Eagle Executive

Spring 2013

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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 organization. He is an award-winning executive educator, was named Terry College MBA organization.

Dean Amason will follow the tenures of Founding Dean Paul LaGronne (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 31.7 percent and undergraduate program offerings expanded, including programs in forensic accounting, information systems, and hospitality management, together with an enterprise resource planning certification program. The college’s regional economic impact, based upon share of students, doubled from approximately $63.1 million to $134 million.

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

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

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

Dr. Allen C. Amason

Caroline O. Harless (MBA, 1977) was named Georgia Southern’s 2013 Alumna of the Year in Private Enterprise at the spring awards banquet in April. She is president and CEO, Peachtree Capital Corporation, Atlanta; general partner in Harless and Associates, CPA's, West Palm Beach, FL, and Atlanta; and CEO, Peachtree Resources Management, Inc., the company that owns the award winning Flat Creek Lodge, Swainsboro.

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

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

Caroline Harless

Ron Core

Dr. Barbara Price

Dr. Price

COBA’s Fifth Dean and First PhD

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

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

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

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

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

COBA’s Whitaker Named 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. ♦

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Eagle Executive

Volume 26, Number 2 Spring 2013
**A Message from Dean Wells**

The 2013-14 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 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 Westenberg (#3); Brandon Long (#6), and Brian Phillips (#9); and Longest Drive—Susan Williams, ladies and Michael Jackson, men. Special thanks to corporate sponsors, Brodie International, Capstone Benefits Consulting, Citizens Bank of Bulloch County, Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, LLP; East Georgia Regional Medical Center; Frank Mullerins—Weinerberger’s Furniture; Hal Roach, Jr., FG; Hearts and Hands Clinic; Heritage Bank of the South; Lovett Bennett—Attorney at Law; Low crem; Nesmith Chevrolet—Marty Nesmith, Real Estate Asset Counseling, Inc.—Tom Cox; Roulbeck, Nunn, Pinnix, Shiffler, and Kennedy, School of Accountancy; Simmons, a proud graduate of COBA; Stateboro Gastroenterology; Statesboro Golf carts, LLC; Steven Powell Company; The University Store—Georgia Southern; Thigpen, Westerfield, Lanier and Deal; Advanced Valve & Instrument, Inc; Center for Financial Services; Coca-Cola Bottling of Statesboro; Inter Technologies; Fredlink 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 alumni, 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. Orice James became dean in 1974–75, tenure 12 years; followed by Dr. Carl Gooding, 1986–1987, tenure 28 years, and Dr. Ron Shiffler, 2002–2003, tenure 10 years, as dean of the College of Business Administration. For some, each dean was here way too long, but COBA has continued to grow and graduate better-prepared students for today’s business world.

A note to our accounting graduates—please do not ignore recent notes from me. Our new School of Accountancy director, Dr. Tim Pearson, is interested in improving accounting alumni records to enhance accreditation opportunities. Employers and 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!
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 and connect the nation’s best students to 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 Mwanga, 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 a 2013 Top Sales Program by the Sales Education Foundation.

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.

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.

Students Alex Coxworth, Mackenzie Fails, Derrick Fouke, Megan Green, Jeremy Johnson, Mike Kayler, Cameron Langles, Ariya Malhotra, Katy McEachern, Cameron Naah, and Zachary Williams pose outside of Habitat’s ReStore.

Faculty Promotions and Tenures

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

John Barkoulas
Promoted to Professor of Finance
Handlen — Fifth Freeman Lecturer

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

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

He said while at Georgia Southern, David enjoyed one of his first entrepreneurial jobs, managing the theatre in downtown Statesboro. Following graduation, his first job in a Southeast Georgia local government office would leave him with few options. His career path rapidly changed to production management when he took a job at a Frito-Lay plant in North Carolina. Beginning as a line supervisor, David advanced to production manager. At the time, Frito-Lay was growing rapidly, building three-to-five new plants a year. David was part of that success. His career took off, pushing him up the corporate ladder, as his salary increased with each new job he took. Later in that career, he helped start two new plants in Wisconsin and New York. Entrepreneurship was in his blood!

