Eagle Executive

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legacy
noun  leg·a·cy  \\
ˈle-gə-sē\\
something (as memories or knowledge) that comes from the past or a person of the past
I’ve been thinking quite a bit recently about legacies. In the broadest sense of the word, a legacy is something transmitted by or received from a predecessor. Our free society and our constitutional form of government are legacies left to the citizens of this great nation by those who founded, defended and then passed it onto us. Indeed, much of who we are and much of what we have are the result of legacies left to us by those who came before. We should think about that often and appreciate the legacies on which we have all built our lives and careers.

We should also be mindful of the legacies we leave to others. Where are we investing our energies and efforts, and what are we building for those who are yet to come? As we enter 2016, we mark the 50th anniversary of this College of Business. In those 50 years, we’ve grown from a Division, to a Department, to a School, to a College. We’ve grown in size and scope; the shadow of our impact has lengthened substantially. Much of the success and reputation we now enjoy is a legacy provided to us by those who came before. And, now, the time has come for us to return the favor, to pay it forward, by building a legacy of our own.

In this issue, you will see the plans to renovate and expand the College of Business building. Once a state-of-the-art facility, our building is growing cramped and tired. Indeed, in the 21 years since our building was completed, competitors have invested aggressively, such that we are now in danger of falling behind. We believe our students and faculty deserve better. We want them to have facilities equal to or better than our competitors. We want to invest in them and to give them every advantage; we want our alumni to be proud; and we want the College of Business to be a beacon, attracting the best, the brightest and the hardest working to the Georgia Southern campus.

And, so, we are asking everyone to remember the legacy that our College of Business represents. Class after class, generation after generation, we have all reaped a harvest from seeds planted long ago. And, now, the time has come to invest in a legacy of our own, to build on that solid foundation and to leave this place even better than we found it. I get excited just thinking about it, and I hope you will be excited as well. The future is littered with opportunities. Our challenge is to step up and to seize them.

Allen C. Amason, Ph.D., became the fifth dean of the College of Business in August 2013. He received his BBA in finance from Georgia Southern in 1984, his Ph.D. in international strategic management from the University of South Carolina in 1993, and joined the faculty at The University of Georgia in 1996.

Dean Amason’s teaching and consulting have focused on strategic management, strategic decision making and top management team processes. He is an award-winning executive educator, having been named Terry College MBA Teacher of the Year in 2001, 2003 and 2005, and Terry College Teacher of the Year in 2006.

Dean Amason is author of the textbook, Strategic Management: From Theory to Practice. He has published more than two dozen articles and chapters in the Academy of Management Journal, the Journal of Management, the Journal of Management Studies and the Journal of Business Venturing, among other peer-reviewed publications. He is associate editor of the Journal of Management Studies and was previously senior associate editor of the Journal of Management, having served on the editorial boards of the Academy of Management Journal, the Journal of Management and Entrepreneurship, Theory & Practice.
Many College of Business alums have family members who are alumni, too. Moving forward, the college’s legacies will be an important part of our future.

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The Georgia Southern University College of Business was recently featured in Newsweek.com’s Leading Global Business Schools 2015. Listed alongside University of California Riverside School of Business and UNLV’s Lee Business School, among others, the College of Business at Georgia Southern was recognized as a leading business school in the U.S. (newsweek.com/leading-global-business-schools-2015).

This Newsweek.com feature follows two others from Newsweek.com, Great Business Schools 2015 and 12 Top Business Schools (September 2014). As a Leading Global Business School 2015, the College of Business’s programs cover an extensive variety of interests in business, provide students with easy access to prominent alumni and offer students the opportunity to gain real-world experience with leading companies. Through in-class projects, business students gain the skills needed to solve real-world issues using real-life companies.

Graduate Brunch

The College of Business celebrated graduation with the friends and family members of graduate students prior to the Commencement ceremony on December 11. The Graduate Brunch, began in 2013, celebrates graduate students and their accomplishments.

“Our graduation day reception is a special event, and I look forward to it every semester. It’s a pleasure to meet and congratulate students who are finishing their graduate degrees. It’s also great to meet their families and friends, and to thank them for their support,” stated Dean Allen Amason.

Chris Osborne, assistant director of development, welcomed the new graduates as Eagle Executives (College of Business alumni) and encouraged them to give back and attend the alumni events the college holds around the state throughout the year.

The Georgia Southern University College of Business offers business programs from the undergraduate level through the doctoral level. Concentration areas are offered to complement certain programs of study. To learn more about the Georgia Southern College of Business, please go to GeorgiaSouthern.edu/leadingbusiness.
Georgia Southern University held its 24th Annual Fall Commencement at Hanner Fieldhouse on Friday, December 11, 2015. Interim University President Jean Bartels, Ph.D., conferred nearly 1,600 graduate and undergraduate degrees during three separate ceremonies.

The College of Business conferred 318 degrees: 2 Ph.D. degrees, 58 master's degrees and 258 bachelor of business administration degrees.

The Commencement speaker for the College of Business ceremony, shared with Graduate Studies, Education and Public Health, was Major General Leslie C. Smith (ACCT, '85), deputy to the Inspector General for the Office of the Secretary of the Army (pictured above).

During his speech, Smith encouraged graduates to remember several tips when beginning their professional lives: trust, expertise, honorable service, a positive spirit, being a good steward and knowing one's talents. In conclusion, Maj. Gen. Smith said, “You can achieve whatever you want to achieve. Use whatever your perceived obstacle is to achieve the goal that you want to achieve … You can do it, Eagle Nation.”

Maj. Gen. Leslie C. Smith received his commission in the U.S. Army from Georgia Southern in 1983 as a Field Artillery Officer. He has served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center for Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Other commands include leading a Field Artillery Battalion, a Chemical Battalion and a Chemical Brigade. During his extensive and impressive military career, he has received numerous awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Senior Parachutist Badge. Maj. Gen. Smith also holds an M.S. in administration from Central Michigan University and a master's in national security strategy from the National Defense University. 

College of Business Grants More Than 300 Degrees During Fall Commencement
Georgia Southern celebrated Homecoming week, October 12–17. This year’s Homecoming theme, Welcome to Fabulous Las Southern, played off the iconic Las Vegas sign. Homecoming festivities kicked off with painting the campus blue and Pennies for Eagles, which is supported by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The purpose of Pennies for Eagles is to raise money to give awards to Georgia Southern students in extreme financial hardship. A popular event this year during Homecoming week was the T-Shirt Swap. At the T-Shirt Swap, students exchanged non-Georgia Southern University collegiate apparel for a brand new, Georgia Southern Homecoming t-shirt.

The week wrapped up with the annual Homecoming Parade and Celebration. During the Celebration, the winners of the Paint the Campus Blue competition were announced, and the College of Business Dean’s Office won the coveted award. Saturday brought the True Blue 5K/10K at 8 a.m. and the crowning of the Homecoming king and queen at halftime during the football game against the New Mexico State Aggies. The College of Business finished up the week’s festivities with another successful Homecoming tailgate. During halftime at the football game, Kayla Wilkinson, senior marketing student, was crowned Homecoming Queen 2015. Congrats, Kayla! The Eagles went on to win the Homecoming game, 56-26.
Honors students in the College of Business are required to complete a senior-year business research project, called the “capstone project,” in order to graduate with the Honors designation. Conducted under the supervision of a faculty mentor, these projects represent the highest level of student-faculty engagement, a hallmark of the Georgia Southern experience, and bring opportunities to share their original findings with a wide audience. Many students go on to present their findings at regional or national conferences, and some submit them to refereed academic journals. This past fall semester, three of our students finished their capstone projects and presented their findings at our on-campus Honors Research Symposium.

