgia Southern, Christopher Brunt, PhD, Wayne State University, MA, Wayne State University, and BS, Eastern Michigan University, was an assistant professor at Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, where he taught a wide variety of graduate and undergraduate courses. Christopher's research focuses on the health economics of reimbursement, physician behavioral incentives, and Medicare Part B. His areas of specialization include health economics, industrial organization, and labor. ♦

Monique Murfield

*Assistant Professor of Logistics
Marketing & Logistics Department*



Monique Murfield, PhD, University of Tennessee and MBA and BS, Bowling Green State University, is originally from Ohio. She comes to Statesboro by way of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. Prior to returning to academia, her professional experience includes several years as a buyer and manager of inbound logistics for Pressure Connections Corporation, Columbus, OH. Her current research focuses on buyer-supplier relationships, specifically, environmental supply chain management and supplier accommodation of customers. In her free time, Monique enjoys being outside and loves spending time with her husband and their horses on their new farm south of town. ♦

Chung-Yean Chiang

*Assistant Professor of Operations Management
Management Department*



Chung-Yean Chiang, PhD, University at Buffalo, MBA, Rutgers University, BBA, National Chi Nan University, Taiwan, comes to us after being on the faculty of SolBridge International School of Business last year. His research interests are in supply chain coordination, operations-marketing interfaces and strategic sourcing. This year he will be teaching quantitative methods and operations. ♦

Dora Schmit

*Assistant Professor of Marketing
Marketing & Logistics Department*



Dora Schmit, PhD, Louisiana State University, and BS, University of Wisconsin-LaCross, began her business career as a manager at Marshall Field's and, later, business analyst for Menard's, Inc. She, then, returned to academia for her PhD. Her research focuses on customer emotions and relationship marketing. It has been published in the *Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics* and presented at the Society for Marketing Advances, the Academy of Marketing Science, and the Society for Consumer Psychology. Dora joins us from Baton Rouge, LA. ♦

Geoffrey Dick

*Senior Lecturer of Information Systems
Information Systems Department*



A native Australian, Geoff Dick, PhD and MC, University of New South Wales, and BBA, University of Southern Queensland, came to Georgia Southern for a sabbatical in 2001 and has taught on-line in COBA for 10 years. Following a 20 year business career in internal audit, he entered academia at the University of New South Wales and directed the Business Information Technology program. Geoff's research has received international recognition in the *Emerald Management Review*, citing best papers from the top 400 business journals in 2009. Geoff comes to Statesboro from North Georgia College and State University, Dahlonega, where he had been an IS professor since 2010. ♦

Errol Stewart

*Assistant Professor of Accounting
School of Accountancy Department*



Errol Stewart, PhD, Florida Atlantic University, and MS and BS, University of West Indies, is a chartered accountant, certified internal auditor, and has taught financial accounting and auditing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His research interests include auditor regulation and audit risk assessment. Prior to commencing his academic career, Errol was a senior manager at Deloitte, Jamaica. His industry experience includes external and internal auditing; consulting; financial management; and conversion, application, and reporting under international financial and auditing standards. ♦

Myoung-Jin Keay

*Assistant Professor of Economics
Finance & Economics Department*



Myoung-Jin Keay's, PhD, Michigan State University, MA, Seoul National University, and BA, Yonsei University, Korea, research interests are econometric theory and applied econometrics for nonlinear cross section/panel data models. His PhD focused on the average treatment effects and their applications in Botswana fertility. As a graduate student at Michigan State, he taught principles of economics and economic development for undergraduates as well as math reviews for incoming graduate students. Myoung-Jin joins COBA from Lansing, MI. ♦

Christopher Welter

*Assistant Professor of Management
Management Department*



Chris Welter, PhD and BS, Ohio State University, arrived in Statesboro from Ohio this summer. His research interests center around theory development in the field of entrepreneurship. Specifically, his research investigates how different opportunities require different exploitation processes. He teaches classes primarily in entrepreneurship and strategy. ♦

Lindsay Larson

*Assistant Professor of Marketing
Marketing & Logistics Department*



Lindsay Larson, PhD, MPhil, and MS, Yale University, BA, Vassar College, and AACSB post-doctoral certification in marketing, University of Florida, did a great job teaching last year as a visiting instructor, and is now an assistant professor. She brings expertise in priming research and experimentation methodology that significantly contributes to the department's and college's teaching and scholarly activity. ♦



Arda Yenipazarli

*Assistant Professor of Operations Management
Management Department*

Arda Yenipazarli, PhD, University of Florida, and BS, Sabanci University, Turkey, joins us from Gainesville, FL. His primary research interests are in the areas of new product development, green supply chain management, and inventory management and theory. This year he will be teaching operations and quantitative methods. ♦

Thank You 2012 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. 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.

Trip Addison
 William Amponsah
 Jason Anderson
 Stewart Applbaum
 Thomas C. Avant
 J. Kenneth Baker
 Perry C. Barnett*
 Charles R. Barr*
 Lovett Bennett, Jr.*
 Paul T. Bennett
 Donald L. Berecz
 William H. Bolen*
 Thomas P. Bond, Jr.*
 William J. Bostwick*
 Edward S. Bowles*
 Gregory J. Brock*
 Ted S. Brown
 Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.*
 Grady W. Bryson*
 Bryan R. Burke*
 Gerard Burke*
 Lisa Butler*
 Michael R. Calhoun*
 Mikelle Calhoun
 Michael Callaghan
 Donald E. Callaway*
 Constance R. Campbell
 Boris A. Carl
 Brenda S. Carter*
 Johnny L. Carter, Jr.*
 Tom Case*
 Kate A. Channell
 Nathan C. Coleman
 Doug Collins III*
 Carl B. Coolidge
 R. Bruce Dannelly, Sr.*
 James E. Davis, Jr.*
 Frances S. Deal*
 Julian I. Deal*
 Trey Denton, III*
 Nicholas Dereszynski
 D. Morgan Derst*
 Jeffrey J. Dion
 John F. Dismuke*
 Lori S. Durden*
 Jacqueline K. Eastman*
 Kevin L. Eastman*
 Charles R. Fennell
 Robert Fernekes
 Joe L. Fincher, Jr.
 Donna K. Fisher
 Olivia S. Flanagan*
 Peter L. Frauley*



Frank L. Gaudry
 Jenny L. Gentry*
 John M. Giddens, III
 Sara Jeanette Grimes*
 Kathleen H. Gruben
 Dominique Halaby
 Debra Hall-Fretwell
 Mark D. Hanna
 Larry F. Harrison*
 Charles Harter*
 Jackie W. Hartley
 Mary F. Hazeldine*
 William D. Head*
 Mark Herndon
 William R. Hickman, Jr.*
 Jack S. Hill
 Jeremy R. Hinton*
 Robert Scott Hixon
 Jason Hoynes
 Matthew H. Janofsky*
 John F. Jennings*
 Lindsey D. Johnson, Jr.*
 Sean Micheal Knox*
 John F. Kohn*
 Douglas H. Lambert*
 Jamie Lane*
 Stephen Lawler
 John Leaptrott, Jr.*
 Col. Alvin Bryan Lee
 Samantha G. Lee*
 Robert Andrew Leven
 Buddy Lichty*

