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Eagle Executive

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY NEWS

from the College of Business Administration
STATESBORO, GA 30460

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Volume 26, Number 2 Spring 2013

COBA's Fifth Dean and First PhD



Dr. Amason

Dr. **Allen C. Amason** (FIN, 1984), professor of strategic management and chair of the Management Department, Terry College of Business, The University of Georgia, will become the fifth dean of the College of Business Administration in August.

Dean Amason received his BBA from Georgia Southern in 1984, his PhD in international strategic management from the University of South Carolina in 1993, and has been on the faculty at The University of Georgia since 1996.

Dr. Amason's teaching and consulting has focused on strategic management, strategic decision making, and top management processes. He is on the boards of *Georgia Oak Partners*, a private equity firm, and the *Russian Foundation for Population Health & Recovery*, an international non-governmental organization. He is an award-winning executive educator, was named Terry College MBA Teacher of the Year in 2001, 2003, and 2005, and received the Terry College Teacher of the Year in 2006. Dr. Amason has done consulting with *Exide Technologies*, *Primewest Energy*, *Rosetta Marketing*, *Johnson & Johnson*,

Computer Associates, *Novartis*, *Tenet Healthcare*, *Nortel*, and *Advanced Micro Devices*.

Professor Amason's research has focused on strategic decision making and top management team processes. He is the author of the book, *Strategic Management: From Theory to Practice*, and he has published more than two dozen articles and chapters in outlets such as the *Academy of Management Journal*, the *Journal of Management*, the *Journal of Management Studies*, and the *Journal of Business Venturing*. He is associate editor of the *Journal of Management Studies* and was previously senior associate editor of the *Journal of Management*. He has also served on the editorial boards of the *Academy of Management Journal*, the *Journal of Management*, and *Entrepreneurship, Theory & Practice*.

Dean Amason will follow the tenures of Founding Dean **Paul LaGrone** (1962-74), **Ori James** (1974-86), **Carl Gooding** (1986-2001), and **Ron Shiffler** (2002-2012), during which the college has grown substantially.

In the most recent decade, COBA's upper division undergraduate enrollment increased 31.7 percent and undergraduate program offerings expanded, including programs in forensic accounting, information systems, and hospitality management, together with an enterprise resource planning certification program. The college's regional economic impact, based upon share of students, doubled

from approximately \$63.1 million to \$134 million.

In COBA's graduate studies programs, enrollment grew a dramatic 76.5 percent while graduate education opportunities expanded in the WebMBA®, master of science in applied economics, the executive MBA, and WebMAcc programs, along with the PhD in logistics and supply chain management, the first in Georgia Southern's 107 year history.

Stephanie Thomas, whose program in logistics and supply chain management began in August 2010, became the first Georgia Southern student, ever, to receive the doctorate of philosophy degree. Her program concluded with a successful defense of her dissertation, "Competitive Versus Collaborative: Exploring the Negotiation Strategy Impact on Relational Outcomes in Ongoing Buyer-Supplier Relationships."

Welcome back to COBA, Dean Amason! Referencing your letter of application, Georgia is an emerging hotbed of economic growth and, with South Georgia's importance in trade and logistics, the next decade promises significant opportunities for business education, research, and outreach. ♦

Alumna of the Year



Caroline Harless

Caroline O. Harless (MBA, 1977) was named Georgia Southern's 2013 Alumna of the Year in Private Enterprise at the spring awards banquet in April. She is president and CEO, *Peachtree Capital Corporation*, Atlanta; general partner in

Harless and Associates, CPAs, West Palm Beach, FL, and Atlanta; and principal, *Peachtree Resources Management, Inc.*, the company that owns the award winning Flat Creek Lodge, Swainsboro.

Caroline received an undergraduate degree in management at Stetson University and an MBA from Georgia Southern. She began her career in finance and banking as a bank examiner with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, where she retired as senior examiner. She, along with husband Steve Harless, co-founded *Peachtree Capital* in 1990 and *Peachtree Resources* in 1994.

Caroline is a Series 24 principal, registered investment advisor, insurance agent, and serves on Georgia Southern's Foundation Board of Trustees, its executive, finance, and investment committees. ♦



Dr. Thomas

COBA's Whitaker Named VP



Rob Whitaker

Robert L. Whitaker, (MBA, 1993) has been named vice president for business and finance for Georgia Southern University. Rob began his new role in May replacing Dr. **Ron Core** who has retired.

Rob, as he was known to COBA, joins his alma mater from Georgia Highlands College in Rome, where he had served as vice president for finance and administration since 2008. There, he was responsible for leadership, planning and management of accounting, budget, campus safety, physical plant, procurement, and auxiliary functions for the multi-campus, two-year state college with more than 5,500 students. Previously, he was director of business services at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, where he also served as interim controller.

Rob began his career in higher education as assistant budget director for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, then served as a budget analyst for the Legisla-

tive Budget Office and a health and financial analyst at the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance, Atlanta. As a complement to public work, Rob served as controller at PMG.net, Atlanta, responsible for the accounting function including payroll, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. He also served as director of operations/financial analysis for Cotelligent, Inc., in Branchburg, NJ.

"Rob's roles in higher education initiatives have fostered strong working relationships with University System of Georgia leaders and staff," said Georgia Southern President **Brooks Keel** in making the announcement. "He brings a creative and entrepreneurial spirit that will be key to our success moving forward."

Rob is a graduate of the University System of Georgia's Executive Leadership Institute and is Six Sigma Green Belt certified. He earned a BBA in accounting from Morehead State University and an MBA from Georgia Southern.

"I am excited to join my alma mater and help Georgia Southern continue to grow as a national research university," Whitaker concluded.

Rob and his wife, **Angela** (BSED, 1999) have four children, **Taylor** (18), **Zoey** (5), and twins, **Emme** and **Keller** (2). ♦

Price Appointed Interim VP



Dr. Price

Dr. Barbara Price, professor emerita of quantitative analysis, was appointed interim associate vice president of Continuing Education effective April 1, 2013. In her new role she will be working with the division to

develop a strategic plan that will help guide its activities.

Dr. Price came to Georgia Southern in 1996 from Winthrop University, has served as professor and chair of the Department of Management, chair of the Department of Information Systems & Logistics, and founding director of the School of Information Technology. In 2003, she returned to faculty in quantitative analysis.

In addition to her academic efforts, Dr. Price is active in the community as a Kiwanian, director for ACTS, and Food Bank board member. Professionally, she serves as the 2012-2013 chair of the Computing Accreditation Commission of the ABET accrediting agency. ♦

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STATESBORO, GA 30460-8002
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College of Business
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James E. Davis, Jr., Editor

William A. Wells, Dean

Lewis M. Stewart, Alumni Editor

The Eagle Executive

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The College of Business Administration is a member of the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) and the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC).



The EAGLE EXECUTIVE is published twice a year as a service to Georgia Southern faculty, staff, students, and alumni by Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration, Office of Publications & Faculty Research Services, Room 3356, P. O. Box 8109, Statesboro, GA 30460-8109. Phone: (912) 478-5926, Fax: (912) 478-5340

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THE EAGLE EXECUTIVE
can now be accessed online at
<http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/centers/pub/index.htm>



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

A Message from Dean Wells

The 2012-13 academic year will be remembered for milestones and changes for both the college and university. I have had the honor of serving as interim dean for the college while the COBA dean's search committee has identified a new dean. I am pleased to welcome the Dean **Allen Amason** as our fifth dean!

As the university has reached record enrollment of nearly 21,000, growth continues in our traditional and online programs, both undergraduate and graduate. We launched our first class of the WebMacc in Spring 2013 offering online accounting education to working professionals seeking 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. And, in May, we graduated the University's first PhD student, **Stephanie Thomas**, a proud moment for COBAns everywhere!

COBA just completed its 20th Annual Golf Tournament at Forest Heights Country Club in early May. We had record participation with more than 160 golfers and 35 sponsors. Thank you to all who support us each year in this endeavor!

COBA is saying goodbye to a long serving member, Dr. **William W. "Bill" McCartney**, retiring in June after 16 years with COBA.

Bill has served the college and university in many roles, including department chair and inaugural W.E. Carter Distinguished Chair of Business Leadership. In his career, Bill was instrumental in creating the COBA Student Leadership council, mentoring "Leadership Southeast Georgia," publishing a monthly column entitled "Lessons in Leadership" for the *Savannah Business Report and Journal*, and delivering more than 100 training programs in leadership management in the region. He also served as editor of the *Southern Business Review*. Bill has earned a reputation as a faculty-leader, teacher-scholar, administrator, and a trusted colleague. On behalf of COBAns, we wish you and **Kay** well in your retirement!

If you haven't been on campus recently, I encourage you to make plans to visit soon. You are always invited to COBA tailgates before and during home football games. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow COBA alums and learn more about our accomplishments and dreams. While we are often separated by miles, we are all COBAns in our hearts.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your dean this past year!

William A. Wells

The 20th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

The annual COBA golf tournament was held at Forest Heights Country Club on Friday, May 17, 2013. Winning teams were Gross – **Andy Parrish, Chris Wood, John Lee, and Luke Adams**, and Net – **Andy Stuckey, Lance Stuckey, Brian Stuckey, and Warren Stuckey**. Special awards were Straightest Drive – **Jamie DeLoach**, Closest to the Pin – **Irene Westenbery (#3)**, **Brandon Long (#6)**, and **Brian Phillips (#15)**, and Longest Drive – **Susan Williams**, ladies and **Michael Jackson**, men. Special thanks to corporate sponsors, *Brodie International; Capstone Benefits Consulting; Citizens Bank of Bulloch County; Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, LLP; East Georgia Regional Medical Center; Frank Mulherin—Weinberger's Furniture; Hal Roach, Jr., PC; Hearts and Hands Clinic; Heritage Bank of the South; Lovett Bennett—Attorney at Law; Loxgreen; Nesmith Chevrolet—Marty Nesmith; Real Estate Asset Counseling, Inc.—Tom Coe; Reddick, Riggs, Hunter and Kennedy; School of Accountancy; Senator Jack Hill; Statesboro Gastroenterology; Statesboro Golf Carts, LLC; Steven Powell Company; The University Store—Georgia Southern; Thiagen, Westerfield, Lanier and Deal; Advanced Valve & Instrument, Inc.; Center for Financial Services; Coca-Cola Bottling of Statesboro; Inter Technologies; Pineland Telephone Communication; Servpro of Statesboro; Subway; Walmart Statesboro; and CH Robinson Worldwide, Inc.*

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from Statesboro!



I recently had a visit from alumna, **Denise Jordan** (MKT, 1984), now married to **Chris Lane** (MGT, 1984; baseball). What a delightful lady! She brought their second son, **Bronson**, to see the campus. Their older son, **Braedon**, is attending Covenant College, where he is playing baseball. Since she had not been back to the 'Boro in a while, she was pleasantly surprised by all the

new buildings, the buses, pedestrian walkway, etc. The lesson to be learned—Visit your alma mater with greater frequency!

The search for a new COBA dean brings reflection. Deans seem to stay longer in COBA than other colleges. My first year at Georgia Southern was 1970-71, and Dr. **Paul LaGrone** was chairman—not chair, or chairperson—of the Division of Business. In 1972-73, we became a School of Business and Dr. **Origen James** became dean in 1974-75, tenure 12 years; followed by Dr. **Carl Gooding**, 1986-1987, tenure 28 years, and Dr. **Ron Shiffler**, 2002-2003, tenure 10 years, as dean of the College of Business Administration. For some, each dean was here way too long, but COBA has continued to grow and graduate better-prepared students for today's business world.

A note to our accounting graduates—please do not ignore recent notes from me. Our new School of Accountancy director,

Dr. **Tim Pearson**, is interested in improving accounting alumni records to enhance accreditation opportunities. Employers and large firms place significant importance on placement data for interviewing on campus.

