

MITCHELL

SPRING 2019

HITTING THE ROAD
MITCHELL
AMBASSADOR
CLASS OF 2019

A LIFE OF SERVICE
MAJOR GENERAL
MIKE SUMRALL, U.S.
ARMY RETIRED

MESSING WITH
MOTHER NATURE
2019 SCHOLARS
NIGHT







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ON THE COVER: Dean Bob G. Wood with the 2019 class of Mitchell Ambassadors. Congratulations to Sabrina Garrett, Dylan Hooper, Owen Hicks, Emily Viglione, Baxley Stokes, and Taylor Hamlin.

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FROM THE DEAN'S DESK



“Well, who are you?” — THE WHO

This spring has been a whirlwind of strategic planning activities and AACSB accreditation visits.

To prepare, I took the time to reread Jim Collins' *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Some Don't*. A very good book—take the time to read or reread it.

From the opening chapter:

“Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great. We don't have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don't have great government, principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a good life.”

The third chapter discusses the need to have the right people in place before attempting the transformation from good to great. I'll take that a step further—before attempting the planning process for the move (the strategic plan), it is CRITICALLY important to look realistically at who the organization is. In my experience, groups often either overlook this step or, more to their peril, refuse to acknowledge who they are. Three examples of missteps:

- **ONE OF MY SCHOOLS** replaced its senior research officer on a regular basis. About every other one came in with the goal of transforming the university into

a Carnegie R1 University (universities with very high research activity.) Every effort failed. It is not that the faculty were, for the most part, unable to produce scholarship at that level. Rather, it was the fact that the research office failed to provide the needed tools (research funding, research assistants, teaching and service time reductions, etc.) necessary to make the transformation. These efforts failed because the senior administrators didn't consider the faculty and the current environment.

- **SENIOR ADMINISTRATION** at another institution made the decision to pursue a strategy to raise the recognition and reputation of the university from a regional recognition to national. The business college dean was tasked to lead that effort. Business faculty members embraced the idea and raised their game significantly. Only one small mistake... although the business college faculty supported the strategy, the faculty at the other colleges were happy and content with the way things were. The president subsequently made the decision that “all colleges should be equal” and, rather than work to move the other colleges forward, reigned in the efforts of the business school. The president failed to take into account who the faculty were.
- **I ALSO HAVE EXPERIENCED** senior administration that pursues the “grow

at any cost” strategy—the siren calls from the increase in tuition revenue and the cache of being a “large” institution are hard to resist. All recruitment efforts focused on a goal of increasing enrollment on an annual basis. To meet the goal, entrance standards were relaxed and a number of students ill-prepared for college were admitted. Retention and graduation rates suffered as did the overall perception of university quality. Faculty morale suffered—again, the administration failed to consider the factors that work to define a university's personality.

At the Mitchell College, we are focused on the transformation from good to great. We are not there; however, we are much closer than we were and are moving in the right direction. I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by an excellent group of faculty and staff. These educators are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students. I get much of the credit given for the change in the College, but the faculty and staff are the driving force. We continue our quest.

Wishing you a great summer. See you in the fall.

Bob Wood, Dean
Mitchell College of Business

BY THE NUMBERS

THE VITA PROGRAM

15 Students assisted in tax preparation for low income families

\$50,000 Amount taxpayers saved in tax preparation fees

85 Tax returns prepared **\$105,272** Tax refunds processed

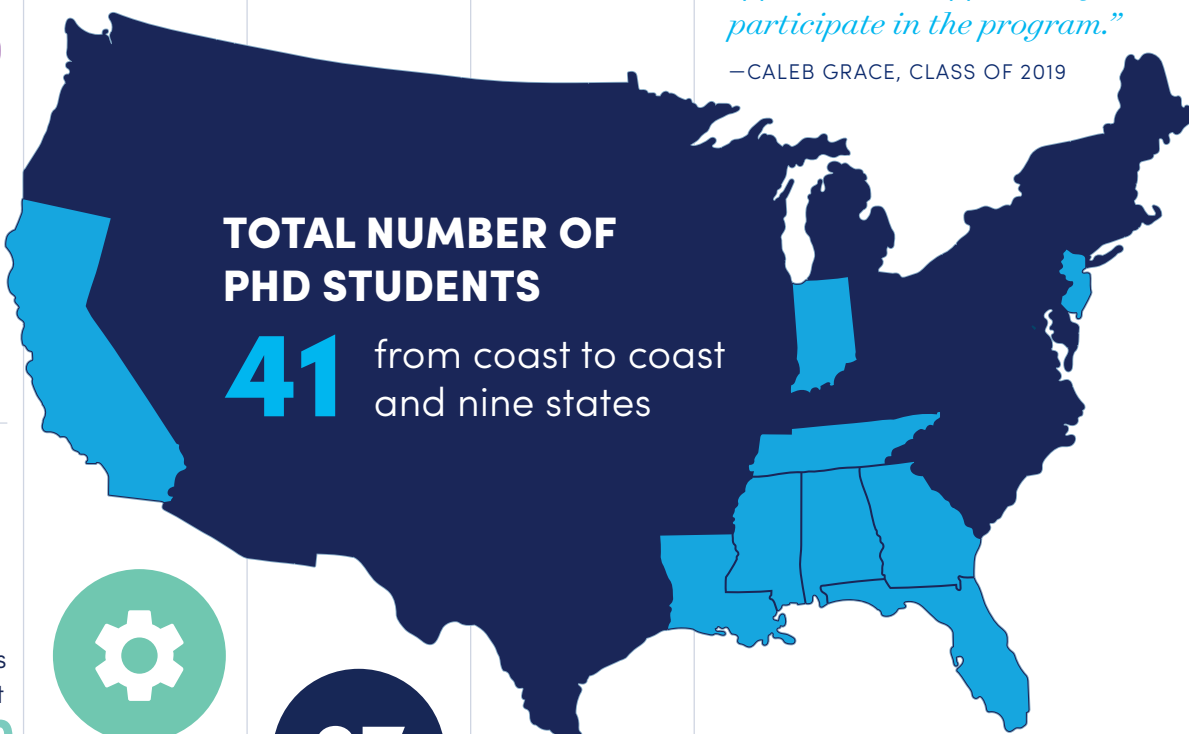
\$20,807 Earned income credits for low income families

"The VITA program helped me learn how to deal with unique cases and figure out the appropriate course of action to take, how to deal with clients in a face-to-face, intimate, and sensitive setting, how to have confidence in my team's professional judgment, and how to contribute to a highly functional professional team. This experience will help shape my knowledge base, professionalism, and skills that I have to offer to my employers of the future. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to participate in the program."

—CALEB GRACE, CLASS OF 2019



More than
200
students
certified on
Bloomberg
Terminals



98 scholarships
totaling almost
\$400,000
awarded in 2019



113

internships
for credit:

ACCOUNTING,
ECONOMICS &
FINANCE

32

MANAGEMENT

39

MARKETING,
QUANTITATIVE
METHODS AND
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS

42



Internships
and Co-ops with
Austal USA



1,060

undergraduate

94

graduate
business
students
enrolled in
Spring 2019



10,601

ALUMNI



Jaguar
Investment
Fund

\$676,353

UNDER MANAGEMENT



245

undergraduate

27

graduate
degrees
awarded in
2017-18



CATCHING UP WITH CINDY DU



Mitchell Magazine recently caught up with Cindy Du, a MAcc graduate currently living in California. As a native of China, Cindy completed the MCOB MAcc degree and never looked back. She currently serves as CFO of Cargo Chief in Silicon Valley.

Tell us about Cindy.