Lurue L. Lord*
 Misty Loughry*
 Carolyn Luckadoo*
 David M. Luckie*
 Alan Mackelprang
 Tod Manack*
 Karl B. Manrodt*
 James Craig Marsh
 Mike McDonald*
 Samuel A. McDuffie*
 C. William McGahee*
 Richard W. McGee
 Robert McGregor*
 Benjamin Price McKay
 Britton A. McKay*
 Edward James Meadows, Jr.
 C. Robert Melton*
 Davin James Miller
 Janet Moss
 Steve E. Moss
 Linda Mullen*
 Roger C. Murphey, Jr.
 Ed Nelson*
 Constantin Olgloblin
 F. Shaun O'Quinn
 Donna J. Orme
 Abbie Gail Parham*
 Brian N. Petsch
 Luke A. Pittaway*
 Patrick L. Pittman
 Barbara A. Price
 Alexander P. Priddy

Aliese P. Priddy*
 Russell A. Priddy*
 RadioJones, LLC
 Raymon Eugene Ragan II
 Cindy H. Randall
 James Randall*
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 Justin P. Reynolds
 John A. Roach
 Stephen J. Roundtree*
 Joseph P. Ruhland
 Paige Rutner
 LTC Stephen M. Rutner
 Andrew G. Sharp
 William Walter Sharpe, V
 Barbara Shiffler*
 Ron Shiffler*
 L. Dwight Sneathen*
 Jean Carol Spoolstra*
 Asbury Stemberidge, Jr.*
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 Robert H. Stoddard
 William N. Strawn, Jr.*
 Gloria J. Stuart
 Cathy Owens Swift*
 Thomas L. Tharpe*
 Michael Thomas
 Thomas A. Thompson*
 Kris M. Trainor*
 F. Ward Trulock*
 Scott C. Tuten*
 Loren P. Waldo
 Carol Lott Waller
 Benjamin B. Watkins, III*
 Karen R. Wells
 William H. Wells*
 Joy A. West
 Linda S. Wilke*
 Feruzan S. Irani-Williams
 Susan R. Williams*
 Keith D. Willis
 Jerry Wilson*
 John K. Wilson
 Mildred N. Wilson
 Jonathan D. Woodard*
 William R. Woolford*
 Karl Van Zeigler*

*Charter Members

Brasington and Price Retire with 36 Years of Service to COBA

Zandra D. Brasington began her employment with COBA in 1992 in the associate dean's office and, in June 1993, she moved to the Accounting Department under the leadership of Dr. **Karen Fortin**, chair. Mrs. Brasington was promoted to administrative secretary in 1995 and received the Tomlinson Bond Staff Award for Excellence in 1996, the Ori James Recognition Award for service to Beta Alpha Psi in 1998, a Distinguished Service Award for contributions to AACSB accreditation in 2007, and the University Staff Merit Award in 2008. Over the years, Mrs. Brasington has been a valued and respected leader in the accounting department and School of Accountancy, especially in the organization of the school's annual Accounting Day festivities, which highlight the achievements of SOA students, faculty, and staff and is the highlight of the school's year.

Mrs. Brasington and her husband, **David**, have a daughter, **Kelly**, who is a Georgia Southern alumna, and a grandson, **Tristan**, who is a national gold medal TaekwonDo champion in his weight division. One of Mrs. Brasington's hobbies is travel, and we, in

COBA and SOA, wish her many happy trails!

Barbara A. Price, professor of quantitative analysis, received her BS in mathematics from Grove City College and her MS and PhD from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in statistics. She came to COBA in July 1996 as department chair for the Department of Management from Winthrop University, where she had been chair of the Winthrop faculty and faculty representative to the Board of Trustees.

In 1999, she moved to chair of the Department of Information Systems and Logistics and was named founding director of the School of Information Technology in January 2001.



Barbara Price (l), Dean Bill Wells (c), and Zandra Brasington (r) at the retirement reception held in November.

Dr. Price has recently taught quantitative analysis in the BBA, MBA, and Georgia WebMBA programs. She taught under Fulbright Scholarships twice, in Hungary and the Czech Republic, and served as an exchange professor at Deakin University in Australia. Her recent professional activities include service on the executive committee of the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc., representative director for ACM on CSAB, lead facilitator of ABET Program evaluator training, and associate editor of the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*. Dr. Price's recent professional service has been recognized in receipt of the CSAB Outstanding Contribution Award, CSAB, Inc., 2012; the George F. Hixson

Fellow of Kiwanis International, Kiwanis Club of Statesboro, 2012; the Faculty Service Award, Georgia Southern University Faculty Service Committee, 2011; the Kenneth L. Stanley Outstanding WebMBA Faculty Award, Georgia WebMBA, 2011; the Fulbright Scholar Lecturing Award, United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, 2010; the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education* Outstanding Teaching Brief, 2008; the Fulbright-Hays Professional Curriculum Development Seminar in Hungary and the Czech Republic, 2008, the Fulbright-Hays Professional Development Program, 2008; and COBA's Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service in the MBA, 2007.

Dr. Price and husband, **Stan**, have one son, **J.T.**, a partner in Porter, White and Company, a daughter-in-law, **Erin**, and one granddaughter, **Madeleine Elizabeth**, of Birmingham, AL.

Congratulations, Dr. Price, on 40 years of excellence in higher education and best wishes for many more in retirement! ♦

COBA's New Administrators



Timothy Pearson
Professor and Director,
School of Accountancy

Tim Pearson, PhD, MAcc, and BS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, comes to us from Morgantown, WV, where he served as coordinator of graduate programs and chair of the Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems, West Virginia University. He is a CPA, CFF, and executive director emeritus of the Institute for Fraud Prevention (IFP), an ACFE/AICPA founded research center at West Virginia University. Dr. Pearson's work with the IFP was recently featured in a cover story in *Fraud Magazine*.

Jacob Simons

Director, PhD in Logistics

Jake Simons, PhD, University of Houston; MS, Troy State and Ball State Universities; and BS, Air Force Academy, joined COBA in 1997 and was promoted to professor in 2002. Dr. Simons retired from the U.S. Air Force, Institute of Technology, as assistant dean for research and consulting. He succeeds Dr. **Steve Rutner**, founding director of the PhD in Logistics program, as its new director. Dr. Simons has previously served as associate dean for COBA.



