COBA’s Fifth Dean and First PhD

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 1995, 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 & Partners.

COBA’s Whitaker Named VP

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 5,300 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 Legislative Budget Office and a health and financial analyst at the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance. As a complement to public work, Rob served as controller at PMG.net, Inc., in Branchburg, NJ.

Price Appointed Interim VP

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.
A Message from Dean Wells

The 2013-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 WebMac 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.

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 (#5), and Brian Phillips (#7S), and Longest Drive — Susan Williams, ladies and Michael Jackson, men. Special thanks to corporate sponsors, Broadie International, Capstone Benefits Consulting, Citizens Bank of Bulloch County, Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, LLP; East Georgia Regional Medical Center; Frank Mulliner—Weinberger’s Furniture; Hal Roach, Jr., CRC; Hearts and Hands Clinic; Heritage Bank of the South; Lovett Bennett—Attorney at Law; Loxcreen; Nesmith Chevrolet—Marty Nesmith; Real Estate Asset Counseling, Inc.—Tom Cole Ruddick; Senator Jack Hill, Statesboro Gastroenterology; Statesboro Golf Carts, LLC; Steven Powell Company; The University Store—Georgia Southern; Thigpen, Westfield, Janier and Dean; Advanced Valve & Instrument, Inc.; Center for Financial Services, Coca-Cola Bottling of Statesboro; Inter Technologies; Piedanta Telephone Communication; Servpro of Statesboro; Subway; Walmart Statesboro; and CH Robinson Worldwide, Inc.

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from Statesboro!

I recently have a visit from alumna, Denise Jordan (MKT, 1994), now married to Chris Lane (MGT, 1984; baseball). What a delightful lady! She brought their second son, Branson, 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 co-chair, or chairperson—of the Division of Business. In 1972–73, we became a School of Business and Dr. Orice James became dean in 1974–75, tenure 12 years; followed by Dr. Carl Gooding, 1986–1987, tenue 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 larger 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 alumni 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!
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 at SAP in Baltimore, MD, in June.

Rongrong Zhang, John Hatem, Yaseen Alhaj 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 Aaasheim has been elected secretary for the SEdsdi professional organization.

Tom Case addressed a faculty development conference for the Peru School of Business, Salisbury University, MD, in January. His presentation featured the IEC 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 SAP 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 has successfully completed his year as a 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 Goldstein Aerospace in Savannah and presenting workshops at the SAP Academic Conference. Dr. Rogers taught a TERP10 SAP Student Certification Academy for Central Michigan University with Dr. Szymanski. 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 program and 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


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.

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.

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 Mwanganga, 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 the various volunteer committees that report to it. Dr. Mooney’s term begins with the Council’s fall meeting in Los Angeles, CA.

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 Mall 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

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 Swaunders, 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 Asar 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.
23rd Annual Accounting Day Celebrated

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. The 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 Odom, Tara Dunn, Delaney Tuggle, Joshua Hinson, Leah Epperson, and Samantha Hairston by Ms. Cate Cassotta of Nichols Cauley & Associates from 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 Gage 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 Tripplett, 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 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 Gailes by Dr. Timothy Pearson. Mr. Wayne Yesbick with Draffin and Tucker, Albany, presented scholarships to Christopher Cone and Thysamine Erikson. Mr. Alex Knight of Hаб’s, Arogieti & 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 Hairson, 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 Keadele 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 Peastridge and the Gary Davis Accounting Award presented to Danielle Laduron.

Dr. Timothy Pearson presented faculty awards to Dr. Britt 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 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 Arogieti 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 Keadele Moore, LLC.

The Carter Chair

Dr. Constance R. Campbell, professor of management, has been named the W. E. Carter Emeritus Chair Endowed Chair in Business Administration to advance the teaching of leadership in business. The distinguished chair was established in 1999 with a $500,000 gift 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 endowed 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 and women, 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 Snake 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.

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.

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.

MBA

Gordon Smith

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.savwomenbusinessexpo.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.

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 roastermaster 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 cafes. They are assisted by Chief Roastermaster, 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 rippling 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 and the rhythm of languorous dances. It has seen the droop of dark eyes, the deep flush and the rhythm of languorous dances.”

For more information COBA’s graduate programs, contact Gordon Smith, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration

P.O. Box 8050 • Room 3300A • Statesboro, GA 30460-8050 • Phone: (912) 478-5767 • Fax: (912) 478-7480 • mba@georgiasouthern.edu

Website: http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/graduate/
Melinda Fischer

Melinda Catherine Fischer (IT, 1996) is 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 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.

