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Georgia Southern offers Community Bank Symposium

FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Georgia Southern's Center for Excellence in Financial Services will host its first Community Bank Symposium Wednesday, March 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thirty-nine banks have registered to attend this free event, which will take place at the Forest Heights Country Club.

"Community banks play a vital role in the economic well-being and life of our communities," said Edward Sibbald, who directs the Center for Excellence in Financial Services. "Georgia Southern acknowledges the leadership role and continuing contributions of our local bankers, whose efforts benefit families, businesses, and civic organizations in our area, and we've developed this symposium as a way of recognizing those efforts."

The symposium will include three presentations by College of Business Administration faculty, followed by a group discussion. The presentations will cover "The Economic Outlook for Southeastern Georgia in 2007-2008," given by Anthony Barilla, assistant professor, School of Economic Development; a "Review of 2006 Financial Performance for Banks in Southeastern Georgia as a Group," by Edward H. Sibbald, executive-in-residence in banking; and "Professional Sales Training and Selling Techniques to Improve your Bottom Line," by David Shepherd, professor of management, marketing and logistics. The group discussion will focus on one key question: In terms of your bank and the industry, what keeps you awake at night?

All participants will receive a customized, written performance assessment summary for their own bank. This performance assessment will include a 2006 financial performance summary, a customized peer group comparison, risk ratio analysis and market share trends review completed by the Center for Excellence in Financial Services.

The symposium is free for all community bank participants. To learn more about the symposium, please contact Tina Brookins in College of Business Administration at 912-681-5161.

National teleconference will focus on loss and grief

FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Professionals who deal with terminally ill patients and their families are invited to attend a special educational forum at Georgia Southern University.

The Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) will present its 14th annual National Bereavement Teleconference on Thursday, March 22, in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building.

'Living with Grief: Before and After the Death' is the theme of the teleconference, which will run from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Free and open to the public, the teleconference will be moderated by Frank Sesno, a special correspondent with CNN and a professor of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University.

The teleconference is ideal for psychologists, counselors, clergy, social workers, nurses and other health care workers, funeral directors, and educators.

Sesno and a panel of national experts will examine and discuss the following topics:

Anticipatory grief and anticipatory mourning: approaches that professional caregivers can use to assist patients and families struggling with loss in life-threatening illness.

Strategies and interventional approaches that professional caregivers can use at the moment of death and in funeral rituals to help survivors cope with loss.

Ways that the understanding of grief has changed over the last 20 years and how these changes have influenced practice.

Research on the effectiveness of grief interventions.

The current debate over a new DSM diagnostic category for complicated grief.

Current research and theory on grief reactions of professional caregivers, and ways that individuals and organizations can effectively support grieving staff and volunteers.

At the conclusion of the national teleconference, staff from the Ogeechee Area Hospice will moderate a 30-minute Q-and-A session in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building.

Space is limited, so anyone who is interested in attending the teleconference should call (912) 681-5551 to reserve a seat. The first 20 people to arrive will receive a free copy of the teleconference companion book.