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Spring 2017

## Eagle Executive Magazine

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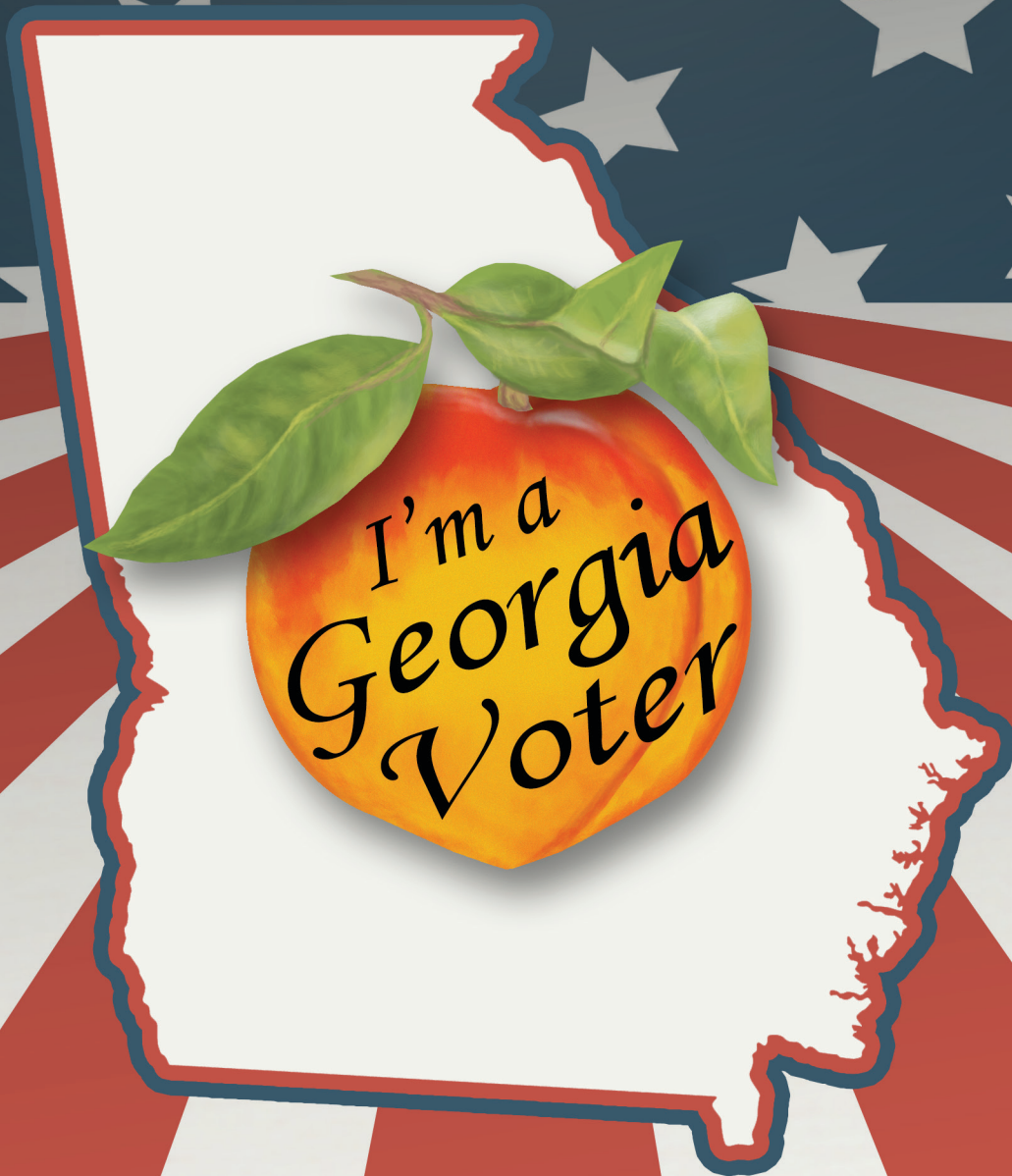
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GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SPRING 2017

# EAGLE EXECUTIVE



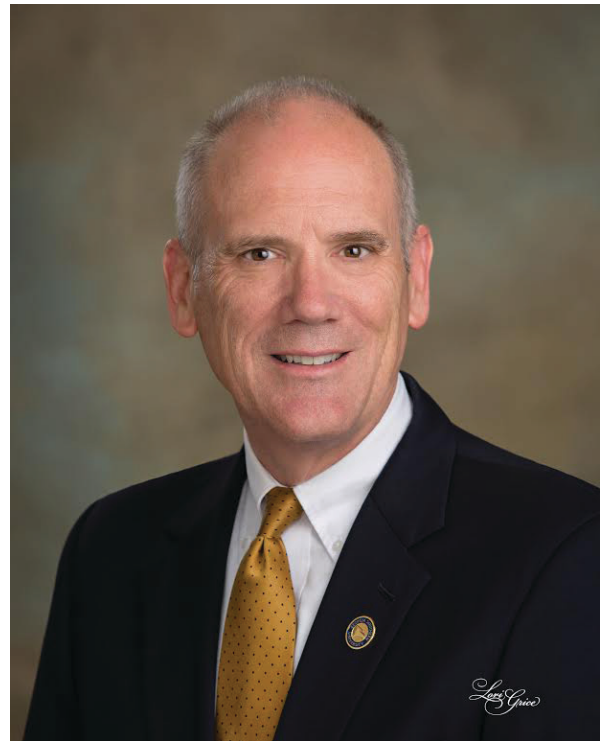
**#BusinessAndPolitics**



# From the Desk of Dean Amason

I was walking through our building the other day, when I had a thought: if these walls could talk, what would they say? As you probably know, we have more than 23,000 living alumni, and a great many of them walked the halls of the current building when they were students. Indeed, we've graduated 20 classes since we first occupied this building. That's 20 spring, fall and summer semesters; 40 graduation ceremonies; and more than 14,000 students.

What would these walls say about them and to the rest of us? One of the things they would say is how proud they are of everything that's been built here. The more I travel and the more I speak to companies across our state and region, the more great things I hear about our graduates. Over and again, I hear about the training, the confidence, and the work ethic of our students. I think our walls would talk about the accomplishments and the dedication of our faculty. The intellectual DNA of this place is simply amazing. But what is even more amazing is how seriously our faculty members take their commitment to their craft, to our students and to their professions. These walls would certainly want everyone to know about our great traditions, our high standards, and our strong culture. We work hard, and we expect a lot. But we also support one another and encourage one another. Talk to any one of our alumni, and he or she will tell you about friendships established, bonds forged and memories made while here. I suspect these walls would even boast a bit and tell the world about the impact we've had on the economy, the ventures our students have launched, the fulfilling careers our alumni have enjoyed and the growth we have helped to support around the state and across the country.



If these walls could talk, I think they would tell all of these stories and many more. Perhaps more than anything, though, I think they would remind us that we are merely passing through. Our successes build on the foundation that others have laid. Our hard work honors the hard work of those who came before us. As Sir Isaac Newton once remarked, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." If these walls could talk, they would remind us of the awesome responsibility and the awesome opportunity we have to support Georgia Southern, to build on the legacy that was left to us, and to change the world for the better.

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* and the *Journal of Management and Entrepreneurship, Theory & Practice*.

— SPRING 2017 —

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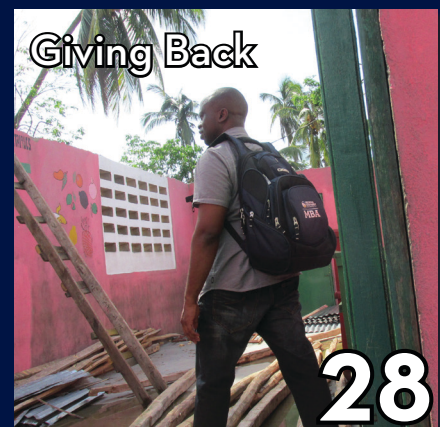
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## FEATURE STORIES







## NEW STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

by Cassidy Horton

The Georgia Southern College of Business now has eight Student Ambassadors. This program allows upper-level College of Business students to serve as peer leaders for the College by facilitating in classrooms and being resources for new students. The program, developed by Stephanie Sipe, Ph.D., associate professor of legal studies, and Brittany Horn-McLamb, senior executive assistant to the dean, is modeled after the First Year Experience (FYE) 1220 Peer Leaders Program at Georgia Southern.

These student ambassadors serve as teaching assistants in BUSA 1105 (Intro to Business), which usually has 80 to 100 students in each section. Each ambassador is assigned to a specific section and is responsible for being in the classroom with the professor every time the class is taught. Depending on the professor's needs, some student ambassadors are given the opportunity to lead class discussions. Because the ambassador is whom the Intro to Business students will interact with most, students are encouraged to talk to their ambassadors about day-to-day activities in the classroom.

To be considered for the program, ambassadors must be College of Business students, have at least a 3.0 GPA and be juniors or seniors as of fall semester. As long as the academic requirements are met, students may continue being ambassadors until they graduate.

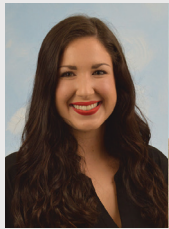
The current candidates applied for the program the same way as for any job on campus—through the Student Employment Center's website. After submitting a résumé and cover letter, the applications were reviewed by Sipe and Horn-McLamb. Then, each candidate who qualified for the program was interviewed—14 students in all. Although more than eight exceptional candidates qualified, the ultimate decision came down to how the candidates' schedules fit in with the Intro to Business classes being offered in the upcoming semester.

Any student interested in becoming an ambassador is encouraged to apply. "The program is something that all College of Business students should strive to be a part of," said Horn-McLamb. "Not only is it a good résumé builder, but it is also a good relationship builder, especially with faculty." Ambassadors have the opportunity to build professional working relationships with their professors while gaining valuable skills such as how to lead a group of 100 students, to be effective communicators and to network with business professionals.

The intangible benefits gained from this program are invaluable. For example, Ambassador Kyrsten Miles, has accepted a job in Los Angeles, California, as a consultant for Accenture. She credits her student ambassadorship for landing a job upon graduation.



# Meet the Ambassadors



**Grace Ballard** is a management major with a minor in information systems. She wanted to become a student ambassador because it was an opportunity to help and give back to the College. Setting an example for incoming students, as well as being able to help them have an easier adjustment to the University, is very rewarding for her. Fun Fact: "Growing up, I always had an interest in music. As far as vocal performance goes, I have a 4, pushing 5, octave range and learned to read and transpose music at age 11."



**Jordan Beckum** is a marketing major with a double minor in management and public relations. She wanted to be a student ambassador because she enjoys sharing her experiences as a student with underclassmen students, and she enjoys helping them discover their majors. Fun Fact: "I currently have my own blog, called *Naturally Jo*, which showcases my poetry and writing."



**Kyrsten Miles** (IS, '16) graduated with an information systems degree with an emphasis in ERP/SAP. She loves the range of career opportunities her major offers, as well as the chance to actually work with the SAP software in the classroom. Kyrsten wanted to be a student ambassador to have a platform allowing her to give meaningful advice to students, while sharing her experiences such as the College of Business study abroad trip she took to Spain. Fun Fact: "I am SAP certified, and I was able to do this at Georgia Southern."



**Sharmita Porshia** is an information systems major. Sharmita loves her major because it is the perfect mix between business and technology. She became a student ambassador because she knew having the opportunity to work directly with a professor was a lifetime experience. Fun Fact: "I am [currently] the only undergraduate student from Bangladesh [at Georgia Southern], and I love it here."



**Kendra Rice** is an accounting major, who loves how the faculty and staff in the College of Business welcome students with open arms. The advisors are wonderful and are very helpful. What made her want to be a student ambassador? Kendra wants to help professors and students in any way possible. Fun Fact: "I am an only child, and my dad is my best friend."



**A'Lamar Smith** is a logistics and management major. When A'Lamar looked back on his freshman year, he realized that life would have been a lot easier had he known what resources were offered to college students. Now, as a student ambassador, he looks forward to helping students maximize their time in the College of Business. Fun Fact: "When people see me, they tend to think I have food on my face, but this is a scar I got when I was about three years old."



**Kenneth Smith** is a logistics and marketing major. He became a student ambassador because he wanted to help lead new students to success, both inside and outside of the classroom. His transition from high school to college was very smooth due to the support system he had. Fun Fact: "I plan on getting my pilot's license one day."



**Rachel Yarbrough** is a logistics & intermodal transportation major with a minor in enterprise resource planning. She first heard about the Student Ambassador Program through the Eagle Executive Society and thought being a student ambassador would be a great way to practice public speaking while working with a large group of people. Not only has she been able to do those things, she has also been given opportunities to teach an entire class without an instructor present. Fun Fact: "I am a volunteer firefighter for the local county fire department, and I am working toward becoming nationally certified." Rachel is currently completing a co-op in Greenville, South Carolina, at BMW.

For more information about the Student Ambassador Program, contact  
Brittany Horn-McLamb (bmclamb@georgiasouthern.edu) or  
Stephanie Sipe, JD, professor of legal studies (ssipe@georgiasouthern.edu).





# UNDER 40

by Cassidy Horton

Georgia Southern officially announced the 40 Under 40 Class of 2016 during the fall semester. Out of 83,000 living University alumni, more than 33,000 are under the age of 40. This award honors those University alumni who are paving the way in business, leadership, community, educational and philanthropic ventures. Not only do the honorees represent exceptionally talented young alumni, but they also embody the core values of Georgia Southern. The College was well represented, again, in only the second class of 40 Under 40. Congratulations to all of our College's 40 Under 40 honorees!

In the 40 Under 40 Class of 2016, 12 alumni hail from the College of Business.