Cedric Henry

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 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.

Tim Daiss

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.
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-adapted 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.

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 it with them. He is a real role model for faculty in teaching, research, and service. He is a great collaborator and is instrumental in CPA review preparation for students. Dr. Thomas provided excellent help in the AICSB accreditation process.

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.

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

Dr. Britt McKay is an excellent contributor in service, teaching, and research who is always willing to help a student or colleague.
Faculty awards are based upon a variety of characteristics including research activities, teaching excellence, distinguished service, and development potential.

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 Bartlett 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 Accountancy 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.

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 refereed 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 alumni, 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

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!

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

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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Servoy of Statesboro
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Simon, Jacob V. 
Sines, Zachary
Sipe, Stephanie
Skipper, Mark T. 
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Soukhamneut, Christina B.
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St. Patrick’s Festival of Dublin 
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Statcorp, Larry
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In the fall, ACLS, 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. ACLs domestic and international customer base includes 89 percent of the worlds leading accounting firms and 89 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and more than two-thirds of Global Fortune 500 corporations.

Thank you ACL and Dr. Marley!
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 district attorney’s office as senior trial counsel in the Fraud and Market Manipulation Unit, SecureWorks; and as a 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, CFE, chief division counsel, FBI, Atlanta.

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, 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, etc.

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.

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**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

**Information Systems**

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

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

**Accountancy**

- Albert J. Roesel Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Lucretia V. Haynie
- Harris Computer Systems Award: David D. Tammen
- Buddy Lichity 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 Alridge-Taylor
- SAP@GSU TERP10 Scholarship: Jayson W. Treadway
- Matthew Janofsky Scholarship: Amber Golson
- Information Systems Junior Award: Tereion Jazmin Heath

**Marketing & Logistics**

- 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: Shaya Frinks

**Eagle Executive**

**Spring 2013**
**Accounting**

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

Jackie Mathews Yaughn (1977; MBA 1991), Statesboro, is now retired. She is married to Hugh Yaughn.

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

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

Billy Hickman

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

J. Richard Henry, Jr. (1980), Savannah, is vice president with Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, was named COBA’s 2013 Alumnus of the Year.

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

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


Polly Bragg Williams (1985), Pembroke, is the director of MEGB with the Department of the Army, Ft. Stewart. She is married to Glennis 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 Canoocher EMC. Roxanne is a member of the Southeastern Technical College advisory board for accounting. Roxanne is married to Brent Durrence. Email: RoxanneDBolle@kencable.com.

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

Lori Martin Miller (1991), Dacula, is a CPA with her own business. She is married to Donald A. Miller. She was an women’s tennis team. Email: dmc69@cox.net.

Sheri L. Boyd (1992), Marietta, is the owner of Accounting Business Solutions, LLC. Email: sbuyed1973@yahoo.com.

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

Pamela Uitz Melton (1992), Brunswick, is now a member of the Coastal CPAs, LLC, St. Simon’s. 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: gilson002@ymail.com.

Richard W. Solomon (1994), Chico, is a CPA/audit services director for Ehring 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: rrsalamon@yahoo.com.

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

Jennifer Oliver Graffen (1996; MACC 2002), Savannah, is now the CFO/owner of Fabrication Design Concepts, Inc. She is married to Michael Graffen. 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), Savannah, is the controller for East Georgia Healthcare Center, Savannah, recently married Richard W. Williams. Email: mwilliams@eghc.org.

Kim Bernetly Hartsock (2000; MACC 2001), Duluth, is a CPA/partner with Warren Averett, LLC. Warren Averett and Gifford, Hillegas & Ingerson, 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. Mack, Jr. (2003), Sylvania, has opened the Mack Law Firm, Statesboro, with his sister-in-law, Jennifer Campbell Mack, a 2004 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: robbiemacklaw.com.

Jennifer Shearouse Coraine (2004), Guyton, is now an accountant with Brian L. McDerm, CPA, Plager. She is married to Michael A. Coraine. Email: jensch bird@planters.net.

Paul E. Adams, II (2004), Loganville, is now manager of finance for Acuity Brands Lighting, Atlanta. His wife, Molly Elizabeth, is a 2007 Georgia College graduate. Email: paul.adams@acuitybrandslighting.com.

Lindsey 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), Savannah, is the finance director/CPA for the Heritage Bank. Email: jgreen@heritagebank.net.