Born and raised in China, I came to the U.S. in 1995 to attend graduate school. In 1997, I graduated from the Mitchell College of Business with a Master of Accounting degree and have been working in corporate accounting ever since. My experience ranges from startups to Fortune 500 members. Currently, I am serving as CFO for Cargo Chief, a transportation technology company in Silicon Valley.

Why accounting? How have your positions in the accounting field changed?

Originally, I picked accounting because I thought that it would be relatively easy to find a job. The more I learned about accounting, the more I liked it. The double entry system is simple but powerful. I learned not to get upset when the numbers did not add up; rather, I looked deeper into the details knowing that the numbers will always balance in the end.

As I advanced in my career, I began to focus on corporate accounting. I learned to accurately present historical financial ratios and to accurately project future ratios. Accountants not only need to have a profound knowledge about GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) but also need to be involved in the business. Being a CFO, I really enjoy not only understanding how the business works but also helping to make the business run better.

How did you end up on the West Coast?

Following graduation, I worked in Chicago for five years. I worked with companies such as McDonald Corporation and Molex. I subsequently moved to Silicon Valley in 2002. I was eager for new ideas, new technology, and a new way of doing business. The blossoming of new technologies is what first attracted me to Silicon Valley. Silicon Valley reminds me of Florence



“What has shaped me most is my own failures.
The deeper the hurt, the more I learn.”

during the Renaissance; I did not want to miss this opportunity!

How did you first get involved with the Mitchell College of Business? Why did you choose the College?

I found the Mitchell College in a U.S. college catalog while in China. I was attracted by the beautiful campus and beaches near the town. I came to the U.S. with only \$3 in my pocket. The graduate assistantship from the College helped me to finish my study. The education I received has helped me advance my career for all these years.

As a business professional, what sort of trends do you see? How do you see the international relationships across countries changing over the next five years?

Accounting hasn't seen much innovation since the creation of double-entry bookkeeping. On the other hand, technology and globalization

have changed how accountants work. Accountants have transitioned from the 10-column worksheet to Lotus 123 to Excel to various Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems and now must embrace artificial intelligence (AI). New graduates must stay current on how new technology can improve work efficiency and impact their career.

Almost every company I worked for is international in scope. I believe this trend will continue. New accounting graduates will most likely be required to work with International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS), foreign tax laws and regulations, international mergers and acquisitions, and other multinational transactions. Another trend in the marketplace is the opening of U.S. subsidiaries by foreign corporations and their acquisition of U.S. companies. New graduates have an equal chance to work for a U.S. headquartered company with foreign subsidiaries or the U.S. subsidiary of a foreign multinational.

What do you do when you aren't working? What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I am married with a 6-year old daughter. I spend most of my non-working time with my family. We love all outdoor activities, from the shore to mountains, including rock climbing and winter sports. I have climbed to the summit of a 20,000-foot mountain and scuba dived to more than 100 feet below the ocean.

Tell me about some of the people you've met or who have influenced you on your journey.

From professors to managers and co-workers to staff, many people have influenced my journey, but what has shaped me most is my own failures. The deeper the hurt, the more I learn. Always remember not to be beaten down by your failure; learn from it and grow from it.



A Lifetime of Service

MAJOR GENERAL MIKE SUMRALL
U.S. ARMY RETIRED

Retired Maj. Gen. Mike H. Sumrall is a local; he was born and spent his formative years on Bienville Avenue in Mobile. Before attending the University of South Alabama, Sumrall attended McGill-Toolen Catholic High School. One of his high school classmates (a “great all-around guy”) was musician Jimmy Buffett. He has fond memories of high school football games at Ladd-Peebles Stadium; occasionally, Alabama would open their season against Mississippi State at Ladd-Peebles.

When asked why he chose South, Sumrall said, “South Alabama was the perfect fit for my situation. I wanted to remain in the Mobile area and work a part-time job while attending school. South was relatively small when I was a student and was a nice fit for my goals and objectives.” Even though South was a newly minted university at the time, he still thought it stood out from the others because of its excellent staff and faculty. Coupled with the new facilities and small classes, the choice was obvious.

South gave Sumrall the opportunity to develop an excellent educational foundation for all of the challenges and opportunities that would present themselves in his future. “Even today, I can remember specific things I learned from the professors and how they helped me understand and work out issues.” He does regret waiting until his senior year to take history. Professor Curtis “brought history to life” and he wished that he could have taken more courses with him. He also enjoyed Dr. Otto’s economics courses and has used many of his teaching points throughout his career.

Being a student at South was a wonderful experience for him in so many ways. At the time, he did not fully realize the value of the diversified curriculum, but he clearly does now. When recalling his experience, he said, “The classes were challenging but a lot of fun. I was able to be a part of the early growth of South and enjoyed being involved in the



development of the many traditions.” Sumrall also worked part-time for Dixie Leasing; one of his fraternity brothers who worked with him now owns the company. He participated in many of the extracurricular activities and made lifelong friends as a student. He also enrolled in ROTC; his instructors laid the cornerstone for what turned out to be a long and storied military career.

Following graduation, Sumrall pursued a dual-track career — operating small

businesses in the Mobile area and serving as a member of the Alabama National Guard. It became obvious that his calling was military service so he entered active duty with the Army. In that capacity, he served in Germany, the Middle East, and multiple locations in the United States including the U.S. Central Command ultimately rising to the rank of major general assigned to the Office of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

He retired from the Army as a major general and elected to stay in the Washington, D.C., area. He is currently the executive director in the office of the chairman of a government contracting company that works primarily with the Veterans Administration. He works to help serve military members and veterans. When he is not working, his hobbies include traveling, boating, playing competitive croquet, and mountain biking.

Sumrall is proud of the experiences he gained in the Army. “The Army did an excellent job of providing me with opportunities to increase both my civilian and military education and experiences. These credentials prepared me for roles of ever-increasing responsibility, and great jobs and promotions came my way as the result of the doors that were opened for me. Great mentors were always helping me be successful and prepared for future opportunities.”

He advises students to seek out good mentors with whom you can share your goals and seek their help in positioning yourself to accomplish your goals.

He is thankful for the time he spent at South, along with the lifelong friends he met as a student. The education he received at South provided him with a tremendous foundation for further studies and the ability to be successful while dealing with the many challenges and opportunities that he has experienced in his lifetime.

MAKING AN IMPACT BY PARTNERING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE



BY MICKEY SMITH
Assistant Professor of Management,
University of South Alabama
Mitchell College of Business

Success as an academic professional is largely defined by impact, and impact is mostly measured by research output (e.g., publications, citations). These are indicators that your research is advancing the academic world by creating new knowledge or shedding new light on old assumptions.

Success as a business leader is very much dependent on the same thing – impact. Impact in the business world may be measured by returns, profit, and other various metrics, but it all stems from the idea of running an effective organization.

Theoretically, impact in business-centered academic research and impact in real-world business should share a clear relationship. Unfortunately, there is always a gap between research and practice. One of my primary goals has been to bridge the gap between academia and practice by partnering with organizations to conduct high-quality research. Doing so creates a win-win for everyone involved. Business leaders get information relevant to their company and chief concerns, and I get access to invaluable data sources – employees.

My research is focused on explaining employee and team performance – particularly through variables like personality, organizational climate, and involvement-based management. There is nothing quite as personable as personality, which, to me, makes it the quintessential starting point to understand how people interact with each other. I've studied both the brighter and darker sides of personality because both aspects are critical for understanding why people do the things they do.

I have also conducted a great deal of research on the topics of high-involvement management and organizational climate. I really enjoy researching these topics because I can easily translate the things I learn in this research to effective business practices. Indeed, I have taken a great deal of information from my research into businesses and seen the

practical impact it has.