Rebecca Henderson, majoring in accounting with a minor in fraud examination, Summa Cum Laude graduate, and now a graduate student in our Master of Accounting program, presented her paper, “South Korea’s Transition from K-GAAP (the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) to IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards),” under the supervision of Leslie Fletcher, Ph.D. Rebecca studied abroad at Keimyung University in South Korea and investigated the cultural factors both supporting and undermining the transition between accounting standards. Rebecca reported very little resistance to the new standards, particularly among the college-age cohort of respondents included in her study.

Connor Kasten, a dual major in economics and finance who graduated Summa Cum Laude, presented his paper, “The Environmental Kuznets Curve for the European Union,” under the supervision of Jaehyuk Lee, Ph.D. The environmental Kuznets Curve shows that, as an economy grows, the amount of environmental degradation increases to a point and then decreases in an inverted “U” curve. Surprisingly, after examining this relationship for the countries of the European Union, Connor and Lee found the data did not match this shape.

Victoria Neuhauser, a major in human resources management and Summa Cum Laude graduate, presented her paper, “Examining the Interplay of Supervisor and Subordinate Leadership Style in the Performance Evaluation Process,” under the supervision of Feruzan Irani Williams, Ph.D. Victoria and Williams predicted that performance evaluations would be higher if the subordinate used the same leadership style as the leader. They reported that, when task-oriented leaders evaluated subordinates, their evaluations were significantly higher for subordinates who also used a task orientation. Interestingly, people-oriented leaders do not inflate their evaluation of people-oriented subordinates, rather the investigators speculated that people-oriented leaders exhibit a more refined ability to evaluate each subordinate.

The University Honors Program provides a small college atmosphere in the context of a large comprehensive university. The program is designed to foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective and an ethic of civic responsibility. A hallmark of the program is the emphasis on bringing ideas to life through undergraduate research, experiential learning and service-learning opportunities. The University Honors Program rests on the foundation of the following of ideals that are inspired by the institution’s emphasis on engaged learning.
The School of Accountancy (SOA) had an exciting 2015, and the faculty and students have been quite busy. The SOA has five student organizations advised by its faculty members. The oldest is the Accounting Association, which provides students a forum to meet and learn about opportunities. The busiest is Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), which hosts 12 employer and professional presentations each semester. The newest organizations are the reestablished chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) and the Student Center for the Public Trust (Student CPT). The NABA chapter has been reestablished to emphasize the need to provide support for diversity and inclusion for students of color. The Student CPT was founded to provide students across majors a means to explore ethical decision making and leadership.

Students also participated in several trips, traveling to the FBI in Atlanta, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), and Jesup Prison, as well as National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, NABA, BAP national meetings and Internal Audit competitions. In addition, faculty reported more than 20 in-class presentations were made by visiting professionals and another 32 presented to student organizations.

Early in Fall 2015, the SOA hosted “Meet the Firms,” a professional career fair with approximately 30 recruiters on campus meeting students and recruiting for leadership experiences, internships and full-time opportunities. All students participating in “Meet the Firms” take professional development workshops on résumé writing, meeting etiquette and professional attire. In the fall, 27 firms and 14 recruiters came to campus to specifically recruit accounting majors for internships and full-time opportunities. Recruiters included international and highly-ranked CPA firms, Gulfstream, various state agencies, Koch Industries, Coca-Cola, Turner Broadcasting and The Southern Company. Another 20 plus employers circulated employment opportunities that were disseminated and screened through campus-based systems. In 2015, 45 students were recipients of more than $55,000 in scholarships and exam review materials. In Spring 2016, SOA will host our annual “Accounting Day.”

Our students are in demand as demonstrated by the latest results of the exit survey (Spring 2015). Data gathered from students indicated that virtually 100 percent of our WebMAcc graduates and 75 percent of full-time, on-campus MAcc students have secured full-time employment at graduation; 32 percent of graduating BBA students report having either a job at graduation or an internship. The majority of our BBA graduates not reporting employment indicate they plan to go on to pursue a graduate degree.

As part of our assessment and continuous improvement efforts, SOA faculty members have adopted significant innovations in the curriculum. In Fall 2016, the SOA will launch an integrated 156-credit hour BBA/MAcc program focused on students targeting opportunities in public accounting. We will also implement two graduate certificates, one in taxation and the other in forensic accounting and will offer an undergraduate certificate in fraud examination. These new options are a direct response to advice from our advisory board and demand in the marketplace. The School of Accountancy continues to grow and respond to changes in the market for accounting services.
Economics professor Greg Brock, Ph.D., was recently chosen to be the chair of the NAACP Economic Empowerment Committee for the state of Georgia.

The purpose of the committee is to promote economic development and financial fitness via local NAACP units in the state. During Brock’s two-year appointment, he will partner with the Federal Reserve, the Georgia Council on Economics Education and Economic Development offices at the county level. One of the issues to be addressed is reducing the number of “unbanked” individuals in Georgia. According to Forbes, 28 percent of the U.S. population – about 88 million people – are either unbanked or underbanked. If a person has no relationship with a bank, he or she often must pay a $5 (or higher) fee to cash a check. The unbanked poor also are likely to take loans from “payday lenders” who charge as much as 500 percent or more in annual interest. Brock, the Economic Empowerment Committee and the Federal Reserve are working together to provide economic education to all Georgians.

Brock Tapped by the NAACP

Brandi Wheeler, a finance major, received the M. Albert Burke Banking Award. The criteria for this award include academic performance, personal character and full-time status as a finance major.

Economic Excellence Scholarships

Trevor Camper (pictured below) and Patrick Reames each received an Economic Excellence Scholarship. These two students — both seniors majoring in economics — were selected by the economics faculty on the basis of academic achievement.
Planning for Eagles on Wall Street 2016 Underway!

On the heels of last year’s successful trip, the process of scheduling visits with firms for the 2016 trip to Wall Street has begun. Twenty-two Georgia Southern business students have already enrolled in this experiential learning opportunity.

Rand Ressler, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Finance and Economics, explains, “The Eagles on Wall Street experience gave our students a valuable component of a business education that generally cannot be conveyed in a classroom. I am excited for our students and so very grateful to the business men and women who open their doors to us and invest in our students.”

When planning the itinerary and reaching out to firms, one quickly realizes that members of the Eagle Nation are everywhere! If you are a Georgia Southern graduate working on Wall Street and would like to participate in Eagles on Wall Street – either in 2016 or beyond – please contact the Department of Finance and Economics at (912) 478-0086.

Second Annual Meet and Greet

On February 24, 2016, the Eagle Expo career fair brought employers from all industries to campus for the opportunity to recruit from a pool of students from all majors. The Finance and Economics Meet and Greet was held after the Eagle Expo and allowed economics and finance students and faculty to interact with businesspeople who are successful in banking, insurance and other industries or firms related to the financial sector of the economy. Students received advice related to the professions they aspire to, and faculty became more familiar with the concerns and issues facing employers. Such informal interaction facilitates the Department of Finance and Economics in delivering relevant educational content so that graduates are well prepared for the transition from student to professional.
Marc Scott, Ph.D., assistant professor of logistics, and Jerry Burke, Ph.D., department chair of logistics and supply chain management, co-authored a case study on various distribution and supply chain challenges facing JCB in North America. This case study was developed for a student case competition in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Conference of the Academy of International Business-Southeast and X-Culture Symposium held in Savannah, Georgia, on November 12-14, 2015. The 2015 conference theme was “International Trade, Supply Chains and Emerging Markets.”

Fifty students from around the world worked virtually in cross-cultural teams for six weeks and then met face-to-face in Savannah for an exciting weekend that included a site tour of JCB and final preparations with their teams for the case competition. Special thanks to JCB’s Pam Veiock, Ken Bianco and Thom Peebles for arranging and meeting with faculty and students during the site tour and also to Thom Peebles and Rob Marringa for attending and assisting with rating presentations of teams.