**Alan R. Bray (FINC, '00)**

Special Assistant to the President,  
Advance Lead, White House,  
Falls Church, Virginia



**Kristen Lord (ACCT, '05;  
MAcc, '06)**

Chief Financial Officer,  
Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC,  
Atlanta



**Travis Chance (MKTG, '04)**

President and Owner,  
CFG Wealth Management, LLC,  
Statesboro



**Brendan McGowan (MIS, '02)**

Chief Technology Officer,  
Board Member, Safe Systems, Inc.,  
Woodstock



**Shannaan Dawda (FINC, '09)**

Founder/Financial Coach,  
True Financial, LLC,  
Atlanta



**Yannik McKie (MKTG, '14)**

Marketing Business Consultant,  
Executive Director,  
YP Marketing Solutions/  
The McKie Foundation,  
Hephzibah



**Maj. Sheila L. Howell (MBA, '14)**

Assistant Product Manager,  
Ground Soldier Systems,  
Nett Warrior Future Initiatives,  
U.S. Army



**America Minc (MGMT, '00;  
MBA, '03)**

Director, Georgia Southern  
Recreation Facilities & Fitness,  
Campus Recreation & Intramurals,  
Statesboro



**Jason Hoynes (IS, '02)**

Senior Net Infrastructure Analyst,  
Assurant, Inc.,  
Marietta



**Sally Scott (MGMT, '11)**

Regional Director of Development,  
Georgia Southern University  
Athletic Foundation,  
Statesboro



**Schuyler F. Hoynes (MBA, '04)**

Staff Attorney,  
Cobb County Probate Court,  
Marietta




**Trey Sheppard (FINC, '99)**

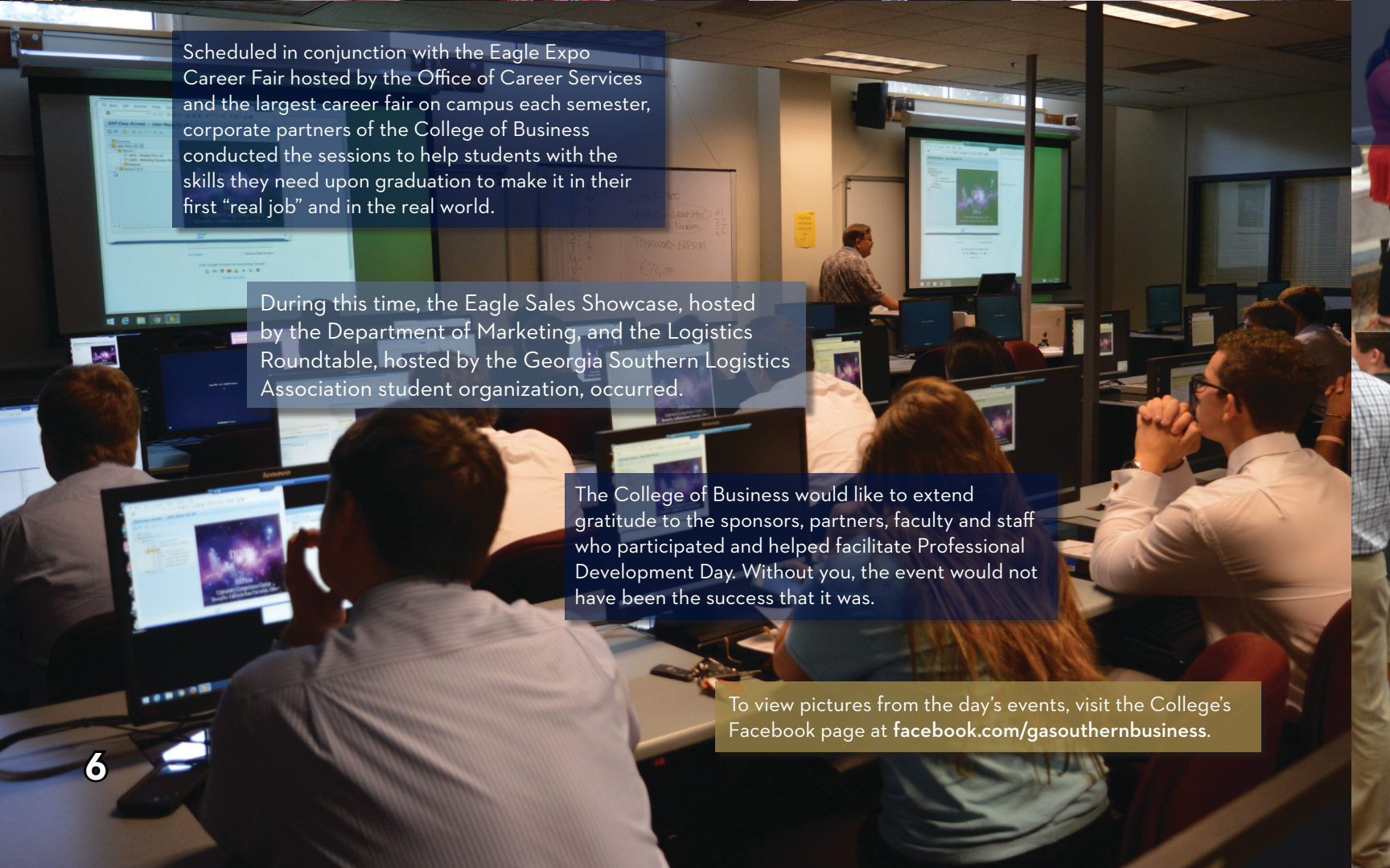
Vice President,  
Kaolin Mining Operations,  
Howard Sheppard, Inc.,  
Sandersville



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



Professional Development Day (#pdday16) was the first of its kind for the College of Business and was a huge success. The day consisted of breakout sessions, much like that of a professional conference, for business students to attend to learn about the various majors the College offers, study abroad trips, interviewing skills and how to brand oneself, among many other topics.



Scheduled in conjunction with the Eagle Expo Career Fair hosted by the Office of Career Services and the largest career fair on campus each semester, corporate partners of the College of Business conducted the sessions to help students with the skills they need upon graduation to make it in their first "real job" and in the real world.

During this time, the Eagle Sales Showcase, hosted by the Department of Marketing, and the Logistics Roundtable, hosted by the Georgia Southern Logistics Association student organization, occurred.

The College of Business would like to extend gratitude to the sponsors, partners, faculty and staff who participated and helped facilitate Professional Development Day. Without you, the event would not have been the success that it was.

To view pictures from the day's events, visit the College's Facebook page at [facebook.com/gasouthernbusiness](https://facebook.com/gasouthernbusiness).



# EAGLE SALES SHOWCASE

The Sales Showcase allows graduating sales and sales management students an opportunity to learn through workshops, to interact with sales professionals and to provide all-access opportunities to sponsors such as Aerotek, Briggs Equipment, C.H. Robinson, Enterprise, Fastenal, Graybar, Mutual of Omaha, Nolan, OTR Capital, TEKSystems, Tom James and TQL.

The workshops lasted 75 minutes each and included topics such as professional dress, decoding the career fair, contract negotiations and what to do before and after the interview. Mock interviews were held, and résumés of students seeking employment were also made available to representatives prior to the event, allowing sponsors to pre-schedule interview sessions during the event. After the event, sponsors dined with students for more face-to-face time leading to several students being offered employment.

Sponsors and students equally agreed the best part of this event was the ability to interact with companies looking specifically for sales students. Students interested in sales were able to network in order to build relationships leading to employment and a greater preparation for what is to come upon graduation.

The Center for Sales Excellence will be hosting its next Eagle Sales Showcase on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. For more information, please call Linda Mullen at 912-478-5437.

# GSLA

GEORGIA SOUTHERN LOGISTICS ASSOCIATION

## LOGISTICS ROUNDTABLE

The Logistics Roundtable is designed to allow students an opportunity to explore logistics-related careers. Each semester, student officers and members of GSLA work with the guidance and leadership of logistics faculty to plan, organize and execute the Roundtable.

Jerry Burke, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, worked with GSLA officers to host the largest Roundtable to date with more than 300 students and 60 professionals from 30 different firms attending the career networking event.

Professionals, including many Georgia Southern alumni, representing third-party logistics (3PL) firms, manufacturers, warehousing companies, distributors, motor carriers and major retailers, provided students insights into logistics, transportation and supply chain career opportunities through both interactive panel and open networking sessions. To get involved, contact Jerry Burke at [gburke@GeorgiaSouthern.edu](mailto:gburke@GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

**JOIN OUR TEAM**  
OUR PEOPLE  
MAKE US AN ESSENTIAL  
PART OF EVERYDAY



# GRADUATION DAY—FALL 2016

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Commencement ceremony took place on Friday, December 9, 2016, at 1 p.m. at Allen E. Paulson Stadium, where nearly 1,700 undergraduate and graduate students received degrees from the University's eight colleges. The College of Business conferred degrees upon 300 undergraduate students and 67 graduate students.

Mike Royal (FINC, '95), chair of the Georgia State Board of Education, addressed graduates. He has served on the board since 2012, when he was first appointed by Governor Nathan Deal. The State Board of Education oversees a K-12 education budget of \$11 billion and more than 1,000 Department of Education employees. The board, in conjunction with the state school superintendent, is also responsible for creating and improving opportunities for the nearly 1.8 million children in public education in Georgia.



During his commencement address, Royal encouraged graduates to keep an optimistic mindset for their future and the choices they make in life. "Life is full of choices and decisions, and ultimately, your life will become a sum of those choices and decisions you make," Royal said. "The bad ones, learn from them, and the good ones, learn from them and replicate them."

He also reminded graduates that life is full of uncertainty and not to let that, or fear, get in the way of accomplishing their goals.

Royal is an accomplished insurance and risk management professional. He is the founder of Partners Risk Services—a fast-growing risk management and insurance firm with offices in Georgia and Colorado. He is a certified insurance counselor and has received recognition and awards for his leadership and service to his profession.





*"I was incredibly impressed with all of the student representatives of the NMC and proud of how our students engaged with the community and executives during the roundtable discussions. The NMC is well on its way to becoming a leading voice for millennials to the greater business community, and I'm thankful that the NMC chose Georgia Southern to be a part of 'changing the conversation' for millennials everywhere."*

**Steve Charlier, Ph.D., pictured left**

*"My biggest takeaway from the trip to Atlanta with the NMC is the importance of critical feedback from targeted customers. In order to effectively run their marketing initiatives and campaigns, executives from major companies are eager for us to provide insight and feedback to better promote their organizations to our generation."*

**Ngoc Le, pictured center**

*"I enjoy being a part of this organization for so many reasons, the largest being that I get to work with so many amazing people towards a common, purposeful and positive goal."*

**Timothy Miller, pictured right**

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDENTS JOIN EXCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

**by Steve Charlier, Ph.D.**

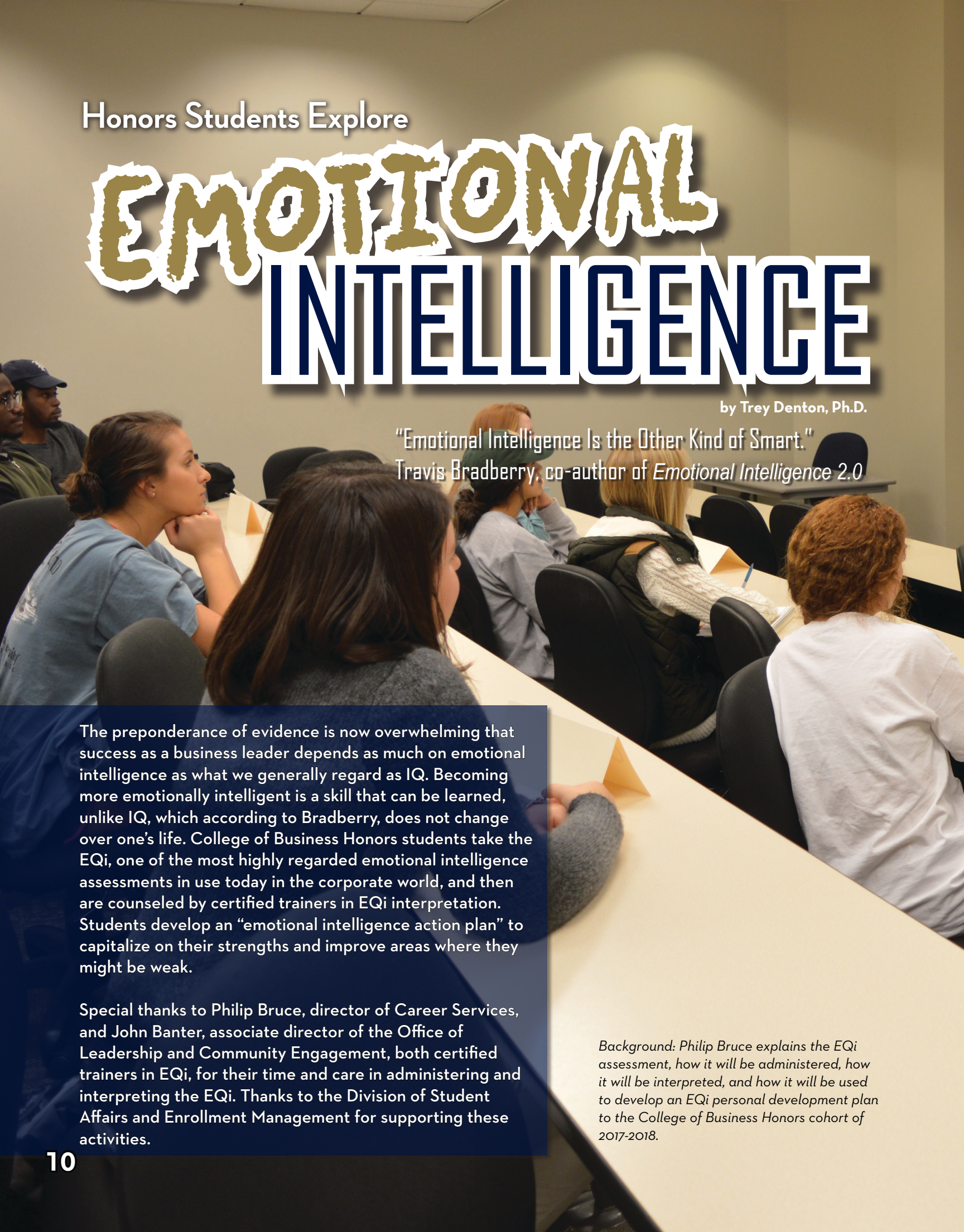
In 2015, Bill Imada, chair and chief connectivity officer for the public relations company the IW Group in Los Angeles, sought to change the conversation about millennials. He founded the National Millennial Community (NMC) in January 2016 with the goal of recruiting a diverse set of millennials from all 50 states, focusing his recruiting efforts on colleges and universities that represent a broader view of the overall millennial population. To date, more than 160 students and faculty members from across the country have joined the NMC, and Georgia Southern University was chosen as the sole representative from the state of Georgia.

Four students—Ngoc Le, Timothy Miller, Erin Moore and Xxavier Robertson—were selected among College of Business students to serve as the first representatives from Georgia Southern to the NMC. Community members regularly participate in "think tank" conference calls with business/media executives and public sector leaders, providing millennial input and perspective on a host of business and social interests. Recent collaborations have included Google, eBay, Bank of America, Nielsen, the Golden State Warriors, and the White House, among many others.

In November 2016, the NMC visited Atlanta, and Georgia Southern served as "host" for the event. Ngoc Le, Timothy Miller and Steve Charlier, Ph.D., assistant professor of management and the Georgia Southern faculty advisor to the NMC, attended the meetings, which included site visits to Coca-Cola, UPS, AT&T and Edelman. During their visit, NMC members were able to share meals and conversation with millennial leaders and executives from Newell Brands, Fiserv, Cookerly Public Relations and Porter Novelli.

From a professional perspective, membership in the NMC provides great potential for students to expand their networks and forge relationships that will, hopefully, lead to internship and job offers upon graduation. Ngoc Le, a sophomore logistics major said, "Through my visit to Atlanta, I had the opportunity to establish professional connections with not only other members of the NMC but also with some of the top executives at major companies like AT&T, UPS and Coca-Cola. I know that many members of the community have also received internships or even job offers through their involvement with the NMC."





Honors Students Explore

# EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

by Trey Denton, Ph.D.

"Emotional Intelligence Is the Other Kind of Smart."

Travis Bradberry, co-author of *Emotional Intelligence 2.0*

The preponderance of evidence is now overwhelming that success as a business leader depends as much on emotional intelligence as what we generally regard as IQ. Becoming more emotionally intelligent is a skill that can be learned, unlike IQ, which according to Bradberry, does not change over one's life. College of Business Honors students take the EQi, one of the most highly regarded emotional intelligence assessments in use today in the corporate world, and then are counseled by certified trainers in EQi interpretation. Students develop an "emotional intelligence action plan" to capitalize on their strengths and improve areas where they might be weak.