This is particularly true for my work in high-involvement management and climate. I have witnessed, first-hand, the added value of applying it within real-world contexts. I was involved with a major organizational change project with a nation-wide specialty treatment cancer hospital. Over an 18-month period, we led an organization-wide initiative to integrate high-involvement into the organization's culture. During the project, we collected data to capture the success of the change and to build upon our understanding of high-involvement in the academic literature.

It was indeed a win-win. The impact of the high-involvement intervention was a dramatic decrease in turnover and absenteeism along with a substantial increase in employee satisfaction and commitment to the organization – a win for the organization! The impact of the data collection was subsequent publications in top management journals – a win for the research team! I have been fortunate to have some of this research published in some of the premier academic journals in our field, such as *Journal of Management*, *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, *Journal of Business and Psychology*, and the *International Journal of Human Resource Management*.

I've also presented the results of this research at various regional, national, and international conferences. I am particularly excited about being able to present my work at the upcoming Congress of the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology – the premier academic-practitioner association outside the U.S. It is in Turin, Italy this year.

This is just one example of the true impact created by collaboration between academics and practitioners. However, I see it as a rallying cry for future partnerships between MCOB researchers and businesses in the area.

As a management researcher, I conduct research on the human side of business.

I joke with my students in my organizational behavior and human resources courses when I make the point that accounting and finance may seem like the most difficult courses they will take. Really, however, the numbers and the formulas don't change. It's easy once you learn them. People, though, that's the difficult part of business, because they do vary and they do change!

People, however, are also the most valuable part of businesses. We stand to learn so much more about effective business practices when we can actually study them in practice. I guess you could say that I have a chip on my shoulder. I see academic-practitioner divide as a challenge, not a hindrance, and collaboration is a way to overcome that challenge and bridge the divide. That would be the ultimate mark of impact – at least from my perspective.

Outside of my work-life, I dedicate all my remaining faculties to my family. My wife, Megan, is a two-time graduate from the USA College of Nursing. She is a neonatal nurse-practitioner. We met while we were both undergraduate students here at the University of South Alabama. We have two sons, Francis (4) and Jackson (2), who keep us on our toes. Although it is certainly cliché, I do what I do for them.



ASK THE EXPERT

Doug Whitmore, Associate Vice President, Investment Officer
Wells Fargo Advisors in Mobile, Alabama

Retirement, a critical financial event

Retirement planning is challenging, similar to putting together a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces are made to fit together, but some of the pieces have to be put in place first. We all want to retire comfortably, but finding a strategic balance between saving for retirement and addressing current critical financial needs takes a plan.

Think of retirement planning as a simple three-step process made up of strategies that can help us create a timeline that works well at different stages of our lives. The first is to know where we are financially today. The second is to determine where we are going, and the third is to follow our individual plan.

Where we stand today

Setting the foundation for our plan starts with an assessment of our current financial picture. What are our assets and liabilities? What are our sources of retirement income? For younger workers, it can be difficult to determine how much income will be needed in retirement and how much their earnings will increase over their lifetime. These numbers will change over time so we recommend revisiting them frequently, especially as we get closer to retirement. A financial advisor can help identify goals and make them as realistic as possible.

Take a look at the benefits available by your employer. If you have access to

an employer-sponsored plan, consider making contributions at least as much as the match. The match can be “free” money and over time really adds up. As we age, the amount we save each year should increase. We should also look to different investment options in an effort to get the best benefit now and when we are in retirement.

Plan To and Through Retirement

What does retirement look like for you? We all want to maintain our standard of living in retirement. We also want to know we will have enough income to get us through those years. We often think about “when” we want to retire, but where do we want to live or what activities do we want to pursue? How long do we think we will be in retirement? Should we have a contingency plan for those unexpected critical financial events such as health problems or an unexpected early retirement?

Once we have a clearer vision of what retirement would look like, we should start taking steps toward understanding potential tradeoffs. Planning for retirement will involve tradeoffs, some of these include saving less and spending more now or lowering our portfolio risk. These personal preferences should be included in planning discussions. We may want to retire a few years earlier than planned. This is possible, but what is the strategy for that? The strategy may be reducing retirement spending

or saving more leading up to retirement but also could include taking on more investment risk.

Revisit your plan regularly

Now that we have a better understanding of where we are today and what retirement will look like, it is important to assess our current portfolio, additions we can make over time and what changes need to be made to achieve our goals. Unexpected events happen, this is why it's important to revisit our primary goals and track our success toward those goals. If we set our timeline far enough out, navigating the critical wealth planning events such as education planning or charitable giving can be done with greater flexibility.

Wherever you are in life, talk with a financial professional at least once a year, or whenever you face a significant life change. Remember, our lives are constantly changing!



Investments in securities and insurance products are: NOT FDIC-INSURED/NOT BANK-GUARANTEED/MAY LOSE VALUE

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MASTERING HEALTHCARE

BY USA HEALTH

Healthcare is an ever-evolving industry. With new technologies being developed and regulations being constantly revised, leaders in the field must stay on top of the changes or be left behind.

To meet these challenges, the University of South Alabama's Mitchell College of Business and the College of Medicine have collaborated to provide a new learning opportunity for healthcare professionals. Starting in fall 2019, the Master of Business Administration program will offer a concentration in healthcare leadership.

According to Dr. Bob Wood, dean of the Mitchell College of Business, the program is designed to benefit professionals across the healthcare industry - those working in clinics and hospitals, private practice, public health, research scientists, and those currently in healthcare management positions. The curriculum emphasizes

experiential learning with practical application.

"Individuals completing the courses will be better prepared for the increasingly complex business environment and better positioned for challenges that they will face in more advanced managerial positions," Dr. Wood said.

The MBA is a flexible 30-credit-hour program, and the healthcare leadership concentration makes up nine of those credit hours in the form of three elective courses. Electives include topics such as U.S. Healthcare in the 21st Century, Healthcare Strategy, Revenue Cycle Management, and Leadership Development and Team-Building.

"In healthcare, we have to adapt," said Dr. John Marymont, vice president for medical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine, who earned an MBA in addition to his medical degree. "It's important for healthcare leaders to have a foundation

in business principles and the acumen to make well-informed decisions."

Dr. Marymont added, "I encourage our healthcare professionals, faculty, administrators and staff to take advantage of this new program to build skill sets that can be applied to their work within the College of Medicine and USA Health."

To support this faculty development effort, each year the College of Medicine will make available \$10,000 tax-free educational loans. These loans are intended to provide faculty with sufficient funds, such that along with the university tuition benefit, they can complete the program at essentially no cost.

The deadline to apply for the Master of Business Administration program is July 15. For more information on the healthcare leadership concentration, visit SouthAlabama.edu/colleges/mcob/mba/healthcare/.

Ambassadors

CLASS OF 2019





SABRINA GARRETT

Originally from Birmingham, **Sabrina Garrett** came to the University of South Alabama knowing she wanted to major in accounting. After graduation, she will be attending the University of South Carolina to pursue her Masters in Accounting and begin completing sections of the CPA exam. Post-graduate school, she plans on living in a southeastern city and working in public accounting.

“Being an Ambassador is a collaborative environment with many opportunities for leadership and growth. Serving as Chair was a very fulfilling and, at times, an overwhelming experience, but I could not be more proud of the work we have accomplished in the past three years. Serving as an Ambassador has impacted my leadership and networking skills, giving me the opportunity to meet incredible community leaders.”