Gordon Smith

Director, MBA Office

Gordon Smith, PhD and MS, Carnegie Mellon University, MBA, University of Texas, BS, Southern Methodist University, comes to Georgia Southern from the

University of Utah. He was previously director of Joint Programs and program director of the MBA Field Studies for the David Eccles School of Business.



Charles Williamson
Director, Center for
Fraud and Forensics
Studies

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 for the State of New Mexico. In addition to being a CPA, Mr. Williamson 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.

Jerry Wilson

Associate Dean

Jerry Wilson, professor of marketing and logistics, DBA, marketing and transportation, Memphis State University and MBA and BS, Arkansas State University is co-founder of the logistics and intermodal transportation program in COBA and founding editor of the *Journal of Transportation Management*. He began his career in COBA in 1988 and received the M. Albert Burke Faculty Development Award in 1991.

Dr. Wilson served as chair of the Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics, as well as the School of Accountancy, prior to being named associate dean for COBA. ♦



Annual Fraud and Forensic Accounting Education Conference

Pat Huddleston, CEO of Investor's Watchdog, an investor protection company for pension funds, endowments, and businesses was the keynote speaker for the 6th Annual Fraud and Forensic Accounting Education Conference, held at the Hilton DeSoto in Savannah's Historic District this past May. Huddleston spent several years as Enforcement Branch Chief for the U. S. Securities & Exchange Commission, leading a team of attorneys investigating scams, insider trading, and financial misconduct. He is the author of *The Vigilant Investor: A Former SEC Enforcer Reveals How to Fraud-Proof Your Investments*.

The three day conference featured more than 175 registrants and 35 speakers discussing topics including India's Satyam fraud, shell companies, fraud in small business, financial search warrants, data analysis, continuous monitoring, body language and non-verbal communication, ethics, establishing a forensic accounting practice, and teaching forensic accounting to students.

Next year, the 7th annual event will be held May 16-18, 2013, at the J. W. Marriott Hotel, Buckhead, Atlanta. Conference sessions are expected to include panels on risk management, to help businesses assess, prevent, and manage fraud-related issues; red collar crime, including fraud investigations that spill over into conventional crimes, including murder; cybercrime and money laundering; preparing expert witnesses for the next generation of jurors; trends in white collar crime; and pink collar crime, those that principally involve or are committed by women.

Approximately 20 continuing professional education (CPE) hours are available throughout the conference designed for professional specialties, including internal auditors looking for red flags, certified fraud examiners (CFE) keeping their skills sharp, certified information systems auditors (CISAs)

dedicated to keeping computer systems secure, CPAs looking to ensure that published information is reliable, civil and criminal attorneys, business executives looking to reduce risk, and professors seeking case studies in forensic accounting. More information, including registration, may be found at <http://www.pkm.com/fraud-conference/information.php>.

The annual event is sponsored by the accounting firm *Porter Keadle Moore, LLC*, and hosted by COBA's Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting. Previously, it has been held in Statesboro, Savannah, Charleston, and Atlanta. The Atlanta-based Porter Keadle Moore, founded as a community-bank accounting firm in 1977, now represents corporations nationwide in financial, insurance, technology, biological sciences, and government service arenas. It was recently named #1 among mid-sized firms in the country in *Accounting Today* magazine and the Best Companies Group's Best Places of Employment in the Accounting Industry for 2012. **H. Philip Moore, Jr.** (ACCT, 1978), managing partner, is a COBA alumnus and longtime Georgia Southern supporter. ♦



Pat Huddleston

AACSB Accreditation

The board of directors of AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, this fall, continued accreditation of the undergraduate (BBA), graduate (MBA, WebMBA, MSAE, and PhD), and accountancy (SOA including MAcc) programs offered in the College of Business Administration. First accredited in 1977, COBA has maintained its AACSB accreditation for 35 years.

AACSB accreditation means COBA's business programs have met or exceeded the highest operating standards, as defined by the independent agency, AACSB International, for delivering bachelor and master degrees in business. "AACSB sets the standard for business school accreditation," said Dean **Bill Wells**. "It takes a great deal of commitment and determination to earn AACSB accreditation," confirms **Jerry Trapnell**, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "These schools have met rigorous standards of excellence, as well as made a commitment to ongoing improvement that ensures that they will deliver a high quality education to students."



AACSB International was founded in 1916 and began its accreditation function in 1919. As a specialized agency, AACSB International grants accreditation, representing the highest standard of achievement, for undergraduate and graduate business administration and accounting programs worldwide.

AACSB International accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business and management education. In addition to establishing and maintaining standards of quality for collegiate education, AACSB provides services to and represents the interests of its members. AACSB International accreditation assures stakeholders that business schools, including the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern, manage resources to achieve a vibrant and relevant mission; advance business and management knowledge through faculty scholarship; provide high-caliber teaching of quality and current curricula; cultivate meaningful interaction between students and a qualified faculty; and produce graduates who have achieved specified learning goals. ♦

Mark Your Calendars NOW for . . .

20th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

May 17, 2013

FastPitch

In each of its past two years, the FastPitch event, co-hosted by Georgia Southern University's Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership; Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute and Advanced Technology Development Center; and The Creative Coast, has drawn more than 100 applicants, and 30-40 participants were selected to compete before a panel of 20 experienced entrepreneurs and investors with a three-minute presentation and one-page investment summary of their ideas.

Each competitor meets with a coach prior to the presentation to refine the investment summary and the oral presentation. The participants compete not only for cash prizes and the title of FastPitch winner, but also for investor interest in hope of launching their concepts. FastPitch is an open event, free to the public, and spectators are invited to attend.

Some of the product innovations that have been presented have included all natural pest control products, feature films, magnetic socks, and alternatives to producing fiber. The overall winner for 2012, however, was Dr. **Sydney Smith** with his presentation for Complete Consent, a digital, tablet-based way of recording consultations with patients,

which can be reviewed later in order to provide clarity and better communication with patients. Dr. Smith is the CEO of Georgia Skin and Cancer Clinic, and hopes to see his product integrated into medical care nationwide.



Jordan Steen

In 2012, COBA management with entrepreneurship emphasis major **Jordan Steen**, along with computer science major, **Jim Ashachik**, created the campus guide app, intended to help students find campus locations, including parking areas, buildings, and class venues, which secured a runner-up award for their business Pro Applications. Savannah State University accounting majors

David Prjean and **Pebbles Winston** achieved runner-up status for their product Lips of Bliss, an organic lip balm that re-moisturizes for lip health.

Preparations are already being made for the **March 28, 2013, FastPitch Competition**. Applications are due by February 18. For more information or to register, contact Dr. **Luke Pittaway**, director, Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, at (912) 478-5321 or lukepittaway@georgiasouthern.edu.