Special thanks to Philip Bruce, director of Career Services, and John Banter, associate director of the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement, both certified trainers in EQi, for their time and care in administering and interpreting the EQi. Thanks to the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management for supporting these activities.

*Background: Philip Bruce explains the EQi assessment, how it will be administered, how it will be interpreted, and how it will be used to develop an EQi personal development plan to the College of Business Honors cohort of 2017-2018.*



# Student ASSESSMENT

“As a former honors student, I found the Emotional Intelligence assessment to be a very beneficial tool for both personal and professional development. In particular, knowing one’s emotional strengths and weaknesses can allow for greater understanding of the emotions of others.” **Trevor Camper, Economics, 2016**

“The Emotional Intelligence assessment offered by the Honors Program taught me more about myself than I could have ever imagined. I learned about my strengths, weaknesses, what areas I need to improve, but I also gained valuable insight to who I am as a leader.” **Alea Simmons, Management, 2017**

“Currently I hold a position as a young, female consultant in a very hard-nosed industry, in no small part (if not solely) because my assertiveness action plan developed my ability to provide honest, concise, and respectful feedback to those with both more and less power than myself. I strongly recommend the emotional intelligence inventory to college students that are serious about developing into well-rounded, employable graduates.” **Victoria Neuhauser, Management, 2015**

“[EQi] also served as a great conversation starter in interacting with potential employers when I pulled out a chart exemplifying my strengths & weaknesses as opposed to listing generic qualities from a ‘what to say during an interview’ website ... overall it was a wonderful experience!” **Mia A. Martin, Logistics & Intermodal Transportation and Marketing, 2016**

## Become the Authority Emotional Intelligence

### What is Emotional Intelligence?

Emotional Intelligence (EI) can be defined as a set of emotional and social skills that influence the way we perceive and express ourselves, develop and maintain social relationships, cope with challenges, and use emotional information in an effective and meaningful way.

### Why is EI Important?

With emotional intelligence, you can better understand and manage your own emotions, and you can better understand and manage the emotions of others. This is a key skill for success in the workplace and in life.

### The EQ-I<sup>2.0</sup> Model



The 15-16 factor structure: The EQ-I 2.0 features one overarching EI score (total EQ), broken down into five composite scores which measure five distinct aspects of emotional and social functioning. These in turn, are broken down into a total of 15 sub-scales.

### EQ-I 2.0 QUICK FACTS

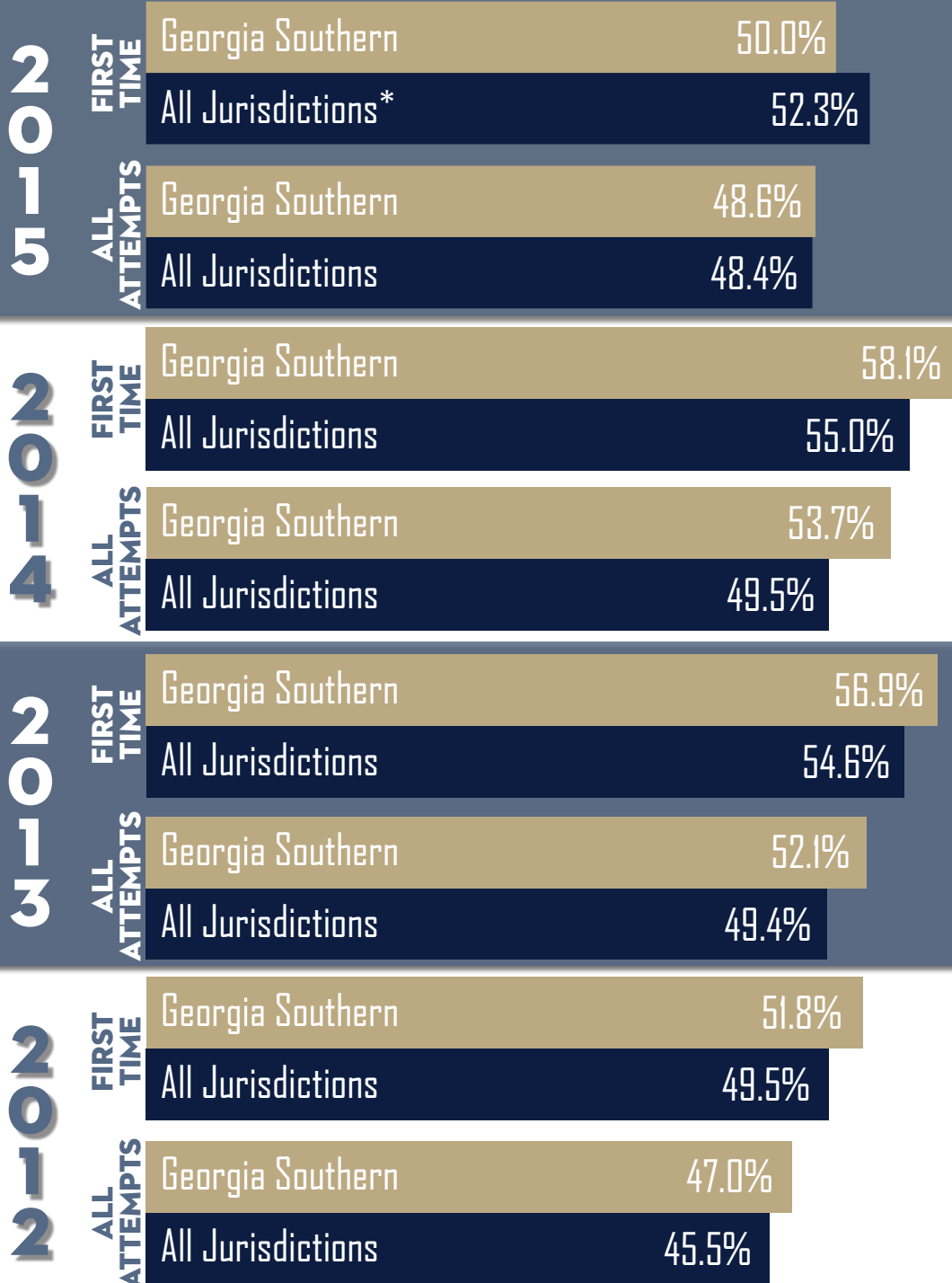
AGE RANGE	18 years or older
ADMINISTRATION TIME	15 - 30 minutes
NUMBER OF ITEMS	133
REPORT OPTIONS	• Workplaces • Leadership • Higher Education



# CPA EXAM PERFORMANCE

The Uniform CPA Examination is a four-section, 14-hour assessment that uses multiple-choice questions, task-based simulations and written responses.

## PASS RATES BY YEAR



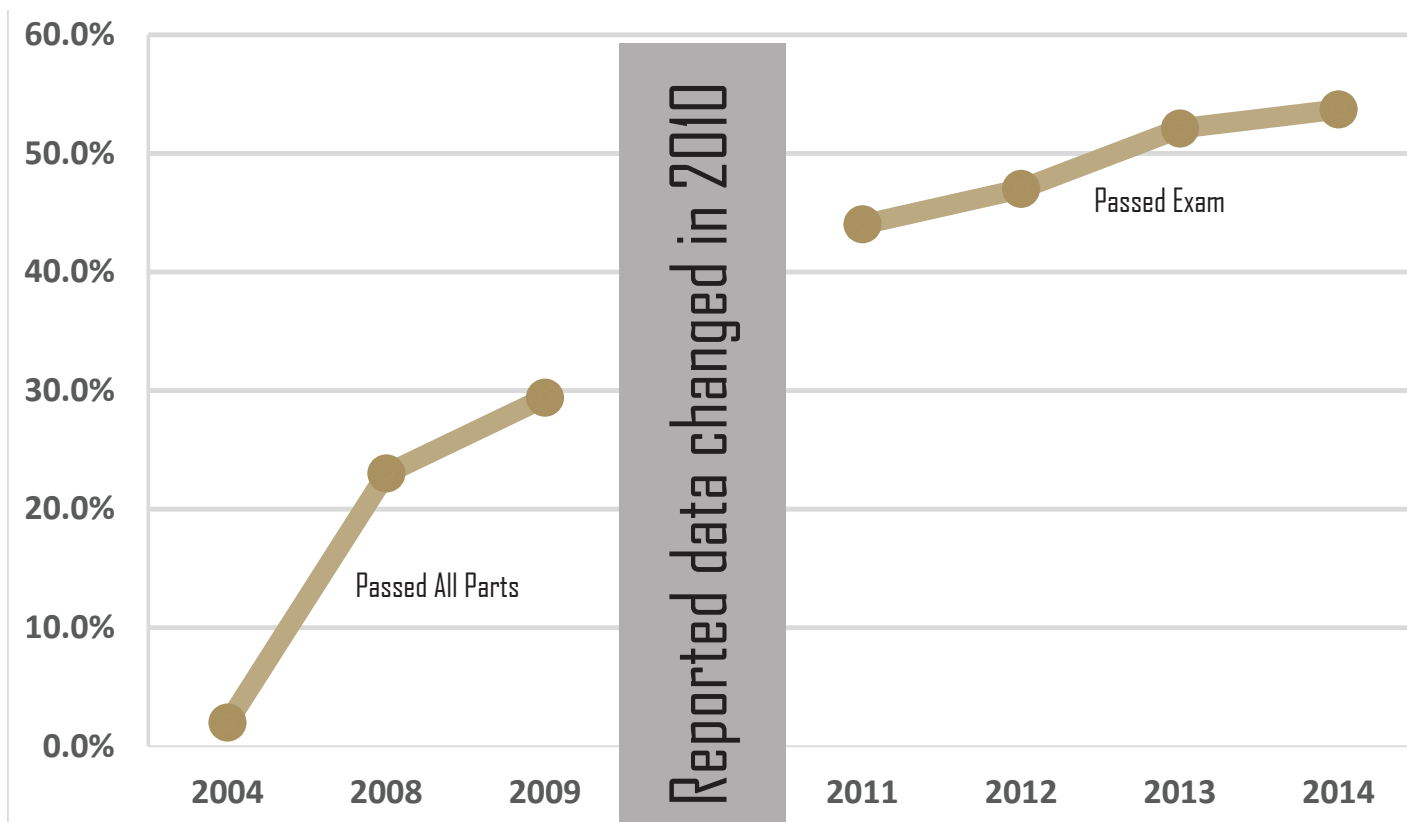
\*All states in U.S., possessions and international locations that recognize the exam

The College of Business offers the BBA degree with a major in accounting and the Master of Accounting degree—completion of which makes students eligible to sit for the CPA exam. While the CPA exam is a national exam, each state maintains its own eligibility requirements for licensure as well as the eligibility requirements to sit for the exam. Students residing in Georgia are eligible to sit for the exam upon completion of the Master of Accounting degree. Requirements to sit for the CPA exam and CPA licensure requirements are available for each state through the AICPA web page at [thiswaytocpa.com/exam-licensure/state-requirements](http://thiswaytocpa.com/exam-licensure/state-requirements).

## 2015 DETAILS

Georgia Southern is the fourth largest accounting program in Georgia, with CPA candidates who generally rank second in pass rates in the state for larger programs. Georgia Southern CPA exam performance has improved at a rate greater than the state scores.

- Those exam takers with a Georgia Southern advanced degree (MAcc or WebMAcc) took 38 sections for the first time with 33 sections retaken for an overall pass rate of 58.6% for MAcc students.
- Exam takers identifying Georgia Southern University as the institution attended took 162 sections for the first time, and 155 sections were retaken with an overall pass rate of 50.0%.



### *Future of the CPA Exam*

The CPA Exam will have an increased emphasis on testing higher order skills starting April 2017. More task-based simulations will be used, and the length of the CPA Exam will increase to 16 hours—four sections of four hours each. The exam will also be slightly more expensive.

# COMING HOME

by Cassidy Horton

For Don Cox, Ph.D., professor of finance and BB&T Distinguished Chair in Money and Banking, Statesboro is home. It is where he grew up, where he met his wife and where he gained a valuable education. Cox's time as an undergraduate student at Georgia Southern provided him with an educational base that prepared him well for the business world and, later, returning to school to pursue a terminal degree.

Upon graduating with his BBA in general business from Georgia Southern College in 1978, he went on to Georgia State University where he earned his MBA in finance. Cox then took a job with W.R. Grace & Co, a Fortune 100 company, where he worked with two different divisions over the course of nine years. Cox started out working as a financial analyst and assistant to the V.P. of marketing for W.R. Grace & Co's Agricultural Chemicals Group in Memphis, Tennessee. After a few years, he became a financial analysis manager for its Baker & Taylor Division in Commerce, Georgia, where he was later promoted to project manager.



While Cox was in the corporate world, he often thought about what it would be like to work in academia and to have the opportunity to work with young adults who were interested in finance and business. While earning his Ph.D. in finance from Florida State University, Cox taught there for three years and, then, at Appalachian State University for 23 years. While at Appalachian State, he served in various roles, including department chair, associate dean of the Walker College of Business and the Alfred T. Adams Professor of Banking.

When Cox learned of the opportunity to return to Georgia Southern after being away for so many years, he was eager to make the transition back to his hometown. "So far, it has been a great mix of a little bit of nostalgia and a lot of new adventure. Georgia Southern University today is not the same as [the] Georgia Southern College that I attended, and Statesboro today is not the same Statesboro that I knew in the 1970s – they are both better and more vibrant," says Cox.

Cox serves as a professor of finance and the BB&T Distinguished Chair in Money & Banking, an endowed project made possible by BB&T. This position represents a shared commitment, by BB&T and Georgia Southern, to build and maintain a strong scholarly presence in the fields of banking, finance and monetary policy. The holder of the BB&T chair is expected to be a thought-leader and a problem solver for those in the industry, for scholars in the discipline, and for students interested in careers in banking and finance.

"One of the reasons we are so excited to have Don Cox in this role is that he is a strong scholar with a solid record of research targeting important issues in banking and finance. He is an accomplished teacher, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, who can design and deliver curricula that stimulate learning and that accelerate our students' preparation. And so, he represents a bridge between the College and the industry," says Allen C. Amason, dean of the College of Business.

# WOMEN IN BUSINESS



A ***Women in Business*** feature is in the works for an upcoming *Eagle Executive*. If you're a successful woman, with a career in business in today's fast-paced world, we want to hear from you.

Email us at [business-marketing@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:business-marketing@georgiasouthern.edu).





## TOP STUDENT RECEIVES WILSON AWARD

(Left to Right): Jerry Burke, Ph.D., Department of Logistics & Supply Chain Management chair; Aja Blair; Lainie Wilson Harris, JD; and Andi Wilson.

The Fall 2016 graduating class included Aja Blair, the top graduating senior majoring in Logistics & Intermodal Transportation. The Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management recognized Aja's outstanding scholarship, leadership and service with the Wilson Award and \$1,000 scholarship with support from the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA). The Wilson Award is named in memory of Jerry Wilson, professor emeritus. On hand to congratulate Aja Blair and present the Wilson Award were Jerry Wilson's daughters, Lainie Wilson Harris and Andi Wilson.