Garrett said a pivotal point in her education was when she enrolled in intermediate accounting. “I knew I made the right decision. Studying for financial accounting always seemed like a break from my other classes. It was challenging, yes, but I never had to force myself into memorization.”



TAYLOR HAMLIN

Taylor Hamlin was born in Germantown, TN. and raised in Troy, Ala. She graduated with a degree in accounting and joined Smith Dukes, an accounting firm in Mobile.

Reflecting on her time as an Ambassador, Hamlin said, “I get to work with a great group of people and grow as a person. I’ve had the humbling experience of helping to lead those people. We’ve had fun as a team and have been given incredible opportunities to go and do. I’ve gotten to know people I wouldn’t have had the chance or guts to meet otherwise: other majors, prospective students, MCOB celebrities like Abe Mitchell and Dean Wood, and CEOs of public companies. I’ve also greatly benefited from being on both sides of the interview process for this organization.”

She knew that she enjoyed her classes in managerial accounting, but since interning at a small firm, Maritech Marine & Industrial Services, she is now sure that corporate accounting is what she wants to pursue following graduation. “I enjoy being in the nooks and crannies of industry and helping keep businesses running day-to-day.”



OWEN HICKS

Owen Hicks, a native of Gadsden, Ala., graduated with a bachelor of science in accounting. Post-graduation, Owen plans on attending the University of South Carolina to pursue a Master of Accountancy and then take the CPA exam. After finishing this graduate program, she will begin her career in public accounting.

Through the Ambassadors, she has been able to develop her professionalism, public speaking skills, networking capabilities, and so much more. However, the aspect that’s had the biggest impact has been the friendships she has developed. “Each individual in the group has something unique and wonderful to offer. I know these friendships will be kept for a lifetime.”

Hicks went on to say, “Coming into college, I already was highly interested in accounting due to my personality. However, after taking a class in each of the prospective majors at South, my decision to pursue accounting was solidified. Everything about accounting fits my personality, and I loved learning how to read and understand financials. Furthermore, it would provide numerous job opportunities after college and the opportunity to obtain a specific license to set me apart in the workforce.”



DYLAN HOOPER

Dylan Hooper, a native of Mobile, AL, graduated with a bachelor of science in accounting. Post-graduation, he will attend the University of South Carolina to obtain his Master of Accountancy. During this one-year program, he also plans to study and pass the CPA exam. After graduate school, he plans to pursue a career in public accounting.

Hooper says, “My experience as a Mitchell Ambassador has been incredible. One very unique experience being an Ambassador has afforded me was the opportunity to study abroad in Italy last May. Becoming an Ambassador of the Mitchell College of Business impacted me both as a student and young professional. It has been an incredible opportunity to lead such an outstanding group of Ambassadors and become so close to one another. I have been able to meet people I would have otherwise not had the opportunity to get to know. These relationships will forever have an impact on my life.”

Upon entering college, he knew he was going to pursue his degree in accounting. “Once I completed my first two accounting classes at South with Professor Madden, I knew that accounting was for me.”



BAXLEY STOKES

Originally from Mobile, **Baxley Stokes** graduated with a double major in accounting and finance. After graduation, he will be pursuing the Master of Accountancy at Vanderbilt University with a concentration in valuation. After completing his program, Stokes hopes to begin working with a valuation team at a big four accounting firm, then make a transition into private equity or investment banking.

When reflecting on the Ambassador program, Stokes said, “Being an Ambassador has been one of the most rewarding experiences in college. Being surrounded with fantastic people and top-level students has been phenomenal. Being able to serve the campus and see change through students’ opinions have been an incredible experience.”

Stokes said a pivotal point in his major choice didn’t come until his second intermediate class when he had to decide if he was willing to buckle down and work to get through the material. “For my finance major, this point was my sophomore year when I took investments with Dr. Kyre Lahtinen. This class showed me how intricate and complex the world of finance is; then, in Dr. Hunsader’s intermediate finance class this major was confirmed even more for me.”



EMILY VIGLIONE

Emily Viglione was born in Pensacola and raised in Gulf Breeze, Fla. She graduated with a degree in marketing with a concentration in management and joined SSAB America, an international steel company headquartered in Mobile.

“Being an Ambassador has been fun! I’ve met the majority of MCOB’s faculty and staff through the program, am connected to more areas of campus, learned from our nation’s business professionals, and studied abroad in Italy with fellow Ambassadors. My experience as an Ambassador is bringing my college experience full-circle because now I’m the student speaking to prospective students at USA Days about why they should come to the University of South Alabama.”

Before joining the Ambassador program, she struggled with speaking confidently. “Now, I am more expressive than ever because of the leadership lessons I received through the program.”

Viglione said a pivotal point in her education came when she took Principles of Marketing with Dr. Finney. “I love to know fun, random facts about anything and everything, and Dr. Finney’s lectures are filled with them. It was the first business class that consistently engaged my interest, and his classes still help me connect lecture material to the real world.”

SCHOLARS NIGHT 2019

Many years ago, a margarine advertisement touted, “It’s not nice to fool Mother Nature.” Having a dean that has survived not one, but two major tornadoes and multiple hurricanes and tropical storms, the college follows this advice. When the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center forecast severe weather for the afternoon and evening of April 18, the University wisely cancelled all activities after 5:00 pm. Unfortunately, our Scholars Night and Alumni Fellow presentations fell victim to the decision. We proudly list the students that would have been recognized that night. Alumni Fellows may be found on page 21.

2019 MITCHELL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

BRIAN L. MCGUIRE SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Paola Hernandez Barajas

ALLEN, ALLEN & FOSTER, CPAS' ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Lucas Brunson

MOSTELLAR & SHREVE, LLP ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Jaylen Carter

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Manuel Ceden

HARTMAN, BLACKMON & KILGORE, P.C. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Hailee Crawford

VERA REED ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP

Laura Driskell

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING MAJOR

Sabrina Garrett

PUTCHA FAMILY OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING STUDENT ENDOWED AWARD

Kiana Giles

ALABAMA SOCIETY OF CPAS' OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

Owen E. Hicks

RUSSELL THOMPSON BUTLER & HOUSTON, LLP ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP

William Kasal

PARKER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Robert Kemper

DR. FRANK R. URBANCIC SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Khang Luu

Brittany Roberts

ELAINE AND JOHN "J.D." BAXTER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Briana Morris

LUTHER E. CLEMENTS SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Kevin Nguyen

ALABAMA SOCIETY OF CPAS' EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Ruland

HARDIN-EAVES ENDOWED ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Ruland

LAURA AND WAYNE DAVIS ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Ruland

LANG FAMILY ENDOWED BOOK SCHOLARSHIP

Sunshine Rutherford

ALABAMA YOUNG BANKERS

Justin Abalos

THE FIRST: A NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN FINANCE

Thomas Alford

CLIFTON C. INGE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Sabrina Begum

PNC BANK ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN FINANCE

Caleb Dunaway

DOUGLAS L. WHITMORE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN FINANCE

Kelsey Edwards

OUTSTANDING REAL ESTATE MAJOR

Auston Fillinger

DR. DONALD L. MOAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Koda King

WHITE-SPUNNER & ASSOCIATES, INC. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN REAL ESTATE

Christopher Mahan

ROBERT AND JOSEPH HUNSADER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Taylor McManus

ALTON R., III AND TONI GOUBIL BROWN ENDOWED FUND IN REAL ESTATE

Dylan Schmitz

OUTSTANDING FINANCE MAJOR

James Baxley Stokes

ADEN "JACK" COOPER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Heather Trinh

ALOYIS SONNEBORN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Heather Trinh

CHRISTOPHER J. WEIGEL FINANCE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Quy (Annie) Vo