The Georgia Southern Logistics Association (GSLA), comprised of majors in logistics and intermodal transportation, hosted the Fall 2015 Logistics Roundtable on October 13, 2015. The Roundtable consisted of various break-out sessions and a career-fair style event held in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center.

Faculty Advisors and Assistant Professors of Logistics Chris Boone, Ph.D., and Ben Skipper, Ph.D., helped connect approximately 100 managers from 40 different companies with more than 200 students attending the event. Collectively, companies attending were offering more than 80 distinct internship and full-time employment opportunities.
Now in its second year, Raise the Woof (RtW) is the best example of an integrated-service effort between students in multiple disciplines within the college and the local community. A comedy show utilizing New York-based professional comedians, RtW is an annual fundraiser for the Humane Society of Statesboro and Bulloch County. All aspects of this project are coordinated through two College of Business student groups, the Georgia Southern Hospitality Club and Enactus, and all of the hospitality management classes each fall semester. The student organizations arrange for the donation of space, marketing materials and food to be donated for this night-club like evening of entertainment, dining and drinks.

Marketing students create the materials, sales and advertising strategies and actually sell the tickets in advance. They also assist hospitality operations students with menu development, donation solicitation and interior décor. Operations students must design the event itinerary, design and coordinate the style of service, and train and prep other students and volunteers to serve food, prep food, serve liquor and execute the entire operation.

Management students provide the basic labor as volunteers directed by student management from the other classes. Volunteers from both participating organizations serve as managers in various areas of production and marketing and get a chance to act as a supervisor. Local chefs and restaurant owners are invited to promote new food, often suggested by student research projects from earlier in the semester. They are asked to provide demonstrations on production of popular menu items and strategies behind their development during their interactions preparing the event. This engages business owners at a level they do not often experience. Coupled with a marketing effort to promote the participating businesses, it is easy to see why the event has quadrupled in size in terms of both attendees and funds raised. All of the efforts are coordinated at the start of fall semester with the client, just as in a regular lodging or event facility hospitality operation.

Two years in and the experience has been nothing short of rewarding for all parties and will continue. The best thing about this project, besides the sheer number of students who are able to participate, is that based upon student and community engagement, it can evolve differently each year.

Student members of the Hospitality Club get a chance each semester to participate in a mystery shopping program with Dining Services on campus. Twenty-five students are selected from the hospitality program each year and are appointed mystery shoppers for all 16 Eagle Dining Services dining outlets. Each week, mystery shoppers are sent an email and electronic funds are added to their Eagle Dining Cards. The email directs them to a particular outlet at a particular time and requests that they dine and take notes on their perception of the experience including, but not limited to, quality, service, cleanliness, etc. The students then take an online survey each time they dine. The instrument was developed by students in hospitality management classes under the supervision of Stan Suboleski, Ph.D., assistant professor of hospitality management, and Bob Miller, director of special projects for Eagle Dining Services.

The students must complete a survey from the assignment prior to being sent on their next mission. Now in its third year, the project has been reported to have a great influence on operating outcomes in the Eagle Dining Services outlets and has exposed students to an important part of the hospitality management industry—observation and critique. Some discussion has occurred related to presenting a case study on this ongoing project at the annual National Association of College & University Food Services meeting, as general feedback has been that this is a unique program and a fresh approach to academic and student services relationships on campus.
A Rising, Shining Star
by Kathleen Gruben, Ph.D.

The College of Business has a “Rising Star.” Of course, we have many rising stars, but one is an official, nationally recognized rising star. Taylor Yancey, a University Honors Program student with dual majors in marketing and logistics, was awarded the National Retail Federation’s Rising Star Scholarship. As the Georgia Southern recipient, Taylor received an all-expense-paid trip to the National Retail Federation’s (NRF) BIG Show and Student Program in New York City. While in New York, Taylor’s days were filled with educational and professional events. Many of these were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as an executive mentor experience, networking with managers and CEOs of the nation’s largest retailers, professional development workshops, a corporate-level career fair and interviewing opportunities.

Taylor, along with 11 other Georgia Southern students and two faculty members, were hosted at the ROSS, Inc. Buying Offices. The students participated in a networking experience hosted by Kohl’s at Rockefeller Center, where the ice rink was reserved for those in the NRF Student Program. Some of the people they met were Marla Beck, co-founder and CEO of Bluemercury, Inc.; Tim Belk, chair and CEO of Belk, Inc.; Bill Brand, president, HSN, chief marketing officer of HSNi; Jean Chatzky, financial editor of NBC Today; Mike Ciulis, strategic planning manager at Nike, Inc.; and Patti Clauss, vice president of global and talent acquisition at Williams – Sonoma, Inc.

The highlights of Taylor’s trip included the opportunity to attend the NRF Foundation GALA, where she met many celebrities. Special to Taylor was her chance to meet Tory Burch, founder and CEO of Tory Burch, LLC. Only about 25 students nationwide were invited to this exclusive event.

One unanticipated bonus of the trip is that Taylor was offered a corporate position with a national retailer. This was a surprise because she will not graduate until Spring 2017. Few companies are willing to make a firm offer to a student a year and a half ahead of graduation. This just goes to show that Taylor is truly a “Rising Star” in all aspects.

GATA Sales Team Preps for Competition Season
by Chareva Myles

The Georgia Southern GATA Sales Team started in 1998. Assistant professors of marketing, Linda Mullen, Ph.D., Lindsey Larson, Ph.D., and Stefan Sleep, Ph.D., along with Jim Randall, DBA, adjunct professor of marketing, and David Shepherd, Ph.D., professor of marketing, created and pioneered a competition team to help students gain confidence, professional experience and business-to-business relationships. The GATA Sales Team consists of College of Business students of all classifications.

This year, the team has nine members driven to excel in sales: Aaliyah Gayfield, Scott Kelly, Jakeia Kitchens, Fred Long, Max Marshall, Chareva Myles, Taylor Porter, Adam Silcox and David Todd. The team competes yearly in different U.S. cities. This year, the sales team will travel and compete in Kennesaw, Georgia; Chico, California; Toledo, Ohio; and New Orleans, Louisiana. The competition team is a way for students to learn about themselves, while expanding their horizons. Businesses everywhere, from Fortune 500 Companies to those in and around Statesboro, travel to these competitions to meet the competitors and offer jobs and internships. The Georgia Southern GATA Sales Team provides a great opportunity for a student’s future, and it is a great team to break out of one’s shell and build professional skills.
Many alumni consider the current College of Business building to be “new.” What they do not realize is that the building the college currently occupies was built in 1994, making our “new” College of Business building more than 20 years old. In its 20 plus years, the building has not undergone any significant renovations; only minor touch ups have taken place, new paint, new carpet, and some new furniture.

To address our need for cutting-edge space, the college is seeking to renovate and expand its 89,000 square foot building. At the time of its construction, our building cost approximately $16 million, and enrollment within the college was about 2,000 students. Our current enrollment has grown to 3,600. As business education has become more competitive, at least 18 other business schools at comprehensive universities, like Georgia Southern University, from across the country have announced or are building new buildings. On average, these new buildings are 160,000 square feet and will cost $66 million. We need to raise $10 million to remain competitive.

The College of Business proposes a 3-phase plan to maintain competitiveness. This plan will address technological needs; the current building was built before the Internet and, therefore, needs to be retrofitted to support the full functionality required for cutting-edge instruction. It will also address student support, providing common areas, breakout space, project rooms or multi-purpose areas. Lastly, it will add functional flexibility. Currently, the building offers 27 classrooms, 26 of which have about 45 seats configured in the same basic way. Renovation will provide opportunities for customization and innovation.