From Frito-Lay, David moved to Laura Swaddlers, 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 Asaz 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-arounds.”

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.

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, Seaworld, Johnson & Johnson, Foremost Quality Logistics, CTL Intermodal Services, the JAXUSA Port Partnership, and McCormick & Company.
23rd Annual Accounting Day Celebrated

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

Academic Achievement awards, jointly with the Georgia Society of CPAs and area CPA firms.

Financial awards included scholarships presented by Ms. Cate Cassotta of Nichols Cauley and Associates, Dublin, presented scholarships to

The Southeast Georgia and Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs, joined by the Georgia Society’s Educational Foundation, co-sponsored the Georgia Accountants’ Team Effort Program.

Dr. Robert Marley, this year’s recipient, was presented with 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

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

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.

The Carter Chair

Dr. Constance R. Campbell, professor of management, has been named the W. E. Carter Endowed Chair in Business Administration to advance the teaching of leadership in business.

The distinguished chair was established in 1990 with a gift of $500,000 from Mildred C. Jenkins in honor of her late father, W. E. Carter, Sr., and late brother, W. E. Carter, Jr. In 2000, the State of Georgia matched her gift, creating the $1 million eminent scholar position.

Dr. Campbell, who succeeds retiring Chair William W. McCartney, brings a wealth of experience to the chair. She joined COBA in 1992 upon completion of her PhD in organizational behavior at Florida State University. Her research focus has been leadership 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 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 “Snape 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/.
From the Directors

DAcc and WebDAcc

With spring semester in our rearview mirror and the first semester of the WebDAcc 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.

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 adjunct 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, baker 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 600 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.

From 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) 478-576/ • Fax: (912) 478-7480 • mba@georgisouthern.edu
Website: http://coba.georgisouthern.edu/graduate/
Melinda Fischer

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

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

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

Tim Daiss

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

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

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.

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.

Lincolnshire, Illinois-based, Aon Hewitt has appointed of Garry Spinks (FIN, 1996) as national practice leader for higher education consulting. Garry has more than 15 years of client management and consulting expertise with senior university administration, board-level, and advisory leadership groups, including health policy and project management leadership in employer, multi-employer, and consortial contexts. He is responsible for Aon Hewitt’s consulting efforts for more than 300 universities, colleges, academic medical centers, and related entities.
The 2013 Awards of Excellence for faculty and staff were presented at a banquet and ceremony held at Spring Hill Suites Hospitality on April 19, 2013.

The William A. & Emma Crider Teaching Award
Mark D. Hanna

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

The 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. Adkins 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.

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

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

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

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

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

The Bank of America Faculty Award
Joseph S. Ruhlman

Dr. Joe Ruhlman 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

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, as hoc reviewer for various journals, and as a guest speaker, our recipient is well-respected in the field.

Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service
Ednilson Bernardes

The Charles R. Gibbs Faculty Award
Paige S. Rutner

Dr. Paige Rutner is well-liked, respected by students, and highly praised for her willingness to clarify complex concepts, be helpful outside of class, and care about students. She is a team player—always helping ensure alignment between the IS curriculum and employer needs—and willing to accept the challenge of new course preparation. Her research methods course for the PhD program exemplifies the caring and collegial attitude the IS Department cherishes and strives to maintain.

Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon Accounting Scholar Award
Charles I. Harter

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

M. Jill Lockwood

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

Professor of the Year
Dr. 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. Britton McKay is an excellent contributor in service, teaching, and research who is always willing to help a student or colleague.
of Excellence

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

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

J. Daniel Speight
Banking Excellence Award

Karen L. Hamilton

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

Olivia Suggs
Flanagan Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching or Service

J. Lowell Mooney

Dr. Lowell Mooney has won numerous awards and been a vital part of the School of 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 alumna, worked in a Pensacola, FL, law firm until moving to Statesboro in 2010. Joining COBA as part-time temporary employee, she quickly became the department’s administrative secretary, assuming an expanded role in Finance & Economics’ operation and extracurricular activities, including the annual tailgate, COBA golf tournament, and awards banquet. Mrs. Scott’s most notable characteristic is her genuine concern and desire to help others.