## GLOBAL LOGISTICS & TRADE SYMPOSIUM



On Monday, November 14, 2016, Bank of America Merrill Lynch hosted the Global Logistics Trade & Policy Symposium 2016, in partnership with the Georgia Southern College of Business, the Savannah Maritime Association and the Propeller Club, Port of Savannah. During the symposium, the state of Georgia post-election, implications for the port, the global macro environment and FX markets, and the considerations for business owners in utilizing the port were discussed. Featured speakers included John Shin, senior GIO FX strategist with Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research; Leslie Griffin, senior vice president of International Public Policy with UPS; Jerry Burke, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Georgia Southern University; and Hayes Howard, publisher and CEO of *American Shipper Magazine*.





(Left to Right): Morgan Evans, Dalton Gregg, Lucas McQuinn, Ben Gowens, Ada Braselton. (Not Pictured): Alexander Smith, Shawn Stachler, Jason Kolasinski

## IANA EXPO 2016 AND CASE COMPETITION

by Jerry Burke, Ph.D.

In September, eight students traveled to Houston, Texas, to compete in a case competition, attend educational sessions, experience the trade show floor, and greet visitors to the Georgia Southern University College of Business and Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management booth. They visited the BNSF rail yard and a Wal-Mart import distribution center. Students also networked with industry professionals and students from approximately five other Intermodal Association of North America (IANA) Scholarship schools.

IANA provided the logistics department one-year of funding and invited a proposal for two more years of funding. This funding is for tuition support for students and for curricular enhancements, especially experiential learning. The case-presenting team of three students also received undergraduate research funding from the University to defray some of the costs associated with travel.

Students funded for this trip also hosted an informational session during Professional Development Day in the College of Business to discuss their experiences at the IANA Expo. In September 2017, another team will participate and compete in the IANA Expo in Long Beach, California.

## DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES FACULTY



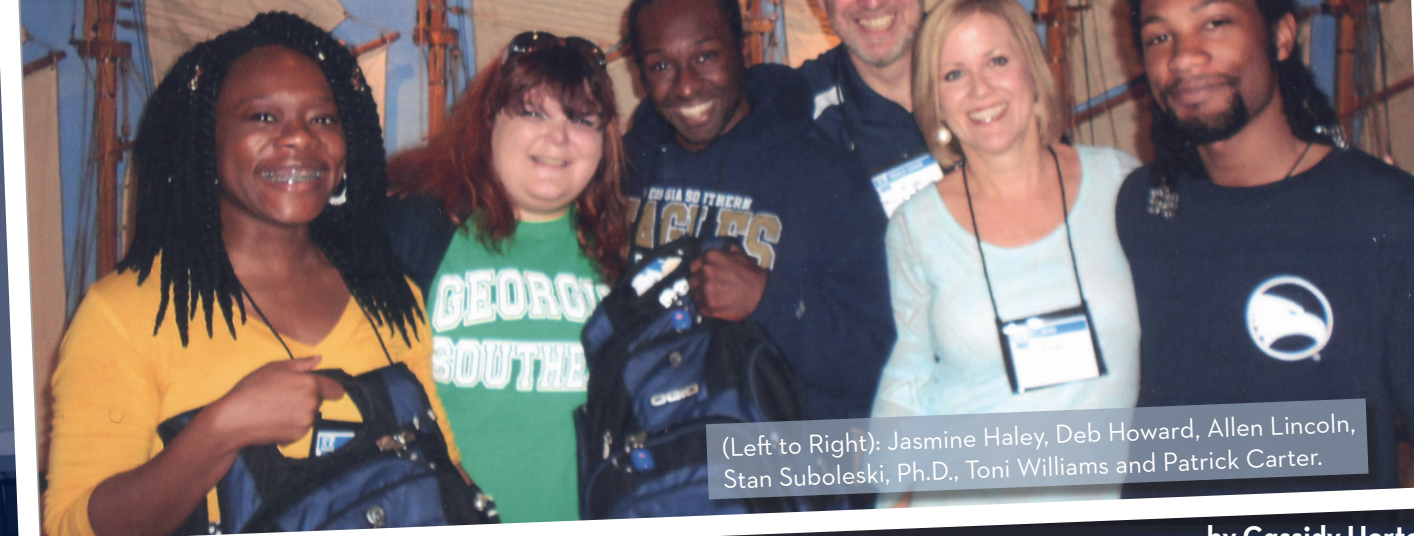
The Georgia Southern University Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management was in the spotlight during the closing banquet of the 2016 Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) Annual Meeting. Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., and Jerry Burke, Ph.D., were recognized along with former Georgia Southern faculty members, Ed Bernardes (West Virginia) and Chris Welter (Xavier), for the Best Theory-Driven Empirical Research Paper. With more than 400 full-paper submissions to compete against, this was one of only four best paper awards given during the 2016 DSI Annual Meeting. DSI's Annual Meeting draws about 1,500 participants involved in decision sciences.



This recognition for Georgia Southern University was strongly reinforced when Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., associate professor of operations management, was announced as the 2016 winner of the Carol J. Latta Memorial DSI Emerging Leadership Award for Outstanding Early Career Scholarship. The Latta Award criteria include excellence in research, teaching and service to DSI. Mackelprang is currently director of the Ph.D. program in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.



# SMOOTH SAILING



(Left to Right): Jasmine Haley, Deb Howard, Allen Lincoln, Stan Suboleski, Ph.D., Toni Williams and Patrick Carter.

by Cassidy Horton

Five College of Business students earned an all-expenses paid cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, last semester. November 10-13, while in route to Cozumel, the students attended the Globalization Crossing Borders: Beyond Trade and Tourism Conference, where they presented academic research papers to the Academy of International Business Journal Committee.

Twenty-one academic papers were originally submitted to the board by Georgia Southern students. The papers were approximately 20 pages long and were written by students from two graduate-level international business classes and one hospitality issues class. Of the 21 papers submitted, five had the honor of being presented at the conference. All papers were evaluated using a double-blind peer review method.

All academic papers submitted to the board were placed in three different tiers: pure competition for complete five-chapter papers, interactive competition for academic research papers lacking actual research in the field, and a competition category for students who are pre-Ph.D. All papers from Georgia Southern were in the interactive competition tier.

At the conference, students presented their papers to a committee during the interactive session. Toni Williams, MBA student, and Stan Suboleski, Ph.D., lecturer for the Department of Management, presented a paper on spirituality in business. This paper was nominated as one of the top five papers overall.

While the conference is usually held at a hotel convention center in Florida, this was its first year being held on a cruise ship. Suboleski served as the conference track chair for the convention.

The purpose of the trip was to teach students how to pitch an argument academically. Suboleski wanted students to be aware of the scope of potential opportunities in academia: journals, journal editing and writing a paper. He referenced the importance of students being aware of the three-legs of academia: teaching, research and service. This annual conference gives students an insight into the research aspect of academia.



# logistics & supply chain management

strategy sourcing forecasts transportation cargo supplier process networks quality  
international service freight intermodal warehouse global inventory operations distribution analytics

The Logistics & Supply Chain Management Department at Georgia Southern University offers a four-year bachelor's degree in logistics and intermodal transportation and a management emphasis in operations management. This degree provides students with the problem-solving skills and supply chain knowledge needed to manage and lead modern organizations. The department also provides courses to develop skills in business students by teaching upper level core classes in business statistics, optimization, and operations management.

## BBA in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation (LIT)

Logistics and Intermodal Transportation serves the needs of dynamic industry sectors, ensuring the availability of the right product, in the right quantity and the right condition, at the right place, at the right time, for the right customer, at the right cost. Intermodal transportation is combining the cost and/or service advantages of more than one mode of transportation in an efficient, seamless product movement. Basic LIT courses focus on logistics and transportation concepts and principles. Advanced courses focus on logistics operations, international logistics, and intermodal distribution issues.

### Major Courses\*

**BUSA 3131** - Business Statistics  
**BUSA 3132** - Applied Stats and Optimization  
**BUSA 4131** - Strategic Management  
**CISM 3131** - Management Info. Systems  
**FINC 3131** - Principles of Corporate Finance  
**LOGT 3231** - Principles of Transportation  
**LOGT 3232** - Logistics & Supply Chain Mgmt  
**LOGT 4231** - LIT Operations

**LOGT 4232** - International Logistics  
**LOGT 4263** - Seminar in Intermodal Distribution  
**MGNT 3130** - Principles of Management  
**MGNT 3430** - Operations Management  
**MKTG 3131** - Principles of Marketing  
**MKTG 3133** - Professional Selling  
**2 Additional Courses Required in LOGT**

## BBA in Management with Emphasis in Operations (OM)

The operations management emphasis in the management major prepares students for a variety of positions in both manufacturing and service supply chains. Courses are designed to prepare students not only for their first jobs upon graduation but also for their longer lived careers. The program of study is geared to develop critical thinking skills and apply these skills to operations strategy, demand and supply planning, service operations, six sigma and continuous improvement, strategic sourcing and negotiations, inventory management, global supply networks, and supply chain analytics.

### Major Courses\*

**BUSA 3131** - Business Statistics  
**BUSA 3132** - Applied Stats and Optimization  
**BUSA 4131** - Strategic Management  
**CISM 3131** - Management Info. Systems  
**FINC 3131** - Principles of Corporate Finance  
**MGNT 3130** - Principles of Management  
**MGNT 3134** - Behavior in Organizations

**MGNT 3430** - Operations Management  
**MGNT 3437** - Service Operations Management  
**MGNT 4431** - Purchasing and Negotiation  
**MGNT 4435** - Six Sigma & Continuous Improvement  
**MGNT 4436** - Supply Chain Analytics  
**MGNT 4438** - Global Ops in Supply Networks  
**MKTG 3131** - Principles of Marketing  
**2 Additional Courses Required in MGNT**

## DEPARTMENT OF LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

PHONE: 912-478-1498 • FAX: 912-478-1503

EMAIL: [lscm@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:lscm@georgiasouthern.edu)

[GeorgiaSouthern.edu/business/lscm](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/business/lscm)

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- Inventory Control Manager
- Materials Manager
- Production Manager
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- Transportation Manager
- Warehousing Manager

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- CSX Transportation
- FedEx International
- Freightliner
- Georgia Ports Authority
- Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation
- Rolls-Royce Engines
- Target Corporation
- United Parcel Service (UPS)



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION

\*Core coursework not included.





**GEORGIA SOUTHERN  
STUDENTS WIN  
FIRST PLACE!**

## A *made in america* STORY FROM THE BIG APPLE

The NRF Foundation hosts an annual business case competition for NRF Student Association members to demonstrate creativity and business acumen to retail executives, sponsored by KPMG. NRF joined with STORY—a retailer that takes the point of view of a magazine, changes its selection like a gallery, and sells things like a store—as its retail partner and case study for the fourth year of competition in January 2017. To learn more about the NRF and STORY, visit [nrf.com](http://nrf.com) and [thisisstory.com](http://thisisstory.com), respectively.

The STORY starts in May 2016 when two Georgia Southern teams were chosen to compete in the National Retail Federation's (NRF) annual Student Challenge in New York City in January 2017. The team consisting of Keller Campbell, Jeff Licciardello, Alexis Montano and Kelsey Wertz emerged as one of the teams to make it as a top-three finalist. The other finalists hailed from the University of North Texas, who won the competition in 2016, and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Each team chose a theme to focus on: "Travel," "Made in America," or "Sensory." The Georgia Southern team chose "Made in America." The students developed a 20-page pitch presentation, a mock website and a 90-second pitch video recognizing the power of "kidpreneurs" and millennials as a target market. Each proposal provided an experience for the customer through selected merchandise, marketing approaches, social media campaigns and curated events.



(Left to Right): Alexis Montano, Jeff Licciardello, Keller Campbell and Kelsey Wertz





***“This competition showcases some of the most brilliant and talented students in the country; all of whom are passionate about the retail industry.” — Ellen Davis, NRF Foundation executive director***

*Recounted by Kathleen Gruben, Ph.D., associate professor of marketing*

Imagine you are in the same auditorium in the Javitz Center where Hillary Clinton staged her “victory celebration” for the 2016 Presidential election along with hundreds of students, faculty members and industry professionals. You hear the Georgia Southern fight song fill the air followed by Keller Campbell, Jeff Licciardello, Alexis Montano and Kelsey Wertz entering the stage. I can tell you, the emotions that came along with that scenario were incredible. It was the proudest moment of my life. Knowing how hard these students had worked over the past eight months, tears rolled down my cheeks. This was their presentation to the general audience. We did not know the results of the competition at that point although professors from many universities and industry professionals had approached me to say they were sure Georgia Southern would win. That was great, but the presentations on the stage that evening were a day after the “official” presentations to the judges.

The week began with a flight to New York and practices in the hotel room until 1:00 a.m. The students barely slept. We left for the KPMG corporate offices at 7:00 a.m. They practiced in the judging room in front of their KPMG Consultant Ali Wampler and the competition organizer. Then, they had to wait until 10:30 a.m. for their presentation before the judges. They did extremely well, then were rushed off for interviews and video takes until 1:30 p.m. that afternoon.

**“I CAN STILL JUMP UP AND DOWN, IN HEELS, JUST LIKE ONE OF THE KIDS!”**

— KATHLEEN GRUBEN, ON THE MOMENT SHE REALIZED GEORGIA SOUTHERN WON

They did so well that I was confident they had won. After they presented, the organizer invited me to watch the other teams. My heart began to sink just minutes into Wharton’s presentation. Their presentation skills were beyond professional, just what I expected from a school with its reputation. At that point, I knew we had second place. The KPMG consultant told me the same. The University of North Texas did well, but their skills were on par with ours. I was sure we had second place but would not know until the Sunday night Gala. I had to remember that the presentation was only part of the picture because the 25-page written report, the website and pitch video were equally important. I had hope again.

The students were scheduled to appear on stage at the Gala at 7:20 p.m. By 7:45 p.m., I was on pins and needles because the program was running behind. Then, the three teams appeared on stage. When the emcee said, “the winner is . . . Georgia Southern University,” I didn’t know how to respond. For the first couple of seconds, I waited for the other shoe to drop. I anticipated they would announce 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, then 1<sup>st</sup>, but the other teams’ names didn’t follow. The Georgia Southern team had beaten 29 other universities including The University of Georgia and University of Tennessee. Probably, the most surprising is that Georgia Southern University beat the prestigious Wharton School, demonstrating True Blue, Eagle Pride at its best.

Congratulations to Jeff, Alexis, Keller and Kelsey! To read about their presentation and project in their entirety, visit [thisisstory.com/nrf-student-challenge-made-america-story](http://thisisstory.com/nrf-student-challenge-made-america-story).



# BUSINESS AND POLITICS

by Kate Channell

With the election behind us, we can all breathe a sigh of relief that we will not have to endure another political season like that again... at least for a while. In the spirit of the election, we thought it would be interesting to talk to several of our Georgia Southern College of Business alumni who have decided to make politics part of their everyday lives.

We asked each alum five questions regarding their lives in politics and how they came to be in politics. On the next two pages, in interview style, are each person's answers.



## WHAT POSITION DO YOU CURRENTLY HOLD?

**LAYSON:** I am currently a senior legislative assistant for Senator Johnny Isakson. My portfolio includes transportation and infrastructure, education, energy, immigration and agriculture.

**NEVIL:** I currently hold the position of commission chair and serve on numerous boards, committees, and authorities in the county and region.