Renovating the building will allow the college to move forward competitively in recruiting students, faculty and donors. The visual, functional and symbolic benefits of the project will complement the new mission and strategy of the college, stoking enthusiasm among alumni, facilitating marketing and outreach to prospective students and faculty, and injecting energy and drive to the existing culture.
The Atrium will provide student support, aesthetic appeal and flexibility. The current building offers little space for students to gather and share ideas, work on projects or just interact with one another. The space will be designed with students in mind. The new space will offer students an atmosphere that encourages collaboration and networking.

The Financial Learning Lab will add visual appeal, while providing a customized space for studying financial markets, monetary policy, financial securities, investment vehicles and other related topics. The lab will feature cutting-edge technology and provide a venue for guest lecturers, student competitions, board meetings and recruiting events.
The Blanchard family of Columbia County, Georgia, has a long history as representatives of the Georgia Southern University College of Business. Their roots with Georgia Southern go back to when the school was Georgia Teachers College, and the Blanchard patriarch went on to teach and coach future generations at his alma mater Leah High School, his alma mater.

Following in his father’s footsteps, J.P. “Pierce” Blanchard, Jr. (ACCT, ’63), became the first Blanchard to attend the Georgia Southern Division of Business. While in school, Pierce excelled in the business classroom as well as on the sports field, serving as captain of the Georgia Southern Eagles baseball team and twice named a member of the NAIA All-American baseball team. After graduating with his accounting degree, Pierce began his banking career with the First National Bank of Augusta, later joined Georgia Railroad Bank (now Wachovia Bank, NA) as an officer and retired in 2013 from Georgia Bank & Trust Company, where he had served as executive vice president.

The next Blanchard to enter the Division of Business was Patrick “Pat” G. Blanchard (MKTG, ’65). During his time on campus, Pat organized the Eta Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega and served as vice president of student congress and student organizations’ committee chair. After graduation, he began his banking career with Georgia Railroad Bank and would later go on to serve as the principal organizer and initial CEO of three banks in the Augusta market. Pat continues to volunteer his time to Georgia Southern University and the College of Business through various boards.

After Pat, came Philip “Phil” B. Blanchard (MKTG, ’70), Perry C. Blanchard and Preston K. Blanchard (EDUC, ’72). Phil followed the Blanchard path as an officer of Augusta Federal Savings and Loan Association immediately following graduation, then went on to be the editor and publisher of The Columbia County News-Times. He also served as regional manager of the State Department of Labor. Phil volunteered his time to his alma mater and his community after graduation.

The Blanchards

(front row, l-r): Preston and Perry Blanchard; (back row, l-r): Pat, Pierce, Jr. and Phil Blanchard (circa April 2005)
The Burkes

Bryan Burke (MGMT, ’85) was the first to graduate from Georgia Southern College and the School of Business in his family; however, his brother, Brent Burke (ACCT, ’93), was not far behind.

The Burke family moved to Statesboro in 1980, and Bryan had received his two-year degree from South Georgia College and wanted to pursue a four-year degree. With his father teaching business and banking at the then Georgia Southern College School of Business, Bryan decided Georgia Southern was the right fit for him.

Now as president of BBWH Insurors in Statesboro, Bryan has opened his business up to College of Business interns, and two of those interns are now principals in their respective insurance agencies in Dublin, Georgia, and Vidalia, Georgia. Bryan and his wife, Beth (CS, ’87; EDUC, ’92), also established an endowment for students. “I believe our endowment is a great way to give back to the [College] of Business,” states Bryan. Bryan and his father, M. Al Burke (EDUC, ’58), remain involved with the College of Business and the university by serving on committees and boards.

Currently, Bryan’s children attend or did attend Georgia Southern University and the College of Business. Taylor, Haley and Ashley have continued the Burke family legacy, following in their parents’ and grandparents’ footsteps.

The Deals

The first members of Julian Deal’s (BSED, ’60) family to attend what would become Georgia Southern University were two aunts who graduated in the 1940s and 50s, respectively. Julian admits that he chose Georgia Southern due to financial concerns rather than due to loyalty to a family’s alma mater, but, since then, his son, Barry (ACCT, ’85), vice president of risk management at Colonial Oil, and daughter, Rebecca (MGMT, ’87 and FINC, ’88), dispatcher at Howard Sheppard, Inc., have followed their father as well as their mother, Frances (ACCT, ’67), a retired CPA, not only to Georgia Southern, but to what is now the College of Business.

While in school, Julian was a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Pi Omega Pi, and Beta Alpha Psi—three professional fraternities. Since graduation, he has devoted his time to both the university and to the college.

Julian has served on the board of the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation since 1987, holding positions on various committees by serving as their chairs and as vice chair, chair and past chair of the board as a whole. A lifetime member of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association, Julian has served on a number of search committees including Men’s Basketball Head Coach (’85), Presidential Search chair (’95–’96 and ’15–’16), Dean of the School of Business, Director of Alumni Relations and Vice President for Development, among others. He has served the Georgia Southern Foundation board since 1973 as committee member or chair as well as president (’97–’03). He has also served on the College of Business Dean’s Advisory Board since 1988 on various committees before being named vice chair (’89–’97) and chair (’97–’03).

In short, Julian Deal has volunteered his time to Georgia Southern in more roles than can be listed. In recognition of his efforts, he has been inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics (’12) and the College of Business (’00) halls of fame; named Georgia Southern Outstanding Alumnus of the Year (’89), first recipient of the then School of Business Alumni Award (’82), and first chapter honoree of Beta Alpha Psi (’87); and was inducted as an honoree member of Beta Gamma Sigma (’89).
Lee Huggins (MIS, ’86) was exposed to Georgia Southern growing up. He started learning about Georgia Southern and respecting the institution from his grandparents, Lonza James and Mamie Lee Usher. Upon his acceptance to Georgia Southern College, Lee received an invitation from Coach Erk Russell to try out for the fledgling football team. After making the team, he was later injured and began to focus his attention on his degree.

Lee decided majoring in business would provide him the best education for the career choices he desired. Currently, Lee serves as the senior vice president of Total Software Solutions (TSS) and is the founder of SAVHTECH, LLC. He was instrumental in the expansion of VeriSign to becoming a global leading provider of Internet services, content, communications and commerce. Lee holds several patents in the wireless industry.

Following in their father’s footsteps, his son, Garrison, and daughter, Elizabeth, graduated from the Georgia Southern University College of Business in Spring 2015 with degrees in economics and marketing, respectively.

Liz Huggins, Lee’s wife and an education alumna, along with his brother, Walt, and sister, Ronda, graduated from Georgia Southern. Lee and Liz share a passion for the university’s continued success. Lee presently serves on the College of Business Dean’s Advisory Board, served on the Georgia Southern 20/20 Athletics Transition Group and as a KD Big Brother.

Lee states, “It is important to me [to volunteer] because I have great respect for the institution and its leaders.”

Matthew Janofsky (IS, ’84) happened to stumble upon Georgia Southern College and the School of Business due to having a friend attending Georgia Southern. Matt liked the small size of the school in the 1980s, and he knew the business school had a great reputation. That was all he needed to become an Eagle Executive.

Matt’s brother, Paul (MGMT, ’86), and son, Michael (ACCT, ’12), both ended up attending Georgia Southern, too.

Matt, a software engineer for Hot Schedules, a hospitality industry services company, was alumnus of the year for the College of Information Technology in 2008 and is a member of the 1906 Society. The Janofsky family endowed the Janofsky Family Scholarship for Information Systems about 20 years ago. Matt and his wife, Marsha, continue to give back to Georgia Southern University and the College of Business through the family scholarship. Matt says, “Georgia Southern changed my life! I was very fortunate that I could attend school without the financial stress so many of today’s students are under. I feel that giving back to the school in the form of a scholarship will allow other students to have the life-changing experience that I had without the burden of worrying about how to pay for it after graduation.” Matt’s hope is that his son, Michael, will continue the scholarship for several more generations of students to come.
The Smiths

Lance Smith (MGMT, ’86; MBA, ’88), regional human resources manager for Harbor Freight Tools, made his way to Georgia Southern and the then School of Business through his cousin, Denise Lane (MKTG, ’84). Denise gave him a tour of the campus, and he immediately fell in love with the college. With a young football program, Lance was excited to see what Georgia Southern had in store for him. At the time, the School of Business at Georgia Southern was the only accredited business program south of Atlanta and north of Jacksonville. Lance says, “That sealed the deal for me.”