OUTSTANDING ECONOMICS MAJOR (SPONSORED BY RICK AND JULIE HARVEY)

Sahilee Waitman

WARREN H. NICHOLSON ENDOWED ENTREPRENEUR- SHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Tyler Hale

DR. EDWARD L. HARRISON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Rasmus Karlsson

DR. MICHELLE L. SLAGLE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Rasmus Karlsson

DR. PAUL PIETRI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP IN MANAGEMENT

McKenna Matzek

Hannah McDuffie

Cody Puckett

Jolie Thompson

MOBILE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

McKenna Matzek

Hannah McDuffie

OUTSTANDING MANAGEMENT MAJOR

Victoria McMahon

CARL N. & JEWEL O. MELTON ENDOWED ENTREPRENEUR- SHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Andrea Prgomelja

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Andrea Prgomelja

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Cody Puckett

DR. DONALD C. MOSLEY, SR. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS

Jolie Thompson

DR. MARK WEAVER ENDOWED ENTREPRENEUR- IAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jolie Thompson

ALVIN J. WILLIAMS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD IN MARKETING

Cassidy Harding

**MARGIE MALONE TUCKSON
ENDOWED MARKETING
SCHOLARSHIP**

Taya Danielle Paschall

**GRANT M. DAVIS
SCHOLARSHIP**

Victoria Power

**OUTSTANDING MARKETING
MAJOR**

Stacy Sargeant

**JOHN R. DONOVAN
ENDOWED GRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP**

Russell Cantrell
Mary Kristen Lee
Amber Poole

**WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY
CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE
AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT MBA
SCHOLARSHIP**

Russell Cantrell
Amber Poole
Jayoung Sohn
Kevin Thornhill

**MEHUL PARIKH MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FOR MBA
STUDENTS**

Hector Guarneros Ortiz

**CLARENCE M. FRENKEL, JR.
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Julianna Abrams
Rebecca Culberson
Michael House
Lauren Nehls

**REGIONS BANK ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

Andres Argüelles
Amara Baltimore
John Chism
Angela Cox
Tyler Hale
Michael House
Courtnei Johnson
Hannah McDuffie

**WINTHROP M HALLETT III
FREE ENTERPRISE
SCHOLARSHIP**

Sarah Barnes
Alyssa LaCoste

**STIMPSON BROTHERS
LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP
IN BUSINESS**

Blake Batchelor

**JACK R. BRUNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE**

Courtney Cagle

**MITCHELL COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

Joseph Collier

**JAKE & PAT GOSA
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN
THE MITCHELL COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS**

Angel Cox
Jessica Fair
Victoria Power

**PFILIP AND LUELLA HUNT
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Caleb Dunaway

**RICK AND JULIE HARVEY
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Logan Etheridge

**THOMAS CORCORAN
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
FOR ADULT STUDENTS**

Wade Forde

**DR. CARL C. MOORE
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN
THE MITCHELL COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS**

Kiana Giles

**PEGGY & JOHN SEIBERT
FAMILY ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

Daymond Guzman

**CHRIS AND ELIZABETH
MELTON ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

Cheyenne Hodges

**TERRY S. BARKIN MEMORIAL
SHOE STATION ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS**

Courtnei Johnson

**TOMMY AND KATHY
ZOGHBY ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP IN FINANCE
AND ACCOUNTING**

Dyamyn Johnson

**HELEN & ROBERT SELLERS
SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS**

Jazmin Jones

**MITCHELL COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP**

Rasmus Karlsson
Briana Morris

**MITCHELL SCHOLARS PAY IT
FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP**

Brenda Landa-Silva

**HOLLIS & CARMEL
SHUMOCK ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS**

Ellie LaPorte
Ashley Wade

**BBVA COMPASS ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP IN THE
MITCHELL COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS**

Caroline Long

**DON AND SANDRA
MCCRORY ENDOWED BOOK
AWARD IN THE MITCHELL
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

Austin Sanders

**PEGGY & JOHN SEIBERT
FAMILY ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

Sunny Souvannasy

**RUSSELL AND CAM STILL
SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**

Savannah Stephens

**MICHAEL C. AND PATSY
B. DOW ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

Quy (Annie) Vo

**TURNER SUPPLY ENDOWED
BOOK SCHOLARSHIP IN
BUSINESS**

Lajarvis Weed



Floral arrangements from the canceled Scholars Night were delivered to USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital by Mitchell College of Business students Catherine Carwie, Peyton Rego, and Ethan Flowers.

DEAN'S AWARD

Mitchell College of Business Dean's Award is given to graduating seniors with a 3.75 or higher GPA.

Sarah Alkhatib
Kyle Allen
Lauren Carrubba
Joyce Casolino
Madison Douville
Lacey Dugger
Bailey Duos
Rachel Finch
Sabrina Garrett
Rachel Gray
Taylor Hamlin
Paul Haulard
Owen Hicks
Dylan Hooper
Sarah Ledbetter
Victoria McMann
Katherine McMichael
Zachary Melton
Winey Kate Navarro
Anh Hong Nguyen
Grace Ouwenga
Jonathan Payne
Mignone Perry
Caroline Pope
Stacy Sergeant
Amber Sims
Peter Staalbo
James Baxley Stokes
Melody Tittle
Emily Viglione
Momoko Yamamoto

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Distinguished Academic Achievement award goes to, Mitchell College of Business students who have a 4.0 GPA.

SENIORS

Mary Adams
Sarah Alkhatib
Jasmine Bocich
Samantha Campbell
Dylan Hooper
Heather Hudson
McKenna Matzek
Anh Nguyen
Victoria Power
Emily Viglione

JUNIORS

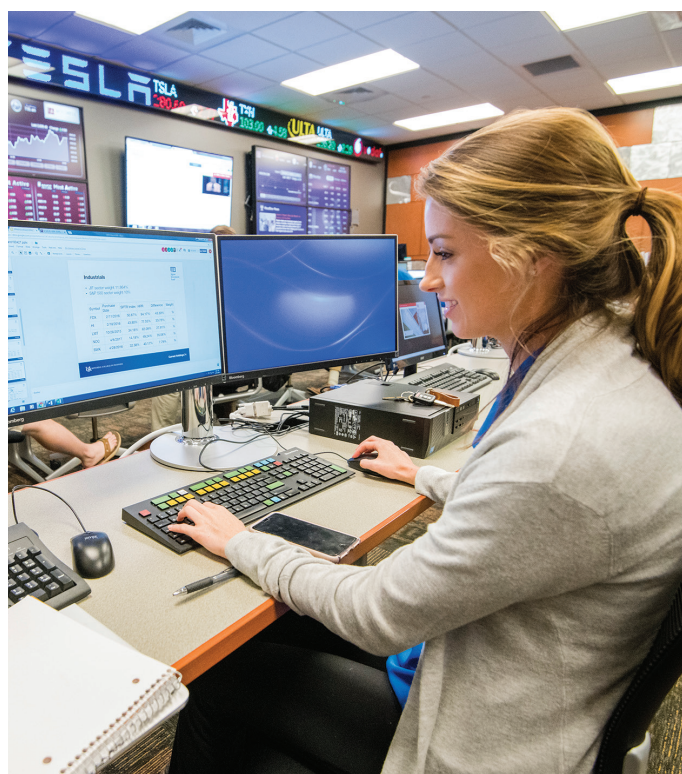
Angel Cox
Sarah Effio
Jessica Fair
Gregor Garscha
Mikayla Kyle
Khang Luu
Joshua Smith
Mary Spurlin

SOPHOMORES

Nicholas Dailey
Anthony Miller
Michael Moore
Samuel Penque
Peyton Rego
Savannah Stephens
Amber Walker

FRESHMEN

Reagan Chandler
Joseph Collier
Eric Covington
Ethan Flowers
Madison Gay
Brianna Ladnier
Ellie LaPorte
Caroline Long
John MacLatchie
William Nguyen
Taylor Rogers
Jacob Spears
Ashley Wade
Yan Yang



2019

MITCHELL COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS

ALUMNI FELLOWS

The Alumni Fellow Program formally recognizes Mitchell College of Business alumni whose personal lives, professional achievements and contributions to society exemplify the highest ideals of the College and the University. The program encourages Fellows to interact with students and faculty. Fellows engage students by sharing their professional knowledge and experience to enhance career development.

