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# In Memoriam: Whitaker and Coe

September 19, 2022

The Parker family is sad to announce the loss of two of our retired professors: Bill Whitaker and Tom Coe, both from what was then the Department of Finance & Economics.



*Bill Whitaker*

William “Bill” M. Whitaker, III, former associate dean and chair, Department of Finance & Economics, passed away on July 11, 2022. A member of Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honorary Fraternity, in addition to his academic career, Bill applied his skills in the private sector as vice president of Investment Research for Prudential Real Estate Investment Corporation in Parsippany, NJ; vice president, director of Investment Research for AIG Global in New York, NY; and manager, Real Estate Investment Research at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio. Bill also served on the board of trustees of the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center and was elected as a trustee emeritus upon his retirement.

James Thomas “Tom” Coe, retired assistant professor of finance and economics, passed on August 25, 2022. While at Georgia Southern, Tom taught courses on real estate appraisal, finance, and law. After his retirement in 2003, Tom moved to Kentucky where he remained active as chair of finance for Trinity United Methodist Church, past-president of the United Methodist Kentucky Conference; president of the Gateway Museum, board member of the Russell Theater, and past-president of the Maysville/Mason County Planning Commission. According to Jim Davis, College of Business retiree, “As a professionally qualified counselor of real estate and former director of real estate for the U. S. Postal Service, Tom brought applicability to his classroom teaching and consulting. His illustrations in and outside the classroom were relevant, practical, and understandable—although sometimes quite detailed and lengthy! He was an asset to the College of Business and a friend to those who knew him and wife Sharon.” Memorials in Tom’s honor may be made to Hospice of Hope, Trinity United Methodist Church, or the Gateway Museum.



*Tom Coe*

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# SHRM Receives Superior Merit Award

September 19, 2022

Due to the hard work of its members and the dedication of co-advisors, David Sikora, Ph.D., professor management, and John Harris, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, the Georgia Southern University SHRM student chapter has once again achieved Superior Merit status. Chapters receive this designation from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) for providing superior growth and development opportunities for their members based on the number of activities they complete during the merit award cycle. The most recent cycle ran from May 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022. According to Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., SHRM president and CEO, “The hard work of the Georgia Southern University student chapter shows the future of the profession is, indeed, in good hands.”



To earn Superior status, our student SHRM chapter had to ensure all materials for presentations and marketing used the proper logos, encouraged members to join the national organization, and promoted the field of human resources. As part of their efforts, the club planned meetings and events such as résumé workshops and lectures on interviewing practices and the best uses of social media to professionally development members’ skills. In addition, members learned about the SHRM Competency Model, which allowed them to acquire and demonstrate a wide range of skills important to managers, especially in the HR sphere. “It is a great honor to be recognized continuously as one of the best student organizations in the country for progressing the efforts of the HR profession,” commented Joshua Lord, president of our student chapter.

For more information about SHRM, go to [www.shrm.org](http://www.shrm.org) or contact Joshua Lord at [jl25156@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jl25156@georgiasouthern.edu).

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# SOA Student First Recipient of Scholarship

September 19, 2022



Photo Courtesy of "Grice Connect"

At the September 6 meeting of the Bulloch County Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Curt Deal announced the creation of an annual college scholarship for a part-time Parks & Recreation employee. Carson Estep, an accounting major at Georgia Southern, received the inaugural award of \$2,000. A junior from Dublin, Carson plans to earn his MAcc degree before returning home to join a local accounting firm. Congratulations, Carson!

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# Flight Path with the YAB

September 19, 2022

by Danielle Smith, Director, Experiential Learning & Corporate Relationships

The Parker College YAB is a diverse group of young professionals who serve to support recent grads and current students through tailored programming and communication that create strong bonds among Parker College alumni. YAB members who elect to serve on the Student Support Committee fulfill the role of creating a bridge between the College and Parker alumni through their meaningful engagement with currently enrolled students. As recent grads themselves, YAB members have experienced the roller coaster of transitioning from student to full-time employee and are eager to share what they've learned along the way to help other future grads. Committee Chairs Hannah Steed (MGNT, 2012) and Akeala Brown (FIN, 2005; MBA, 2013) decided these lessons could best be conveyed through a series of professional development workshops, which led to the

creation of "Flight Path with the YAB."

Open to all Parker students, the series kicked off on August 25, 2022, with a session entitled “LinkedIn: A Step-by-Step Guide.” Led by Zach Sines (IS, 2008), Cindy Evans (IS, 2012), and Dane Browner (MKTG, 2011), this session gave students an inside look at LinkedIn from a recruiter’s point of view. The hour-long session was packed full of advice about developing a meaningful profile and how to build and maintain a useful LinkedIn network. Hannah Steed and Brittany Haught (MKTG, 2014; MBA, 2015) explained that the series is an exciting new development for the YAB. “Our main goal in the Student Support Committee is to engage with students by providing opportunities to further develop their skills, assist in their professional growth, and form relationships that continue beyond graduation. The series allows the board an exciting avenue to provide real world education on topics that are relevant to our students communicated through the voices of Parker College alumni. We believe that by covering topics like “LinkedIn 101,” “Negotiating Job Offers,” “Financial Planning,” and “Networking,” we are bridging the gap for the transition from college to a successful career.”

The next Flight Path with the YAB session will be offered in-person on October 13, 2022.

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