For six years during my career at Georgia Southern, I served as director of the Southeast Georgia Small Business Development Center. The primary problem new businesses always had was advertising. Now, when I get updates from alums who have started new businesses, or are in sales with an established firm, and they write, "Do not put in the *Eagle Executive*," I am always amazed they forego the free advertising. We mail 24,000 *Eagle Executives*, twice annually, across the country. But, for those who want to stay out of the spotlight, we honor that request. The updates are very important to COBA and the various departments. Professors are very interested in where their former students are employed. The information is kept in-house, not disseminated in any way, except through the *Eagle Executive*.

If you know of one of our COBAns who has done well, please let me know, and, please, do not assume the old guy has heard. And sometimes, I have to hear something at least two times before it sinks in...when you get older, you will understand!

A group of retired COBA faculty eat somewhere in the 'Boro each Friday. So, if you are in town and see a table of older folk, stop by and say, "Hi, are you the ROMEO Group—Retired Old Men Eating Out?" We'd be glad to see you!

Lewis M. Stewart

Department News

Finance & Economics

Chris Brunt attended the 11th Annual International Industrial Organization conference in Boston, MA. Dr. Brunt will attend the Academy Health 2013 Annual Research Meeting in Baltimore, MD, in June.

Rongrong Zhang, John Hatem, Yaseen Alhaja Yaseen, and John Barkoulas attended the annual meeting of the Eastern Finance Association in St Petersburg, FL, in April. While there, Drs. Barkoulas and Yaseen presented a paper, "Price Discovery for Cross-Listed Firms with Foreign IPOs"; Dr. Hatem presented his paper, "Aggregation and Dollar-weighted Returns"; and Dr. Barkoulas also chaired the conference's Alpha and Beta sessions. Dr. Zhang also attended the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk conference at Georgia State University, Atlanta, in April.

Garfield Blake attended and presented a paper at the Southwestern Social Science Association conference, New Orleans, LA, in March.

Information Systems

The success of SAP@GSU Advantage has lead to Georgia Southern being selected as the first stop on the Share the Knowledge Round-the-World Bike Tour. SAP has partnered with the Interactive Design Foundation to sponsor the global tour and Georgia Southern students and faculty attending the May 22 event at the RAC received free interactive software and text support from the ID Foundation.

Cheryl Aasheim has been elected secretary for the SEDSI professional organization.

Tom Case addressed a faculty development conference for the Perdue School of Business, Salisbury University, MD, in January. His presentation featured the HEC Montreal's ERP Sim game and SAP University Alliance. Dr. Case also began serving as information systems education and curriculum track co-chair for the ICIS 2013 conference which will be held in Milan, Italy, and as conference co-chair for the AMCIS 2014 Conference that will take place in Savannah in August 2014.

Geoff Dick served as education track co-chair for the 2013 European Conference on Information Systems.

Kevin Elder became the first Georgia Southern faculty member to make a presentation, "Using Business By Design to Teach SAP/ERP Concepts to Non-Technical Students" at SAP's largest annual conference, the Sapphire. We say goodbye and best wishes to Dr. Elder, who is leaving Georgia Southern to accept a position at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville.

Adrian Gardiner successfully completed his year as president-elect, transitioning to the role of president, of the Southern Association for Information Systems (SAIS). He served as coordinator for the SAIS 2013 conference held in April in Savannah. Dr. Gardiner also led a workshop at the SAP Academic Conference held in Milwaukee in March.

Mallory Mitchell (FIN, 2010), an SAP associate analyst for Newell Rubbermaid's Catapult Business Analytics, returned to campus for the internship and summer job fair sponsored by Career Services in March. She spoke to several information systems classes and the SAP@GSU Advantage student group, highlighting SAP career opportunities at Newell Rubbermaid, the value of ASUG involvement, and the TERP10 SAP Academy.

Camille Rogers and **Bob Szymanski** had a busy spring leading SAP training sessions for Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah and presenting workshops at the SAP Academic Conference. Dr. Rogers taught a TERP10 SAP Student Certification Academy for Central Michigan University, and Dr. Szymanski led a TERP10 Student Certification Academy for HEC Montreal. Dr. Szymanski also began teaching an ERP course in Georgia State University's professional masters program, while Dr. Rogers's ABAP programming course students competed in the SAP University Alliances mobile applications competition at which one team finished in the top five.

Paige Rutner has been appointed program chair for the SAIS 2014 Conference.

Management

McGraw-Hill/Irwin's February 2013 *Management Monthly* newsletter, featured "In the Trenches" guest contributor Ms. **Jan Grimes** sharing her energetic and engaging approach to teaching classes online; a "Thought Leader Interview" by **Steve Cady** on Ms. Grimes's perspectives about education for today's managers; and her book review of the 1936 classic [and its current version] *How To Win Friends and Influence People* [in the digital age] by **Dale Carnegie**.

A group of ten Georgia Southern students in Dr. **Luke Pittaway's** applied small business management class have been promoting Bulloch County's Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 20 East Cherry Street, downtown Statesboro, during spring semester. The students' goal was to raise \$5,000 in donations for ReStore, a secondhand shop that sells a wide variety of goods from children's toys to furniture and building materials. The ReStore is Habitat's largest fundraiser and proceeds go to build affordable homes for hard-working, low-income families. Habitat has built more than 36 homes in the area.



Students **Alex Coxworth, Mackenzie Faile, Derrick Foulke, Megan Green, Jeremy Johnson, Mike Kayler, Cameron Langley, Arian Malavery, Kyle McCloskey, Cameron Naab, and Zachary Williams** pose outside of Habitat's ReStore.

Marketing & Logistics

Jessica Robinson, PhD student in logistics, has been nominated to participate in the "Future Faculty" program at the University of Tennessee. Future Faculty is outreach initiative of the UT Provost's office to identify promising young scholars for prospective faculty positions. It involves visits to Knoxville, TN, presentations by UT senior academic officers, and an introduction to the University of Tennessee and Knoxville.

Jessica and **Willis Mwangola**, accompanied by **Dr. Rod Thomas**, attended the 2013 doctoral symposium, hosted by the University of Arkansas. Jessica and Willis also had an opportunity to discuss their research with faculty from other universities and network with leading logistics scholars from top schools such as Michigan State, Ohio State, Tennessee, Arizona State, Arkansas, Iowa State, Maryland, and Penn State.

COBA's Center for Sales & Sales Management was named a 2013 Top Sales Program by the Sales Education Foundation.

The Georgia Southern Logistics Association, under the guidance of Drs. **Monique Murfield** and **Chris Boone** hosted thirty recruiters for the Eagle Expo. More than 60 percent of COBA undergraduate logistics students participated in the event and 102 of the 264 COBA students attending the career fair were logistics majors.

School of Accountancy

Lowell Mooney was recently elected by the Georgia Society of CPAs as its American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) designated council representative. The board of directors acts as the executive committee for the governing AICPA Council, which determines Institute programs and establishes general policies. The AICPA Council is made up of elected and appointed members from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. The board oversees management and organizes the various volunteer committees that report to it. Dr. Mooney's term begins with the Council's fall meeting in Los Angeles, CA.

Loughry Recognized for Teamwork Models



Dr. Misty Loughry has been awarded Georgia Southern's Center for Teaching, Learning, & Scholarship's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award for her research in creating practical, web-based teamwork tools for the classroom. The award, bestowed by peers at Georgia Southern, recognizes a research concept, known as the CATME SMARTER system, built around simple, reliable, and validated self- and peer-evaluation instruments developed from literature-reviewed conceptual and empirical studies.

Team-member behaviors measured by the new instruments were originally published in *Educational & Psychological Measurement*

before the behavior-anchored rating scale, measuring five categories of team-member contribution, was published on-line under the name "Team-Maker." The second tool allowed instructors to assign teams on criteria and weightings chosen, offered enhanced security features, and facilitated collection and interpretation of ratings and feedback.

In the past three years, the innovative team measurement research tools have been recognized by a 2009 Premier Award, 2010 publication in *Advances in Engineering Education*, and 2011 Best Symposium in Management Education and Development Award at the Academy of Management Conference. Most recently, in 2012, the *Academy of Management Learning & Education* published the behavior-anchored rating scale instrument, which along with related *a priori* research, has been presented at more than ten academic conferences. Congratulations, Dr. Loughry, on receiving this award. ♦



As part of the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" campaign, **Gordon Smith**, MBA director, donned a pair of red high heels and marched along the pedestrian from the University Union to COBA. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is an international event to raise awareness about gender relations and sexual violence.

Faculty Promotions and Tenures

Britton A. McKay
Promoted to Associate Professor of Accounting and Tenured

John Barkoulas
Promoted to Professor of Finance

Handlen — Fifth Freeman Lecturer

The fifth annual William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture was held Monday, April 8, at the Nessmith-Lane Assembly Hall. Dr. **Luke Pittaway**, William A. Freeman Distinguished chair in Free Enterprise and director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, welcomed students and introduced the Freeman Memorial Lecture Series in honor of Mr. Freeman, a 1957 graduate of Georgia Southern, who was president, chief financial officer, and director of Watkins Associated Industries and managing general partner of Wilwat Properties, both of Atlanta. Mr. Freeman endowed the William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair of Free Enterprise, Freeman Business Scholars Program including full, four year scholarships in business, ten scholarships in the University Honors Program, and the COBA Professor of the Year Award since 1991, when he was named COBA Alumnus of the Year. Prior to his death in November 2001, Mr. Freeman was inducted into the COBA Hall of Fame in 1998, named the Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters at the May 1999 graduation ceremonies.

David Handlen (MGT, 1971) presented the 2013 Freeman Lecture, "Turning a Venture Around." David explained he was in the Air Force for seven years taking night classes, literally all over the country because of relocations, yet, finally left the Air Force in 1969 to complete his degree at Georgia Southern. For the aspiring entrepreneurs in the audience, David advised "Georgia Southern has a good management school. I got into it, enjoyed it, and excelled." Particularly challenging for David, at the time, were "Dr. Ric Stapleton's case study classes that helped bring math, finance, human resources, accounting, and data processing together to understand how a business runs," he said. While at Georgia Southern, David enjoyed one of his first entrepreneurial jobs, managing the theatre in downtown Statesboro.

Following graduation, his first job in a Southeast Georgia local government office

would leave him with few options. His career path rapidly changed to production management when he took a job at a *Frito-Lay* plant in North Carolina. Beginning as a line supervisor, David advanced to production manager. At the time, *Frito-Lay* was growing rapidly, building three-to-five new plants a year. David was part of that success. His career took off, pushing him up the corporate ladder, as his salary increased with each new job he took. Later in that career, he helped start two new plants in Wisconsin and New York. Entrepreneurship was in his blood!

From *Frito-Lay*, David moved to *Laura Scudders*, a snack food company in California. With 600 employees and failing production, David turned things around and the company was sold. Other turn-arounds included *Azar Foods*, *Klein Brothers*, and *Winchester Meat*, later a division of *Standard Meat Company*. *Winchester*, founded 1898 in Hutchinson, KS,

had been idle for several years when *Standard* bought it for less than \$50,000, turned it around, and sold it for several million. David agreed this was one his most satisfying "turn-around ventures."

In closing remarks, David reminded entrepreneurs to do their homework, be prepared, and sell their ideas. The most important of all skills? "I've met a lot of young people who talk too much..." he said, "sharpen your listening skills."

Retiring in 2010, David now enjoys consulting on business and entrepreneurial challenges from time to time and still finds time to substitute teach in his hometown of Fort Worth, TX. He enjoys gardening and racquetball.

The Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership is a focal point for students, alumni entrepreneurs, local small businesses, and faculty members interested in venture creation, business growth, and local economic development. It is designed to enable students to learn about entrepreneurship, help them start businesses, and work with entrepreneurs. ♦



David Handlen



Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship recipient Alexis Joanne Smith (l) and Dean Wells (r)



BETA GAMMA SIGMA

The Honor Society for AACSB Accrediting Business Programs



Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship recipient Emily Anne Archer (l) and Dean Wells (r)

Junior Inductees

Annalee Ashley
Kelsey B. Ashman
Camden S. Batchelor
William F. Beausoleil
Hannah J. Bray
Stephen E. Brennan
Kenneth S. Brown
Emma R. Collins
Christopher T. Cone
Leah N. Coquerel
Brandon C. Edwards
Bowen K. Flowers
Shelby L. Freund
Heather D. Gay
Lee C. Guentert

Thomas M. Hamilton
Joshua K. Hartzell
Rebecca S. Henderson
Scott A. Hendley
Shelby N. Hickman
Lindsey N. Hodges
Amanda Macchio
Kayla M. McFalls
Katherine F. Mcgrath
Megan N. Meyer
Robert A. Oellerich
Rachel M. Paule
Emily A. Prestridge
Daniel C. Pulliam
Sean A. Reid
Timothy R. Rowland

Ashleigh N. Sapp
Daniel M. Schmit
Austin R. Sharp
Margaret E. Sheppard
Alexis J. Smith
Tanner M. Smith
Jazmin M. Tribble
Leanne R. Turner
Lesli R. Willoughby
Charles C. Witkowski

Senior Inductees

Emily A. Archer
Katherine N. Baker
Matthew E. Caines

Kasey L. Carter
Rebecca S. Crawford
Kimberly D. Dixon
En Z. Feng
Sarah K. Gleissle
Marlea C. Hawkins
Joshua T. Hinson
Kristy E. Hurst
Joshua S. Pollak
Drew E. Siegle
Dakota J. Socha
Linda C. Stephens
Delaney N. Tuggle
Mary N. Williams

Graduate Inductees

Sara E. Blair
Joshua B. Claxton
Laura M. Cooper
Milind J. Dalvi
Howard R. Dettmann
Adley C. Eng
Robert Fields
Georgina L. Knapp
Carlos Larry
Karen S. Masters
Katherine McCurdy
Patrick J. Storey
Erica K. Van Wagoner
Nathan D. Wanamaker

Logistics Team Presents in Jacksonville

The Georgia Southern Logistics team of **Derek Prijatel**, **Erin Gianella**, **Nick Rosensweig**, and **Chris Mitchell** competed in the IANA Logistics and Supply Chain Case Competition hosted by the University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, in April. Under the direction of coach and mentor Dr. **Monique Murfield**, assistant professor of logistics, they were challenged with a logistics case to analyze and present to logistics executives from *CSX*, *CH Robinson*, *Seaconus*, *Johnson & Johnson*, *Foremost Quality Logistics*, *CTL Intermodal Services*, the *JAXUSA Port Partnership*, and *McCormick & Company*. ♦



Derek Prijatel, Erin Gianella, Nick Rosensweig, and Chris Mitchell pose with Dr. Murfield.

Bland Visits Campus



David Bland (c), a native of Jesup, president of WIT Industries, and owner of Wendy's and Zaxby's franchises, is pictured with students from Susan Roach's intro to business class. He spoke on entrepreneurship, franchising, and being a successful manager.

23rd Annual Accounting Day Celebrated



Job Fair Attendees

The Zeta Delta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi and the Georgia Southern University Accounting Association sponsored the School of Accountancy's 23rd Annual Accounting Day Awards Banquet on May 1. The evening's events began with a career fair for accounting majors. Twenty-two accounting firms and professional organizations with more than 50 industry representatives met with students to discuss full-time positions and internships. The evening ended with the annual awards banquet at which the School awarded scholarships.

Beta Alpha Psi President, **Trae Taylor**, recognized several members for their active participation in the accounting honor society, and he presented scholarships to **Kevin Thomas, Lisa Watkins-Cecen, Hannah Tatum, and Katie Smith**.

Accounting Association Vice President, **Semetra Garden** presented the Accounting Association award to **Abbie Gail Parham**. The Accounting Association presented the Professor of the Year Award to **Thomas Buckhoff**.

Academic Achievement awards, jointly sponsored by the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs and area chapters, were presented to **Tanesha Odum, Tara Dunn, Delaney Tuggle, Joshua Hinson, Leah Epperson, and Samantha Hairston** by Ms. Cate Cassotta of Nichols Cauley & Associates of the Heart of Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; to **Trenton Dooley, Blake Waits, and Bradley Bernard** by Mr. Tal Johnson of Dabbs Hickman Hill & Cannon, Savannah, from the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; and to **Joshua Pollak, Kristy Hurst, and Gale Blackmore** by Dr. **Chuck Harter** from the Southeast Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs.

Ms. **Stephanie Todd** presented the Savannah Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants Academic Distinction Award to **Grant Triplett**, and Ms. **Monica Woods** presented the Coastal Georgia

Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors Academic Distinction Award to **Michelle Wise**.

Joshua Pollak received the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award for being the School of Accountancy's top graduating senior. This award was presented by Dr. **Lowell Mooney**.

Dr. **Timothy Pearson**, director of the School of Accountancy, and Mr. **Billy Hickman** of Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, Statesboro, a charter member of the Accounting Advisory Council, presented the



COBA alumnus James Massey (l), accountant, and Wayne Yesbick (top r), head of Training and Learning, both of Draffin & Tucker, speak to students at the career fair.

Accounting Advisory Council award to **Jessie Knight, Faiza Newaz, and Qianting Yao**.

Mr. **Matthew Workman** of Becker CPA Professional Education awarded **Delaney Tuggle** a full CPA review package and awarded half CPA review packages to **Christopher Williamson, Mary Katherine Mason, and Travis Page**.

The Southeast Georgia and Savannah Chapters of the Georgia Society of CPAs, jointly with the Georgia Society's Educational Foundation, co-sponsored the Georgia Accountants' Team Effort program. Presented by Dr. **Robert Marley**, this year's recipients were **Heather Potts, Joshua Claxton, Leah Epperson, Christopher Chernek, Lamaudice Holmes, Dan Michael Hester, and Brian Mayr**.

Ms. **Kim Hartstock** of Warren Averitt + Gifford, Hillegass & Ingwersen, Atlanta, presented the Ronald A. Lundstrom Scholarship in Forensic Accounting to **Nicole Griffin**.

The first-time scholarship from Elliott Davis, PLLC, Greenville, SC, was presented to **Tara Dunn** by Mr. **Bill Woodward**.

The Paul G. LaGrone Scholarships, established by former business Dean Dr. Paul G. LaGrone, were awarded to **Daniel Schmit**

and **Erik Gales** by Dr. Timothy Pearson.

Mr. **Wayne Yesbick** with Draffin and Tucker, Albany, presented scholarships to **Christopher Cone** and **Thysamine Erikson**. Mr. **Alex Knight** of Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, Atlanta, presented scholarships to **Weston Fort** and **Heather Gay**. Mr. **Brendan Adams** of Mauldin & Jenkins, Albany, presented scholarships to **Rogette Sands, Thomas DiCesare, and LaShai Joshua**; Mr. **Tim Sobon** of Moore Stephens Tiller, Brunswick, presented scholarships to **Samantha Hairston, Hannah Tatum, and Colton David**; Ms. Cate Cassotta of Nichols Cauley and Associates, Dublin, presented scholarships to **Charles-Robert Riebel** and **Rebecca Henderson**. Mr. **Phil Moore** of Porter Keadle Moore, Atlanta, presented an award to **Belinda Classens**.

This year's D. Greg Morgan Family Scholarship, sponsored by **Greg and Ruth Morgan** of Atlanta, was presented to **Joshua Hinson** by Ms. **June Paschal** of Mauldin & Jenkins.

Mr. **Roy Austin** of the Savannah CFO Council, presented awards to **Ruth Brown** and **Aytek Tekay**.

Two additional new scholarships were presented this year: the Michael W. Skinner Award presented to **Emily Pestridge** and the Gary Davis Accounting Award presented to **Danielle Laduron**.

Dr. Timothy Pearson presented faculty awards to Dr. **Brit McKay** for excellence in research and Dr. **Leslie Fletcher** for excellence in service.

Accounting Day is made possible through the generosity of many organizations that



Tim Pearson with Accounting Advisory Council awardees Jessie Knight, Faiza Newaz, and Qianting Yao

have supported Georgia Southern's accounting program for several years. Many thanks go to the following corporate sponsors: **Becker Professional Review; Cherry Bekaert, LLP; Dabbs Hickman Hill and Cannon, LLP; Draffin and Tucker, LLP; Elliott Davis, PLLC; the Georgia Society of CPAs; Warren Averitt + Gifford Hillegass and Ingwersen, LLP; Habif Arogeti and Wynne, LLP; Holland, Henry & Bromley, LLP; the Institute of Management Accountants; KPMG, LLP; Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC; Moore Stephens Tiller, LLC; Nichols Cauley & Associates, LLC; and Porter Keadle Moore, LLC.** ♦

The Carter Chair



Dr. Campbell

Dr. **Constance R. Campbell**, professor of management, has been named the W. E. Carter Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Business Administration to advance the teaching of leadership in business. The distinguished chair was established in 1999 with a gift of \$500,000 from **Mildred C. Jenkins** in honor of her late father, **W. E. Carter, Sr.**, and late brother, **W. E. Carter, Jr.** In 2000, the State of Georgia matched her gift, creating the \$1 million eminent scholar position.

Dr. Campbell, who succeeds retiring Chair **William W. McCartney**, brings a wealth of experience to the chair. She joined COBA in 1992 upon completion of her PhD in organizational behavior at Florida State University. Her research focus has been leadership in business, and she teaches leadership courses in the MBA program. Dr. Campbell is recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award in the Georgia WebMBA program, the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service in the MBA program, the W. A. and Emma Lou Crider Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service.

The *Carter Lecture Series*, created under the auspices of the W. E. Carter Endowed Chair, honors the benefactor's nephew, **Harry S. Carter, PhD**, management science and information systems, The University of Georgia. Formerly vice president for academic affairs and president at Georgia Southern, Dr. Carter served as provost and dean of college at The Citadel, Charleston, SC, where he is currently professor of business administration.

This spring, the second annual Carter Lecture Series was hosted by Dr. Constance Campbell, newly named Carter Chair, who introduced featured speaker, Stephen F. Austin University Professor of Executive Communication and Leadership in the MBA program, Dr. **Tim Clipson**. The topic of

Clipson's address was "Cracker Jacks, Kangaroos, and Snipe Hunting: Life Lessons for Today's Leaders." Dr. Clipson identified leaders as "unique," represented by different prizes in each Cracker Jack box. He emphasized

leaders must aim high in their goals and aspirations, maintaining the "kangaroo" lessons of excitement for each new day, and developing the "Snipe Hunter's" sensitivity to the needs of people. "Leadership is about people," he said, "nobody cares what you can do, or what you know, until they understand whether you care." He was treated to a rousing applause from students in attendance. ♦



Dr. Clipson



GATE Scholars Heather Potts, Lamaudice Holmes, Leah Epperson, Joshua Claxton, Christopher Chernek, Dan Michael Hester, and Brian Mayr

For more information on any of our accounting programs, please contact

School of Accounting, P. O. Box 8141 • Room 2203, Statesboro, GA 30460-8141,

Phone: (912) 478-2228, E-Mail: dsneathen@georgiasouthern.edu, Website: <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/depts/acc/>.