The first to attend Georgia Southern in his immediate family, Lance Smith’s family has quite the family legacy, which includes his wife Connie (BSED, ’87), sister Tiffani Thompson (Home Economics, ’90), and brother Giff Smith (BS, ’91). His three daughters, McKenzie Smith Gay (BSED, ’13; MED, ’14), Brooke Smith (MGMT, ’15) and Avery Smith (BS, ’18) have attended or are currently attending Georgia Southern University.

Lance and other family members were very active while at Georgia Southern and remain active with the university. Some of the organizations the Smiths have been involved in include Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, Georgia Southern football, Gamma Beta Phi and Eagle Fund, to name a few.

Dan Speight (MGMT, ’79) came to Georgia Southern for a basketball camp between his junior and senior years in high school and fell in love with the school and the people. His plan was to attend Georgia Southern for a year and transfer, but, once here, he decided Georgia Southern was a better fit for him than The University of Georgia. Following graduation from Georgia Southern College, Dan went on to pursue his law degree from Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law. Dan rose to vice chair and general counsel for State Bank and Trust Company in Macon, Georgia, also serving Atlanta, Georgia, and Augusta, Georgia. Other Speight family members who attended the Georgia Southern College of Business include his son, Joseph Speight (MGMT, ’06), and nephew, David Mixon (MGMT, ’12). During college, Dan was involved with the College Judicial Board, Beta Gamma Sigma and Sigma Chi. His son and nephew were also part of the Sigma Chi fraternity, following in their dad’s and uncle’s footsteps. Dan still gives back to the College of Business and the university by sitting on the Dean’s Advisory Board and the Georgia Southern University Foundation, respectively.

Lance also states, “I have to be one of the few Georgia Southern graduates to have two family members in the Athletic Hall of Fame: Giff Smith (class of ’00) and Bill Freeman (class of ’02).”

In Lance’s spare time, he’s the editor and moderator for the website GSUFANS.COM, which was founded in 1997. He also supports the Georgia Southern College of Business in various ways including attending Eagle Executive Exchanges.
The following students have completed or are completing internships for the 2015–2016 school year. We would like to thank our College of Business Internship Sponsors for giving our students experience that will help them secure employment upon graduation.

**ACCOUNTING**
Kody Adams, Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, Atlanta
Jacob Anderson, Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC, Atlanta
Jacquelynne C. Bailey, Webster Rogers, LLP, Hilton Head, SC
Lacey Boone, McNair McLemore Middlebrooks Co., LLC, Macon
Brittany C. Casey, Webster Rogers, Hilton Head, SC
Haley M. Chambly, Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, Atlanta
Kyle J. Darnell, Warren Averett, Atlanta
Gbegbe H. Fumbah, Campus Recreation and Intramurals, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro
E. Callie Johnson, Warren Averett, Atlanta
Bruce Maliwa, Mattress Firm, Inc., Roswell
Chad M. Minor, Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, Atlanta
William S. Racz, Hancock Askew & Co., LLP, Savannah
J. Graham Raley, Sweat & Associates, LLC, Wrightsville
Jennifer Richard, Hancock Askew & Co., LLP, Savannah
Jasmine Small, Student Affairs & Enrollment, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro
Zackery P. Smith, McNair McLemore Middlebrooks Co., Macon
Amanda J. Stumpf, Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, Atlanta
Kaitlynee S. Ward, Moore Stephens Tiller, LLC, Atlanta
Cameron M. Williams, Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, Albany

**ECONOMICS**
Derrick Ramage, World Trade Center, Savannah

**FINANCE**
Kristin Britt, World Trade Center, Savannah
Megan Dodson, Core Credit Union, Statesboro
Sammie Evans, Core Credit Union, Statesboro
Whitney B. Howell, Sherman & Hemstreet Real Estate, Augusta
Peyton Sutton, Center for Excellence in Financial Services, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro
Ethan Von Behren, Center for Excellence in Financial Services, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro

**LOGISTICS**
Glenn A. Browning, Southern Nuclear, Baxley
Nicholas Blugasch, Ozburn-Hessey Logistics, Atlanta
Matthew Douglas, Interpane Polymer Group, Sarasota, FL
Skyler Nicholas, J.B. Hunt, McDonough
F. Price Oliver, Passio Technologies, Atlanta
Logan Poillucci, Interpane Polymer Group, Sarasota, FL
Troy L. Puckett, III, Veritiv Corporation, Atlanta
Addison Reddick, RJS Logistics, Statesboro

**MANAGEMENT**
Toby Eaton, Renasant Bank, Statesboro
Megan Davies, Disney Worldwide Services, Inc., Hilton Head, SC
Christina DiPaola, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta
Diana Farris, Marriott, Spring Hill Suites, Savannah
Ashlee S. Little, Hyatt Regency, Savannah
Amber Mann, Marriott, Valley Lodge, Breckenridge, CO
Amicha Paterson, Disney Worldwide Services, Inc., Orlando, FL
Taylor Stanfield, Emory Conference Center, Atlanta

**MARKETING**
Laura Amisano, Copper Beach, Statesboro
Demetrius Harper, Amazon, Seattle, WA
Alexis Hodge, World Trade Center, Savannah
Bernetta Moore, Monarch 301, Statesboro
Emily R. Paul, Conference Services, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro
Victoria Pittman, Pedersen Worldwide, Maui, HI

**GENERAL BUSINESS**
Jeremy Williams, Vaden Nissan, Statesboro
CALLING ALL CEOs, CFOs, CIOs, CMOs AND OTHER C-SUITE OFFICERS!

We want to feature you in an upcoming issue of the *Eagle Executive*.

Share your story of being a high-ranking officer within an organization with us at

business-marketing@georgiasouthern.edu.
BIG Receives Awards from IEDC

Georgia Southern University Business Innovation Group (BIG) received a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for its 2015 project in Entrepreneurship for communities with populations of 25,000 – 200,000 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) at an awards ceremony on October 5, 2015, during the IEDC Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

Through the launch of Georgia’s Enterprise Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GENIE), a platform for a virtual incubator program, BIG received nearly $300,000 in a grant awarded by the U.S. Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP). GENIE offers services to entrepreneurs located in Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Lincoln, Telfair and Wilkes counties.

Since 2012, GENIE advisors have connected with more than 40 businesses and currently provide services to 23 others. In addition, more than 85 university students have assisted incubator clients by administering customer satisfaction surveys, developing employee handbooks, outlining marketing assistance plans and conducting basic market research. This hard work allowed BIG to win the highest award in the entrepreneurship category.

In addition to receiving the Gold Award, the Georgia Southern City Campus was recognized with a Bronze Excellence in Economic Development Award for its 2015 project in Real Estate Redevelopment & Reuse for communities with populations of 25,000 – 200,000.

“From localized community projects, to large scale endeavors, economic development efforts have played a vital role in the global economy,” said JoAnn Crary, CECd, chair of the IEDC and president of Saginaw Future Inc. “As we address new and longstanding challenges, these efforts continue to take on even greater importance. The award serves as a salute to pace-setting organizations like the Georgia Southern University Business Innovation Group for leading the charge.”

Recipients of these awards demonstrate to an experienced panel of judges that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession. They are recognized as the world’s best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials and the year’s most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities.