Administrative Group Faculty Recognition

Dora E. Bock

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

Alan W. Mackelprang

Fresh from completing his PhD, Dr. Mackelprang has published two articles in the premier empirical journal for his discipline and an additional article in an A-rated, discipline-based journal. His research achievements have provided COBA and Georgia Southern with positive international recognition. He has also received the Decision Sciences Institute’s top dissertation award and a Young Researchers Award from the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.
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Aging Eagles, LLC
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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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Yamochi, Mark A.
Young, David
Zahner, Cory*
Ziegler, Karli
Zheng, RongRong

Donor Spotlight

In the fall, ACL Services, Ltd, Vancouver, BC, Canada, a global provider of technology for audit, financial, risk, and compliance, donated a $300,000 software analysis package to COBA and the School of Accounting (SOA). The ACL Futures program offers training on the same software and support systems many CPA firms and corporations use in their accounting, auditing, and financial operations. ACL’s domestic and international customer base includes 89 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and more than two-thirds of Global Fortune 500 corporations.

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Young, David
Zahner, Cory*
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*Eagle Executive Society Members
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 JW 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 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. More than 150 registrants and 37 speakers presented The Perils of E-Filing, Not-for-Profit/Charity Fraud, Evidence 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, Ethics.

Three thirty 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 Keadele 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 Keadele Moore, founded as a community-bank accounting firm in 1977, now represents corporations nation-wide in financial, insurance, technology, biological sciences, and government service arenas. It has been ranked #1 among mid-sized firms in the country in Accounting Today magazine and the Best Companies Group’s Best Places of Employment in the Accounting Industry for 2012. H. Philip Moore, Jr. (ACCT, 1978), managing partner, is a COBA alumnus and longtime Georgia Southern supporter.

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

Honors Day

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

**Accountancy**
- Paul LaGrone Scholarship: Courtney E. Martin
- Delaney N. Tuggle

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

**Finance & Economics**
- Emerging Scholar in Economics Award: Vincent S. Dattilo
- Award for Academic Distinction in Economics: William Bryan

Economics Opportunity Scholarship: Matthew Pauley

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

**Information Systems**
- Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr. Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Melvin D. Zuber
- Albert J. Roezel Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Lucretia V. Haynie
- Harris Computer Systems Award: David D. Tammen
- Buddy Lichte 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
- Information Systems Sophomore Award: Tereion Jazmin Heath
- Information Systems Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Melvin D. Zuber

**Management**
- University Award of Excellence for Graduate Students: Amit Aurora
- SHRM Top Student Award: Shaya Frinks

**Marketing & Logistics**
- Logistics Student of the Year: Evan Downton
- Top Marketing Student Award: Kristina McCallum
- Caroline Sanders

**Top Marketing Student Award**
- Kristina L. McCallum
- Jamie L. Herrmann
- Amanda R. Cleaves
- Anni Rainio

**Top Sales Student Award**
- Phillip Scroggin
- Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: Emily Archer

**Finance & Economics**
- The Sack Company Marketing Service Award: Anni Rainio
- Ray Greenly Memorial Scholarship: Kelly Sexton
- Heather Allen

**Aspire2Retail Inter-Collegiate Competition Winning Team**
- Reannah Haselden
- Emily Archer
- Anni Rainio

**Logistics**
- Lakeyshia Hampton
- Aurielle Lee
- Stacy Pridden
- Kelly Sexton
- Anna-Mari Thompson

**William Bolen Retailing Scholarship**
- Christine Scherer
- Mu Kappa Tau Inductees: Britannica A. Cleaves
- Jamie L. Herrmann
- Kristina L. McCallum
Accounting

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

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

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

William R. “Billy” Hickman (1974), CPA, Statesboro, an accountant with Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, was named COB&’s 2013 Alumnus of the Year.