A registration form is available at <https://tcci.wufoo.com/forms/fast-pitch-2013/>. ♦

SAP@GSU Advantage

The Department of Information Systems has branded itself one of the top sources of ERP knowledgeable graduates in the Southeast U. S. with its initiative SAP@GSU Advantage. Since 2009, the program has lead multiple SAP TERP 10 Student Certification Academies, launched the graduate ERP certificate program, contributed to SAP University Alliances curriculum, and expanded exposure at SAP academic conferences and events. As a result, SAP@GSU Advantage has been named a "Success Story" on the SAP UA website.

Leadership in the SAP@GSU Advantage includes **Bob Syzmanski** and **Camille Rogers**, certified TERP10 trainers, and **Abbie Gail Parham**, **John Dyer**, **Hyo-Joo Han**, and **Hsiang-Jui Kung**, SAP certified faculty members. In response to working professionals wanting access to Georgia Southern's ERP courses and an opportunity to participate in the TERP10 Student Certification Academy, an online graduate-level ERP Certificate program was begun in August 2011. The program consists of 15 hours of fully online graduate ERP courses and two weeks on campus to participate in the TERP10 Student Certification Academy. Summer 2012 students had a 100 percent success rate on the certification exam.

COBA's SAP graduates are employed at major SAP user companies, including Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot, McKesson, Newell Rubbermaid, and UPS. Hewlett Packard, Goodrich, and Norfolk Southern have also hired multiple SAP@GSU graduates. SAP@GSU Advantage students have also landed jobs with



Accenture, Deloitte, IBM, PwC, CGI, Clarkston Consulting, CSS, and other consultancies because of their ERP knowledge and experience. A significant percentage of recent graduates have been hired into business intelligence positions.

Most program graduates are employed by companies with locations in Atlanta or Charlotte, but many have accepted positions in other major cities including Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. Average starting salaries have been approximately \$60K for undergraduates, among the best in COBA.

The SAP@GSU Advantage initiative developed as a pathway for reinforcing the business roots of the Information Systems discipline. IS faculty members have become proficient with the world's most widely used business software platform and employing it to help students see firsthand how ERP systems support integrated business processes. The SAP@GSU Advantage has been tabbed a SAP UA Success Story and has given Georgia Southern the distinction of being perceived as "the" go-to source for SAP and ERP graduates. Best yet, COBA students have benefitted from being able to add lines on their resumes that set them apart in the job market, such as SAP University Alliances Student Recognition Award and/or SAP Certified Business Associate with SAP ERP.

More information about the ERP Certificate program is available at http://online.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?link=grad_ERP. ♦

ACL Data Analysis Software

ACL Services, Ltd, Vancouver, BC, Canada, a global provider of technology for audit, finance, risk and compliance, has donated a \$308,000 software analysis package to COBA and the School of Accountancy. The contribution, as part of the ACL Futures program, provides the same software and support that many CPA firms and corporations use in their accounting, auditing, and financial



than two-thirds of Fortune Global 500 corporations. Georgia Southern accounting students will gain a major competitive edge in the job market with applied experience in its application and use. Universities which have been beneficiaries of the software include the University of Texas, University of Southern California, University of Nebraska, and the University of Missouri, among others.



Robert Marley (standing) prepares accounting information systems students, Steven Meharg, Daniel Rabideau and Josh Rich for final exams.

operations. ACL has an international customer base that includes 89 percent of American Fortune 500 companies and more

The ACL Services recognition is the result of research by COBA accounting professor **Robert Marley**, who previously utilized the software at the University of South Florida. Marley made recommendations under the ACL Futures program that provides the software and support to college campuses. "Georgia Southern and COBA appreciate ACL for its support and commitment to providing student access to 'real-world' technology," emphasized Dr. Marley. "We attract many of Georgia's top accounting students, and the ACL experience will enhance their degrees and its competitive-ness." ♦

ALUMNIVILLE

Accounting

Louise Daniel (1969), Savannah, CPA and partner in Daniel and Duncan, LLC, has been selected as a new board member for Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire, Inc. Email: ldaniel@danieldanduncan.com.

Karl Van Zeigler (1975), Cedar Hill, TX, is now retired. Email: vzeig@yahoo.com.

Kaye C. Dowell (1981), Savannah, is now the principal business banker for Wells Fargo Bank. She is married to William Dowell.

Mary F. Thomson (1981), Savannah, is a CPA with her own accounting firm. email: mftcpa@comcast.net.

James E. Rogers (1990), Walthourville, is now the senior vice president and Hinesville and Liberty County market executive for The Coastal Bank, Hinesville.

Melanie Huff Oddo (1991; Delta Sig), formerly in Peyton, CO, is now in San Antonio, TX, where she is a senior accountant with Clean Channel Media & Entertainment. She is married to Jerome Oddo. Email: jerome.melanie.98@gmail.com.

Christy Keel Bowen (2000), Brooklet, is a CPA with C. Doug Collins, CPA, Statesboro. She is married to Mark Bowen. Email: ckbowencpa@gmail.com.

Robert M. Mock, Jr. (2003; MACC 2004), formerly in Sylvania, is now in Macon, where he is an associate attorney with Stone & Driggers, LLC. email: rmmocksporter@yahoo.com.

Christopher McKeller (2004; MACC 2005), Acworth, is now a manager with Mauldin & Jenkins, Atlanta. His wife is Alisha. Email: christopher_024@hotmail.com.

Merri-ellen Ryals Wadsworth (2004), Tampa, FL, is the audit manager for Crowe Horwath, LLP. She is a Georgia and Florida licensed CPA. Merri-ellen is married to Harvey A. Wadsworth, who has two degrees from Georgia Southern—a 2006 BS in construction management and a 2007 BBA in finance. Email: merri-ellen.wadsworth@crowehorwath.com.

Lindsay M. Daughtry (2006), Brooklet, is an accountant with Denmark and Brown, CPAs, Statesboro. She is married to Chris Daughtry. Email: ldaughtry@denmarkbrowncpa.com.



Heather & Parker Hoppoldt

Heather Hoppoldt (2006), Savannah, internal auditor with CitiTrends, Inc., is married to Allen D. Akins, and they have a son, Parker Bryce, born April 18, 2012.

Lauren G. Moore (2007), Statesboro, CPA, CFE is a staff accountant with Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, CPAs. She is married to Jonathan Moore. Email: hayleyglisson@hotmail.com.

Markita L. Jones (2008), CPA, Pooler, is a tax accountant with Deemer Dana & Froehle, CPAs, Savannah. She is married to George Jones. Email: mljones91@yahoo.com.

David R. Lyons (2008; MBA 2010), formerly in Evans, is now in Norman, OK, where he is an accountant with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Email: david-lyons@ouhsc.edu.

Leslie Anne Culbreth (2009; MAcc 2009), formerly in Valdosta, is now in Savannah, where she is a staff accountant/CPA with Hancock Askew & Co, CPAs. She is married to Radly McDaniel, a 2006 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: lmcdaniel@hancockaskew.com.