The IEDC is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. For more information on the IEDC, go to iedconline.org.
On October 11, 2015, eight collegiate teams from around the nation had three minutes to pitch sustainable innovations to improve economies, health and the environment to a panel of four members with varying backgrounds at the inaugural BIG Pitch collegiate competition. The panel members asked questions of each of the finalists in front of the delegate audience. Not only were the finalists pitching to the panel members but to about 100 delegates in the audience who voted for the winner of the $10,000 cash award. Following the eight pitches, the delegates mingled with the finalists during a reception and asked questions before voting closed early Monday morning.

Allen C. Amason, dean of the College of Business, took the stage and announced the winner of the inaugural BIG Pitch competition held in conjunction with Ocean Exchange’s 2015 event. Stanford University’s Opus 12 pitched its idea and came out on top. According to Millicent Pitts, CEO of Ocean Exchange, the winner and first runner-up were separated by only one vote.

Opus 12 pitched Renewable Fuel Production from Carbon Dioxide. Through technology developed at Stanford University, Opus 12 can take carbon dioxide and convert it into ethanol, which can then be used by oil refineries and corn ethanol plants. “Opus 12 is extraordinary and truly delivers on the vision of Ocean Exchange,” stated Kelly Carnes, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce over Technology Policy, president and CEO of TechVision21 and Ocean Exchange panel member. “The team has combined a very innovative solution that transforms climate damaging [carbon dioxide] into useful products with a very sound business plan to scale and commercialize the technology. I would also like to congratulate all of the BIG Pitch teams; all of the concepts were innovative, and the presentations were polished and professional.”

“Our first BIG Pitch was a rousing success,” said Dominique Halaby, DPA, director of BIG. “The enthusiasm, passion and innovation each of the teams exhibited for making our world a better place was truly inspiring. I am very proud of each of the finalists.”

For more information on BIG Pitch, Ocean Exchange or Georgia Southern entrepreneurship programs, contact Millicent Pitts at (912) 257-0209 or millicent.pitts@oceanexchange.org; or contact Dominique Halaby at (912) 478-2733 or dhalaby@georgiasouthern.edu.

November 16-20, 2015, was Global Entrepreneurship Week, a week-long celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life and inspire people everywhere through activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators. The Business Innovation Group (BIG) hosted several events to celebrate innovators and self-starters.

The week kicked off with a Lunch ’n Learn on November 16, during which Becky Brownlee, Small Business Development Center consultant, conducted a seminar on business plans, reviewing all the necessary business plan components, concept and feasibility, market analysis and financial considerations.

November 17 brought back the Eagle FastPitch, at which aspiring entrepreneurs pitched their business ideas, “Shark Tank” style. Held at the Whitaker Black Box Theater in downtown Statesboro, 12 students presented their existing businesses and business ideas to a panel of eight judges. The students had three minutes to pitch their ideas, followed by three minutes of questions and answers. Pitches ranged from athletic gear to a parking app to a Memphis BBQ franchise. In the end, Mindy Lord of Luella Designs won the competition with her pitch to expand her flower farm and flower design company.

To wrap up the week, BIG hosted a workshop on designing websites on November 18. Websites 101 provided business owners the tools needed to create a strong online presence. Presented by Keely Hopkins, Georgia Southern web developer, the workshop gave entrepreneurs a better understanding of what it takes to create a website, while explaining the best website platform and how to pick the best domain name.
Online MBA Ranked a Best Online MBA Program 2015-2016

The Georgia Southern University Online MBA has been named among the best online MBA programs 2015–2016 by AffordableCollegesOnline.org in its third annual ranking for Best Online MBA Programs. Ranked in the top 30, this Online MBA ranking comes right behind the online Master of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE) ranking.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org is a leading resource for online learning and college affordability information. According to the ranking organization, ranked schools must be a public or private, not-for-profit institution, must offer at least one fully-online bachelor's degree program, must offer academic and counseling services and must have job placement for graduates.

“The stigma surrounding online programs is fading in the job market, and more employers are hiring candidates with online MBA degrees,” said Dan Schuessler, CEO and founder of AffordableCollegesOnline.org, “which means these institutions are preparing the next generation to be an integral part of our workforce.”

AffordableCollegesOnline.org distinguishes its ranking scale using Peer-Based Value (PBV), which compares the cost of each program to the cost of similar programs with the same qualitative score. To view the rankings, go to affordablecollegesonline.org/degrees/mba-programs.

MAcc/WebMAcc Update by Jordan Wilburn

The School of Accountancy is now offering certificate options as a part of the Master of Accounting program. Beginning in August 2016, students will be able to earn certificates in tax or forensic accounting in addition to completing the traditional Master of Accounting degree. Current graduate and undergraduate students alike are excited about the increased versatility they will have in the workforce because of these new options.

In addition, the School of Accountancy is preparing for its second Essentials of Fraud and Forensic Accounting (EFFA) seminar to be held the first week of August. The seminar will provide an overview of the forensic accounting field, fraud schemes, investigative techniques and case simulations. Instructors will include professional forensic accountants, law enforcement agents and attorneys. Once again, EFFA will be open to the public, those looking for CPE credit and prospective students. Participants who complete EFFA and pass a competency exam will also receive credit for fulfilling the forensic prerequisites. The School of Accountancy encourages anyone wishing to pursue a certificate in forensic accounting, earn CPE credit or gain foundational knowledge of fraud investigation to attend.

Alumni from the forensic accounting program have gone on to work in fraud investigation for the Georgia Office of the Inspector General and Ernst & Young Forensic Investigations and Dispute Services, among others. The online Master of Accounting option (WebMAcc) has continued growing to meet the demand for in-career professionals to advance their expertise in accounting.
MSAE Program in Top 5  by Kate Channell

The Georgia Southern University Master of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE) degree has been named in the five best online master in economics degree programs by TheBestSchools.org.

TheBestSchools.org provides in-depth rankings of degree programs and colleges and universities. When ranking degree programs or colleges and universities, TheBestSchools.org balances academic excellence, return on investment and indirect or secondary benefits.

A master’s degree in economics provides a solid foundation of the fundamental tools needed to perform evaluations of economic issues and policies. The degree requires strong analytical and quantitative skills, which makes graduates of such programs valuable employees in many industries. The Georgia Southern Online MSAE program is fully online, featuring small class sizes and a flexible schedule. Students complete the 30-hour program in two years and exit the program with concrete analytical skills in financial economics, regulatory issues and economic development. The AACSB International-accredited program prepares its graduates for careers in government, financial institutions and industry, and helps students analyze profit maximization strategies, as well as consumers’ choices.

To view “The Five Best Online Master in Economics Degree Programs,” go to thebestschools.org/rankings/best-online-master-in-economics-degree-programs/.

For more information on the Georgia Southern Online Master of Science in Applied Economics program and other business graduate programs within the Georgia Southern College of Business, go to GeorgiaSouthern.edu/BusinessGraduate. ◊

Ph.D. Update  by Kate Channell

Fall Commencement saw two logistics and supply chain management Ph.D. candidates, Scott R. Cox and Heather L. Monteiro, walk across the stage to receive their degrees. Following is a brief summary of their dissertations.

Scott’s dissertation, The Successful Implementation of Supply Chain Management Technology Initiatives: Technological Readiness as a Key Indicator, discussed the emergence of what defines modern supply chain management (SCM). SCM can be attributed to revolutionary advances in information technology over the past three decades. Many companies still experience considerable complications during supply chain management technology (SCMT) implementation, despite significant investment in both the technology and the implementation process. Little research exists in the area of SCMT implementation, and a proven path to supply chain technology implementation has not yet been established. To address these gaps, Scott’s dissertation considers the role of technological readiness as a part of a comprehensive model for SCMT implementation, which is proposed and empirically tested.