Spotlight on Graduate Studies

From the Directors

MAcc and WebMAcc



Dwight Sneathen

With spring semester in our rearview mirror and the first semester of the WebMAcc in the books, faculty members are excited about the quality of students in this first class. As the next crop of applicants are selected and get ready to start in the fall, we continue to receive constant inquiries about the program from across the country. It has become obvious this new degree program is a hot commodity in the current business environment!

This year, for the first time in many years, accounting has fallen from the top spot in the National Association of Colleges and Employers' ranking of majors with the most job offers. Fortunately, it only fell to number two. With that in mind, several new firms joined us at our career fair prior to our Accounting Day Awards Banquet on May 1

(see related article on page 5) at which graduate students received more than \$30,000 in scholarships while networking with professionals representing firms from Miami, FL, to Washington, DC—another example of the success of our program and the support we receive from the firms and organizations that recruit our students. Thanks to all who attended this annual event!

Our Forensic Accounting Program continues to grow as we receive applications from, literally, around the world. This unique program has few peers, as does the Fraud and Forensic Education Conference, held annually (see related article on page 12).

The faculty and staff in the School of Accountancy continue to work to get our name out beyond Georgia and the Southeast. We appreciate your support and welcome your comments. Go get 'em, Accounting Eagles! ♦

MBA

Greetings from the MBA office! We are pleased to announce two upcoming events in the Savannah area.

The first, *Savannah's Women in Business Expo*, will be held on Saturday, June 1, from noon until 4:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency ballroom on Riverstreet. Go to <http://www.savwomeninbusinessexpo.com/index.html> for more information.

The second, for which COBA's graduate business programs are the principal sponsor, is a kick-off event to introduce *Launch SAVANNAH*, a new council of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, which will occur on June 13, 5:30 – 7:30, at the *Ships of the Sea*

Maritime Museum's North Garden. The event will foster an environment that attracts and retains young talent and serve as a resource for emerging leaders, ages 22-40, by providing professional development, civic and cultural community involvement, and engaging networking opportunities.

We hope to see you there! ♦



Gordon Smith

John Collins

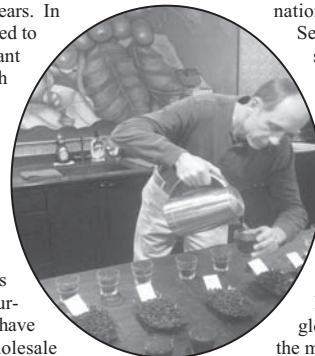
John Collins's (MBA, 1973) time at Georgia Southern served him well in senior executive positions in Georgia before he moved to Australia to run a private company, there, for 10 years. In retirement, he has returned to Savannah, as adjutant roastmaster for Savannah Coffee Roasters, the oldest and largest coffee roaster in Savannah, first established at 130 East Bay Street in 1909 by **Edgar R. Morrison**, age 21.

John and his wife, **Lori**, marketing and sales director, recently purchased the company and have been growing the wholesale business with outlets in grocery stores, bed and breakfast inns, bake and gift shops, and specialty cafés. They are assisted by Chief Roastmaster, **Hayden Banks**, who met **Clint Eastwood** during filming of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and created the wonderful "Good and Evil Coffee," an exotic blend of the best South American arabica beans with regional Asian and African bean flavors that reminds us, "Life is too short for bad coffee!"

The company's "Captain's Choice" was recently named to the Top 10 of USA coffees by *Consumer Reports*, and "The Roastery"

part of the operation is moving to a larger warehouse to cater to increased demand from local residents, visitors to Savannah, and growing national and international markets. "Savannah Seduction" is now being shipped to Milan, Italy, where it has been "discovered."

John and Lori have truly found "The Poetry and Romance of Coffee," to wit, "No wonder there is something magic about the effects of a cup of good coffee. It has gathered to itself the glory of Southern suns and the mystery of tropic nights. It has been wooed by the winds of romance and lulled by the songs of the Seven Seas. It recalls the music of soft tongues, the melody of strange instruments, and the rhythm of languorous dances. It has seen the droop of dark eyes, the deep flush of olive cheeks, and love songs fell upon the palpating night. Now wonder it conveys to the senses the subtle perfume of surcharged blooms, the rare memoirs of wondrous journeying, and the romantic fragrance of exotic and opulent nature." (*Simmon's Spice Mill*, 1916). ♦



Online Graduate Business and IT Programs Ranked Among the Nation's Best

Georgia Southern's graduate business and information technology programs have once again been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for giving students flexible and quality online options to earn their college degrees. The two programs have been ranked in the list of "2014 Best Online Programs" in which *U.S. News* evaluated nearly 860 online programs at colleges and universities across the country, including best online graduate computer information technology programs (#15) and best online graduate business programs (#34).

"The ranking is an indication of our commitment to the college's online graduate programs and expanding options available to best serve our students, most of whom are already in the work force," said **Bill Wells**,

dean of the College of Business. "Our online programs allow these students to continue working and pursuing additional education."

In the *U.S. News* survey, only degree-granting programs offered 100 percent online were considered in the rankings. They were assigned an overall numerical rank based upon student engagement, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. Admissions selectivity also factored into the rankings for all online master degree programs, and academic peer reputation was included in the calculations for engineering and business program rankings. The complete listing of "Best Online Programs" is available at <http://www.usnews.com/education/online-education>. ♦



For more information COBA's graduate programs, contact

Gordon Smith, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration

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Website: <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/graduate/>

ALUMNI **in the** SPOTLIGHT



Melinda Fischer



reinsurance (ARe) certification, was certified in AIR modeling software, and received the certified property casualty underwriter (CPCU) designation by the time IPC Re was purchased by Validus, in 2009, when she moved to Lancashire Insurance. Melinda has recently completed the associate in claims (AIC) certification and enjoys her work in insurance.

While life revolves around work and family, Melinda enjoys swimming and snorkeling, which does not get any better than in Bermuda. ♦

Melinda Catherine Fischer (IT, 1996) a native of Bermuda, came to Georgia in the early 1990s. She married **Rolf Alfredo Fischer** almost 23 years ago, and they have three children, **Alana** (14), and twins, **Luciana** and **Sebastian** (4).

Melinda's career began in 1997 with Cerner Corporation, a healthcare software developer headquartered in Kansas City, MO. As a systems engineer, installing VAX and AXP systems software in hospitals and laboratories, she worked from an Atlanta office until 2003, then relocated back to Bermuda.

Back home, her second career in insurance began as an underwriter for IPC Re, the Bermudan reinsurance specialist. Melinda completed her associate in



Cedric Henry



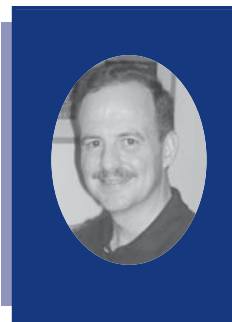
business solutions for government and commercial enterprises.

Millennium Corporation has been recognized in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by INC 500 as one of the fastest growing, privately held companies in the nation; in 2010 and 2011 by Washington Technology Fast 50 and Fantastic 50 Virginia Businesses; and most recently, as a 2013 "Top Business" by DiversityBusiness.com.

Prior to co-founding Millennium Corporation, Cedric served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, where he developed his skills in naval operations and Department of Defense acquisition programs. He has held numerous leadership assignments, including senior supply officer for the USS Vreeland and USS Stephen W. Groves. ♦

Cedric Henry (MGT, 1984) is the chief operations officer of Millennium Corporation, Arlington, VA. He along with his business partner **Kevin Jennings**, established the company in 2004 with the vision of offering world class, integrated

Tim Daiss



In his new career, he worked with the *Statesboro Herald*, *Effingham Herald*, *Connect Savannah*, *Savannah Magazine*, and several Atlanta publications, writing on political, national, and international news. His second book, *Rebels, Saints & Sinners: Savannah's Rich History and Colorful Personalities*, was published in 2002.

Tim moved to Manila, Philippines, in 2006 as a contributing writer for Shanghai's *Xinmin Weekly*, covering Philippine President **Gloria Arroyo's** business trips to China. Later, he covered the Asia Pacific region for British and American news agencies and is currently based in Taipei, Taiwan, reporting for U.S.- and UK-based publications, including *The Independent*, the fourth largest newspaper in the UK. ♦

Tim Daiss (FIN, 1985), a native Savannahian, pursued graduate studies and various jobs, including sales at Georgia Pacific, before writing his first book on Civil War history in Georgia, opening a journalism career, in 1999.

Garry Spinks



As an account executive at Aon Hewitt, Garry served a number of midsize and FORTUNE 500 employers, public and private universities, colleges, and college consortiums.

He is a board member for the Georgia Foundation of Independent Colleges, a member of College and University Professional Association for Human Resources' Corporate Advisory Council, and former board member for National Association of College and University Business Officers' Corporate Council.

"Garry is a leader who understands higher education clients' distinct needs and offers innovative solutions unique to their challenges," confirms **Chris Michalak**, Aon Hewitt's global chief commercial officer.

Aon Hewitt's parent company, Aon (NYSE: AON) is a global provider of risk management, insurance, human resources, and outsourcing services. Through more than 61,000 colleagues worldwide, Aon empowers clients in more than 120 countries. It has been repeatedly identified as one of the world's best by industry sources. ♦

Lincolnshire, Illinois-based, Aon Hewitt has appointed of **Garry Spinks** (FIN, 1996) as national practice leader for higher education consulting. Garry has more than 15 years of client management and consulting expertise with senior university administration, board-level, and advisory leadership groups, including health policy and project management leadership in employer, multi-employer, and consortial contexts. He is responsible for Aon Hewitt's consulting efforts for more than 300 universities, colleges, academic medical centers, and related entities.

2013 Awards

The 2013 Awards of Excellence for faculty and staff were presented at a banquet and ceremony held at Spring Hill Suites Hospitality on April 19, 2013.

The William A. Freeman Professor of the Year

Mark D. Hanna



Dr. Mark Hanna is a highly respected colleague and has been nominated for National Teacher of the Year. From first year experience courses to doctoral seminars, Dr. Hanna engages teaching at every program level. His ability to communicate is demonstrated by his strong instructor ratings among students and proven record of published textbooks and scholarly articles. Dr. Hanna is a conscientious, collegial, and culturally-adept teacher and scholar. He also provides strong service contributions to the institution through his membership on the Faculty Senate and three standing committees in COBA. Dr. Hanna's wisdom and servant-leadership are reflected by Augustus Hare: "The intellect of the wise is like glass; it admits the light of heaven and reflects it." COBA pays tribute to Dr. Mark Hanna's intellect and wisdom with this award.

The W. A. & Emma Lou Crider Award for Excellence in Teaching

Rodney W. Thomas, II



Rod Thomas is truly deserving of this year's Crider Teaching Award! He has the enviable ability to bring the "real" world into the classroom and to make such an impression on students that they carry their lessons into life. As one student put it "Dr. Thomas really cares about not only how we do in the class, but he is also concerned with making sure we can get jobs, and he is extremely helpful with job questions!" His students have also strongly commended him on his tremendous mentorship and guidance outside of the classroom, often times going above and beyond what his job calls for. In the words of an alumnus, "I may have graduated Georgia Southern University, but I still attend life classes taught by Dr. Thomas."

In presenting Dr. Thomas the Crider Award, Cindy Crider Jarrell stressed the impact good teachers have on their students.

The M. Albert Burke Faculty Fellowship Award

Kevin L. Eastman



Dr. Kevin Eastman, professor of finance, received his undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and his MA and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He joined Georgia Southern in 2007 from Florida State University's College of Business, where he served as the Robert L. Atkins Memorial Professor of Risk Management. He has published more than 30 scholarly articles and received numerous teaching awards, including the prestigious University Undergraduate Teaching Award at Florida State University.

Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service

Ednilson Bernardes



This year's award winner for the Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service is known as a true giving person. Internally, Ednilson Bernardes has been active as a COBA committee and university conference chair, program reviewer, and member of various other department and college level committees. He has given great time and effort in numerous roles, in numerous capacities. Externally, Dr. Bernardes has served tirelessly both in the profession and in the community. Nominated for positions in the Academy of Management, ad hoc reviewer for various journals, and as a guest speaker, our recipient is well-respected in the academic community. In the local community, he is active in Kiwanis and the Civil Air Patrol.

The Bank of America Faculty Award

Joseph S. Ruhland



Dr. Joe Ruhland is an associate professor of finance. He received his BBA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his PhD in risk management and insurance from The University of Georgia. He has published in the *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, *Journal of Insurance Regulation*, and *Journal of Insurance Issues* in his research areas of interest of asymmetric information, political risk, and corporate governance. Prior to joining Georgia Southern, he was an employee benefits consultant for Hewitt Associates, AON Consulting.

T. J. Morris, Jr., Faculty Award for Excellence in Research

Xinfang Wang



Xinfang (Jocelyn) Wang was selected for the COBA Research Award due to high quality publications in several leading academic journals. In particular, Dr. Wang's publication in *Management Science* demonstrates her commitment to the highest standards of research excellence. *Management Science* is widely regarded as one of the premiere journals that spans across all business disciplines.

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service in the MBA

Jacqueline K. Eastman



Dr. Jackie Eastman consistently receives the department's highest student teaching evaluations, and students consistently note her preparation, knowledge of subject matter, and willingness to help students. She has received two teaching awards in the WebMBA program and published six peer-reviewed journal articles in the last year. Her service is exemplary, including external reviewer for the Masters of Arts in English Literature program, member of the COBA Strategic Planning Committee, member of the Marketing and Logistics Promotion and Tenure Committees, and chair of the COBA Student Retention, Graduation, and Instructional Resources Committee.

The Charles R. Gibbs Faculty Award

Paige S. Rutner



Dr. Paige Rutner is well-liked, respected by students, and highly praised for her willingness to clarify complex concepts, be helpful outside of class, and care

about students. She is a team player—always helping ensure alignment between the IS curriculum and employer needs—and willing to accept the challenge of new course preparation. Her research methods course for the PhD program exemplifies the caring and collegial attitude the IS Department cherishes and strives to maintain.

Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon Accounting Scholar Award

Charles I. Harter



Dr. Chuck Harter is an all around role model for faculty in teaching, research, and service. He is a great collaborator and is instrumental in CPA review preparation for students. Dr. Harter provided excellent help in the AACSB accreditation process.

M. Jill Lockwood

Dr. Jill Lockwood is a leader in moving the School of Accountancy forward in online education and in our online WebMBA program. She is a solid mentor for junior faculty.



P. Eddie Metrejean



Dr. Eddie Metrejean serves as a leader of Beta Alpha Psi and leads auditing instruction. He has carried a heavy load teaching while being a very strong researcher. He does a wonderful job preparing students for success in public accounting.

LeVon E. Wilson



Dr. LeVon Wilson is an excellent teacher and a prolific researcher. He has led the College of Business and the School of Accountancy in creating a culture of learning and assessment.

Britton A. McKay

Dr. Britt McKay is an excellent contributor in service, teaching, and research who is always willing to help a student or colleague.



of Excellence

Faculty awards are based upon a variety of characteristics including research activities, teaching excellence, distinguished service, and development potential.



The 2013 COBA Faculty/Staff award winners and Dean Bill Wells (far right)

J. Daniel Speight Banking Excellence Award



Karen L.
Hamilton

Dr. Karen L. Hamilton, associate professor of finance, earned her bachelor degree in finance from the University of Rhode Island, master in instructional design from Pennsylvania State University, and doctorate in business administration from Florida State University. Before coming to Georgia Southern she served as director of the Brantley Risk and Insurance Center at Appalachian State University, executive Director of the American Risk and Insurance Association, and director of Curriculum, American Institute, Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and Insurance Institute of America. Dr. Hamilton's research interests include retirement and personal financial planning.

Olivia Suggs Flanagan Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching or Service

J. Lowell Mooney



Dr. Lowell Mooney has won numerous awards and been a vital part of the School of Accounting for many years. He is a valued colleague and provides a great connection for the program to accounting professionals and our alumni.

The Brown & Williamson Faculty Award

Feruzan Irani-Williams



Feruzan Irani-Williams established herself as a top teacher in COBA last year by winning the Crider Teaching Award. With Dr. Irani-Williams, it is not so much what she does, but how she does it. She is an encourager. Her students continue to describe her as friendly and helpful. She co-authors with many colleagues. She provides significant and meaningful service at every level of our academic organization, including advisor to the Society for Human Resource Management student group and member of COBA's Scholarship Committee; COBA's Student Retention, Graduation, and Instructional Resources Committee; Southern Association of Colleges and Universities Assessment Committee; three faculty search committees; and COBA Dean's search committee.

Porter, Keadle, Moore, LLP Faculty Fellowship in Accounting

Nicholas C. Lynch



Dr. Nick Lynch has received numerous awards and recognitions, including a 2013 Administrative Group Faculty Recognition Award. As a junior faculty member he has

tremendous maturity in his research and is a well regarded and respected teacher. His continued work ethic is exemplary!

Ron and Barbara Shiffler Visiting Faculty Award



Yaseen S.
Alhaj-Yaseen

Dr. Yaseen Alhaj-Yaseen received his PhD in economics from Kansas State University in 2010 and came to Georgia Southern University as a temporary assistant professor in August of the same year. During his service here, he has been a tireless teacher providing his students with an involving and rigorous classroom experience; his student evaluation scores are among the college's highest. He also attended the AACSB-sponsored bridge program in finance at Virginia Tech during the Summer of 2012 and began teaching finance courses in the fall. Alhaj-Yaseen has also been an active researcher publishing several referred journal articles. In addition to his official responsibilities, he is also active in a number of external service activities sponsored by the department.

The Tomlinson & Bond Families Staff Award for Excellence

Mandy M. Scott



Mandy Murray Scott, a 2008 Valdosta State University alumna, worked in a Pensacola, FL, law firm until moving to Statesboro in 2010. Joining COBA as part-time temporary employee, she quickly became the department's administrative secretary, assuming an expanded role in Finance & Economics's

operation and extracurricular activities, including the annual tailgate, COBA golf tournament, and awards banquet. Mrs. Scott's most notable characteristic is her genuine concern and desire to help others.

Administrative Group Faculty Recognition

Dora E. Bock



Hiring Dora Bock was a stroke of good karma. In the short time she has been here, she has done a wonderful job in the classroom, evidenced by strong teaching evaluations and student reports of a knowledgeable, helpful, and well-prepared teacher. She has published an article in the *Journal of Leadership, Accountability, and Ethics*. While her department chair has tried to "shield" her from service during her first year, she is already serving on the COBA Scholarship Committee and as director of the Center for Retail Studies.

Alan W. Mackelprang



Fresh from completing his PhD, Dr. Mackelprang has published two articles in the premier empirical journal for his discipline and an additional article in an A-rated, discipline-based journal. His research achievements have provided COBA and Georgia Southern with positive international recognition. He has also received the Decision Sciences Institute's top dissertation award and a Young Researchers Award from the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals. ♦

Thank You to

The College of Business Administration is grateful to alumni and friends, who through their contributions have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in education. Contributors who earmarked COBA, one of our programs, or scholarship funds during 2012 are listed below. Care has been

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Donor Spotlight

Walt Huggins (FIN, 1980) is co-founder, partner, and executive vice president of Quadrant Real Estate Advisors, an SEC registered investment advisor specializing in real estate investment products, including privately placed commercial mortgages, CMBS, and REITs. With offices in Atlanta; Sydney, Australia; and London, UK, Quadrant has more than \$6 billion in assets under management, and represents foreign and domestic life insurance companies, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and super annuation funds. Walt is based in the headquarters office in Atlanta and is responsible for new investment activity and portfolio management.



Walt Huggins

Walt is married to **DeNorah Stafford Huggins**, and they like spending as much time as possible on their farm near Vidalia—when he is not traveling to see a Georgia Southern football game! They have a daughter, **Natalie** (Berry College, 2009), an artist who lives in Atlanta, and a son, **Evan** (CM, 2012), who works with a commercial construction company in Atlanta. Walt is a past president of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association and is a board member of the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation. Walt comes from a long line of alumni, including a sister, brother, three nieces, two nephews, a sister-and brother-in-law...Go Eagles! ♦

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taken in the preparation of this list to ensure complete and accurate recording; however, if omissions or errors have occurred, we express our sincere regret and request that you bring such errors to our attention.

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Donor Spotlight

In the fall, ACL Services, Ltd, Vancouver, BC, Canada, a global provider of technology for audit, finance, risk, and compliance, donated a \$308,000 software analysis package to COBA



and the School of Accountancy (SOA). The ACL Futures program offers training on the same software and support systems many CPA firms and corporations use in their accounting, auditing, and financial operations. ACL's domestic and international customer base includes 89 percent of American Fortune 500 companies and more than two-thirds of Global Fortune 500 corporations.

Georgia Southern accounting students will gain a major competitive edge in the job market with applied experience in its application and use. Other universities that

have been beneficiaries of the software include the Universities of Texas, Southern California, Missouri, and Nebraska, among others. The ACL Services recognition is the result of research by Dr. Robert Marley, SOA, who had utilized the software at the University of South Florida before he came to Georgia Southern in 2012.

Thank you ACL and Dr. Marley! ♦

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7th Annual Fraud and Forensic Accounting Conference in Atlanta



Jarett Decker, deputy director, chief trial counsel, Division of Enforcement and Investigations, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), was the lead keynote speaker for the 7th Annual Fraud

and Forensic Accounting Education Conference, held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Atlanta's Buckhead District in May. The PCAOB is a nonprofit, investor-protection corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies and ensure informative, accurate, and independent audit reports. The PCAOB also oversees the audits of broker-dealers, including compliance reports filed pursuant to federal securities laws, to promote investor protection. Decker oversees the PCAOB litigation program. Prior to joining the PCAOB in August 2006, Mr. Decker served in the Chicago office of the Securities and Exchange Commission as senior trial counsel in the Division of Enforcement. There, he prosecuted auditing, financial fraud, registration, and market manipulation

cases. Mr. Decker has 14 years prior experience in private law practice, specializing in securities litigation and white-collar criminal defense. He earned a BA from the College of William & Mary and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School. He is an attorney licensed in Washington, DC, and a certified public accountant licensed in Illinois and Virginia.

The three day conference featured five keynote addresses, including Decker, **Paul L. Howard, Jr.**, Fulton County district attorney; **Guy Gebhardt**, acting U.S. trustee for Region 21, including Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; Colonel **Barry Hensley**, retired, vice president, Counter Threat Unit, SecureWorks; and **Victor Hartman**, JD, CPA, CFF, CFE, chief division counsel, FBI, Atlanta.

More than 150 registrants and 37 speakers presented *The Perils of E-Filing*, *Not-for-Profit/Charity Fraud*, *Evidential Discovery on Mobile Devices*, *Damage Assessment Models*, *Data Analytics as an Audit Tool*, *Intellectual Property Valuation*, *Money Laundering and Effective Prosecution*, *Real Estate Financing*

Fraud, Fraud Risks in Cloud Computing, and *Standards of Professional Conduct, or Ethics*.

Thirty-three breakout sessions and five keynote presentations were available to satisfy up to 20 hours of CPE to include two hours of ethics-based training. The meals, breaks, and social hours offered opportunities to interact with a wide scope of participants attending the conference. More information, including a complete agenda, may be found at <http://www.pkm.com/fraudconference/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, the conference has been held in Statesboro, Savannah, Charleston, SC, and Atlanta. The Atlanta-based Porter Keadle Moore, founded as a community-

bank accounting firm in 1977, now represents corporations nation-wide in financial, insurance, technology, biological sciences, and government service arenas. It has been ranked #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.