Frank L. Gaudry (1975), Macon, is vice president of Morgan Stanley. He is married to MaryAnne Grier, a 1970 Macon, is vice president of Morgan Stanley. His wife is Tina. Email: frank.l.gaudry@morganstanley.com.

J. Richard Henry, Jr. (1980), Savannah, CPA/partner in Holland, Henry & Bromley, J. Richard Henry, Jr. (1980), Savannah, is now the CFO/owner of Accounting Business Solutions, LLC. Email: shbyed1973@yahoo.com.

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 of MSEBG with the Department of Accounting.

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

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

Leadership Development program are full-time, trainees have full support and back-up as they take on more responsibility and autonomy. While all assignments during the first 18 months and is made up of a series of six-month placements, at least one of which will be overseas. Once proven, leadership advances to Phase II consisting of a 2-18-24 month posts, giving trainees the opportunity to build on what has been learned as they take on more responsibility and autonomy. While all assignments during the Leadership Development Program are full-time, trainees have full support and back-up from the graduate program to help develop strengths and careers in respective disciplinary areas, including customer management, engineering, finance, human resources, manufacturing engineering, and operations management.

In June, following graduation, Patrick Jacobs (MGT, 2013, Magna Cum Laude) will enter the Rolls Royce Operations Management Leadership Development Program in Boston, MA. The program, which consists of two parts, is designed to develop future leaders of its aerospace and marine businesses. Phase I typically lasts 18 months and is made up of a series of six-month placements, at least one of which will be overseas. Once proven, leadership advances to Phase II consisting of two 18-24 month posts, giving trainees the opportunity to build on what has been learned as they take on more responsibility and autonomy. While all assignments during the 18-month program are full-time, trainees have full support and back-up from the graduate program to help develop strengths and careers in respective disciplinary areas, including customer management, engineering, finance, human resources, manufacturing engineering, and operations management.
Ben J. Glass (2011; MAcc, 2011), formerly in Leesburg, is now in Albany, where he is a staff accountant II/CPA with Drafkin & Tucker, CPA. He is married to Elizabeth M. Stocks, a 2011 Georgia Southern nutrition graduate. Email: bglass@drafkin-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 mortgage product development specialist with BMO Financial Group. Email: ajansen415@gmail.com.

Brianne E. Lewis (2012), Martinez, is a senior associate accountant with the First Bank of Georgia, Augusta. Email: bivel899@gmail.com.

Ryan S. Robbins (2012), Dalton, is the order entry person for Heatmax. Email: ryan06@robbins.com.

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

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.

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 Jennie King Hsu College of Public Health.

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

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

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

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

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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 Danzenbacher (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: xaviantenant@hotmail.com.

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

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

**Marketing**

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

Tracy Celia Gordon (1991), Harker Heights, TX, is the relationship manager for Heartland Payment. Email: tgdorn3215@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: marmthompson@adga.gov.

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

**MAcc**

Cole R. Branham (1996), Alexandria, VA, is a senior accountant/CPA with Ernst & Young, McLean, VA. Email: cbranham1@gmail.com.

Kimberly D. Tominson (2000), Fargo, ND, is a senior auditor/CPA with Drake, Klein & Messino, CPAs, Clearwater, FL. Email: kimberly.kdmcpas@gmail.com.

Elaine Stavers 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 Greenbrier 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 Athen Walden, a 1997 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: waldenabby@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

Monica 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: monica_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: jmluttrell09@gmail.com.

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

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

**MBA**

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

Gene Allen Davis (1997), formerly in Duluth, is now in Liburn, 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: genedavis@stanec.com.

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

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

**In Memoriam**


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.
City Campus Growth Continues

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 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 healthcare 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; Zeager Tucker, 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 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 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. ◆

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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 that this defibrillator will help save a life in the future,” said COBA Dean Bill Wells.

Kenny and Lisa Wilson, Cory’s parents, Savannah, along with family members, made the donation in memory of their 21-year-old son to increase awareness of CPR training and the availability of defibrillators. Lisa, who is a school nurse, affirmed, “It is our hope that this defibrillator, placed here in Cory’s memory, will one day serve as a lifesaver for another student.”

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

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

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