Cristol Cannon Johnson (2009), Warrenton, a CPA and CFE, is an accountant with TPI, Inc., Thomson. She is married to Larry Johnson. Email: cdj0118@gmail.com.

Brittany L. Riddick (2009), Savannah, is a staff accountant with Hancock Askew & Co. Email: brittany.riddick@gmail.com.

Tyler S. Morris (2010), Perry, is a claims examiner with Geico, Macon. Email: tsmorris05@gmail.com.

Chad N. Strader (2010), formerly in DeSoto, TX, is now in Danbury, CT where he is an accountant with Pepsi Co., Somers, NY. Email: cstrader14@gmail.com.

Economics

Tiffany Womack Mills (1994; MBA, 1997), formerly in Jacksonville, FL, is now in Craig, AK, where she is a children's services specialist for the State of Alaska. Tiffany earned an MA in English from Georgia Southern in 2006 and graduated from the Florida Coastal School of Law in 2011. She is married to Brian Mills. While at Georgia Southern, Tiffany worked in the Office of Publications writing for the *Eagle Executive*. Email: tiffanywomackmills@yahoo.com.

Michael J. Halper (2000), Irvine, CA, is the product manager for Edwards Lifesciences. His wife is Akane. email: michael.halper@gmail.com.

Jennifer Hendrix (2000), Statesboro, a budget analyst for Georgia Southern University, is engaged to Matt Berghoff. Email: jenjen3331@yahoo.com.

Finance

H. Heyward Burnet, IV (1991), Fernandina Beach, FL, is the owner of Insurance Office of America. His wife is Ginny. Email: heyward.burnet@iao.us.

Jeff D. Bentley (1993), formerly in Monticello, is now in Toney, AL, where he is in customer service with Verizon Wireless. He is married to Sheryl Holman. Email: jeffben@att.net.



William Josiah "Trey" Neville, III (MBA, 2012) received his degree and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in U. S. Army by his father, William J. Neville, Jr. while his grandfather, William J. Neville assisted in pinning epaulettes. Trey ranked in the top 20 percent of Army ROTC graduates nationwide and was recognized as a distinguished military student by his cadre of the Eagle Battalion at Georgia Southern. The Eagle Battalion has twice received the prestigious McArthur Award, ranking it in the top 8 ROTC programs in the nation. Trey plans to attend flight school in Alabama and, eventually, law school. He is currently enrolled in COBA's MSAE program and a graduate assistant in the Office of Publications & Faculty Research Services.

Sheila A. Dyson (1993), Albany, is a teacher in the Dougherty County School System. Email: ladydy2020@yahoo.com.

William Walter "Sam" Sharpe (1994), Pooler, State Farm agent for Pooler, has received the company's Chairman's Circle award, which goes to the company's top producing agents. His wife is Angela. Email: sam@samsharpe.org.

Duane A. Sheldon (1994), formerly in Savannah, is now in Springboro, OH, where he is the director of the revenue cycle for the Kettering Health Network, Miamisburg, OH. He is married to Vickie Carter. Email: duanesheldon@gmail.com.

Brad S. Bixler (1998; 1992 Psychology), Richmond Hill, is a mortgage originator for The Coastal Bank, Pooler. He is married to Denise Miles, a 1991 Georgia Southern COE graduate.

S. Jesse Long (1999), Mt. Pleasant, SC, is a principal in Birchin Lane Realty Advisors. He is married to Allison Cobb. Email: jlong@birchinlanerealty.com.

Heidi L. Swygert (2004), Atlanta, is employed by Campbell & Brannen, Attorneys, LLC, Marietta. Email: hswygert@hotmail.com.

William P. Mitchell (2005), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Stuart, FL, where he is a credit analyst II—banking officer for the Seacoast National Bank, working with commercial customers. Email: mitchellwp547@gmail.com.

Emily Aaron Dove (2007; MBA 2009), Statesboro, is an accountant I with Georgia Southern University. She is married to Dennis A. Dove, Jr., a Georgia Southern general studies graduate. Email: edove@georgia.southern.edu.

Charles P. Webb (2007), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Mt. Pleasant, SC, where he is with Wells Fargo Bank. Charles is engaged to Caitlin Grace Quinn, a Mercer University alumna.

Becky Alice Pucket (2008), Alpharetta, a personal lines underwriter for Central Mutual Insurance Company, is now married to Andrew W. Phelps.

Brooke S. Wethington (2010; MA, Sport Management, 2012), formerly in Cave City, is now in Atlanta, where

she is an account consultant with Buckhead Business Consulting. Email: bwether1@gmail.com.Atlanta.

General Business

Jenny L. Gentry (1981), Savannah, market president for Wells Fargo Bank, is a returning member of the board of Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire. Email: jenny.gentry@wellsfargo.com.

Denise Sears Moody (1986), Nahunta, is a co-owner of Zblue, Inc., a blueberry farm. She is married to Dan Moody. Email: zsm95@yahoo.com.

C. Darryl Riggins (1991), Chattanooga, TN, is a sales rep for the Athens Paper Company. His wife is Karen. Email: driggins@athenspaper.com.

Hotel, Restaurant, & Institutional Mgt.

Dean T. Teusaw, Jr. (1998), recently married Laurie McGill, a 1995 Georgia Southern marketing graduate.

Information Systems

Charles A. Huff (1984), Oxford, MS, is now the senior systems implementation specialist for FNC, Inc. Email: huffcharles@bellsouth.net.

Logistics

Terrance N. Howard (2001), formerly in Bainbridge, is now in Loganville, where he is a supply chain analyst for the Robert Companies, contracted to AT&T. He is married to Isha L. Dean, a 2000 Georgia Southern management alumna.

Jordan Lockhart (2008), formerly in Marietta, is now in Charleston, SC, where she is the logistics analyst for SAIC. Email: jlockhart17@gmail.com.

Eric Engel (2009), formerly in Broken Arrow, OK, is now in Huntersville, NC, where he is the vendor supply chain specialist for Lowe's Companies, Mooresville, NC. He is married to Carter Sample, a 2009 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: eric.h.engel@lowes.com.

Saxony Shields (2009; Delta Sig), formerly in Stone Mountain, is now in Warner Robins, where she is an inventory management specialist with the Defense Department. Email: sshield1@gmail.com.

ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

ACC 1969 - LOG 2009

ALUMNIVILLE

Whit E. Robbins (2010), formerly in Waycross, is now in Richmond, VA, where he is a trainmaster for CSX Transportation. Email: whitrobbins@gmail.com.

Mike J. Sizemore, Jr. (2010), formerly in Evans, is now in Orlando, FL, as the competition coordinator with Walt Disney World Resort, Kissimmee, FL. He was the lead coordinator for the Walt Disney World Pro Soccer Classic and the U.S. Men's National Soccer team training camp. Email: msizemore10@gmail.com.