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@glissonmoorescpa.com.

J. Alex Cowden (2008), Altanta, is a senior associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He passed all four parts to 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 Olilff & Fordham, CPAs, Metter. Email: kylebaggett42@gmail.com.

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 for Georgia Southern. Email: apfuller@georgiasouthern.edu.

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

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

Thinh “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; MAcc, 2013), Pooler, is a staff accountant with Skinner, Barndollar & Lane, CPAs, Savannah. Email: djansen415@gmail.com.

Allie E. Jansen (2012), Martinez, is a mortgage product development specialist with First National Bank of Georgia, Augusta. Email: breilvv98@gmail.com.

Ryan S. Robbins (2012), Dalton, is the order entry person for Heatmax. Email: ryans6 Robbins@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 Kemnt 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@kemthuntlaw.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 Jannette Ming-Hsu College of Public Health.

Kelley Chester

Sherrri 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 Spain, 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 CJM 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: audreyfryy@gmail.com.

Amanda Kindig Patrick (2009), Kennesville, NC, is a finance analyst for PepsiCo, Winston Salem, NC. She is married to Eyan N. Patrick, a 2009 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Their first child, Claire Patrick, was born on May 1, 2011. Email: akindigpatrick@gmail.com.

John Dennis “JD” Dempsey (2011), Gardena, currently employed by BBT, 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 StaffCorp and Bell and graduate student at Georgia Regents University, recently married Lea Patricia Turner, a Georgia Regents University alumna.

General Business

Zeke Gaines, III (1980), Richmond Hill, president/owner of P&J 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: Ismith@pinnaclebank.com.

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

Hilari 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: hilkeese@yahoo.com.

Information Systems

Jimmy Mooney (1985), Statesboro, board chair of Willingham 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@gmail.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: casey.kenneth@yahoo.com.

Joseph G. Tompkins (2004), Bonaire, a project manager for K2Firm supporting Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, recently married Ashley Diane Gossman, a Macon State College graduate. Email: jtmopkins30@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: chansmith@hotmail.com.

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

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Paul K. Evans (2000), Atlanta, is the national sales director for Scoutmob. His wife is Rebecca. Email: paul@email.com.
Jonathan Young (2006), Statesboro, is now an AVP and mortgage lender with the Citizens Bank of Washington County. His wife is Cara.

Lauren Register Denman (2008), Gwyn, 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 USA alumna. A July 27, 2012, wedding is planned for Savannah. Email: sumner@envirovac.us.

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

Tracy Cela Gordon (1991), Harker Heights, TX, is the relationship manager for Heartland Payment. Email: tgdordon3215@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 WA career advisor with the Georgia Department of Labor. She is married to Steve Thompson. Email: marne.thompson@gdal.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 Shannan D. Edwards, a Georgia Southern alumnus. 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@tampashukfree.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: seashelly1213@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.

Cole R. Branhim (1999), Alexandria, VA, is a senior accountant/CPA with Ernst & Young. McLean, VA. Email: cbranhim@gmail.com.

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

Elaine Stavros 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: campbell@ 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 Atheen 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: bford8703@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 freelancer Gay. Email: jennifer_melton@hotmail.com.

Brad A. Foster (2004), Douglas, is a CPA/staff accountant with Clements, Purvis & Stewart, CPAs. Email: bradfoster@clementsps.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.

Aubrie 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: jmluttrell91@gmail.com.

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

Gene Allen Davis (1997), formerly in Duluth, is now in Lilburn, where he is a senior railway engineer for Stantec 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: Ismswh81@yahoo.com.

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

In Memoriam


Cory Wilson

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.


Ernestine "Teny" NeSmith Gibbs (BS, 1942), Evans, died on May 6, 2013.

Teny Gibbs
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 Sanfords, 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 heath 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! ◆

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 (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. ◆

7th Annual Community Bank Symposium

Georgia Southern’s Center for Excellence in Financial Services and the Georgia Bankers Association hosted the Seventh Annual Southern Region Community Bank Symposium at the Forest Hills 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; Joe Tutterow, economist with Mercer University; Brad Washburn, mortgage compliance advisor with Steve H. Powell and Co.; Sal Inserna, partner with Crow Horwath, LLP; strategic advisors Jonathan High Tower, 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 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 Director of the Center for Excellence in Real Estate and Entrepreneurship (GENIE) project. GENIE supports the development of school nurses, 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

In Memory of Cory Wilson, a KA Gentleman

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.

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.”

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