The School of Accountancy at Georgia Southern University is AACSB accredited. This accreditation supports the national distinction of the School's quality higher education programs consisting of an interdisciplinary undergraduate level fraud examination minor as well as a graduate level forensic accounting concentration. The *Journal of Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business*, published by the School of Accountancy, has been accepted as a peer-reviewed journal by *Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities*. Conference features and presentations are eligible for submission to the editorial board for publishing consideration. ♦

Honors Day

The COBA awards presented at Honors Day and the names of the recipients are listed below.

Accountancy

Paul LaGrone Scholarship:

Courtney E. Martin
Delaney N. Tuggle

The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award: **Allison E. Jansen**

Finance & Economics

Emerging Scholar in Economics Award:
Vincent S. Dattilo

Award for Academic Distinction in Economics: **William Bryan**

Economics Opportunity Scholarship:
Matthew Pauley

Omicron Delta Epsilon:
William Beausoleil
Vincent S. Dattilo
Juan E. Garcia
Alexander Ridlon
Madison Stanford
Samantha M. Smith

Information Systems

Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: **Melvin D. Zuber**

Albert J. Roesel Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate:
Lucretia V. Haynie

Harris Computer Systems Award:
David D. Tammen

Buddy Lichty Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate:
Paul F. Limon

Richard A. Mordecai Award, Outstanding IS Graduate:
Phillip D. Scroggin

Susan Rebstock Williams Business Technology Scholarship: **Tereion Jazmin Heath**

Dr. Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr. Scholarship:
Carlyle Hall

Robert John Consulting SAP University Alliances TERP10 Scholarship:
Samantha Aldridge-Taylor

SAP@GSU TERP10 Scholarship:
Jayson W. Treadway

Matthew Janofsky Scholarship:
Amber Golson

Information Systems Junior Award:
Tereion Jazmin Heath

Information Systems Sophomore Award:
James M. Simons

SAP Faculty Award:
Jayson W. Treadway

Alpha Iota Mu:
Kimberly D. Dixon
Carlyle D. Hall
Joshua K. Hartzell
Lucretia V. Haynie
Tereion J. Heath
Phillip D. Scroggin
David D. Tammen
Jayson W. Treadway
Marcus A. Walker
Melvin D. Zuber

Management

University Award of Excellence for Graduate Students: **Amit Aurora**

SHRM Top Student Award: **Shayla Frinks**

Marketing & Logistics

Logistics Student of the Year:
Evan Downton

Top Marketing Student Award:
Kristina McCallum
Caroline Sanders

Drew Siegle
Andrea Garay Vasquez

Top Sales Student Award:
Phillip Scroggin

Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: **Emily Archer**

The Sack Company Marketing Service Award: **Anni Rainio**

Ray Greenly Memorial Scholarship:
Kelly Sexton
Heather Allen

Aspire2Retail Inter-Collegiate Competition Winning Team:
Reannah Haselden

Aspire2Retail:
Lakeysha Hampton
Aurielle Lee
Stacy Pridgen
Kelly Sexton
Anna-Mari Thompson

William Bolen Retailing Scholarship:
Christine Scherer

Mu Kappa Tau Inductees:
Britannica A. Cleaves
Jamie L. Herrmann
Kristina L. McCallum

ALUMNIVILLE

Accounting

Bob E. Forster (1966), Jacksonville, FL, is now retired. His wife is Tracy.

Jackie Mathews Vaughn (1971; MBA 1991), Statesboro, is now retired. She is married to Hugh Vaughn.

Charles J. Clary (1972), Anderson, SC, after many years as a CPA/partner with Elliott, Davis, PLLC, is phasing out to retirement. Suggs Johnson, LLC acquired the Anderson office of Elliott Davis. Charles is married to Grace Ledbetter. Email: cclary@suggsjohnson.com.

Charles A. Hall (1973), Calhoun, is a CPA with Charles A. Hall, PC. He is married to Sharon Hutchinson, a Georgia Southern alumna, and they have three children. Email: chall@charleshallcpa.com.



William R. "Billy" Hickman (1974), CPA, Statesboro, an accountant with Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, was named COBA's 2013 Alumnus of the Year.

Billy Hickman

Frank L. Gaudry (1975), Macon, is vice president of Morgan Stanley. He is married to MaryAnne Grier, a 1970 Georgia Southern education graduate. Email: fran.l.gaudry@morganstanley.com.

J. Richard Henry, Jr. (1980), Savannah, CPA/partner in Holland, Henry & Bromley, CPAs, is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the firm. He is a member of the Georgia Southern Accounting Advisory Board and 2010 recipient of the Savannah Community STAR Award. His wife is Jane Fouts, a Georgia Southern alumna, and they have three children. Email: richard@hhbcpa.com.



Edna Levernier (right) meets former winners Ollie Dixon and Martha Cain.

Edna Lynn Dixon Levernier (1984; MBA 1993), Statesboro, an instructor at Georgia Southern, was recognized with an award for service at the recent Deen Day Smith Awards event. She is married to Dr. Bill Levernier, a COBA economics professor. Email: ednalevernier@georgiasouthern.edu.

Gary Evans (1985), Ft. Payne, AL, is a CPA/partner in the MDA Professional Group. His wife is Tammy.

Polly Bragg Williams (1985), Pembroke, is the director MSEG8 with the Department of

the Army, Ft. Stewart. She is married to Glenn Williams. Email: polly.b.williams@us.army.mil.

Perry C. Barnett (1988), Gainesville, is a partner and CPA with Rushton and Company. He received a master in taxation from Georgia State in 1995. Perry is married to Tracy Grooms, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: pbarnett@rushtonandcompany.com.

Roxanne B. Durrence (1989), Reidsville, is the accounting manager for Canoochee EMC, Reidsville. She is a member of the Southeastern Technical College advisor board for accounting. Roxanne is married to Brent Durrence. Email: roxanned@kencable.com.

Leanne Clark Reece (1989), Grovetown, is the finance director/CPA for the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, Evans. She is married to Ricky Reece. Email: leannereece@columbiacounty.ga.gov.

Lori Martin Miller (1991), Dacula, is a CPA with her own business. She is married to Donald A. Miller. She was on the women's tennis team. Email: dmcv69@aol.com.

Sheri L. Boyd (1992), Marietta, is the owner of Accounting Business Solutions, LLC. Email: sboyed1973@yahoo.com.

Billy L. Chavers, Jr. (1992), Vero Beach, FL, is a CPA/partner with Colton & Williams, CPA. His wife is Mary Lewis. Email: billy@coltoncpa.com.

Pamela Utz Melton (1992), Brunswick, is now a member of the Coastal CPAs, LLC, St. Simons. She is married to Wayne Melton. Email: pmelton@coastalcpasllc.com.

Gena Bishop Stone (1993), Columbus, is now the CFO of Columbus State University. She is married to Richard M. Stone. Email: stone-gena@columbusstate.edu.

Jennifer B. Lott (1994) (Delta Sig), Douglas, is the financial assistant to the CEO of Atlantic Homecare, Inc., Waycross. Email: ginl002@yahoo.com.

Richard W. Solomon (1994), Chickamauga, is a CPA/audit services operations director for Elanger Health Systems, Chattanooga, TN. He is married to Heather Scott, a 1995 Georgia Southern biology graduate, and they have two sons, Jacob (12) and Bo (9). Email: rwsolomon@yahoo.com.

Brent Davis (1996), Acworth, is a senior manager/CPA with Grant Thornton, LLP, Atlanta. His wife is Tina. Email: brentdaviscpa@comcast.net.

Jennifer Oliver Grafton (1996; MACC 2002), Savannah, is now the CFO/owner of Fabrication Design Concepts, Inc. She is married to Michael Grafton. Email: fabconinc.att.net.

Jody Nessmith Dinello (1997), Statesboro, is now president, CPA for Senior Care

Pharmacy. Email: jodi.dinello@guardianpharmacy.net.

Vera Meshia Woods (1997), Swainsboro, the controller for East Georgia Healthcare Center, Swainsboro, recently married Richard M. Williams. Email: mwilliams@eghc.org.

Kim Bernethy Hartsock (2000; MACC 2001), Duluth, is a CPA/partner with Warren Averett, LLC. Warren Averett and Gifford, Hillegass & Ingwerson, LLP merged to become the 3rd largest CPA firm in the southeast. Kim is married to Steve Hartsock. Email: kim.hartsock@warrenaverett.com.

Dwayne A. Willis (2002), Norcross, is the program director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta Lawrenceville Club. Dwayne was on the football team. Email: dwillis@bgcma.org.

Robert M. Mock, Jr. (2003), Sylvania, has opened the Mock Law Firm, Statesboro, with his sister-in-law, Jennifer Campbell Mock, a 2004 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: robbie@mocklaw.com.

Jennifer Shearouse Cornaire (2004), Guyton, is now an accountant with Brian L. McCord, CPA, Pooler. She is married to Michael A. Cornaire. Email: jenzbird@planters.net.

Paul E. Adams, II (2006), Loganville, is now manager of finance for Acuity Brands Lighting, Atlanta. His wife, Mollye Elizabeth, is a 2007 Georgia College graduate. Email: paul.adams@acuitybrandslighting.com.

Lindsay M. Daughtry (2006), Brooklet, is an accountant with Denmark and Brown, CPAs, Statesboro. She is married to Russell C. Daughtry. Email: lmdaughtry@gmail.com.

Jenna L. Green (2007; MACC 2008), CPA, CFE, formerly in Snellville, is now in Suwanee, where she is an AVP, financial reporting and analysis, for Primerica, Inc., Duluth. Email: jenna.green@primerica.com.

Matt H. Lindsey (2007), formerly in Duluth, is now in Suwanee, where he is

the owner of Lindsey Tax Accountant. He is married to Jill Tucker.

Hayley Moore (2007), Statesboro, a partner, CPA, and CFE with Glisson & Moore, CPAs, has been selected as one of the Statesboro Herald's 2013 "20 under 40." She is married to Jonathan Moore. Email: hayley@glissonmoorecpa.com.

J. Alex Cowden (2008), Atlanta, is a senior associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He passed all four parts for the CPA exam on the first try! Email: johnacowden@gmail.com.

Kyle J. Manning (2008), Richmond Hill, is a financial accountant with International Greetings USA, Midway. He recently passed the CPA exam. Kyle is married to Allison Hipp. Email: kmanning2@yahoo.com.

B. Kyle Baggett (2009; IS 2009), Statesboro, is a CPA/staff accountant with Olliff & Fordham, CPAs, Metter. Email: kylebaggett42@gmail.com.

Nathan Kole Donaldson (2010; MBA 2012); Statesboro, is engaged to Elizabeth Brannen, a 2010 Georgia Southern chemistry graduate. A June 1, 2013, wedding is planned.

Mark H. Fletcher (2010; MACC 2011), Macon, is now a Staff II accountant with Mauldin & Jenkins. He passed the CPA exam in 2011. Email: mark36917@yahoo.com.

Brian C. Jack (2010), Leesburg, is an accountant for the Heritage Bank.

A. Peyton Fuller (2010; Justice Studies, 2004), Statesboro, is an Act I for Georgia Southern. Email: apfuller@georgiasouthern.edu.

Shannon Rose Brownlee (2011; MACC 2012), Statesboro, a staff accountant with Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, CPAs, Savannah, recently married John Dennis "JD" Dempsey, a 2011 Georgia Southern finance graduate.

Rachel Cliff (2011; MBA, 2012), Statesboro, is the finance coordinator for the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, Savannah. Email: rachelcliff@hotmail.com.