Heather’s dissertation, When Good Business Relationships Go Bad: A Quantitative Analysis of Dark Side Variables in Mature Supply Chain Relationships, examined the dark side effect of relationship variables on relationship financial performance and the likelihood of relationship termination, moderated by relationship quality. It tested propositions found in Social Exchange Theory, a social psychological and sociological perspective explaining social change and stability as a process of negotiated exchanges between parties. Social exchange theory, rooted in economics, psychology and sociology, states that human relationships are formed by the use of a subjective cost-benefit analysis and the comparison of alternatives. The survey was conducted with logistics purchasers and providers, and three of the ten hypotheses Heather was testing were supported. The other hypotheses supported the existence of the dark side effect of some relationship variables.

Currently, two students are in their first year of the logistics and supply chain management Ph.D. program. Anas Irfan’s primary research interest is in supply chain integration, and Nihar Kumthekar’s primary interest is in supply chain disruptions. Both students presented papers at the Academy of International Business – Southeast Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia, in November 2015. They worked on a joint project that was presented at the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute Conference in Virginia in February 2016. ◊
Major General Leslie “Les” C. Smith (ACCT, ’85) has served in the U. S. Army for 32 years. Currently, he is deputy inspector general for the U. S. Army. He is the number two leader in an organization that serves as the eyes, ears and voice and determines the pulse of the army. His area answers to the secretary and chief of staff of the Army. The main focus of Smith’s position is on inspections, investigations and assistance. His department spends much of its time teaching and training. The best part of his job is talking to people. Les says the more time he spends talking to people, be they generals, privates, civilians or family members, the more he learns that everyone wants the same things. It is his job to help them achieve their goals so that he, in turn, achieves his goals. Major General Smith’s proudest work-related accomplishment is helping people every day.

Although he does not work in the accounting field, Les states that his accounting degree gave him the analytical thought process he uses every day. He credits his intermediate and governmental accounting classes with teaching him to think on his feet. Les also credits the realistic discussions with his professors for allowing him to gain an understanding of the roles he would later take on. Even though accounting was a difficult major, the small class sizes and the camaraderie he and his classmates developed got them through the subject.

Major General Smith fondly remembers the people he met and the lives he helped improve due to his membership in the Black Student Union, the Inter-Fraternity Council and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He made lifelong friends and first met his wife, Vanedra, thanks to Kappa Alpha Psi. Les says that club membership allowed him to see that he could spend his time working while also playing a part in the college community.

Les encourages current students to look for something bigger than themselves when searching for a career. He believes if they can find their vocations, students’ careers will not be jobs, they will be adventures. Ultimately, that is why people serve in the military—not because they cannot do anything else but because they want to do something larger than themselves. They want to serve the nation.

In his spare time, Major General Smith volunteers at his church and his fraternity. He also enjoys watching sports and playing golf. He likes fishing, but rarely has time to devote to it. Eventually, after he retires from the Army, Les hopes to become a CEO and to sit on charitable boards. He also wants to spend more time with his family (he and Vanedra have two daughters) and to travel around the world. ◊
Book Review: 50 Billion Dollar Boss by Victoria Herndon

Porter and Hoffman’s 50 Billion Dollar Boss: African American Women Sharing Stories of Success in Entrepreneurship and Leadership profiles highly successful female entrepreneurs with businesses ranging from marketing and fashion to cosmetics and construction. It records their personal challenges, resilience and triumph in realizing their dreams of owning a successful business. Businesses owned by African-American women grew 296 percent from 1997 to 2014 and generated nearly $50 billion in revenue—hence the title of the book. The 12 women entrepreneurs and leaders featured in the book provide tools and techniques termed the “50 Billion Dollar Boss Moves,” for example, have patience and perseverance. This inspirational book provides guidelines to help everyone gain the confidence to become a successful business owner and entrepreneur. The book has recently been nominated for an NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Literary Work—Non-Fiction.

Kathey Porter received her MBA from Georgia Southern in 2001, BBA from Savannah State University and served as a supply specialist/armor in the Georgia Army National Guard. She is a supplier diversity director with the University of Florida and has been a consultant for government, higher education and corporate entities. She has been an adjunct business instructor at several colleges and universities, including Virginia Tech, Savannah State, Savannah College of Art & Design, Strayer University, Columbia College and University of Phoenix. She has owned and operated several small businesses and, recently, founded BusinessFAB Enterprises, a media company focused on the development of content, communications, customized networking events and continuing education programs that connect fearless, awesome, boss (FAB) women entrepreneurs to opportunities. She believes that of her many undertakings, 50 Billion Dollar Boss is one of her greatest successes. For more information about the authors or the book, visit 50bdb.com or Facebook.com/50bdb.

Alumni Spotlight: Teri Brennan by Carol L. Waller

Teri Brennan (ECON and INT’L BUS, ’94; MBA, ’95) is an associate director of finance at Coca-Cola Enterprises, the Coca-Cola bottler for Great Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden. She is responsible for the finances of global support functions and interacts with IT, public affairs, human resources, legal, finance, aviation and corporate areas. In addition, Teri is responsible for an approximately $400 million budget and handles all of the budgeting, forecasting and actuals of the functions as well as ad hoc projects. She often travels to Europe to work with stakeholders in the countries in her purview. Teri admits that getting to know people in other countries and finding ways for cross-cultural teams to work successfully together is the best part of her job.

Teri is very proud of her teams and her ability to foster collaboration among many different people. She believes it is important to get to know her colleagues, as it is easier to work with people you know something about. Daily, as she works with people from different backgrounds, cultures and experiences, Teri applies the lessons and strategies she learned in her business classes while at Georgia Southern. She credits the group projects and papers assigned by her professors, especially Trey Denton, Ph.D., professor of marketing, with providing her with experience in working with people of diverse backgrounds and ways of thinking she now uses on a daily basis.

Because she would not be where she is today without the help of many others, it is important to Teri to give back. Scholarships from her hometown in New Jersey helped her attend college. Her parents, who still live in New Jersey, supported and encouraged her desire to attend Georgia Southern, even though it was nearly 1,000 miles away. It is with this mindset that Teri volunteers at Holy Catholic Family Church in Marietta, Georgia, mostly working with youth groups. She is also an active member in the Georgia Southern Alumni Board and with Atlanta alumni.

In her spare time, Teri loves shopping, reading and spending time with friends and family. She is still close to her college roommates, who are more like sisters than friends. Teri has taken her children, Mattingly (14) and CJ (11), to five countries. They look forward to traveling the world in the future.
Class Notes

**ACCOUNTING**

Bob Thigpen, Jr. (1965), Dublin, has retired. His wife is Susan Stokes Thigpen. Email: BobT2006Retired@yahoo.com.

Kimberly Stewart Plette (1980), Jacksonville, Florida, is a staff accountant at Baptist Health Systems. She is a member of PISIG. Her husband is Denis. Email: Kimberly.Plette@yahoo.com.

Gene Jackson (1981) (Tau Kappa Epsilon), Auburn, Washington, has retired. His wife is Denise Sweasy Jackson. Email: gene.jackson@comcast.net.

Louise Shackleford (1982), Dublin, is retired. Email: shack4422@yahoo.com.

Robin Martin Grenchick (1985), Savannah, is the director of projects and site development for Circa Lighting. Email: robin@circalighting.com.

Bitsy Bedingfield (1986), Bluffton, South Carolina, is retired. Email: bitsy-bedingfield@yahoo.com.

Carla Randolph Cook (1986), Fort Valley, is the owner of V-Stone Unlimited in Macon. She oversees operations of her family business and home. Her husband is John. Email: carlacookcpa@gmail.com.

Judy Daniels Ussery (1986), Savannah, is president of Judy D. Ussery CPA PC. She is a member of GSCPA. She and her husband, Richard, have one daughter, Janie Cantrell. Email: JudyBug4@aol.com.

Cindy Whitesides (1986), Macon, is an office manager at Whitesides & Associates. Her husband is Scott. Email: cindyandscott@yahoo.com.