W. Trent Wright (2010), formerly in Hawkinsville, is now in Savannah, where he is the shipping and receiving coordinator for MHC Kenworth Savannah, Port Wentworth. His wife is Cheri Leigh. Email: wtwright11@gmail.com.

Reggie L. Lawson (2011), formerly in Norman Park, is now in Newnan, where he is the logistics supervisor for the Sears Holding Corporation. Email: lawson152@yahoo.com.

Alex Richards (2011), formerly on Hilton Head Island, SC, is now in Columbia, SC, where he is employed by C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. Email: alex.richards@yahoo.com.

Management

J. Randal Whitten (1980), formerly in St. Petersburg, FL, is now in Smyrna, where he is the senior pastor for the Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Mableton. His wife is Catherine. Email: randal@mtharmony.org.

Stacie Coppock (1997), Pooler, is now a human resource manager at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation. Email: staciecoppock@yahoo.com.

Melanee R. Morales (1998), Statesboro, is the owner of Morales Consulting Services. She has a masters degree in HR from Troy State University and is an associate professor for the University of Phoenix, Savannah Campus. Melanee is married to Luis Morales.

Steven A. Shuman (1998), Claxton, is the purchasing agent for the Rotary Corp., Glennville. He is married to Lucy Knighton, a 2001 Georgia Southern College of Education middle grades graduate, and they have a son, Ashton (11). Email: sshuman@rotarycorp.com.

Michael C. Gosselin (1999), Atlanta, is a consultant with Stage Front Presentations. His wife is Katherine.

Isha L. Dean (2000), Loganville, is an examiner with The Westfield Insurance Group, Duluth. She is married to Terrance N. Holland, a 2001 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: ishaldean@hotmail.com.

James C. Marsh (2004), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Winterville, NC, where he is the district sales manager for Monsanto. He is married to Krista Waagner, a 2008 Georgia Southern management graduate. Email: james.c.marsh@monsanto.com.

Clint B. Patton (2006), Griffin, CEO of K & G Patten Enterprises, Inc., is married to Susan L. McGaun, a Georgia Southern alumna.

W. Wesley Olliff (2007), Savannah, is now a vice president-commercial relationship banker for The Colony Bank. He is married to Jessica Hammonds.

Laura N. Harkins (2008), formerly in Lawrenceville, is now in St. Simons, where she is with Gateway BHS, Brunswick.

Crystal M. McCorkle (2008; MBA, 2010), Statesboro, has a Mary Kay business and is a sales director. For the past two years, she has been the top sales director nationally. Crystal is married to Leroy "Will" Clarke. Email: cmccork2@gmail.com.

R. Tyson Morris (2008), is the central receiving person for the College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick. He is married to Kayla Wilson. Email: rmorris@ccga.edu.



Justin Samples (LOG, 2003) has been named community relations officer for the Statesboro Police Department. Justin, a certified police instructor and patrol officer, has been involved in public safety for several years. His new role involves public information officer responsibilities, including coordination, design, and development of community programs, technology employment, and recruitment activities, which draw upon his design and photography background. Recently launched programs of the Statesboro Police Department include the CrimeReports.com program in which residents can incidents and crime reports in the city; a TipSoft.com program where anonymous web-based "tips" or information may be provide by Internet, e-mail, or texting; and, the Nixle program in which residents receive public safety alerts on major crimes, wanted or escaped prisoners, significant road or weather situations, and other safety information. Justin also administers the SPD website and Facebook pages, coordinates the Citizens Police Academy, a 10-week resident-engagement program to extend the "eyes and ears" of law enforcement, along with the Cops Actively Involving Citizens Everyday (CAICE), which pro-actively engages police officers in communities and businesses for better education and communication. The department is in the process of developing a new Neighborhood Watch and Crime Free Housing program for the city. As the early 1800's prime minister of Great Britain, author of the *British Tamworth Manifesto*, and early pioneer of the modern police force concept, Sir Robert Peele once said, "The police are the public and the public are the police." In that spirit, Justin will be leading the community relations role of the agency toward a closer partnership with the public. He may be reached at justin.samples@statesboroga.gov.

Brad S. Skinner (2008), formerly in Charlotte, NC, is now in Atlanta, where he is the transportation planner for Woodgrain Distribution, Norcross. Email: bradleyss14@gmail.com.

Greg Dowling (2009), formerly in Marietta, is now in Charlotte, NC, where he is an accounting manager for Insight Global, Inc. Email: gregdowli@gmail.com.

Brett L. Hoyle (2009), formerly in Carrollton, is now in Newnan where he is the owner of Brett L. Hoyle Alfa Insurance Agency. He is married to Blair Parks, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: blhoyle7@gmail.com.

Alexa Rae Hesse (2010), Murray, KY, is a sales rep with American Cellular. She is the Number 1 sales rep in a company of 270 people for 2012. Alexa is married to Chris Covington, a 2009 Georgia Southern criminal justice graduate. Email: ahesse4@gmail.com.

Brian K. Marsh (2010), Brooklet, an employee of Gulfstream, Pooler, recently married Megan Elizabeth Gresham, a 2011 Georgia Southern nursing graduate.

Chantel Hale Coxhead (2011), Savannah, is an associate with the United Way. Email: cchantal88@hotmail.com.

Charles "Chad" Wethern, II (2011), Roswell, is the vehicle status coordinator with LeasePlan USA, Alpharetta. Email: chadwethern@gmail.com.

Marketing

Dwayne A. Waxer (1994), formerly in Alpharetta, is now in Cumming, where he is a vice president of operations for Pace-O-Matic, Norcross. His wife is Jennifer. Email: dwaynewaxer@comcast.net.

Laurie M. Gill (1995), Roswell, a pharmacy rep with Abbott Lab, recently married Dean Thomas Teusaw, Jr., a

Georgia Southern hotel, restaurant, and institutional management graduate. email: lauriepill@hotmail.com.

Gin Starling (1996; MBA 2000), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Millen. She is an associate broker with Coldwell Banker Tanner Realty and an instructor in business for Georgia Southern, Statesboro. Gin recently married Jeff McPhail, a Georgia Southern marketing graduate. Email: ginstarling@gmail.com.

Emanuel L. Minter (2000), formerly in Norcross, is now in Marietta, where he is sales team manager for Belk, Kennesaw. Email: el_minter@yahoo.com

Geri Elise Turner (2000), Marietta, is in sales with Tri-State Utility Products. Email: gerieturner@yahoo.com.

David B. Benson (2003), Smyrna, is a supervisor with Toys "R" Us. Email: eros980@aol.com.

Leticia E. Barlow (2005), Pooler, is now a group leader for Target. She was on the women's swimming team.

Jennifer M. Wilson (2006), Tampa, FL, is now an RN nursing student and employed by Florida Hospital. She is married to Dominic Kouffman.