In June, following graduation, **Patrick Jacobs** (MGT, 2013, *Magna Cum Laude*) will enter the Rolls Royce Operations Management Leadership Development Program in Boston, MA. The program, which consists of two parts, is designed to develop future leaders of its aerospace and marine businesses. Phase I typically lasts 18 months and is made up of a series of six-month placements, at least one of which will be overseas. Once proven, leadership advances to Phase II consisting of two 18-24 month posts, giving trainees the opportunity to build on what has been learned as they take on more responsibility and autonomy. While all assignments during the Leadership Development program are full-time, trainees have full support and back-up from the graduate program to help develop strengths and careers in respective disciplinary areas, including customer management, engineering, finance, human resources, manufacturing engineering, and operations management.



ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

ACC 1966 - ACC 2011

ALUMNIVILLE

Ben J. Glass (2011; MAcc, 2011), formerly in Leesburg, is now in Albany, where he is a staff accountant II/CPA with Draffin & Tucker, CPAs. He is married to Elizabeth M. Stocks, a 2011 Georgia Southern nutrition graduate. Email: bglass@draffin-tucker.com.

Think "Timmy" Vuong (2011), formerly in Jesup, is now in Austin, TX, where he is a senior associate accountant with Life Technologies. Email: timmy.vuong@lifetech.com.

Debbie C. Walker (2011), Rincon, is the accountant/CPA for the Lost Plantation Homeowners Association. Email: weekendinmaine@yahoo.com.

Allie E. Jansen (2012; MAcc, 2013), Pooler, is a staff accountant with Skinner, Barndollar & Lane, CPAs, Savannah. Email: ajansen415@gmail.com.

Brianna E. Lewis (2012), Martinez, is a mortgage product development specialist with the First Bank of Georgia, Augusta. Email: brilew89@gmail.com.

Ryan S. Robbins (2012), Dalton, is the order entry person for Heatmax. Email: ryan06robbins@gmail.com.

Kyle Zeitounian (2012), Alpharetta, is an accountant with Facilities Performance Group, Norcross. Email: kylezeitounian@gmail.com.

Economics

Hughie D. Hunt (1996), Washington, DC, is a senior partner in Kemet and Hunt, Attorneys, College Park, MD. He was one of our football team members and listed as a Superlawyer Rising in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Email: hhunt@kemethuntlaw.com.

Finance



Dr. Kelley Chester (1993), a research scientist for Research Triangle Institute (RTI), International, Durham, NC, was named Alumna of the Year for Georgia Southern's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

Kelley Chester

Sherri P. Hinson (1998), Statesboro, is now a mortgage originator for Colony Bank for the greater Savannah area. She is married to Chris Hinson, a 1996 Georgia Southern EET graduate.

Kevin A. Harrison (2001; MBA 2003), Statesboro, president of the Citizens Bank of Washington County in Statesboro, has accepted the additional responsibilities of executive vice president of the holding company. His wife is Mary Helen, and they have a son, Davis, and a daughter, Brynn. Kevin was also on the football team. Email: kharrison@cbofbc.com.

Jennifer W. Mayo (2004), Savannah, is an AVP and mortgage loan originator for BB&T.

Jennifer Campbell Mock (2004), Statesboro, has opened a law firm, The Mock Law Firm, with her brother-in-law, Robert M. Mock, Jr., a 2004 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate.

Jeremy T. Clifton (2005), Statesboro, is a financial institution specialist with Steve H. Powell & Co. He is married to Kimberly Spann, a 2004 Georgia Southern kinesiology graduate, and they have a son, Tyler (1 month). Email: jclifton@shpco.net.

Clinton A. Smith (2006), Savannah, recently married Jessica Marie Luttrell, a 2009 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate.

Leah Lewis Jones (2008; MBA 2009), Jesup, is now an attorney with Samantha F. Jacobs, PC. She is married to Kyle Jones, a 2009 Georgia Southern CM graduate. Email: leah@samanthajacobspc.com.

Audrey Patricia Brown (2009; MBA 2010), formerly in Colleyville, TX, is now in Irving, TX, where she is an analyst for Accenture. She is married to Tristan Fry. Email: audreyprfry@gmail.com.

Amanda Kindig Patrick (2009), Kernersville, NC, is a finance analyst for Pepsico, Winston Salem, NC. She is married to Evan N. Patrick, a 2009 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Their first child, Claire Patrick, was born on May 1, 2011. Email: amanda.k.patrick@gmail.com.

John Dennis "JD" Dempsey (2011), Garfield, currently employed by BB&T, Savannah, recently married Shannon Rose Brownlee, a 2012 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate.

Nicholas C. Ives (2011), Statesboro, recently returned from his third overseas deployment with the Georgia Army National Guard. He has accepted a position as financial advisor with Edward Jones. Nicholas is engaged to Kathleen Cash Rhodes, a Georgia Southern alumna. A June 2013 wedding is planned.

William K. Roberts (2011), Augusta, an employee of Stafford Nut and Belt and graduate student at Georgia Regents University, recently married Lena Patricia Turner, a Georgia Regents University alumna.

General Business

Zeke Gaines, III (1980), Richmond Hill, president/owner of P&I Supply Company, Savannah, has been selected as the secretary of Hospice Savannah, Inc.

Jenny Gentry (1981), Savannah, senior vice president, market president for Wells Fargo Bank, is now chair of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. Email: jenny.gentry@wellsfargo.com.

Ken G. Clark (1986), Hawkinsville, is in the restaurant business with three Zaxby's and a Papa's Pizza. Email: kgc@comsouth.net.

Hotel/Restaurant Management

Leann Cook Smith (1995), Elberton, is the senior mortgage officer with the Pinnacle Bank. She is married to N. Jason Smith, a 1993 Georgia Southern accounting graduate. Email: lsmith@pinnaclebank.com.

Paul K. Evans (2000), Atlanta, is the national sales director for Scoutmob. His wife is Rebecca. Email: paule@scoutmob.com.

Hillari Ann Keese (2006), formerly in Pooler, is now in Statesboro, where she is a CSR with BBWH Insurers. She is married to Cole Brown, a Georgia Southern alumnus. Email: hakeese@yahoo.com.

Information Systems

Jimmy Mooney (1985), Statesboro, board chair of Willingway Hospital, has received the Georgia Hospital Heroes Lifetime Award from the Georgia Hospital Association. Jimmy was recognized during the association's Hospital Heroes Awards luncheon on December 4 in Atlanta. He was honored for his work in helping alcoholics and addicts find sobriety.

W. David Fisk (2001), Spartanburg, SC, has completed his theological studies at Covenant Theological Seminary for the Reformed Universalist Fellowship. His wife is BeCa, and they have a daughter, Cate (18 mos.). David was on the men's soccer team. Email: davidfisk@hotmail.com.

Logistics

Kenneth "Casey" Jones (1999), formerly in Eastman, is now in Tampa, FL, where he is a tax auditor for the Florida Department of Revenue, Clearwater, FL. He is a certified supply chain professional and has his MBA. Email: jones.kenneth@yahoo.com.

Joseph G. Tompkins (2004), Bonaire, a project manager for K2Firm supporting Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, recently married Ashley Diana Gassman, a Macon State College graduate. Email: jtompkins30@hotmail.com.

Chan Smith (2005), Dublin, is the operations supervisor for Texas Freight Services. He is married to Melissa, who has her 2003 MED from Georgia Southern. Email: a.chansmith@hotmail.com.

Blake L. Seckinger (2008), Savannah, is now the senior team leader for Page International, Inc.

Evan N. Patrick (2009), Kernersville, NC, is a load planner for Epes Transport, Greensboro, NC. He is married to Amanda Kindig, a 2009 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Their first child, Claire Patrick, was born on May 11, 2011. Email: evan.n.patrick@gmail.com.



Former roommates Scottie Stoddard (ECON, 1978) (r), Longboat Key, FL, and Pam Pittman Gardner (FIN, 1979)(l), Hobe Sound, FL, recently reunited at the Bradenton (FL) Rotary meeting on the Manatee River.

Tiffany M. Ray (2009) Morristown, NJ, is now the Dotcom QA manager for Toys "R" Us, Inc., Mt. Olive, NJ. Email: raytiffany1@gmail.com.

Cory D. Rushing (2011), Statesboro, recently married Faren M. Smith, Macon, a Kennesaw State student. Email: corydrushing@yahoo.com.

Management

Kelly W. Richardson (1982), Newnan, is now a sales rep with Dawn Food Products, Inc., Lithia Springs. His wife is Anna. Email: kwrichardson@dawnfoods.com.

Grant A. Dennis (1984), Ascot, Australia, is executive chair for Dennis Family Holdings. He was on the baseball team while at Georgia Southern. Grant is married to Felicia Hamilton, a 1984 Georgia Southern journalism graduate. Email: gdennis@denniscorp.com.au.

Greg B. Franklin (1991), Naples, FL, is a pilot with Delta Airlines. His wife, Roslyn, is a 1989 Georgia Southern public relations graduate. Email: flyfranklin@gmail.com.

Darryl Dotson (1992), Lt. Col. USMC Ret., Jacksonville, NC, is the director, current reqts, for the U.S. Marine Corps, special operations command. He is married to Deborah Parramore, a 1992 Georgia Southern management graduate. Email: dwdotson@earthlink.net.

Matthew M. Carter (1995), Blackshear, director of the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority, recently married Lisa West of Blackshear. Email: mcarter@cablevue.net.

Brooke Gainous Bailey (2003), formerly in Bainbridge, is now in Cairo, where she is a registered nurse for the Archibald Memorial Hospital, Thomasville. She is married to John Bailey. Email: brookebailey062604@yahoo.com.

Joshua D. Chatraw (2004), Dublin, is now a pastor for the First Baptist Church. Email: joshchatraw@hotmail.com.

Juvonna Chatman (2005; MAT 2012), Statesboro, is now an 8th grade math teacher for the Hardeeville Ridgeland Middle School, Hardeeville, SC. Email: jchatman@georgia.southern.edu.

ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

ACC 2011 - MGT 2005

ALUMNIVILLE

Jonathan Young (2006), Statesboro, is now an AVP and mortgage lender with the Citizens Bank of Washington County. His wife is Cara.

Lauren Register Denmark (2008), Guyton, is now a sales and marketing person with Office Services, Savannah.

Xavia L. Tennant (2008), formerly in Pooler, is now in Stafford, VA, where she is a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Marine Corps. Email: xaviatennant@gmail.com.

Zachary J. Sasser (2010), Savannah, an advanced programs buyer for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., recently married Catherine Brett Bentley, a 2010 Georgia Southern biology graduate.

Tyler P. Sumner (2012), Pooler, a crew leader for Envirovac Holdings, Garden City, is engaged to Sarah Elizabeth Jackson, a UGA alumna. A July 27, 2012, wedding is planned for Savannah. Email: sumner@envirovac.us.

Marketing

L. Mickey Morgan (1979), Cypress, TX, is the sales manager for the Serta Mattress Company, Houston, TX. His wife is Denise. Email: mmserta@yahoo.com.

Tracy Cela Gordon (1991), Harker Heights, TX, is the relationship manager for Heartland Payment. Email: tgordon3215@aol.com.

Cynthia A. Tyre (1992), Waycross, an employee of the Atlantic Coast Bank, recently married Millard (Suggy) Grant, III.

Marne Miller Thompson (1993), Statesboro, is now the WIA career advisor with the Georgia Department of Labor. She is married to Steve Thompson. Email: marne.thompson@gdol.gov.

Sean M. Knox (1998), Columbus, vice president/operations/owner of Knox Pest Control, is the president of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association. His wife is Crawford. Email: sean.knox@knoxpest.com.