Jeff Morris (1991), Franklin, Tennessee, is regional operations director at DaVita in Brentwood, Tennessee. His wife is Karen. Email: jmorris99@me.com.

Debbie White Deal (1992), Bloomingdale, is the lead accounting assistant at Savannah Christian Church. Her husband is Michael. Email: debbiedeal@gmail.com.

Charles Keller, Jr. (1992), Pooler, is owner of Keller’s Auto Sales. He and his wife, Victoria, have four children. Charles is also active in mission work in Guatemala. Email: buyvolvo@yahoo.com.

D. Brandon Sellers (2000), Statesboro, is an account manager at Lewis Color in Statesboro. His wife is Melissa Warren Sellers. Email: bmsellers@bulloch.net.

**FINANCE**

Richard Kelly Lane (1985), Savannah, is a senior financial advisor for VALIC. Email: RLaneSav@aol.com.

Donald A. “Alan” Clark (1992), Savannah, recently purchased a long-established appraisal firm in Savannah, Johnnie Ganem Appraisal Company and rebranded it as The Ganem Group, a full-service valuation and consulting practice. Allen is a certified general appraiser in Georgia and South Carolina. Email: alan@theganemgroup.net.

Marquita Renee Rolland Machael (2006), Grovetown, is a business analyst for ADP in Augusta. Email: mrolland83@yahoo.com.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Jim Pollak (1962), Roswell, is now retired. His wife is Judith.

Nancie Chiang (1985), Pooler, is a judicial administrative assistant for the State of Georgia. Email: n.chiang@comcast.net.

Ronald B. “Bryan” Ginn, Jr. (1987), Evans, is the chief campus officer at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Suwanee. His wife is Caroline Carson Ginn. Email: bginn@pcom.edu.

**MANAGEMENT**

Claude Fredrick Blackmon (1973) (Kappa Sigma), Deland, Florida, is vice president and general manager for Heritage Forest Products, Inc. in Deland. He has worked as a gallery guard supervisor at the Masters Golf Tournament annually for the past 20 years. Claude’s wife of 42 years is Lynn Deas Blackmon. Email: Fblackmon@heritageforestproducts.com.

Richard Rappa, Jr. (1987), Statesboro, is an agency manager for Franklin Insurance Group in Statesboro. His wife is Kirsten. Email: RappaRichard@gmail.com.

Michael Andrew (1998), Savannah, is the M&R manager for Consolidated Chasses in Pooler. Email: mandrew46@hotmail.com.

Samuel “Lawrence” Rountree, Jr. (2002), Aiken, South Carolina, is self-employed. Email: SLR1839@yahoo.com.

Kathryn May (2012), Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman, is a restaurant manager at Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville in the Cayman Islands. Email: kmay@margaritavillecaribbean.com.
MARKETING

James Ronald Tiller (1968), Havana, Florida, has retired. He is a member of APO and was named the 2013 Havana Volunteer of the Year. James enjoys golf, fishing and traveling. He and his wife, Rebecca, have one daughter, Kelly Brewer. Email: tillerb@bellsouth.net.

James Marlow (1983), Marietta, is the CEO and co-founder of Radiance Solar in Atlanta. He has served on the boards of the Georgia Solar Industry Association, Georgia Chamber Energy & Natural Resources Commission and the Atlanta Metro Chamber Clean Tech Leadership Council. His wife is Caroline McLean. Email: James.Marlow@yahoo.com.

Susan Curry Dailey (1988), Savannah, works as a realtor for Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners. Her husband is Robert. Email: susan.dailey@coldwellbanker.com.

Christi Ham Ryan (1988), Savannah, is an area sales executive for Georgia Power. She has worked for the United Way of the Coastal Empire as unit chair for nine years. Christi has also served as a board member for the Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah for two years. Her husband is Kevin. Email: cryan@southernco.com.

Dwayne Edward Loftis (1992), Augusta, is a clinical transplant specialist for Genentech. His wife is Tonya.

Joseph “Joe” Campbell, Jr. (1995), North Augusta, South Carolina, is an operations manager for Broome Service Center in Beech Island, South Carolina. His wife is Kimberly Jones Campbell.

William “David” Cooper (2002), Grovetown, is a buyer/pinner for new product integration at Textron- EZ-GO in Augusta. David recently ran the Rock 'n' Roll Savannah Half Marathon. He also plays the drums for Warren Baptist Church in Augusta. His wife is Jessica Penn Cooper, and they have two children: Penn and Charlotte. Email: wcoopertextron.com.

MASTER OF ACCOUNTING

Jason Roberts (2009) (Beta Alpha Psi), Marietta, is a certified public accountant at Wood Partners in Atlanta. His wife is Catherine Carrell Roberts. Email: jaroberts85@gmail.com.

Morgan Rowe (2012) (Beta Alpha Psi), Atlanta, is a staff accountant at Ernst & Young. Email: morgan.rowe8@gmail.com.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mary Elizabeth Jones Grant (1995), Savannah, is director of procurement at SCAD. Her husband is Bradford. Email: maryj17@comcast.net.

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Terry Damato English (2006), Martinez, retired August 1, 2014, from the Georgia Regents University College of Dental Medicine, where she served as assistant dean for business operations. Her husband is Royce. Email: tenglish@knology.net.

IN MEMORIAM


Bradley Stenman Mair (MGMT, 2012) died on October 11, 2015.
As I was sitting behind a school bus waiting for the elementary school children to get off at their stop, I witnessed a peculiar, but amazing, thing. An older man was struggling to push his car off the road and into the neighborhood. As the children began departing the bus, one little kid ran over and started helping the man push the car. Before long, at least 15 kids came to help push the car, which was then flying down the road with ease thanks to all of the combined energy behind it! Amazing and wonderful things can happen with teamwork!

We are about to embark on an amazing and wonderful thing ourselves—the expansion and renovation of our College of Business building. If we are going to effectively compete with leading business colleges, we must also bring our building facility up to a more competitive level. At a price tag of $10 million and no funding from the state, we cannot do this alone. We need YOUR help! Together, we can make this vision a reality. As we move forward, you will hear about many ways you can partner with us. We encourage you to become part of the team that paves the way to an even brighter future for the College of Business—YOUR College of Business. Whether you have the capacity to name the college, the building, a classroom or simply give what you can to the building fund, you can help “push” the college forward. It will take all of us working together to accomplish this goal. Join our TEAM today!

Pam J. Stovall

SAVE THE DATE

- **Welcome, BBA Students Lunch**  March 23
- **Entrepreneurship/Sustainability Lecture Series w/Tom Szaky**  April 7
- **Business at the Ball Park**  April 23
- **Accounting Day**  April 27
- **Dean’s Advisory Board – Jacksonville, Florida**  April 28-29
- **Eagle Executive Exchange – Augusta**  May, Date and Time TBD
- **Graduate Brunch**  May 6
- **Graduate Commencement**  May 6
- **Study Abroad – Barcelona & Madrid, Spain**  May 7-15
- **Commencement**  May 7
- **Eagles on Wall Street**  May 9-14
- **23rd Annual Golf Tournament**  May 13
- **Fraud & Forensic Accounting Education Conference**  May 16-18
- **Essentials of Fraud & Forensic Accounting**  August 1-5
THE BIG PITCH COMPETITION 2016

Seeking undergraduate & graduate Innovations that improve Economies, Health and the Environment, fitting under the theme of Sustainability

Award: $10,000 cash


Registration Deadline: September 30, 2016, 11:59pm GMT
$50 registration fee. Finalists will be notified October 10, 2016.
For more details and contest rules, go to OceanExchange.org or call (912) 257-0209.

Contest hosted by

Eagle Executive

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed their efforts to making this issue of Eagle Executive possible.

All academic programs in the College of Business are accredited by AACSB International, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The College of Business is a member of the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA), the world’s leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship.

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