Fellows also demonstrate the application of business concepts, enriching faculty instruction.

Each Alumni Fellow receives a commemorative award designed and hand-cast by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, a nationally known sculptor and medalist, and a ceramic sculptured jaguar created by alumnus and nationally recognized representational sculptor Sam Nettles.



JACK DONOVAN

Jack Donovan is the founder of Omakase, a consulting firm helping organizations articulate and execute growth strategies. Omakase works with clients in a variety of industries to enhance organizational leadership skills, manage change, and establish customer-centered strategies. Jack was the Chief Growth Officer for Univar Inc., a \$10 billion global leader in chemical distribution where he designed and established the office of Enterprise Account Management, built a global platform to promote commercial excellence, and managed ChemPoint (specialty chemicals) plus the company's Asia Pacific operations. He spent 18 years in a variety of roles at ARAMARK, a Fortune 500 company, where in his role as President, corporate officer, and member of the management committee he led a diverse portfolio of businesses generating almost \$4 billion in revenue.

Jack is a graduate of Duke University with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Public Policy Study. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Mitchell College of Business at the University of South Alabama where he received the USA Distinguished Alumni Award and was named an Executive in Residence.



JERRY HOST

Jerry Host is President and Chief Executive Officer of Trustmark Corporation and Trustmark National Bank. Before joining Trustmark in 1984 he was with First National Bank in Mobile. An alumnus of the Mitchell College, he recently served as Chairman of the Mississippi Bankers Association. He is a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and a past director for the New Orleans branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. Host is a past chairman of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Executive Council and is a director and member of the Greater Jackson Chamber Board. He serves as chairman of the Mississippi Museum of Art and other nonprofit organizations across the Jackson community. Host is a graduate from the LSU School of Banking and the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina. He graduated from the National School of Financial & Funds Management at the University of Illinois and the Graduate School of Financial & Funds Management at the University of Oklahoma.



THERESA ANN HOWARTH

Theresa Howarth retired as the Asia Pacific Director of Finance/Treasury Operations for Electronic Data Systems. She was responsible for transactions in the USA, Europe, and Asia Pacific, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, spin-offs, and initial public offerings. Prior to EDS she worked for Price Waterhouse and Dresser Industries. She has worked in over 27 countries and has traveled the world, including Antarctica. She earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the Mitchell College of Business and a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University. While at MCOB, she was a USS Alabama Crewmate, a Southerner, a Chi Omega, and Little Sister of Sigma Chi.

She is a Certified Public Accountant and has an Accredited Business Valuation designation. She is a recipient of an MCOB Impact Award, is on the MCOB Executive Advisory Council, teaches CCD, is a member of the Sydney Women's International Club, and serves on the Board of the Beaver Creek Association.



MAJOR GENERAL MIKE SUMRALL U.S. ARMY

Major General Mike H. Sumrall (ret.) is Chief Executive Officer of Skyline Unlimited, Ltd. Skyline is a nationwide professional services provider to federal, state, and local agencies. General Sumrall began his military career as an enlisted soldier with the Alabama Army National Guard. He was commissioned in 1970 through the Army National Guard Officer Candidate School at the University of South Alabama. During his career Sumrall served at Fort Lee (Virginia), Redstone Arsenal (Alabama), and Aberdeen Proving Ground (Maryland). He saw duty with the United States European Command, the United States Central Command, and served as Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters, The Joint Staff in the Pentagon. He retired as Acting Director, Joint Staff National Guard Bureau where he developed and coordinated policies, programs, and plans affecting over half a million Army and Air National Guard personnel. In addition to his Bachelor of Science (Management) from the University of South Alabama, he holds a Master of Science in Logistics Management and an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology.



DR. PAUL H. PIETRI

Dr. Paul H. Pietri is professor emeritus of management at the Mitchell College of Business. He has taught more than 9,000 Mitchell College students since joining the faculty in 1975. A co-author of three books, he has presented management and communication seminars to over 30 organizations across the United States and in Canada, Europe, and South America. As the first educational director of the Alabama Banking School, he developed the curriculum and taught in the program for 15 years.

He received a Joint Commendation for Service to the Alabama Banking School from the Alabama House and Senate. He is a past recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award from the University of South Alabama National Alumni Association. He has served on the board of governors for the Academy of Management and the Southern Management Association and as education director and board member for Leadership Mobile.





hey google...

HOW DO YOU GET FROM DETROIT TO MOBILE? MBA SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL SMITH

On her 11th anniversary of getting hired at Google, Rachel Smith submitted her resignation and informed her manager, “I’m moving to Mobile and enrolling in the MBA program at the University of South Alabama.” Working up the courage to leave a great company and walking away from a promising career in tech wasn’t easy, but Smith heard a quote that helped her make the leap. She was living in Chicago at the time, and the city’s mayor, Rahm Emanuel, announced he was not running for re-election. He said, “This has been the job of a lifetime, but it is not a job for a lifetime.” Smith felt the same way about her career at Google and decided it was time to begin a new chapter.

She was born and raised in the Detroit metro area and earned an Associate in Arts from Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Mich. She attended Wayne State University in Detroit on an academic scholarship and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing. Three months after graduating, Smith was hired in the AdWords division of Google and worked in digital advertising for the next nine years. During that time, she learned how search, image and video advertising

worked end-to-end in various roles across AdWords sales, DoubleClick consulting, YouTube technical support, and people management. In her last two years at Google, she transitioned away from advertising to work as a project manager in a fast growing part of the company called Google Cloud.

In the years leading up to her decision to enroll in the MBA program, she had been considering leaving the tech industry to pursue a career in academia. To get a feel for the academic environment, Smith asked her younger sister (a recent University of South Alabama alumna) to connect her with instructors in USA’s Mitchell College of Business who would consider hosting her for student talks. This led to connections with Dr. Alvin Williams, the department chair of marketing, and Marianne Loes, a marketing instructor. Over the course of three years, she began giving annual talks at the MCOB about general career advice, preparing for job interviews, resume tips, and digital advertising.

Looking back, it was her one-on-one career conversations with Loes where Smith learned about the accelerated MBA program at South. Loes explained what a career path from the tech



industry to academia looked like, since she had a similar background herself. Getting an MBA was the first step and would take one year in South's accelerated program.

Not only was the timeline and new career path appealing, but Smith was in love with Mobile. The low cost of living, warm climate, excellent food, live music, beach access and friendly people made it a great place to live. She knew it was where she wanted to relocate and retire one day.

Her transition from the corporate world to a full-time graduate student and graduate assistant at MCOB had a learning curve. Taking a standardized test such as the GMAT, writing an essay with citations, and studying for back-to-back final exams were things she had not done in over a decade. Even still, she was excited to be a student again and looked forward to time in the classroom.