Catherine A. Holley (2008), Statesboro, legal assistant for Hube and Tucker, Attorneys, recently married Josh Donald Tucker.

Caylee Martin Bickmore (2009), formerly in Reidsville, is now on St. Simons Island, where she is the web marketing and ecommerce manager for the Rotary Corporation, Glennville. She is married to Joel Bickmore. Email: cayleemb@gmail.com.

ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

LOG 2010 - MKT 2009



Mitzi Smith Moore (FIN & MGT, 1983), formerly in Brooks, is now in Marietta, where she is president and owner of Sundial Plumbing Services. She left her pursuit of a master's in middle childhood education and entered the plumbing industry after her divorce left her as the sole provider of a newborn and toddler. She took a position in her father's company in order to provide for her children, but soon found that she had a real passion for the family business. Mitzi, after spending time out on the trucks laboring as a plumber, earned her journeyman and class I and class II licenses.

She was later promoted to a managerial position, where she gained experience and confidence in running the business end of the family company. When her father decided to retire, Mitzi approached him to secure his help in starting her own company - Sundial Plumbing. She later bought out her father's interest in the company, and has grown Sundial to encompass a service area of the entire greater Atlanta area with around 32 trucks and 50 employees. She has chosen to feature her face on about 20 of her trucks in order to show her accountability and commitment to customer service. While she says that her management degree helps her run her business, she thinks that her work while pursuing the master's in education aids in her position on the state's five-person Division of Master and Journeyman Plumbers of the Georgia Construction Industry Licensing Board. Mitzi was named a Power Woman by Georgia Trend magazine in June of 2012, a Top Ten Businessperson by the Metro-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce in 2011, and the National Contractor of the Year by the Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors and Delta Faucet in 2010. Additionally, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce has named her company Small Business of the Year. Mitzi is married to Richard Moore. Email: mmore@sundialplumbing.com.

ALUMNIVILLE

Frederick G. "Erick" Blitch, III (2009), Statesboro, a community relations manager for Hospice Advantage, is engaged to Victoria Ann Sloan, a 2011 Georgia Southern kinesiology graduate. A March 23, 2013, wedding is planned. Email: eblitch@gmail.com.

Bruce W. Johnson (2010), Jefferson, a sales rep with Coastal Energy, is engaged to Breezy Breanna Bray, a 2010 Georgia Southern College of Education graduate. Email: wade@coastalenergy.org.

Eric T. Mitchell (2011), formerly in Lawrenceville, is now at Sheppard Air Force Base, TX, where he is an airman 1st class in the U.S. Air Force and in technical school learning air crew equipment maintenance. Email: blitzem2787@gmail.com.

MACC

Brandi Williams Waters (2004), Statesboro, is now the practice administrator at Family Health Care. She is married to Josh Waters, a 2005 Georgia Southern management graduate and a 2006 construction management graduate. Email: bwaters24@gmail.com.

Allen D. Akins (2006), CPA, CVA, Savannah, is a manager with Hancock Askew & Co. He is married to Heather Happoldt, a 2006 Georgia Southern accounting graduate, and they have a son Park B. Akins, born April 18, 2012. Email: aakins@hancockaskew.com.

Lesley Culbreth McDaniel (2009), Savannah, is a staff accountant with Hancock Askew, and Company, LLP. She is married to Raddy D. McDaniel, a 2006 nursing school graduate. Email: lmcDaniel@hancockaskew.com.

Yanan Wang (2009), Atlanta, is a senior internal auditor for Global Payments, Inc. Email: yanan0704@gmail.com.

Iche Nathans (2010), formerly in Roswell, is now in Marietta, where he is a CPA and senior auditor with Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, CPAs, Atlanta. Email: ichenathans@hotmail.com.

Sean G. Pelliccione (2012), Savannah, is a CPA with Pelliccione and Associates.



Sven Stumbauer (INTL BUS, 2000) has joined Veris Consulting, Inc., headquartered in Reston, VA, as managing director of its forensics and dispute resolution practice and will lead the Miami, FL, office in delivery of services in Florida and Latin America. Veris specializes in regulatory compliance, accounting and financial reporting fraud, financial analysis and modeling, damages valuation, and expert witness testimony in connection with commercial dispute resolution, regulatory investigations, and other legal proceedings.

Sven began his career as a compliance examiner in the Atlanta offices of the National Association of Securities Dealers, now known as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., and most recently was a director in the forensic advisory services practice of KPMG, one of the Big-4 public accounting firms. Sven speaks six languages, including English, German, Czech, Slovak, Russian, and Spanish, and holds an MBA from Georgia Institute of Technology.

He is married to the former Rosse Barrantes (MBA, 2000) of Lima, Peru, who is a senior vice president and the head of Enterprise Risk Management at TotalBank in Miami. They have one son, Sven, Jr., and reside in Atlanta and Miami.

MBA

Jack B. Wheatley (1981), Louisville, KY, owner of Michael Properties, LLC, just completed a 3,200 mile bike ride from San Diego, CA, to Jacksonville, FL. It took 64 days and, for a 66 year old, is something to brag about. Email: jwheatley@insightbb.co.

Curtis Woody (1988), Statesboro, is now the director of corporate higher education and work force development for Georgia Southern University. He is married to Georgia Southern graduate Charlotte Parrish-Woody. Email: curtiswoody@eniac.net.

Chad S. Kelly (1992), Atlanta, is director of internal audits for Time Warner. He is married to Robin Mason.

Amanda Garrett Peebles (2001), Swainsboro, is a credit officer with the Morris State Bank, Dublin. Email: apeebles@morrisstate.com.

Olin F. Fulmer (2003), Gainesville, is a community access counselor for Star Choices. He is married to Ann Chua. Email: fulmer4k@aol.com.

Kelly B. Nicot (2003), Fayetteville, NC, is the assistant director of transit for

the City of Fayetteville. Email: blazejk@hotmail.com.

Luella Sanders (2003), Richmond Hill, is now director of finance for Union Mission, Inc., Savannah. Email: lsanders@uhs-pruitt.com.

Sarah Eaves Smith (2005), Statesboro, is the director of admissions for Georgia Southern University. She is married to Jonathan Smith. Email: seaves1@georgiasouthern.edu.

Linda K. Dahlskold (2010), formerly in Sweden, is now in Atlanta. Email: linda_dahlskold@hotmail.com.

John Sedivy (2010), Greer, SC, is the director of purchasing and forecasting for Southern Tide, LLC, Greenville, SC. He is married to Anita Jones. Email: jbsedivy@yahoo.com.

William Ray Brown (2011; BSEET 2007), Aiken, SC, is an electrical engineer at Areva, Savannah River Site. He is pursuing a master in electrical engineering at NC State and PMP Certification. William is married to Shomoneik JaNada Grant. Email: wrbrown@maxproject.com.