**YAWN:** Statesboro city councilor, District 3



**Brett Layson (FINC, '11)**

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE YOU WANTED TO BE IN POLITICS, WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST POLITICAL POSITION, AND WHAT YEAR WAS YOUR FIRST POLITICAL POSITION HELD?

**LAYSON:** I accepted an internship with former Senator Saxby Chambliss before I entered my senior year at Georgia Southern. As a finance major, I wasn't sure that politics was the route that I wanted to take, but my older sister—who lived and worked in D.C. at the time—convinced me to give it a try. Six weeks in D.C. was enough for me to realize that it was the city I wanted to end up in after graduation. In May 2011, just two days after graduation, I took a leap of faith and moved back to D.C. without a job or internship. After countless interviews and a few internships, I joined Senator Isakson's office as a staff assistant and his personal driver. I owe it all to my first political position as I was able to connect with Senator Isakson on a personal level while driving him to meetings every day.

**NEVIL:** I retired from banking in 2004 and decided to run for chair of the Bulloch County Commissioners that year. I was elected in November and have served in that position for three, four-year terms.

**YAWN:** I first had aspirations of being a public servant in high school. My grandfather had a keen interest in politics and was very involved in supporting many candidates throughout my childhood, so I was exposed to the process from a young age. My interest was solidified in high school when I took a career assessment test in a vocational class. Most of my peers had many different choices in their results. I simply had one, and that was to be a politician. I wanted to be sure the time was right before I committed to the opportunity. After much discussion with my wife and much prayer, I decided to run for Statesboro City Council in Fall 2015 and took office in January 2016.



**Garrett Nevil (MKTG, '66)**



**Jeff Yawn (FINC, '97)**

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN POLITICS?

**LAYSON:** I have been involved in politics ever since my first political internship in 2010, and I also served as a member of College Republicans while at Georgia Southern.

**NEVIL:** I have served as Bulloch County Commission chair for 12 years.

**YAWN:** My four-year term as a Statesboro city councilor began in January 2016. Though I am still fairly new to the position, I have already learned a tremendous amount about the commitment it takes to be a public servant.

## WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU ABOUT SERVING IN POLITICS?

**LAYSON:** It is very important to keep a positive outlook on things while serving in politics. The media today almost always display a bitterly divided partisan struggle, but we accomplish many things in a strong bipartisan way. It is also important to get to know people who work in various offices and parties as relationships are vital to all lines of work in D.C. Lastly, I have had the opportunity to work on a few major bills that were signed into law, and seeing how those bills impact family, friends and the community back home in a positive way reminds me that I truly am making a difference.

**NEVIL:** Leading a team engaged in providing services, job opportunities, recreation and public safety at the highest level in the most efficient manner.

**YAWN:** My main goal as a politician in Statesboro is for our community to be one that my children and their children will be proud of and thrive in. To do this, we cannot lose sight of our heritage and values, but we must think progressively and aim toward advancement. Right now, we have outstanding city officials, business owners and residents alike who are working toward this reality. I am proud to be a part of the team working tirelessly to make the City of Statesboro a great place to live for current and future residents and a great place to visit for our many visitors.

## HOW HAVE POLITICS CHANGED SINCE YOUR FIRST POLITICAL POSITION?

**LAYSON:** I would say that things have mostly stayed the same. President Obama has been in office since I started working in D.C., but the Senate has shifted from Democratic to Republican control. My experience with both the majority and minority parties has given me an understanding of the power and frustrations of both parties at any given time. The November elections could toss up many different scenarios as well, and, undoubtedly, 2017 will be an interesting year—no matter the outcome of the elections.

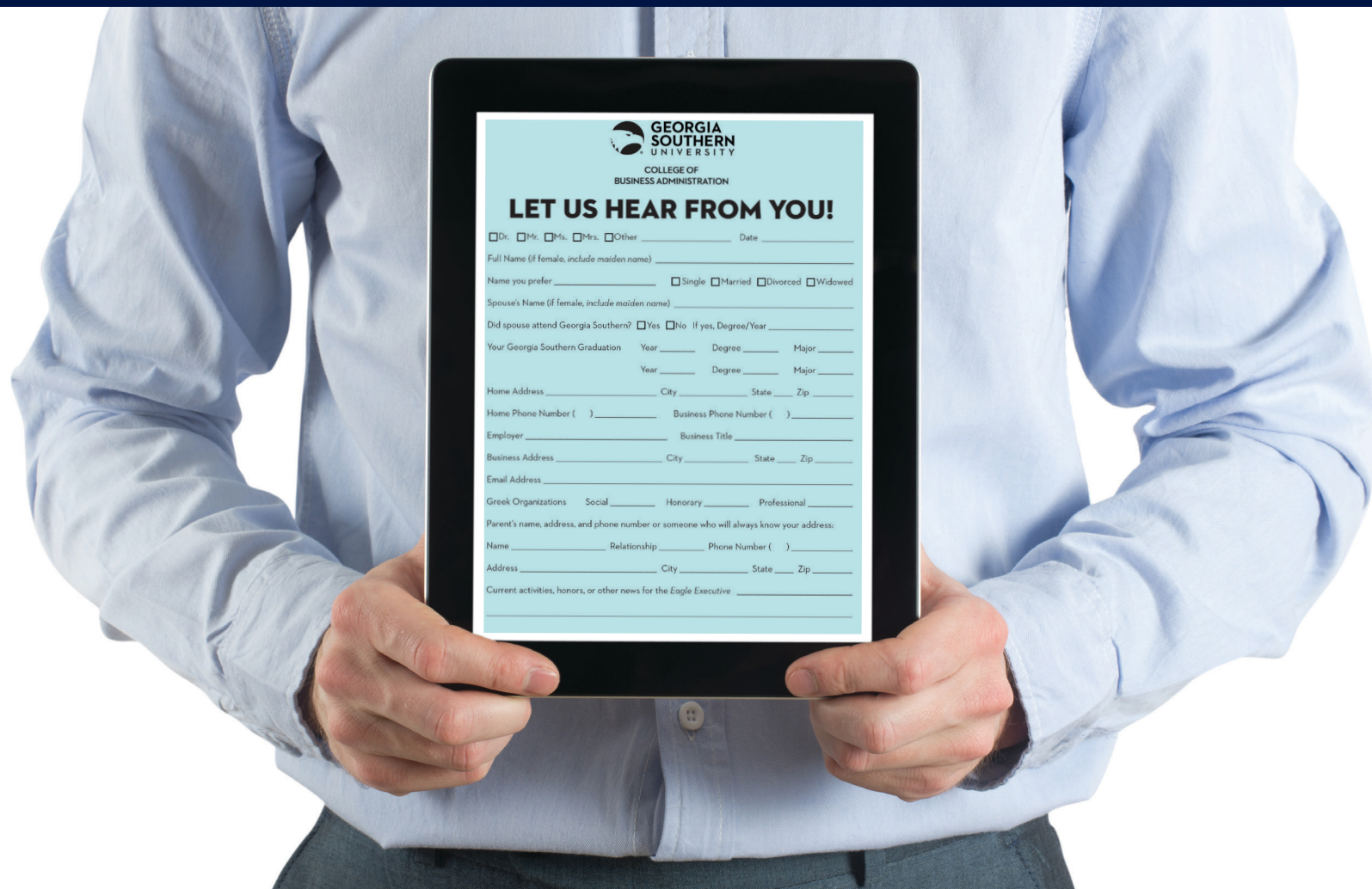
**NEVIL:** It has not changed that much with local politics, but, on the state and national scene, courtesy, patriotism, and ethical conduct have deteriorated.

**YAWN:** Since my tenure as city councilor has only just begun, I have not been involved long enough to witness much of a change in politics. But, one thing I can say for certain is that the political arena is very different as a public servant versus being on the outside looking in.



# KEEP US INFORMED

## OF WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU



Alumni! Remember the “Blue Cards” Lewis Stewart used to send out? They are now online. Help us stay in touch with you by visiting

**[GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Business/BlueCard](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Business/BlueCard)**

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

# GEORGIA CLIMATE INDEX SUGGESTS OPTIMISM FOR GEORGIA'S BUSINESS CONDITIONS

by Cassidy Horton

Last year, the Business Innovation Group (BIG) and Georgia CEO partnered to establish a new Georgia Climate Index. The index serves as a tool for others to view how the state of Georgia is moving forward economically. The results from last year's Georgia CEO surveys suggest that Georgia business leaders feel optimistic about the current business conditions in Georgia compared to previous years. The purpose of the surveys is to better understand how general business conditions are impacting Georgia CEO subscribers on a quarterly basis. Georgia CEO partnered with the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), a member of the College of Business at Georgia Southern University, to prepare, distribute and analyze the survey results.

According to survey results, in the second and third quarter of 2016, participants reported being somewhat optimistic about future business conditions, business volume and sales. Participants expressed concern about government policy, shortage of skilled labor, lack of demand and competition within their industry. Over the fourth quarter, participants noted that government policy and the end of the presidential election are impacting outlooks, including demand for goods and services, shortage of skilled labor, and industrial competition.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, 59 percent of participants were feeling positive about current business conditions in Georgia. Looking forward to the first quarter of 2017 participants are very optimistic that future business conditions will improve in Georgia. This is a major shift from the previous survey where the respondents more often felt only slightly positive about business conditions.

A convenience sampling technique was used for this study, and the questionnaire was emailed to the subscribers of one of the nine Georgia CEO daily newsletters. All of the findings presented in this report should be viewed as broad representation of how Georgia CEO subscribers view general business conditions within the state. Due to the sampling technique used, the results are not representative of the views of the entire population of Georgia. Georgia CEO publishes a newsletter in Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Middle Georgia, Newnan, Savannah and Valdosta. Visit [GeorgiaCEO.com](http://GeorgiaCEO.com) to learn more.



"Survey participants are cautiously optimistic about the current and future state of the economy," stated Ben McKay, research specialist for BBRED. "This is a night and day difference when these findings are compared to similar research conducted by BBRED shortly after the crash of 2008."







*"This year's BIG Pitch finalists were remarkably strong," said Allen C. Amason, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, pictured above with Swarnav Pujari of TouchLight Innovations. "They were innovative, thoughtful, prepared, articulate, but most of all, they were the sorts of people who are going to make a positive difference in this world. And so, we were very proud of all of them and very proud to invest in them."*

*"Ocean Exchange is insanely good. Fostering change and putting you in uncomfortable situations is something people don't always like. Disruptive technology delivers change, always creating something new and advancing development for the future," said Swarnav Pujari of TouchLight Innovations, pictured above left. "The BIG Pitch competition seeks different innovations in all fields. I really enjoyed it because those are the values I hold in my heart and harness in the company."*

## Winner of Georgia Southern College of Business BIG Pitch Competition

from the University Newsroom

TouchLight Innovations was named the winner of the second annual BIG Pitch Competition, hosted by Georgia Southern University's Business Innovation Group (BIG) in conjunction with Ocean Exchange.

TouchLight Innovations, a startup from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, is pioneering in harvesting ambient energy to power daily use tools and create a green environment. Its flagship product, Power Pad, is a low-profile device that sits beneath any moderate-to-heavy foot traffic location. Each step a passerby takes on the Power Pad generates up to 10 watt-minutes of power.

"The BIG Pitch event showcased young professionals who are challenging cross-industry status quo through very disruptive ideas, technologies and business models," said Bartosz Wojszczyk, a judge on the panel. "The winner, TouchLight Innovations, is a great example of how 'a single step idea' can revolutionize access to energy through day-to-day activities. We could have only one winner, but all presented technologies deserve our highest praise."

By targeting the commercial building market space in city locations, TouchLight Innovations is able to offer a clean technology product that is designed for city-like environments. This product is estimated to save an average commercial building up to \$80,000 per year on electrical bills and increase real estate value by 7 percent each year. The Power Pad has been tested at a Westchester Knicks game as well as in a New York high school and will debut at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport later this year.

BIG Pitch facilitates the adoption of undergraduate and graduate innovations that improve economies, health and the environment. BIG Pitch is part of the Business Innovation Group in the Georgia Southern College of Business and partners with Ocean Exchange.

For more information on the BIG Pitch Competition, the Ocean Exchange or Georgia Southern University entrepreneurship programs, contact

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Dominique Halaby, DPA, director of BIG, 912-478-2733 or [dhalaby@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dhalaby@georgiasouthern.edu);  
Steve Stewart, Ph.D., assistant professor of management/entrepreneurship at 912-478-8594 or [ss Stewart@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ss Stewart@georgiasouthern.edu).



# GIVING BACK

## HOW ONE ONLINE MBA STUDENT HELPED WITH DISASTER RELIEF

by Cassidy Horton

Upon arriving in Haiti, Watson was totally awestruck at the sheer devastation of the hurricane. Miles and miles of blue tarps covered what remained of the shacks and other homes. People were fending for themselves in any way they could. Community institutions that were looked to as communal places, such as churches and schools, had their roofs ripped off. In one church they visited, more than one-third of the roof was completely gone, and the front façade and walls of it were in ruins. The associated school building next door was in total shambles with nary a single sheet of a corrugated metal roof in place; yet, as they arrived, men, women, and children were streaming out of the church dressed in their Sunday finest, gleefully greeting each other and exchanging pleasantries.

Due to his involvement in the metro-Atlanta Haitian-American community, Georgia Southern Online MBA student Watson Escarment is often asked to participate in different community events including those held by the Haitian Consulate's office. After Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, he participated in a meeting held at the Consulate's office on how the Atlanta-Haitian Community should respond to the aftermath. Because Watson was already scheduled to be in Haiti a few days after the meeting, he and the senior pastor from Good Samaritan Haitian Alliance Church were asked to formulate a report and give feedback on the areas affected by the hurricane.

After the trip to Haiti, Watson and his team realized the need to have plans beyond basic relief efforts. The team believes that relief efforts need to have three stages: disaster relief, rehabilitation and, eventually, development. Although many organizations are currently in Haiti, most of them are only working to fulfill the first stage: disaster relief. Watson and his team plan to fulfill the last two stages by engaging construction volunteer teams, partnering with other organizations and returning to Haiti with those teams to provide hands-on rehabilitation and development. They also recognized a need for self-sustainability that will come via micro-enterprise, finance and job creation. They have identified a couple of plans that have worked in other parts of Haiti in terms of long-term sustainability, and they plan on implementing those strategies as well.





Watson Escarment, a Georgia Southern Online MBA student, was born in Haiti. After his family moved to South Florida, Watson developed a great appreciation for cultural diversity and the role his Haitian-American background played in making him who he is today. As an adult, Watson lives out this appreciation by having close ties to both the United States and Haiti.

Watson currently works for RelayHealth McKesson as a senior software engineer and technical team leader, responsible for architecting, designing and implementing software solutions for his company's various internal and external customers. When he made the decision to pursue his Online MBA, Georgia Southern was the university that stood out. Watson greatly appreciated that his professional experience was factored into the final acceptance decision. Also, because Watson is a relationship-oriented person, he was looking for a university that valued relationships. After talking with staff members at Georgia Southern, Watson was amazed by their warmth and openness. He liked the ease of online accessibility, the pace of the program and the fact that Georgia Southern is highly ranked. After earning his MBA, Watson wants to either go into executive level management in the U.S., Haiti or a pseudo combination.