"The MBA coursework has been relevant and applicable to everyday problems that I encountered throughout my career," she said. The work experience she brought to the program added layers of context and understanding that enriched the course material. She especially liked when her marketing professor, Dr. Alex Sharland,

invited current business owners into the classroom. The sessions underscored what Smith suspected - that more than ever, businesses are in need of strategic thinkers who can effectively use data to make decisions. Smith said the MBA program is helping her with these exact skills.

These experiences proved useful in the spring semester when Smith and two classmates from South placed first out of five university teams in an MBA case competition at the University of West Florida. When they asked for feedback on their presentation, the executives from the Pensacola-based company they pitched to attributed their win to having the most strategic recommendations.

With a full-time course load and a graduate assistantship, the days can be long and the weekends can be short. Rachel emphasized, "I'm grateful for the support of my family and my fiancé, Mathew. Their patience and encouragement have been a blessing in this new chapter of my career."



You
Don't
Know
Jack...
Yet



I am grateful for all the opportunities the college has afforded me. It has allowed me to meet incredibly successful alumni, the best local business leaders, and even diplomats from foreign nations.

Originally from Rainbow City, Ala., Mitchell College of Business Ambassador and Mitchell Scholar Jack Stover is staying busy. This outstanding junior is double majoring in international business and modern and classical languages and literature with a concentration in Spanish. Stover's dedication and experience throughout his college career have earned him acceptance into the United States-Indonesia Society, or USINDO, Summer Studies Program in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He is one of 14 students across the U.S. participating in the program.

After accepting a Mitchell Scholarship, Stover decided to attend the University of South Alabama and has never looked back. "The Mitchell College of Business has provided me countless incredible opportunities that I cannot imagine receiving elsewhere. From the relationships I have built with professors since my freshman year, such as Dr. Sonya Cole (Director, Professional Readiness Engagement Program) to the constant guidance and mentorship from Dean Wood, the faculty are extremely welcoming and kind to all students in every capacity."

In addition to the experience, the scholarship provides other benefits. "The Mitchell Scholarship has allowed me to study debt-free thanks to the extraordinary kindness and benevolence of the Mitchell family. Their investment in me as a scholar has driven me to ensure great academic and professional success."

Stover has also served in several leadership roles and organizations across the USA campus, such as being a Mitchell Ambassador, First-Year Council

member, senatorial representative of MCOB in the Student Government Association, member of Beta Gamma Sigma (an international business honor society), Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and Phi Sigma Iota foreign language honor society, and vice president (2017) and president (2018) for the Kappa-Nu Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

Stover's perseverance also led to several internship opportunities in the Mobile community: a student internship at the Mitchell College of Business Center for Real Estate and Economic Development, a finance internship at Airbus, and business development and supply chain internships at Austal USA. "My experiences in different fields at two of the largest international businesses on the Gulf Coast have given me great direction in pushing me toward my professional goals beyond graduation."

Stover's passion for international studies has taken him around the world. He has studied abroad in Cuenca, Spain and this summer will spend 10 days studying in France with members of MCOB. He will then spend 10 weeks in Indonesia with the USINDO Summer Studies Program. Stover will be studying Indonesian language, culture, economy, trade and business, and government and politics in Yogyakarta. Indonesia, the world's fourth most populated nation, is expected to grow to be the world's seventh largest economy by 2030.

As part of the program, Stover will spend time volunteering with a local business in Yogyakarta learning practical business skills and getting experience working with a foreign company. The program also includes special lectures from government officials, local

business leaders, researchers, and other professionals. The program isn't all just work, though.

Stover looks forward to the final component of the program, which includes visiting the Merapi volcano and the Borobudur Buddhist temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. "I know this program will be an unforgettable and invaluable experience that I will cherish my entire life and I am extremely excited for this. After completing my program in Indonesia, I hope to bring back home with me a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Indonesian people and culture, new language skills, and a more-advanced comprehension of the international business world."

Stover noted his appreciation for the experiences the Mitchell College has provided him. "I am grateful for all the opportunities the college has afforded me. It has allowed me to meet incredibly successful alumni, the best local business leaders, and even diplomats from foreign nations. I hope to use my education at the Mitchell College of Business to propel me to my career goals after graduation."

Stover believes his experience has afforded him the ability to choose his own direction and consider which career path he should take. "I envision myself working in corporate business and eventually becoming an executive at a multinational manufacturing or merchandising company, or perhaps I will pursue public service with the Department of State and dream of eventually becoming an ambassador of the United States, living and working in a foreign country."



LOUIS DELCOUR
LILLE, FRANCE



**LESLIE AIMEE SOTO
BUSTAMANTE**
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

"What I like about MCOB is that all professors are engaged in giving their students the best of what they can give, encouraging us to get better and be better in whatever we do."



MILKA- EMILIA PASANEN
FINLAND

MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"The professors at the business college truly care about their students and want them to be successful in the course and later in life."



LOIC CLOES
OREYE, BELGIUM

MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"I initially chose business because I didn't really know what to choose. I am actually really enjoying it, and I have wonderful teachers."



COLLIN P. SCHEUFLER
GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA

SANTIAGO I. DI LORETO
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



MAXIME LAPRAILLE
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"I really like MCOB because teachers are always available for their students and the classes are smaller, making learning more effective."

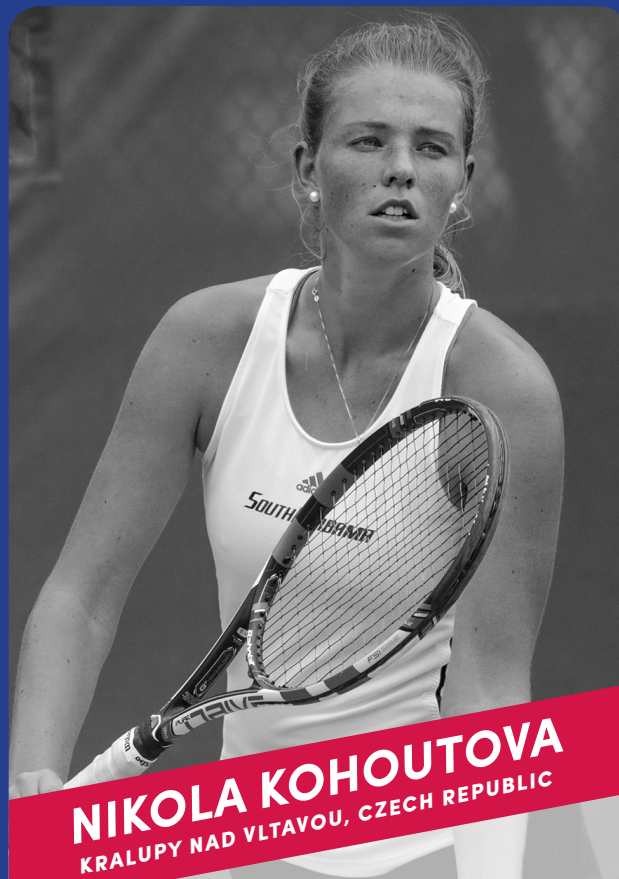
YU FUJIOKA
JAPAN



MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"MCOB's program is really nice and very developed to improve student's ability."

NIKOLA KOHOUTOVA
KRALUPY NAD VLTAVOU, CZECH REPUBLIC



MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"The Mitchell College gives me many opportunities to learn and experience things about business, which helps me to choose a career I want. The professors from the department are always willing to help because they care about their students."

YURIE TAKANISHI
HARACHO, JAPAN



FOCUSING AFAR

MITCHELL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



In its continuing quest to equip students with market-ready skill sets, the Mitchell College of Business sponsors a series of short-term study abroad courses. These courses offer a unique opportunity to study between semesters in an international setting and feature lectures and meetings with leading business executives.