Levi A. Bowman (2012), Calhoun, is a systems engineer with the Shaw

Industries Group, Dalton. He is married to Kimberly Oravet. Email: levi.bowman@gmail.com.

Amanda Hodges Panaresa (2012), Ruckersville, VA, is now the assistant director of career education and advising at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. She is married to Thomas Panaresa. Email: ahpPanaresa@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Jefferson Edward Owens, Jr. (BS, 1960), Statesboro, died on October 31, 2012.

Michael Ragsdale (ACCT, 1965), CPA, Atlanta, died on July 1, 2012.

Gary R. Hancock (ACCT, 1966), Savannah, died on July 31, 2012.

Robert L. Walker (GEN BUS, 1966) died on December 19, 2011.

Carl "Dan" Murray (MGT, 1973), Vidalia, died on May 16, 2012.

Thomas Michael "Mike" Deal (GEN BUS, 1974; MED, 1989), Statesboro, Georgia Southern University's registrar, died on August 11, 2012.

Rochelle Piebes Barry (OA, 1977), Gainesville, died on December 21, 2011.

Trina Denise McCloud (MGT, 1997), Pembroke, died on May 21, 2012.

Somer F. Halasa (IS, 1999) died on March 4, 2001.

John D. Purvis (FIN 2005), formerly in Alpharetta, native of Tullulah Falls, died on March 29, 2012.

Jennifer Rachel Chapman (ACCT student), passed away December 7, 2012, of a congenital heart condition. As a child, she determined to live life to the fullest, and was fond of saying, "Do not fear death, but rather the unlive life. You don't have to live forever, you just have to live."

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.



Full Name (include maiden name) _____

Spouse's Full Name (include maiden name) _____

Georgia Southern Graduation Year(s) _____ Degree(s) _____ Major(s) (R) _____ Spouse Degree and Year _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone Number () _____ Business Phone Number () _____ Cell () _____

Employer _____ Business Title _____

Business Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Preferred Address for delivery Home Office

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



Hanna Wins University Award



Mark Hanna

At fall convocation, **Mark D. Hanna**, professor of operations management, received the 2012 University Excellence in Contributions to Instruction award. Dr. Hanna came to Georgia Southern in 2001, having received his BS from LeTourneau University, and his MS and PhD from Clemson.

This award honors contributions to the teaching-learning process at the institutional level by identifying recipients who demonstrate excellence in the classroom and beyond by making contributions to the discipline and to the overall institutional mission. Recipients are nominated and selected in a university-level, peer review process. Only six awards are presented annually, two in each of the areas of contributions to instruction, research, and service, respectively.

In the classroom, Dr. Hanna is recognized as an enthusiastic and demanding instructor

with high expectations for students to see statistics and operations management as relevant to decisionmaking. Dr. Hanna has taught everyone from entering freshmen and upper classmen to graduate students in more than six different courses. He receives strong student ratings on the technical material of his discipline. One alumnus explained this commitment to excellence, saying "emphasis on continuous improvement techniques combined with a priority of respect for people was something we didn't hear from other professors, yet we knew inside it was not only profoundly true, but critical for being successful managers in the emerging business world."

In 2011, Dr. Hanna received COBA's W. A. and Emma Lou Crider Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service. He serves on the University's Advisory Board for the Center for Teaching and Learning and carries the same commitment to maintaining academic standards reflected in his own teaching. Dr. Hanna has often noted Deming that a good teacher's aim "should be to give inspiration and direction to students for study." ♦

Sexton Named Greenly Scholar



Kelly Sexton

Christmas came early for COBA's **Kelly Sexton** and 23 other college students nationwide when they were recently named recipients of a \$5,000 scholarship through the National Retail Federation Foundation's Ray M. Greenly Scholarship fund. **Ray Greenly** was a divisional vice president of the National Retail Federation before losing his battle with cancer in 2005.

Ray was the kind of person everyone wants on his or her team: patient, witty, and willing to go the extra mile. His spirit lives on in the Foundation's Ray M. Greenly Scholarship Fund, established to provide financial support to students pursuing a retail career in any field including marketing, operations, merchandising, logistics, IT, and analytics.

Each student is nominated, evaluated, and selected on his or her high scholastic achievements and passion for retail. Each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to attend Retail's BIG Show, the National

Retail Federation's 103rd Annual Convention & EXPO, January 13-16, 2013, at the Jacob J. Javits Convention Center in New York. More than 25,000 retail industry professionals are expected to attend the event.

A special student program during the Convention, made possible by contributions from The Container Store, Macy's, Saks, and Walmart, will

incorporate unique networking sessions with retail recruiters and opportunities for students to meet executives from BJ's Wholesale Club, HSN, Rent the Runway, and Tractor Supply Co. As a part of its commitment to foster the next generation of retail leaders, the National Retail Federation is on track to award more than \$350,000 in scholarships this year through its 26 university partners, including Georgia Southern, and University Partner Program.

Dr. **Kathleen Gruben**, Center for Retail Studies director, will accompany Kelly and COBA marketing students to the BIG Show in January. ♦

COBA Expands Logistics Opportunities

COBA and the Savannah Technical College signed an articulation agreement this fall for logistics management graduates of Savannah Tech to transfer their coursework in its entirety to Georgia Southern toward a BBA in logistics and intermodal transportation. Building upon an agreement earlier this year between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), increasing the number of core curriculum courses transferable to USG

institutions from TCSG institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the articulation agreement provides Savannah Tech students a pathway to transfer their courses to Georgia Southern.

Savannah Technical College is the first college in the TCSG to offer an associate of science degree in logistics management curriculum, a new 74-credit hour associate of science degree featuring



14 semester hours in logistics-related course-work—including supply chain management, transportation and logistics management, warehousing technology and materials management.

COBA offers the bachelor of business administration degree in logistics and intermodal transportation, one of Georgia Southern's fastest growing majors serving the needs of a dynamic industry. "This program of study grew out of a regional partnership to improve the

workforce along the I-95 corridor," said Savannah Tech President **Kathy Love**. "This collaborative is just the beginning, a great example of how we can partner to put our students in a win-win position, and make a significant positive impact on our region."

Georgia Southern President **Brooks Keel** agreed. "With the growth of the Savannah Port, there is a growing demand for logistics professionals." "This program will ensure a steady pipeline of talent to area businesses for years to come," he concluded. ♦

Fall 2012 — COBA Enrollment by the Numbers

Georgia Southern's fall enrollment was recorded at 20,574 students, the largest number ever, representing a 1.8 percent increase from the previous year, and marking the sixth consecutive year of enrollment increase.

COBA Students	
Pre-Business	1,921
BBA Programs	1,042
Graduate Programs	338
Total Enrollment	3,301

COBA Faculty and Staff	
Tenure	96
Non-Tenure	20
Staff	39
Total	155