Travis L. Chance (2004), Statesboro, owner/CEO of Chance Financial Group and partner in Farm Core Advisors, recently married Shannon D. Edwards, a Georgia Southern alumna. Travis is also member of the Statesboro City Council. Email: travis_l_chance@georgiasouthern.edu.

Daven L. Henry (2006), Tampa, FL, is the senior acquisitions partner with Stress Free Property Management. Email: daven@tampastressfree.com.

Michelle Flanders McBride (2006), Savannah, is now a third grade teacher in the city and loving it. She is married to Bryan McBride, a 2006 Georgia Southern nursing school graduate. Email: seashelly1212@aol.com.

Megan P. Moreau (2010), Savannah, is the operations auditor for TMX Finance. Email: megan.p.moreau@gmail.com.

Ashley Plumstead Rahn (2010), formerly in Byron, is now in Richmond Hill, where she is a town specialist for Richmond Hill and Pooler GA.Live, LLC. She is married to Micah Rahn, a 2010 Georgia Southern civil engineering graduate. Email: ashley.p.rahn@gmail.com.

MAcc

Cole R. Branham (1996), Alexandria, VA, is a senior accountant/CPA with Ernst & Young, McLean, VA. Email: crbranham@gmail.com.

Kimberly D. Tomlinson (2000), Largo, FL, is a senior auditor/CPA with Drake, Klein & Messino, CPAs, Clearwater, FL. Email: kimberly@dkmcpas.com.

Elaine Shavers Campbell (2002), Savannah, is the audit director for Savannah State University. She is also on the board of directors for the Economic Opportunity Authority, Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Empire, and Greenbriar Children's Center. Email: campbele@savannahstate.edu.

Abby Walden (2002), Twin City, is a CPA, lead accountant and chief financial officer for Coastal Meats, LLC. She has been selected as one of the Statesboro Herald's 2013 "20 under 40." Abby is married to Athen Walden, a 1997 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: waldenabby@hotmail.com.

John B. Graham, Jr. (2004), Athens, is now a business manager for The University of Georgia. He is married to Virginia Wilson. Email: bradford703@yahoo.com.

Jennifer Melton Gay (2005), Nashville, is now director of physician finance and analysis for the Tift Regional Medical Center, Tifton. She is married to Frelon Gay. Email: jennifer_melton@hotmail.com.

Brad A. Foster (2006), Douglas, is a CPA/staff accountant with Clements, Purvis & Stewart, CPAs. Email: bradafoster@gmail.com.

Mona Salter McLendon (2006), Adrian, is a CPA and accounting instructor for the Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Dublin. She is married to Kevin McLendon, and they have two children. Email: mona_salter@hotmail.com.

Aubrey Skipper Trotter (2007), Leesburg, is a manager/CPA with Mauldin & Jenkins, Albany. She is married to Matthew Trotter. Email: askipper1@gmail.com.

Stephanie Sanchez Turner (2007), Memphis, TN, is the compliance officer for Evolve Bank and Trust. She is married to Wes Turner, a 2007 Georgia Southern general studies graduate. Email: steph.turner24@gmail.com.

Jessica M. Luttrell (2009), Hamilton, a staff accountant for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Savannah, recently married Clinton A. Smith, a 2006 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: jmluttrell09@gmail.com.

Erica D. Jackson (2011), Savannah, is a staff accountant with Colonial Oil Industries. Email: ericadjackson@yahoo.com.

Renay L. White (2011), Pooler, is now a staff accountant with Hancock Askew & Co., Savannah.

MBA

Joseph L. Bonnici (1986), Cumberland, RI, is now a professor of marketing at Central Connecticut State University. Email: rilawyer@yahoo.com.

Gene Allen Davis (1997), formerly in Duluth, is now in Lilburn, where he is a senior railway engineer for Stante Consulting, Duluth. He is married to Martha Susan Davis, a 1997 Georgia Southern COE graduate. Email: gene.davis@stantec.com.

LaTasha M. Smith (2005), Snellville, is a management analyst with the General Services Administration, Atlanta. She is also a certified fraud examiner. Email: lmsmith81@yahoo.com.

Edward Hood, IV (2011), Savannah, is the program director, accelerated graduate programs, for South University.

In Memoriam

James W. Cason (GEN BUS, 1972), Yulee, FL, died March 7, 2013.



Cory Joseph Wilson (Student, KA) passed away on January 17, 2013. Cory was a junior majoring in management.

Virgil L. Hicks (MGT 1978), Statesboro, died January 6, 2013.

James M. Dixon (MGT 2003; MBA 2011), died on February 19, 2012.



Ernestine "Teny" NeSmith Gibbs (BS, 1962), Evans, died on May 6, 2013.

Teny Gibbs

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) _____ 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.



McCartney Retires

In May, a retirement reception honoring Dr. **William W. "Bill" McCartney**, professor emeritus of management, celebrated his 16 years of service to COBA and Georgia Southern.

Dr. McCartney received a BIM from Auburn, an MBA from Samford, and a PhD from Louisiana State University. He began his academic career at Western Kentucky and moved to University of Central Florida before coming to Georgia Southern as chair of the Management Department in August 1991. He left academia for executive positions in the health services industry for six years and, then, returned to COBA as the inaugural W. E. Carter Distinguished Chair of Business Leadership. During his tenure, Dr. McCartney was instrumental in creating the COBA Student Leadership council, serving as a board member and mentor for "Leadership Southeast



Georgia," publishing a monthly "Lessons in Leadership" column for the *Savannah Business Report and Journal*, and delivering more than 100 leadership and management development training programs in the region. He also served as editor of the *Southern Business Review*, the business journal that Georgia Southern has published continuously for 37 years.

Dr. McCartney has served as a consultant to Westinghouse Electric, Sears, the Institute for Financial Education, and the Florida Bankers Association.

He and his wife, **Kay**, have two sons, **Bill** and **Patrick**. They reside in Savannah and enjoy summers in Blairsville, where the air is cooler, and they are less engaged! ♦

7th Annual Community Bank Symposium

Georgia Southern's Center for Excellence in Financial Services and the Georgia Bankers Association hosted the Seventh Annual Southeastern Region Community Bank Symposium at the Forest Heights Country Club on March 27. More than 100 banking professionals attended from 27 banks in Southeast Georgia, as well as Macon, Augusta, and Atlanta, including 32 CEOs and 27 CFOs.

Speakers included **Joe Brannen**, president and CEO of the Georgia Bankers Association; **Roger Tutterow**, economist with Mercer University; **Brad Washburn**, mortgage compliance advisor with Steve H. Powell and Co.; **Sal Inserra**, partner with Crowe Horwath, LLP, strategic advisors; **Jonathan Hightower**, partner with Bryan Cave, LLP, financial institutions lawyers; and an all-star keynote regulatory panel of **Thomas Dujenski**, southeastern regional director, FDIC; **Robert Braswell**, commissioner, Georgia Department of Banking and Finance; and **Michael Johnson**, senior vice president, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Under a joint marketing agreement between the Georgia Bankers Association and Center for Excellence in Financial Services, BANKSTAT, the subscription-based service offering regional and peer group comparative financial performance and risk profiles for community banks in



(back row, l-r) Tom Dujenski, Ed Sibbald, Michael Johnson, Rob Braswell, and (front row, l-r) Zane El-Shami, Kathryn Harris, Jared Holley, and Laura Cooper

Southeast Georgia, is being offered statewide. At the symposium, a special 2012 B A N K S T A T Georgia Bankers Association Group Performance Comparison report was distributed to all attendees.

The annual symposium is organized and managed by **Edward H. Sibbald**, director of the Center for Excellence in Financial Services and BB&T Executive in Residence. He was capably assisted by student ambassadors **Laura Cooper**, MBA graduate assistant, and undergraduate finance and banking majors **Katherine Harris**, **Jared Holley**, and **Zane El-Shami**. **Mark Donato**, COBA's new webmaster, provided technical support. ♦

City Campus Growth Continues



The Georgia Southern University City Campus, circa 2011, is located in Downtown Statesboro and committed to creating jobs in the region and helping area businesses grow through its economic research, policy analysis, mentorship programs, and course offerings. The University, along with the City of Statesboro and the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority, has entered into an agreement that will expand the City Campus facilities over the next three years.

The expansion will effectively combine the dynamic aspects of entrepreneurship and innovation with the sequential process of commercialization. In doing so, a university-based business incubator and Digital Fabrication Laboratory will be developed and housed in current and adjacent facilities. The incubator and fab lab will spur innovation, offer capital investment opportunity for venturers and investors, and help fuel the regional economy through creation of new business opportunity. By capitalizing on the intellectual assets of the College of Business and Georgia Southern, the incubator will build value through "proof of concept" centers that validate products and business ideas, greatly contributing to a firm's ability to generate revenue and secure capital.

The "fab lab concept" is a work product of Dr. **Neil Gershenfeld** at MIT. It evolves as a way to bring fabrication to the masses. The goal is to develop a prototype manufacturing assistance center, similar to the MIT Fab Labs. The facility will contain state-of-the-art 3-D printers, plasma cutters, and other electronic finishing equipment. This project will be in conjunction with the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology and is being

funded in part by the City of Statesboro and several grants.

A recent project of City Campus, presented by the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) is a new annual series, known as ProBid. The five week educational series is aimed at assisting area businesses interested in competing for contracts with large private companies, as well as local, state, and federal governments. Building on previous successes of ProBid, monthly sessions will be held at City Campus, featuring a variety of procurement entities from the public and private sectors. Participants learn about the types of services managed and contracted by each agency, policies for doing business, certification and application requirements, bidding processes, and upcoming requests for proposal (RFPs) in the region. For more information about these or other City Campus programs, please contact **Joy West** at (912) 478-0872.

Looking forward, BBRED recently secured a three year grant from the North American Development Bank which will fund community development research in Jeff Davis, Telfair, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Wilkes counties. The grant indenture specifically provides funding to start the Georgia's Enterprise Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GENIE) project. GENIE will link City Campus and communities outside of Statesboro with a host of resources and services aimed at mentoring entrepreneurs who are starting a business and connecting business leaders who are interested in growing their business with new educational resources and training opportunities. These resources are open to regional business leaders in the five-county area and beyond. To see how your organization could benefit from GENIE, please check out the BBRED website at www.bbred.org. ♦



Pictured (l-r) are the Wilson family: Kenny, dad; Caroline, sister; and Lisa, mom.

In May, COBA was presented an automated external defibrillator by the family of **Cory Wilson**, junior management major who collapsed in class and died on January 17, the first week of spring

semester. "We are here today because of a tragedy the Wilson family has turned into a positive. They are looking forward instead of backward. Their hope, and ours, is this defibrillator will help save a life in the future," said COBA Dean **Bill Wells**.

Kenny and **Lisa Wilson**, Cory's parents, Savannah, along with family members, made the donation in memory of their 21-year-old son to increase awareness of CPR training and the availability of defibrillators. Lisa, who is a school nurse, affirmed, "It is our hope

that this defibrillator, placed here in Cory's memory, will one day serve as a lifesaver for another student."

The defibrillator is a portable electronic device that can be used by individuals without medical training in a cardiac emergency. It automatically diagnoses and provides electroshock, as needed, for potentially life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias, offering simple visual and audio commands for users. It was provided through the support of **Mike Castleman** and **Rob Williams** (FIN, 1996) of Cardiac Science and

Janet Prince of School Health, who were on hand to present the device to COBA and University officials.

Dr. **Brooks Keel**, president of Georgia Southern was on hand for the ceremony and echoed Dean Wells's remarks, "This represents the embodiment of Eagle Nation as a family. When tragedy strikes, a family comes together to support one another and raise awareness about issues that affect family. We come together today, in support of the Wilson family and to take action, hopefully, to prevent something like this from ever happening again." ♦

In Memory of Cory Wilson, a KA Gentleman