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 & Recovery, an international non-governmental organization. He is an award-winning executive educator, was named Terry College MBA Teacher of the Year in 2002 and 2005, and received the Terry College Teacher of the Year in 2001, 2003, and 2005, respectively. He was named a Distinguished Educator, was named Terry College MBA Teacher of the Year in 2001, 2003, and 2005. He has served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Management Studies, and previously senior editor of the Academy of Management Journal and Journal of Management Venturing.

Dean Amason 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 Shiffer (2002-2012), during which the college has grown substantially.

In the most recent decade, COBA’s upper division undergraduate enrollment increased 37.1 percent and undergraduate program offerings expanded, including programs in computer 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 and executive program offerings expanded in the WebMBA, master of science in applied economics, the executive MBA, and WebMCC programs, along with the PhD in logistics and supply chain management, the first in Georgia Southern’s 107 year history.

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 Management 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.

Dr. 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.
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 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.

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 sometimes, I have to hear something at least two times before it is clear. Let me know, and, please, do not assume the old guy has heard.

A group of retired COBA faculty eat somewhere in the ‘Boro every week. If you know of one of our COBA alumni 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!

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from Statesboro!

I recently have 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. Oris James became dean. In 1974–75, tenure 12 years; followed by Dr. Carl Gooding, 1986–1987, tenure 28 years, and Dr. Ron Shiffner, 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,
**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 San Francisco, CA, in June. Rongrong Zhang, John Hatem, Yaseen Alahj, 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. Zang 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 Purdue 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 Europe ERP Academy.

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 Grimes 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 teaching SAP training sessions for Goldfish Aerospace in Savannah and presenting workshops at the SAP Academic Conference. Dr. Rogers taught a TERP10 SAP Student Certification Academy for Central Michigan University. 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’ ABAP program course students competed in the SAP University Alliances mobile application competition at which one team finished in the top five.

**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.

**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.

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 tool, 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 measure-ment 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 in Free Enterprise, Freeman Business Scholars Program including fall, 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 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 1895 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.

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
- Karen S. Masters
- Katherine McCurdy
- Patrick J. Storey
- Eric K. Van Wagoner
- Nathan D. Wanamaker

Junior Inductees
- Annolle 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

Senior Inductees
- 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
- Tannor M. Smith
- Jazmin M. Tribble
- Leanne R. Turner
- Lesli R. Willoughby
- Charles C. Witkowski
- 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

Logistics Team Presents in Jacksonville

The Georgia Southern Logistics team of Derek Prijatel, Erin Gianella, Nick Rosenweig, 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, Seasons, Johnson & Johnson, Foremost Quality Logistics, CTL Intermodal Services, the JAXUSA Port Partnership, and McCormick & Company.

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

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 Gall 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 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 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 Nawaz, 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, Lamandice Holmes, Dan Michael Hester, and Brian Mayr.

Ms. Kim Hartstock of Warren Avrett + Gifford, Hillegass & Ingerswell, presented the Ronald A. Lundstrom Scholarship in Forensic Accounting to Nicole Griffin.

The first-time scholarship from Elliott Davis, PLLC, Greenwood, 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 Vesibck with Draffin and Tucker, Albany, presented scholarships to Christopher Cone and Thysamine Erikson. Mr. Alex Knight of Habif, Argeti & Wynne, Atlanta, presented scholarships to Weston Fort and Heather Gay. Mr. Brendan Adams of Mauldin & Jenkins, Albany, presented scholarships to Rogette Sanders, Thomas DiCesare, and LaShai Joshua. Mr. Tim Sohon of Moore Stephens Tiller, Bramsnwick, 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 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 Pestrige 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 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 Avrett + Gifford Hillegass and Ingerswell, LLP; Habif Argeti 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. 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 1992 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 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 and 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 Clispo.

Dr. Clispo’s address was “Cracker Jacks, Kangaroos, and Sniper Hunting: Life Lessons for Today’s Leaders.” Dr. Clispo 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 “Sniper Hunter’s” sensitivity to the needs of people. “Leadership is about doing, or 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.
Spotlight on Graduate Studies

From the Directors

MAcc and WebMAcc

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.

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 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!

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 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 palpitating 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.

Spotlight on Graduate Studies

MBA

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 Bermudian reinsurance specialist. Melinda completed her 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.

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.

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.


Tim moved to Manila, Philippines, in 2006 as a contributing writer for Shanghai’s Xinmin Weekly, covering Philippines 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.

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.

Garry Spinks

Lincolnshire, Illinois-based, Aon Hewitt has appointed 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.

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

The William A. & Emma Lou Crider Award for Excellence in Teaching
Rodney W. Thomas, II

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 text books 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 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 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. Ruhlhand

Dr. Joe Ruhlhand 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 area 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.