Watson is a part of numerous organizations. He serves as director of Administration and Operations for the Good Samaritan Haitian Alliance Church, as a technical consultant for the Special Needs Schools of Gwinnett, as a coach and leadership consultant for Level Up Partners and as a member of the board of directors of Bethesda Referral and Teaching Hospital, a 501(c)(3) organization based in metro Atlanta that is planning to build the largest and most modern hospital in Haiti.



## GEORGIA SOUTHERN RANKED #1 ACCREDITED ONLINE COLLEGE IN GEORGIA AND #17 TOP ONLINE MBA PROGRAM

Georgia Southern University was ranked #1 Accredited Online College in Georgia and #17 Top Online MBA Program by *BestColleges.com*. The University has offered the MBA program via distance learning since 2001.

Georgia Southern offers qualified, motivated professionals a 21-month path to an AACSB-International accredited online Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. The asynchronous structure of the online format allows students to attend class from wherever, whenever. Unlike the traditional face-to-face MBA classrooms, the Online MBA classroom is accessible from anywhere in the world, 24/7.

The Online MBA complements most undergraduate degrees and enhances the skill set of graduates—no matter their career paths. The online curriculum consists of ten courses (30 credit hours) with students completing two courses each semester for five consecutive semesters. While students are required to attend a two-day orientation in Atlanta, they are not expected to visit campus once the program begins.

“Our Online MBA offers outstanding value and is very popular among busy professionals. The coursework is rigorous and relevant, and the delivery model is flexible and convenient. So, we’re very happy to be recognized,” states Allen C. Amason, dean of the College of Business at Georgia Southern University. “We’re proud of the work that’s been done in this program and of the alumni whose success reflects so well on it.”

*BestColleges.com* seeks to empower students by providing the information needed to make informed higher education decisions. Through proprietary research, they build user-friendly guides and rankings that lead students of all ages on their personal path to a college degree.



# WEBMAcc: RANKED AMONG BEST COLLEGES FOR AN ONLINE MASTERS IN ACCOUNTING

The Georgia Southern University College of Business WebMAcc is ranked among the 20 best online schools for accounting masters degrees for 2016-2017 by *BestChoiceSchools.com*. According to the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), a master degree in accounting (MAcc) provides benefits critical for career advancement. An accounting masters degree ensures the student meets the educational requirements to obtain CPA licensure. Many schools have begun to offer the MAcc program in a flexible, online format that allows the working professional to earn a master's degree with little interruption to their professional and personal life.



"This is another well-deserved objective recognition for our WebMAcc program. Many Accounting programs are increasing the online delivery of their programs for their students, and we are taking this effort very seriously and deliberately for the benefit of our students," stated Tim Pearson, Ph.D., director of the School of Accountancy. "I am grateful that the WebMAcc faculty in the School of Accountancy [is] once again being recognized for [its] efforts through this ranking."

The 30-credit hour, 10-course Georgia Southern WebMAcc offers low tuition and a high graduation rate. The online MAcc may be completed in two years, and the pace of the program is set up to cater to the working professional. Students take five courses each year (two in spring, two in fall and one in summer). Some of the courses in the WebMAcc program are accounting information systems, auditing, current legal issues, financial accounting, fraudulent financial reporting and tax research.

## GEORGIA SOUTHERN NAMED MOST AFFORDABLE ONLINE COLLEGE FOR ECONOMICS

Georgia Southern University was ranked the 2017 Most Affordable Online College for Economics Degrees by *OnlineU*. Georgia Southern offers a Master of Science degree in applied economics (MSAE) with an annual tuition rate of \$6,150.



The list published by *OnlineU* includes the 25 most affordable online colleges and universities offering degrees in economics. *OnlineU* is a product of SR Education Group whose mission is to be the most authoritative online resource to help students choose the best school for their career aspirations and budget. The group believes objective information about education, careers and educational financing should be easily accessible.

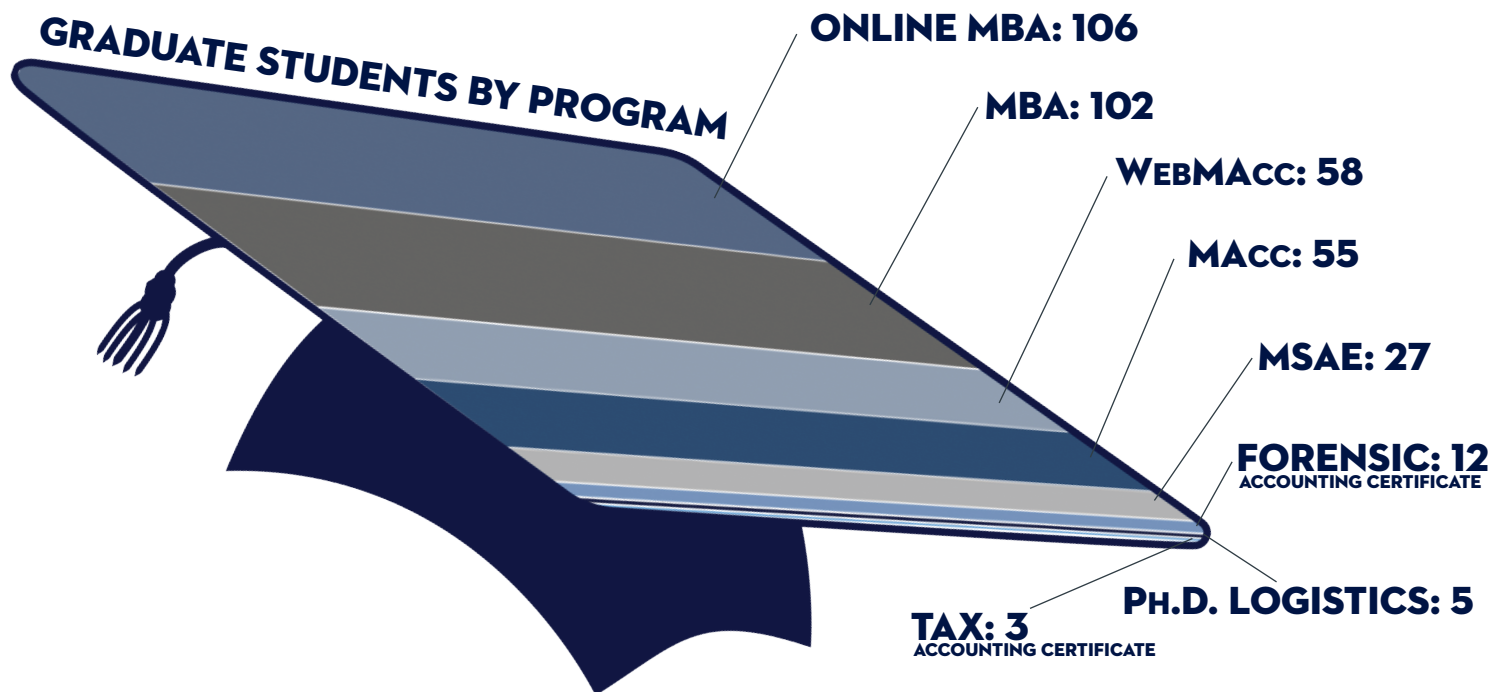
"Our MSAE program combines world-class economic content with a cutting-edge delivery model. The result is a powerful value proposition that is attracting students from across the country," stated Allen C. Amason, dean of the College of Business. "Certainly, we are proud of the program and proud of the many graduates who are leveraging the MSAE degree to greater career success."

The program provides quantitative and analytical skills for graduates to assist businesses in market analysis including quantitative, regulatory and economic development. Graduates are able to compete for employment in financial institutions, industry and government enterprises engaged in financial economic development, public utilities, and federal and state regulatory agencies.



# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

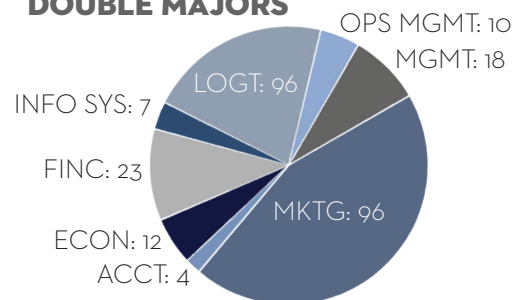
FALL  
2016



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS BY MAJOR



### DOUBLE MAJORS



### BUSINESS MINORS





# FALL 2016/SPRING 2017 INTERNSHIPS

## ACCOUNTING

Nathan Ashcroft, Hancock Askew and Company, LLP, Savannah  
Josie Barnes, Olliff and Fordham, CPAs, Metter  
Christin Beasley, Webster Rogers, LLP, Bluffton, SC  
James Beeland, Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC, Macon  
Elizabeth Carter, Susan E. Nubern, CPA, Statesboro  
Jodie Collins, Archie Branch and Associates, LLP, Vidalia  
Clayton Crider, Hancock Askew and Company, LLP, Savannah  
Kirsten Elder, GA Power Company, Atlanta  
Jane Fisher, Habib Arogeti and Wynne, LLP, Atlanta  
Christian French, Crouse and Company, PC, Atlanta  
Chelsea Gasper, Habib Arogeti and Wynne, LLP, Atlanta  
Alexander Gothard, Nichols Cauley and Associates, LLC, Dalton  
Garret Gudnason, McNair McLemore Middlebrooks and Company, LLC, Macon  
Victoria Heth, Schell and Hogan, CPAs, St. Simons Island  
William Jarrard, TJS Deemer Dana, CPAs, Dublin  
Michael Jenkins, Warren Averett, CPAs, Atlanta  
Kristen Kauhane, Webster Rogers, LLP, Bluffton, SC  
Jeb Lavender, Habib Arogeti and Wynne, LLP, Atlanta  
Termar Lawton, Porter Keadle Moore, CPAs, Atlanta  
Emma Muhlenbruch, McNair McLemore Middlebrooks and Company, LLC, Macon  
Mary-Lynn Murray, Parrish and Bland, LLP, Statesboro  
Laura Meyers, Hancock Askew and Company, LLP, Savannah  
Trent Price, Habib Arogeti and Wynne, LLP, Atlanta  
Iliya Purtell, Coomer Coomer and Routhier, PC, Savannah  
Danielle Renew, Nichols Cauley and Associates, LLC, Dublin  
Patricia Simonsen, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida  
Alexis Swan, Habib Arogeti and Wynne, LLP, Atlanta  
Jackson Taylor, Warren Averett, CPAs, Atlanta  
Jason Tompkins, Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC, Macon  
Adam Wolfes, Reddick, Riggs, and Hunter, PC, Statesboro  
John Yarbrough, Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC, Atlanta  
Philip Long, Habib Arogeti and Wynne, LLP, Atlanta

## FINANCE & ECONOMICS

Jacob Bird, Woodmen Life, Statesboro  
Nolan Clark, Preiss Company, Statesboro  
Emily Grosshans, Governor's Office of Constituent Services, Atlanta  
Krystal Kearns, Gulfstream Aerospace, Savannah  
John Locke, U.S. Congressional Office, 12<sup>th</sup> District, Washington, D.C.  
Hayden Neese, State Farm, Guarino Group, Statesboro  
Benjamin Parker, Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Metter  
John Rusca, State Farm, Guarino Group, Statesboro  
Marcelo Sandoval, Crider Foods, Stillmore  
Lauren Way, Vision Financial Group, Rincon

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Thomas Mendoza, VapourFlow, LLC, Jeffersonville, IN  
Kyrsten Miles, World Trade Center, Savannah  
Devang Shah, Legal Research Marketing, Statesboro

## LOGISTICS

Rhett Anderson, C.H. Robinson, Savannah  
Ben Gowens, Werner Enterprises, Omaha, NE  
Evan Hanner, Schneider National, Savannah  
Tiara Heads, American Red Cross, Savannah  
Emily Seiler, Intertape Polymer Group, Sarasota, FL  
John Whitten, C.H. Robinson, Savannah

## MARKETING

Laura Askew, Downtown Development Authority, Statesboro  
Billy Joe Baker, State Farm, Matthew Tyson Agency, Statesboro  
Cheyenne Burns, Georgia Southern Athletics Marketing, Statesboro  
Kessler Cartledge, Mass Media Marketing, M3, Augusta  
Jarret Humphries, Georgia Coastal Conservation Association, Savannah  
Sydney Johnson, Georgia Southern Career Services, Statesboro  
Jacob Payne, State Farm, Daniel Long Agency, Statesboro  
Sydney Phillips, Barksdale Real Estate, Savannah  
Morgan Robinson, Laura Franklin & Company, Atlanta  
Eddison Smith, Georgia Southern Marketing & Communications, Statesboro  
Andrew Taylor, Georgia Southern Athletics, Statesboro  
Michael Volpe, The Warehouse, Inc., Statesboro  
Quintahl Washington, State Farm, Clyde Hill Agency, Lithonia  
Kara Wells, *South Magazine*, Savannah

## MANAGEMENT

Mohammed Alqaydi, Frozen Sun, Inc., Statesboro  
Alexander Beecher, Georgia Southern Athletics Marketing, Statesboro  
Robert Carroll, Southern Nuclear, Waynesboro  
Dylan Carter, State Farm, Daniel Long Agency, Statesboro  
Mishael Christmann, Bigfoot Hostel, Antigua, Guatemala  
Whitely Clark, WECTEC, LLC, Waynesboro  
Ryan Collins, Securus Insurance, LaGrange  
Kevin Daniels, Briggs & Stratton, Statesboro  
Blake Davlin, Preiss Company, Statesboro  
Clinton Ford, Society for Human Resource Management, Statesboro/  
Atlanta  
Fredrick Hudson, Jr., Georgia Southern Conference Services, Statesboro  
Aspen Krupp, Northside Hospital, Atlanta  
Katherine Manos, The Club House, Statesboro  
Cara McDargh, Montage Hotels and Resorts, Palmetto Bluff, SC  
Kyle Mehrkens, Heavenly Ham, Statesboro  
Natalia Monje, Hyatt Regency, Savannah  
Madison Scott, Shake 'Em Up Music, Nashville, TN  
Olivia Seaver, Downtown Development Authority, Statesboro  
Jessica Sherrrod, Marriott, Grande Ocean, Hilton Head Island, SC  
Jessica Szafraneck, Jim's Meat Sauce, Swainsboro  
Marie Willis, Nordson Corporation, Swainsboro





# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ALUMNI BY THE NUMBERS

**23,289**

Total Number of Living Alumni

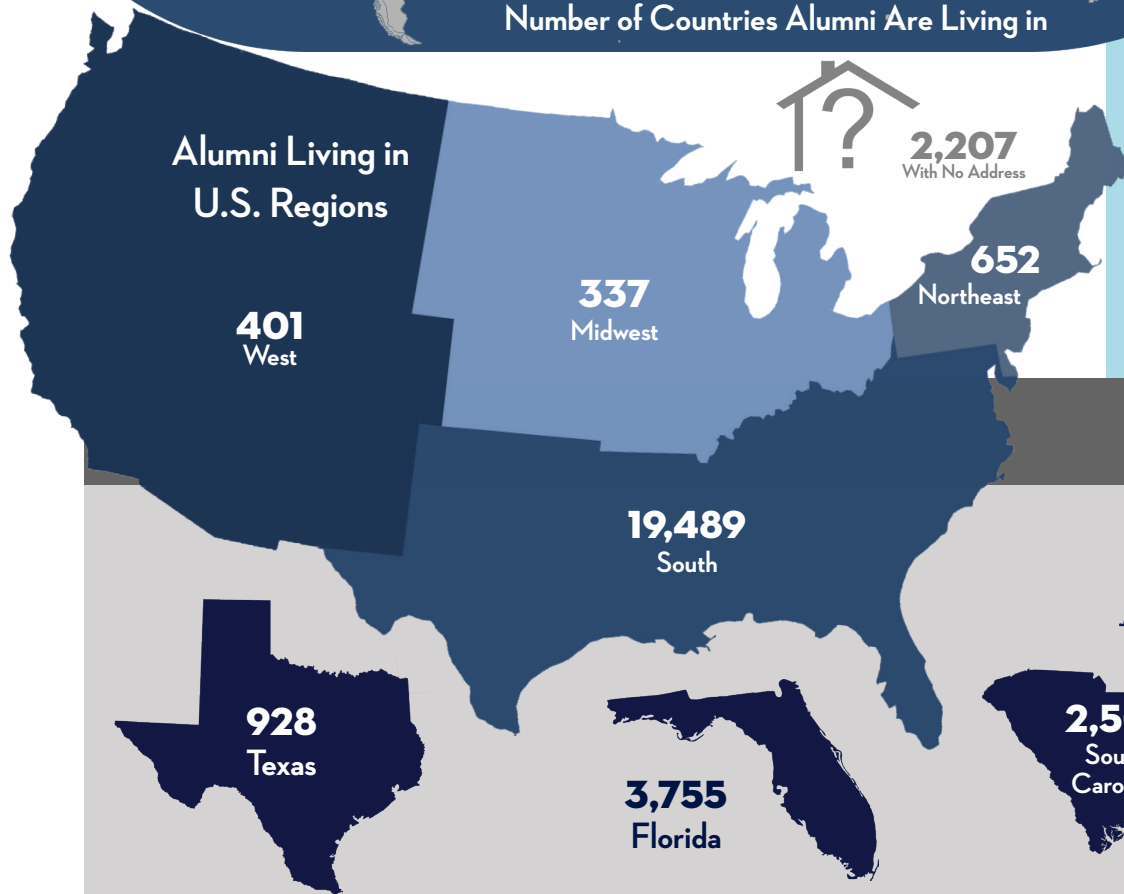


**201**

Number of Alumni  
Living Abroad

**62**

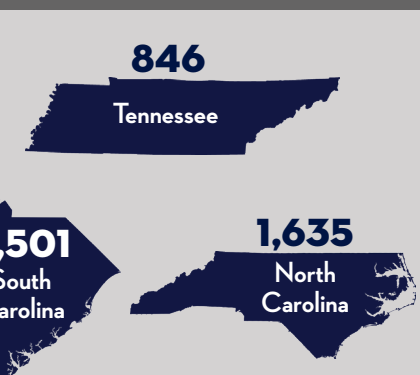
Number of Countries Alumni Are Living in



## TOP 5 COUNTRIES EXCLUDING U.S.

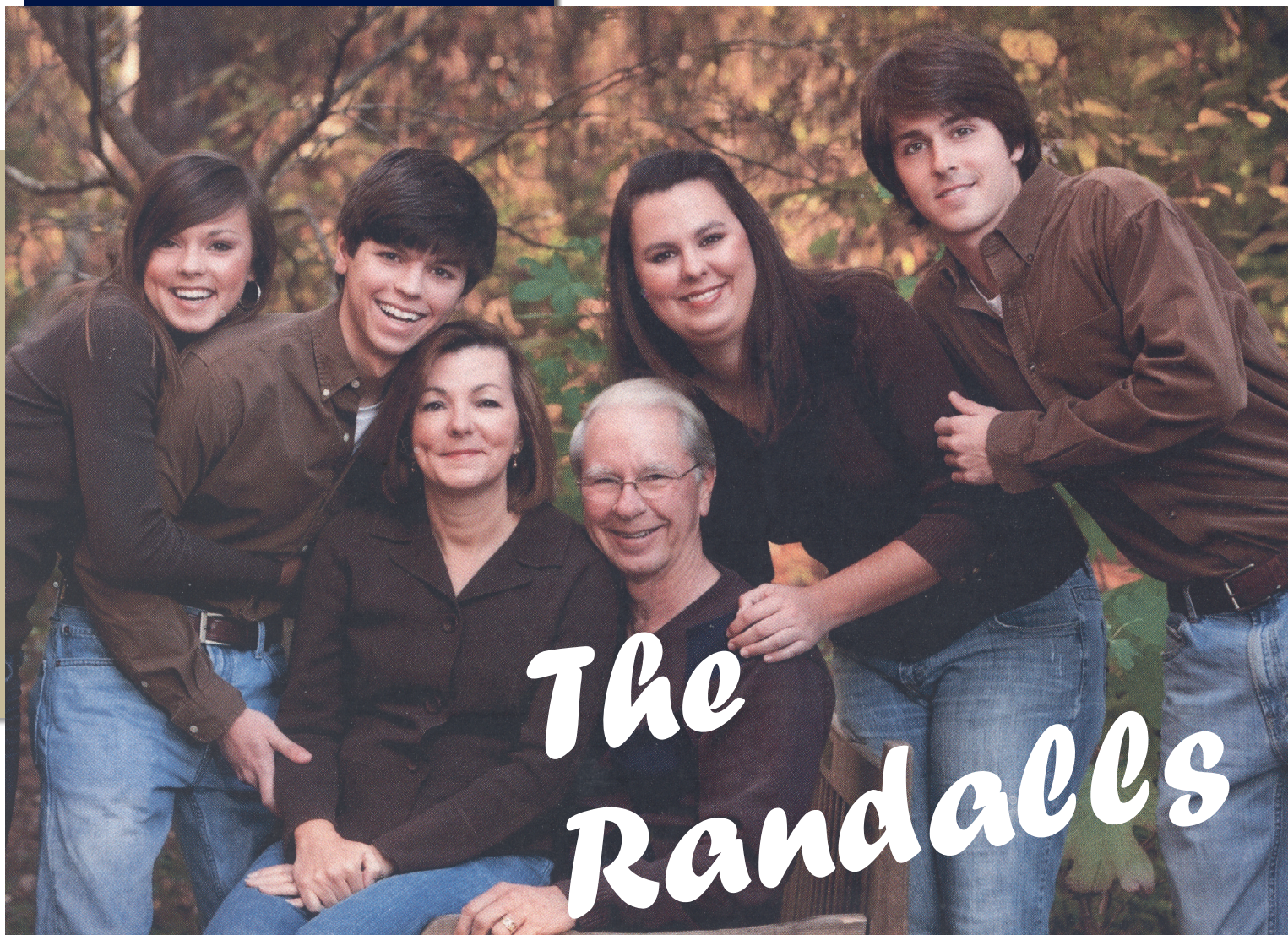


## TOP 5 STATES EXCLUDING GA





# Why I Give



## The Randalls

When I stepped foot onto campus in 1976, I had no idea that my decision to transfer to Georgia Southern College would forever shape my life. I spent two short years in classes in Hollis, but the knowledge I gained, the appreciation for higher education, the commitment to learning, and the work ethic that my professors instilled would last a lifetime. I met my husband at Georgia Southern. After graduate school, we returned to Statesboro to teach and raise our family. Our four children grew up on this campus and are all graduates of the College of Business.

Georgia Southern equipped me and my children for life. We received more than preparation for professional careers; we learned to be giving, productive members of society. The University and its faculty and the community gave so much so that we could grow and thrive and succeed. And we have. I feel I owe a forever debt to this University. Giving back, in time and energy and money, helps ensure that students who come after me and my children will be able to share the same experience. It is a privilege to be a part of the shaping of their future and to know that as they move forward in life, our small act of gratitude made a difference.

— Cindy Randall, Assistant Dean, College of Business





# The Sanders

I went to Georgia Southern College in 1977, almost by accident. And when I got there, I did not intend to stay. But something happened along the way ... I fell in love! I fell in love with the college experience, the many friends that I made, and with the town of Statesboro itself. Oh yeah ... and eventually I fell in love with my wife, Danna Lane Sanders.

When I graduated in 1981, I moved to Atlanta to pursue a career, get married, and start a family. Those things put me a long way from Statesboro in more ways than just miles; however, good fortune kept me connected—active friends from my fraternity and the restart of Georgia Southern football. I love college football, and I am a very “brand loyal” kind of guy. With the legendary Coach Russell coming on the scene with his band of feisty, undersized Eagles, I now had my very own program to support. No longer did I have to be the illegitimate child of someone else’s program!

While I was in school, I forged a relationship with a really nice guy who owned the Sports Buff at the Statesboro Mall. Frank Hook, one of the nicest people I have ever met, became the director of the newly formed Southern Boosters. While I didn’t have much in financial resources, I wanted to support Georgia Southern athletics and my friend, Frank. I gave what I could. Frank then asked me to start the Atlanta Chapter of Southern Boosters, and, in 1986, we hosted Erk at what eventually came to be known as Coaches’ Caravans. These were my humble beginnings in giving back.

A couple of years later, an article in a Georgia Southern Magazine turned out to have a tremendous impact on my giving. An article featuring Alumni Director Gene Crawford included a picture of Gene accepting a \$100,000 check from a Mr. William Freeman. At that time, it was the largest cash gift that Georgia Southern had ever received from an individual. I thought, “I need to know this guy!” So I cold called Bill Freeman in his office to thank him for his generosity to my alma mater. Bill was a difference maker in my life. He became a friend, a client, but most importantly, a mentor. He taught me to support the things I was passionate about and to try and make a difference where I could. Bill was a tremendous supporter of all things Georgia Southern, he introduced me to College of Business Dean Carl Gooding. My relationship was furthered by Dean Ron Shiffler, and today it grows deeper because of my friendship with Dean Allen Amason.

I give because I believe. I believe in Georgia Southern and its mission and dreams. I believe in the people ... the students, the faculty, the administrators, and the community ... and their dreams. I give because I believe in all the possibilities. I give because I believe I can and have made a difference in other people’s dreams, and it has been an honor to do so.

My wife, Danna, and I are 1981 graduates of Georgia Southern. Our daughter, Caroline, graduated in 2013. I serve on the College of Business Dean’s Advisory Board as well as the University Foundation’s Board of Trustees. I previously served on the Athletic Foundation Board, and I am a member of the Transition 20 and the Champions Society. Together, Danna and I have pledged to the *Building A Legacy* initiative and support students with two different scholarships.

— Mike Sanders



# CLASS NOTES

## ACCOUNTING

Gary M. Davis (1972), Statesboro, has been named chair of Farmers & Merchants Bank board of directors. His wife, Michelle, is the executive director of student activities at Georgia Southern University.

Wade “Frank” Franklin Denmark (1972), Swainsboro, is the CPA shareholder for Denmark & Brown PC in Statesboro.  
Email: fdenmark@denmarkbrownpc.com.

John Steven Odom (1978), Tallahassee, FL, is a professional accountant specialist for the Florida Department of Corrections in Tallahassee, FL. His wife is Patricia Karen Roberts Odom.  
Email: jodom157@yahoo.com.

Robert “Bob” Molloy (1985), Palm Harbor, FL, is the chief BSA/AML officer for Raymond James Financial, Inc., in St. Petersburg, FL. His wife is Sherry Neal.  
Email: robert.molloy@raymondjames.com.

Mark Weeks (1992; MBA, 1995), Brunswick, is the senior finance manager at Rich Products Corporation on Saint Simons Island. His wife is Stephanie Barnett Weeks. Email: mweeks@rich.com.

Sheila Wentz (1994; MBA, 2015), Brooklet, is the director of financial accounting at East Georgia State College in Swainsboro. Her husband is Roger Wentz. Email: rsawentz@gmail.com.

Wendy Headley (1995), Brooklet, is a senior staff accountant at Homes of Integrity Construction Co. in Richmond Hill.  
Email: wheadley2014@hotmail.com.

Kristen B. Ecklund (2002), Houston, TX, is an HR consultant for Lyondellbasell Industries in Houston, TX.  
Email: kristen.ecklund@gmail.com.

Kelly Thompson (2006; MAcc, 2006), Jackson, Wyoming, is the head of the finance department for the Town of Jackson. Since May 2013, Kelly has served Teton County as financial accountant.

Lauren “Hayley” Glisson (2007), Statesboro, is a bankruptcy auditor for the U.S. Department of Justice in Savannah.  
Email: hayleyglisson@gmail.com.

Ashley Addison (2009; MAcc, 2009), Richmond Hill, was reappointed to the State Board of Accountancy in September 2016 by Governor Nathan Deal. Ashley and her husband, Trip (MBA, '09), have one child.

Merrit Garnto (2013; MAcc, 2014), Albany, Draffin & Tucker LLP's commercial practice, has been promoted. She works with commercial entities on audits, reviews, compilation and report preparation.

## ECONOMICS

Melissa “Mandy” Amanda Morris Bunting (1987; Delta Gamma), Statesboro, is the CFO of Advanced Valve & Instrument, Inc., in Statesboro. Her husband, Bryce Thomas Bunting, also graduated from Georgia Southern (MKTG, 1988).  
Email: mandybunting@hotmail.com.

Elizabeth “Beth” Griffin (1992; Phi Mu), Birmingham, AL, is a CT technologist for UAB in Birmingham, AL.  
Email: griffsfarm@gmail.com.

Jennifer Hendrix Berghoff (2000), Statesboro, is the business manager for the Office of Provost & Vice-President of Academic Affairs Office at Georgia Southern. Her husband is Matthew Berghoff. Email: jhberghoff@georgiasouthern.edu.

Kyle William McKinley (2014; Sigma Phi Epsilon), Statesboro, is director of special projects at Meadows Regional Medical Center in Vidalia. His wife, Makenzie Simons, also graduated from Georgia Southern with her early childhood education degree.  
Email: kyle.w.mckinley@gmail.com.

## FINANCE

James “Jim” Williamson (1966), Clermont, FL, is an EBO liaison for Orlando Health in Orlando, FL. His wife is Jan.  
Email: jimfwilliamson@aol.com.

Jenny Gentry (1981), Savannah, has been named Ameris Bank market president for the Greater Savannah area. She will oversee all core banking activities throughout Savannah and the surrounding areas including Hinesville, Pooler, Richmond Hill and Rincon.

Allen C. Amason (1984), Statesboro, is the dean of the College of Business at Georgia Southern University. He sits on the board of directors for the Russian Foundation for Reproductive Health and is the author of two books: *Expensive Yanna* (2016) and *Strategic Management: From Theory to Practice* (2011). His wife, Cricket Amason, also graduated from Georgia Southern (BSED, 1984).  
Email: aamason@georgiasouthern.edu.

J. Stan Cook (1984), Savannah, is the executive vice president and COO of Colony Bankcorp, Inc.

Jeffrey “Jeff” Morton (1984), Richmond Hill, is the senior vice president at Fidelity Bank in Savannah. His wife is Renee.  
Email: morton31324@yahoo.com.

James T. Simeone (1987), Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, is the manager solutions architect for Verizon in Jacksonville, FL.  
Email: jtsimeone@mac.com.



Brent Sammons (1992; MBA, 1997), Vidalia, president and CEO of Altamaha Bank & Trust, has been elected by his peers in Mideast Georgia to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the Georgia Bankers Association (GBA).

Tommy Norwood Daniels (1995), Ellenwood, is a regional collision insurance manager for BMW North America, LLC, in Atlanta. His CPCU designation was completed in June 2016. In September 2016, he and his wife went to Hawaii for commencement and to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. His wife, Stephanie Denise Whitehead, also graduated from Georgia Southern (ACCT, 1995). Email: tommynorwoodaniels@outlook.com.

Jennifer Mock (2004; MKTG, 2004), Statesboro, was recently installed as the new president of the Georgia Bar Young Lawyers Division.

Bill Inabinet (2005), Athens, has been installed as a director of the Georgia Bankers Association (GBA). Bill serves on the board of directors of the Walton County Chamber of Commerce, Communities in Schools of Walton County, the Ministry Village, Leadership GBA, the Partnership for Families Children and Youth and the First Baptist Church of Loganville.

Bradley “Brad” G. Proctor (2008), Saint Simons Island, is an attorney at Roberts Tate, LLC, on Saint Simons Island. His wife, Margaret Anne Oswald Proctor, graduated from Georgia Southern in 2008. Email: bproctor@robertstate.com.

Audrey Patricia Fry (2009), Keller, TX, is a systems and integration consultant for Accenture in Irving, TX. Her husband is Tristan Fry. Email: audreyprfry@gmail.com.

Warren “Kirby” Morris (2010), Cumming, is a staff financial analyst for Allstate in Atlanta. His wife is Alex. Email: kirbom23@yahoo.com.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

James Wendell Deal (1969; Sigma Pi), Statesboro, is the Bulloch County tax commissioner. He was first elected in 1994 in a special election with 55 percent of the votes. Since then, he has been re-elected in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 with no opposition. His wife, Carolyn Clark Deal, also attended Georgia Southern. Email: bullsega@gmail.com.

Alvin B. Dickson, Jr., (1972; Kappa Sigma), Appling, is retired from John Deere and now works as a cruise specialist for Cruise Brothers in Appling. His wife is Karen Mattox Dickson. Email: adickson05@comcast.net.

Joel R. Beck (1993; Phi Delta Theta), Lawrenceville, is the managing attorney at The Beck Law Firm, LLC, in Lawrenceville. Joel’s practice focuses on financial markets regulation and compliance, business law and estate planning. His wife, Jennifer Hargrove Beck, graduated from Georgia Southern with her education degree. Email: joel@thebeckfirm.com.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Tracy McBride (1992; MBA, 1995; Sigma Alpha Epsilon), Statesboro, is director of IT infrastructure & operations at AM Conservation Group in Charleston, SC. He is also president of the Statesboro High School Quarterback Club and board trustee for Southern Greek Housing. His wife is Erica Scott McBride. Email: tmcbbcomputer@gmail.com.

Brenda T. Aytes (2006; Beta Gamma Sigma; Alpha Iota Mu), Statesboro, is the director of Printing & Postal Services at Georgia Southern. Her husband is Arthur Raymond Aytes. Email: baytes@georgiasouthern.edu.

Christopher “Chris” Tripp (2013), Roswell, is senior logistics analyst for The Home Depot in Atlanta. He is also a wish granter for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. His wife is Jamie Tripp (Butler) who graduated from Georgia Southern with her early childhood education degree. Email: ctripp2690@gmail.com.

## LOGISTICS

Fred “June” J. Tompkins, III (1996; Delta Nu Alpha), Douglasville, is director of logistics at Eagle Third Party Logistics Solutions, Douglasville. Email: fjtompkins@eagle3pls.com.

Dustin Mimbs (2004), Smyrna, is a logistics specialist at Caraustar Industries. His wife is Jamie King Mimbs. Email: dm2258@gmail.com.

Eric Engel (2009; Sigma Nu), Huntersville, NC, is director of retail business integration at American Standard in Mooresville, NC. His wife, Carter Sample Engel, also graduated from Georgia Southern (BSN, 2009). Email: eric.engel679@gmail.com.

Tyler Ragan (2010), Waycross, is a coordinator of operational excellence for Pilgrim’s Pride Corporation in Douglas. His wife is Kala Rentz Ragan. Email: tylermragan@gmail.com.

Matthew “Matt” Hellmann (2013; MKTG, 2013; Alpha Tau Omega), Marietta, is a product manager for Genuine Parts Company in Atlanta. His wife, Mary Beth Moore, graduated from Georgia Southern with her public relations degree. Email: matthellmann21@gmail.com.

## MANAGEMENT

Mike Cummings (1974), Dublin, has been inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame for his support of Georgia Southern Athletics.

Karen Baker Cowart (1977), Brooklet, is a receptionist and accounting clerk at East Georgia HMA Physicians Management LLC in Statesboro. Email: kbcowart@bulloch.net.

Mark S. Wood (1977), Dublin, is owner of Woodson Lubrication Consulting in Dublin. He is married to Virginia Byrd Wood who also graduated from Georgia Southern in 1977. Email: woodmark77@gmail.com.



Charles “Lee” Smalley, III (1980), Atlanta, is senior vice president at Hamilton State Bank in Atlanta. Email: leesmalley@comcast.net.

Paul Reaves (1981; MBA, 1989; Pi Sigma Epsilon), Statesboro, is communications officer for Information Technology Services at Georgia Southern. His wife, Lynn Stults, also graduated from Georgia Southern (BBA, 1981).  
Email: pmreaves@georgiasouthern.edu.

David “Randy” Randel Weldon (1990), Moultrie, is CEO of Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Inc. in Moultrie. He was named CEO in July 2016 after previously serving as planner and deputy director of the agency. CAC is a private, non-profit organization that employs approximately 600 and provides services in 21 counties to help citizens attain and maintain self-sufficiency. His wife is Lynn Lofton Weldon. Email: rweldon@swgacac.com.

Karen Alison Taylor (1992; MBA, 2000), Pooler, is manager for Gulfstream ODA Core Activities at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Savannah. Her husband is Jerry Ray Taylor, Jr.  
Email: savannahkam@yahoo.com.

Izzet Kohen (1997), Izmir, Ege, Turkey, is production director and shareholder of Ezel Fasteners Co. in Torbali, Izmir, Turkey. He is a member of the Turkish Fastener Association. Izzet also represented the Turkish National Tennis Team in the 2015 Maccabi Games in Berlin, Germany. His wife is Selin.  
Email: izzet@ezelcivata.com.

Bryan “Greg” Gregory Pennington (2000; MBA, 2003), Atlanta, is director of Imaging Services for Emory Healthcare.  
Email: pennington008@gmail.com.

Jamekia T. Powers (2000; MBA, 2003; Delta Sigma Pi; Delta Sigma Theta), Savannah, is senior human resources manager at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in Savannah. Email: jtpgsu@yahoo.com.

Ira “Bo” Bliven Grimes, IV (2001; Sigma Phi Epsilon), Chickamauga, is co-owner of Lookout Mountain Real Estate and Lookout Mountain Development Company in Cloudland. Bo is chair of the board for Lula Lake Academy, treasurer for Tri-State Cattlemen’s Association and treasurer for Rock Spring Athletic Association. He sits on the boards of directors for the Walker County Young Farmers Association and for The Preserve at Rising Fawn. Bo is also a soccer coach. His wife is Tonya.  
Email: bogrimes@gmail.com.

Darek Wright (2002), Statesboro, is manager of inventory control for Hugo Boss in Midway. His wife is Kartachia Charles-Wright.  
Email: darekwright@outlook.com.

Jacob Dierdorff (2004; Tau Beta Sigma), Alpharetta, is regional operations manager for Shenandoah Growers in Morrow.  
Email: jacob810@gmail.com.

Eric Sweet (2012; Delta Tau Delta), Brookhaven, is compensation, talent and HR analytics manager for Rollins, Inc. in Atlanta.  
Email: ericsweet12@gmail.com.

Tracy Bardugon (2014), Hilton Head, SC, is catering coordinator at Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island on Hilton Head Island, SC.  
Email: t.bardugon@gmail.com.

## MARKETING

RaDonna Rodgers Sapp (1978), Statesboro, is an agent owner at Allstate Insurance Co. in Statesboro. “I made Statesboro my home! A wonderful place to live, learn and raise a family. Allstate Insurance Agency Owner since 1993.” Email: radonna@allstate.com.

John Shuman (1995), Reidsville, president and owner of Shuman Produce, has been appointed to the Georgia Ports Authority Board by Governor Nathan Deal.

Daniel Isaac George Bessada (1999), Woodstock, is operations manager for Interra Food Marketing, LLC in Atlanta. He has been with Interra for 12 years. His wife, Lelok Kostreba Bessada, graduated from Georgia Southern with a fashion merchandising degree. Email: bessdan@yahoo.com.

Edgar Smith (2001), Savannah, has been named partner at FisherBroyles, LLP, Atlanta office. Edgar is a commercial litigator with experience representing businesses and individuals throughout Georgia and the southeastern U.S. His practice focuses in admiralty, creditors’ rights, real estate and general business litigation. Edgar earned his JD from The University of Georgia School of Law in 2006.

Jason Rooks (2002), Albany, vice president/commercial lending at Flint Community Bank in Albany, has been named chair-elect of the Leadership Division of the Community Bankers Association of Georgia.

Brittany Buck (2014; MBA, 2015; Zeta Tau Alpha), Duluth, is director of sales at Island Hospitality Management in Duluth.  
Email: brittanybuck14@georgiasouthern.edu.

Kirstie Harsha (2014; Phi Mu), Statesboro, is development assistant for Georgia Southern College of Business.  
Email: kharsha@georgiasouthern.edu.

Brittani “Marschel” Kemper (2014), Atlanta, is an account manager for Ideas United in Atlanta. Email: bmarschelk@gmail.com.

## MACC

Douglas Axel Carlson (2008), Menomonee Falls, WI, is a senior accountant II at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI. His wife is Corrine Negrelli. Email: daxecl@gmail.com.



## MBA

Nathan C. Coleman (1982; Phi Kappa Phi), Banner Elk, NC, is retired. His wife is Martha. Email: ncoleman@frontiernet.net.

Robin Rich (1992), Statesboro, is a systems engineer for Automation Systems and Controls, Inc. in Ellabell. He was the 2015 Alumnus of the Year for the College of Engineering and Information Technology and a recipient of the 2013 Owens Corning Value Creation Award. Robin is also a 20-year owner of Automation Systems and Controls, Inc. His wife is Alison Lantz Rich. Email: robin.rich@plcsolutions.com.

Kerry Herndon (1993), Athens, is a program manager for the Georgia Department of Revenue in Atlanta. He was promoted to this role in March 2016. He is now responsible for 11 regional offices throughout the state. His wife, Angie Wells Herndon, graduated from Georgia Southern with her recreation degree. Email: keherndon85@yahoo.com.

Kathey Porter (2001), Gainesville, FL, is director of small business and vendor diversity relations at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She has been featured as a small business expert in *ESSENCE Magazine*. Her book, *50 Billion Dollar Boss*, was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and was a #1 New Release in Business Entrepreneurship on Amazon. Email: porterk1@ufl.edu.

Michael Johnson (2007), Atlanta, was promoted to division manager, Central Division—Operations & Service Support, with Norfolk Southern Corporation.

Ballard Betz (2009), Rome, has joined Synovus/Citizens First Bank as assistant vice president, commercial banker, at the Citizens First main office, Rome.

Matt Heller (2010), Macon, a senior financial planner at Day & Ennis, has been a certified financial planner since 2012 and is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Macon. Matt participated in the 2016 fall class of Young Gamechangers.

Loren Waldo (2010), Richmond Hill, is the senior manager of sales operations and analysis at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Savannah. His wife is Melanie. Email: lorenwaldo@yahoo.com.

Jeremy Robert Hart (2012; Phi Mu Alpha; Omicron Delta Kappa), Statesboro, is assistant branch manager at EMC Engineering Services, Inc. in Statesboro. As of May 2016, he is a professional engineer (civil). Email: jrh0486@gmail.com.

# BUILDING A LEGACY

College of Business Naming Opportunities



Named gifts to the *Building A Legacy* initiative afford an opportunity for the College of Business to honor donors and for donors to honor those held in high esteem. Donors will be recognized by a plaque at the entrance of the area they name. Pledges may be made over five years.

For further information about these *Legacy* naming opportunities, please contact the College of Business Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Georgia Southern University  
College of Business  
P.O. Box 7994  
Statesboro, GA 30460

912-478-5083  
BuildingALegacy@GeorgiaSouthern.edu  
GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Business/BuildingALegacy

The Georgia Southern Foundation, Inc. is qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt 501 (c)(3) corporation.



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Hello, my name is Bill Slayton. I am taking over for Pam Jones Stovall who retired in 2016. I serve as the senior director of development for the College of Business. This is my first submission to the *Eagle Executive*, and I have been asked to write an introduction for myself.

What makes a great introduction? That's a hard question to answer. Do I spend time giving you a laundry list of what I have accomplished in my life so far? Do I try to convince you to like me? Do I list all of the things I do in a day? A week? A month? Conventional wisdom would say, "Yes."

The problem with "conventional wisdom" is that it can also be construed to mean "average." Although I have only been here a short time, one thing I can say for sure is that "average" does not apply to anyone in the Eagle Nation! Since my arrival in early January, I have met with many highly motivated, outstanding people—alumni, faculty, staff and administrators. The one constant thread in all of my conversations has been a strong desire to anticipate what the future will be like for our graduates and to "get out in front" so that our students benefit by receiving the best, most relevant education—an education that will enable them to meet the challenges of the future.

So, rather than introduce myself by applying conventional wisdom, I want to take some time to thank one of the outstanding people I have met. Pam Jones Stovall has worked hard to advance the priorities of the College of Business for the past four years.

Two programs, Eagles on Wall Street and the Eagle Executive Society, have been very successful under Pam's watchful eye. As some of you know, support for Eagles on Wall Street allows Georgia Southern students to travel to New York and experience life on Wall Street, gaining valuable exposure to the financial markets. Support for the Eagle Executive Society helps the College remain nimble by providing funds that can be directed toward both short- and long-term programs and projects.

It is hard to quantify or qualify a single person's impact on an organization, but it is clear that Pam has had a positive and significant impact. With late nights, long road trips and constant communication with alumni and benefactors, she began a journey that will ensure we continue to provide the best education possible, now and into the future. Pam has made great strides in generating financial support for programs and facilities that will be vital to the success of our students.

Although she has retired, I plan to keep Pam's phone number handy so that I can call upon her for guidance and wisdom.

Our challenge now is to continue the journey Pam started. It is a journey that will call upon all of us to visualize what the future holds for our graduates. While she is leaving it up to us to complete the journey, based on what I have seen of the Eagle Nation so far, I am sure we will be up to the task.



*William J. Slayton*



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Provide the name and email address of two of your fellow Georgia Southern College of Business alumni.

Submit to [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/business/bluecard](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/business/bluecard)



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#### The Eagle Executive

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# SAVE THE DATE

	Honors Reception	April 5
	Faculty/Staff Awards Banquet	April 21
	Eagle Sales Showcase Bootcamp	April 25
	Accounting Day	April 26
	Dean's Board Meeting, Atlanta	April 27-28
	Young Alumni Board Meeting, Atlanta	April 29
	Graduate Brunch & Graduate Commencement	May 5
	Undergraduate Commencement	May 6