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 methods reviewed journal articles in the last year. Her service methods

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 AICSB 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.
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 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 Shiffer 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 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.

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

Alan W. Mackelprang  
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 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.

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.

Dr. Nick Lynch

Dr. Yaseen Alhaj-Yaseen received the Flanagan Fellowship 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.

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Dr. Nick Lynch
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

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 superannuation funds. Walt is based in the headquarters office in Atlanta and is responsible for new investment activity and portfolio management.
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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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 Services programming efforts are offering 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 the Fortune 500 companies and more than two-thirds of Global Fortune 500 corporations.

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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, CFE, chief division counsel, FBI, Atlanta.


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.

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. Dattilio

Award for Academic Distinction in Economics: William Bryan

Economics Opportunity Scholarship: Matthew Pauley

Omicon Delta Epsilon:
William Beausoleil
Vincent S. Dattilio
Juan E. Garcia
Alexander Riddle
Madison Stanford
Samantha M. Smith

Information Systems

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

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 Rehstock 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

MATLLF 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. Zubler

Management

University Award of Excellence for Graduate Students: Amit Aurora

SHRM Top Student Award: Shaya Frinks

Marketing & Logistics

Logistics Student of the Year: Evan Downatt

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: Lakeyshia Hampton
Aurielle Lee
Stacy Prigden
Kelly Sexton
Anna-Mari Thompson

William Bolen Retailing Scholarship: Christine Scherer

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

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@morgangray.com.

J. Richard Henry, Jr. (1980), Savannah, CPA/partner in Holland, Henry & Bramley, 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@hbcpa.com.

Edna Lynn Dixon Levernier (1984), MBA 1993, Statesboro, an instructor at Georgia Southern, was recognized with an award for service at the recent Dean 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 MSEG 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. Durren (1989), Reidsville, is the accounting manager for Canoocher EMC, Reidsville. She is a member of the Southeastern Technical College advisor board for accounting. Roxanne is married to Brent Durren. Email: roxanne@kencable.com.

Leanne Clark Reece (1987), 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), Dallas, is a CPA with her own business. She is married to Donald A. Miller. She was on the women’s tennis team. Email: dmcmill@msn.com.

Shei L. Boyd (1992), Marietta, is the owner of Accounting Business Solutions, LLC. Email: sbayd1973@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 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-genag@columbusstate.edu.

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

Richard W. Solomon (1994), Chattanooga, is a CPA/audit services operation 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: jodyclift@hotmail.com.

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 Oliliff & Fordham, CPAs, Maiter. 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 Actf 1 for Georgia Southern. Email: afuller@georgiasouthern.edu.

Shannon Rose Brownlie (2011; MACC 2012), Statesboro, a staff accountant with Dabs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, CPAs, Savannah, recently married John Dennis “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: rachelsclift@hotmail.com.
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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.

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), Rincon, is the accountant/CPA for the Last Plantation Homeowners Association. Email: weekendinmaine@yahoo.com.

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

Brianne E. Lewis (2012), Martinez, is a mortgage product development specialist with the First Bank of Georgia, Augusta. Email: bivie1689@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, Narcross. 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 Jinn-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

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Jennifer W. Mayo (2004), Savannah, is an AVP and mortgage loan originator for BB&T.
Jonathan Young (2006), Statesboro, is now an AVP and mortgage lender with the Citizens Bank of Washington County. His wife is Cara.

Lauren Register Danneia (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: xaviatennent@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...

Marketing

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

Tracy Cela Gordon (1991), Harker Heights, TX, is the relationship manager for Heartland Payment. Email: tgarson@3215@aol.com.

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

Marie Miller Thompson (1993), Statesboro, is now the WA career advisor with the Georgia Department of Labor. She is married to Steve Thompson. Email: marie.thompson@gdot.ga.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@tampashifree.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: meagan.p.moreau@gmail.com.

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

MAcc

Cole R. Branham (1996), Alexandria, VA, is a senior accountant/CPA with Ernst & Young, McLean, VA. Email: cbranham@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 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: campbell01@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 Ahen 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 Freelon Gay. Email: jennifer_melton@hotmail.com.

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

Aubrie Skipper Trotter (2007), Leesburg, is a manager/CPA with Mauldin & Jenkins, Albany. She 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 at Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Savannah, recently married Clinton A. Smith, a 2006 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: jmluttrell09@gmail.com.

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

Reny 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 Liburn, 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@stanetc.com.

LaTasha M. Smith (2005), Snellville, is a management analyst with the General Services Administration, Atlanta. She is also a certified fraud examiner. Email: lms881@yahoo.com.

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

In Memoriam


Cory 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.
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 BBA from Auburn, an MBA from Sanford, 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; 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 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 Brassoc, 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 BANKSTAT 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.

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.

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 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.

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 ProBld. 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 ProBld, 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.

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