STUDYING IN SYDNEY

The Sydney study-abroad program is intended for students interested in gaining a deeper understanding of international business in Asia-Pacific and the management issues confronting both small to medium enterprises and multinational firms. The program provides practical guidance on how to develop and sustain a competitive advantage in the Asia-Pacific Region and the challenges and opportunities for trade growth and collaboration in this fast-growing and dynamic region.

In addition to class time, students explore the many cultural options in Sydney and the New South Wales region. Students can choose from the famed Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour, Circular Quay Port, Harbour Bridge, Royal Botanic Garden, Bondi Beach, the Sydney Zoo (kangaroos and koalas), and many others.



LEARNING IN LONDON

Each summer, Dr. Reid Cummings takes 25 students to Queen Mary University of London. Here, students look at international business operations from various perspectives giving them the opportunity to enrich their knowledge and understanding of the functional disciplines of business entities in a global setting. In addition to course work and papers, students participate in guest lectures from the European community and field trips to various U.K. and E.U. points of interest.



BUSINESS & CULTURE IN ITALY

Last summer, Dean Bob Wood and Dr. Ermano Affuso took Mitchell College of Business honor students to Rome, Pompei, and the Amalfi Coast as part of the first Mitchell Scholar International Experience. Students visited Italian companies including Eataly, learned of Italian history in Rome and Pompei, experienced the culture of the Amalfi Coast and an audience with the Pope in St. Peter's Square. This summer, May 2019, the experience visited Paris, Rennes, CAEN, Normandy beaches and Toulouse, France.



CLASS NOTES

Class of 1980

Pete Hayes (BBA) was named CEO and Board Member at Imagine!.

Class of 1986

Walne Donald (BBA) is Chairman and CEO of Mobile Fixture. Donald has helped grow the company to extend to six different locations across four states.

Class of 1992

Wendy Robertson (BBA) came home to Mobile in 2008 and went to work for APM Terminals; ten years later, they've successfully grown the business. Prior to APM Terminals, Robertson worked for various shipping companies from Long Beach, CA to Seattle, WA.



Class of 1994

Valerie Odom Stevenson (CPA, BS '94; MACC '96) is in her 20th year at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla. She currently serves as the Controller.

Stevenson has had progressive upward movement throughout her career at UNF. She has worked as the Assistant Director for the Division of Sponsored & Training (99-04); Assistant University Budget Director (05-09); Associate Controller (09-12); and University Controller starting in 2012 to current. Prior to UNF, Stevenson spent 5 years (94-99) working

in the Business Office at the University of South Alabama as Accountant I and Accountant II.

Most recently, she received the 2019 Outstanding International Services Award. In 2014, she received the Administrative and Professional Staff Presidential Excellence Award.

Class of 2004

Keith Davidson (BBA) started his own consulting firm, Silverbridge Consulting. He currently lives in Dallas, TX, with his wife, Tabitha, and his two children, Carter (10) and Sydney (8). When he is not with family or working, you can find him training for his next marathon.

Class of 2005



Jason Sautlers (BBA) is Partner in Charge of the Franchise Services practice at Horne LLP Mobile. When he joined Horne, he found that

helping franchisees with their businesses energized him. He grew close to his clients, learned through their experiences, and had fun along the way.

Class of 2014

Cadie (Simmons) Gaut (BBA) started her own business, Payroll Vault. The company has been the proud recipient of several awards. In May 2017, the Mobile Chamber of Commerce awarded it the Small Business of the Month. The Payroll Vault corporate office has recognized the Mobile office for the following: 2015 Business Achievement Award for Growth and Sales; 2015 Leap of Faith Award; 2016 Diamond Achievement Award – Sales Person of Year; and 2016 Driving to Success Award.

Tasha L. Litton (BBA) is working at the University of South Alabama in the Career Services Department as a Career Coordinator for Employer & Student Connections where she organizes events, workshops and fairs. She also manages the University's career platform, Handshake, where she assists employers with connecting to our University, visiting campus, and posting job positions.

Class of 2016

Joseph Raebel (BBA) most recently graduated from the Mobile Police Academy, class #61, and is engaged to be married in summer 2019.

Class of 2017



Gabrielle Vargas (BBA) moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to explore employment opportunities. She is currently a full-time employee

as the Welcome Center Coordinator at a university in Jacksonville, Florida. She works as a part of the Enrollment Services Department and helps manage over 30 student employee tour guides.

Class of 2018

Kayla Morgan (BBA) has joined the economic and development team at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce as a Marketing and Research Manager. She has enjoyed staying close to home and still loves to cheer on the Jags!

Emily Rodrick (MBA) has been working for Disney as part of the Disney College Program. For her, it's the opportunity to create a network and lead to a career with the Walt Disney Company. As her program draws to a close, she is focused on applying for positions in the field of Strategic Communications at the Walt Disney Resorts.



ALUMNI SOCIETY

The newly founded Mitchell College of Business Alumni Society strives to strengthen the relationship of alumni of the University of South Alabama. The MCOB Alumni Society provides fellowship opportunities among our alumni as a means to increase alumni activity awareness and engagement. We are excited to host a lineup of events, socials, fundraisers, and service opportunities for our alumni to become involved.

To get involved, follow us on social media and visit our website to stay connected, receive the Mitchell Magazine and get the monthly Mitchell Report.

SouthAlabama.edu/colleges/mcob/alumni.html





3+3 THREE PEOPLE THREE QUESTIONS



JEANNE MAES
Professor of
Management, Mitchell
College of Business

1 What are you reading?

Right now, it's "Radical Candor" by Kim Scott. The book is a combination of Scott's work experiences as well as a no-nonsense approach to communication in today's world. Scott's approach is different from many of the others I've read.

Who is inspiring you?

Those names would make for a LONG list! For me, primarily, it would be the unsung heroes I've met; those individuals who want to contribute to others' lives but don't create a fanfare about themselves. They just see a need and meet it - or go about figuring out how to help.

What is the best part of your day?

I really enjoy interacting with my classes and coaching my students; there is a real joy knowing I've made a difference for someone. I also enjoy my family and friends very much.



JAKE GOSA
CEO of American
Woodmark (Ret.)

2 What are you reading?

"The Last Lion, VOL II," by William Manchester, a biography of Sir Winston Churchill. Possibly the greatest man of the 20th century. Also of note is, "Destined for War," by Graham Allison, a detailed look at the strategic aims of China vis-a-vis the "China 2025" strategy.

Who is inspiring you?

I am particularly motivated by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He is negotiating with the North Koreans, Chinese and Iranians about nuclear weapons proliferation and other complex issues. He seems to be slowly moving the ball with the most difficult agenda and most difficult adversaries in the world.

What is the best part of your day?

I love the mornings and Mondays. Each signaling a new beginning, each with its own possibilities.



ANGELA DUNN
Hancock Whitney Bank
Vice President, Middle
Marketing Banking

3 What are you reading?

Right now I'm reading "A Call to Joy" by Matthew Kelly. I'm also listening to the audio book, "Spin Selling" by Neil Rackham. "Spin Selling" is a research-based book on sales techniques. This book has given me a lot of insight on working with clients on how to really understand their needs, then communicate how we can work together to solve some of their problems.

Who is inspiring you?

My pastor, Jay Robertson, is inspiring me right now. He constantly challenges me in my Christian walk. His vision for our church is unlike anything I have ever experienced.

What is the best part of your day?

We live right across the street from my children's school. Every morning we walk to school with our dog. There is just something about taking that walk with them every morning that gets them really talking about the things that are really important to them.



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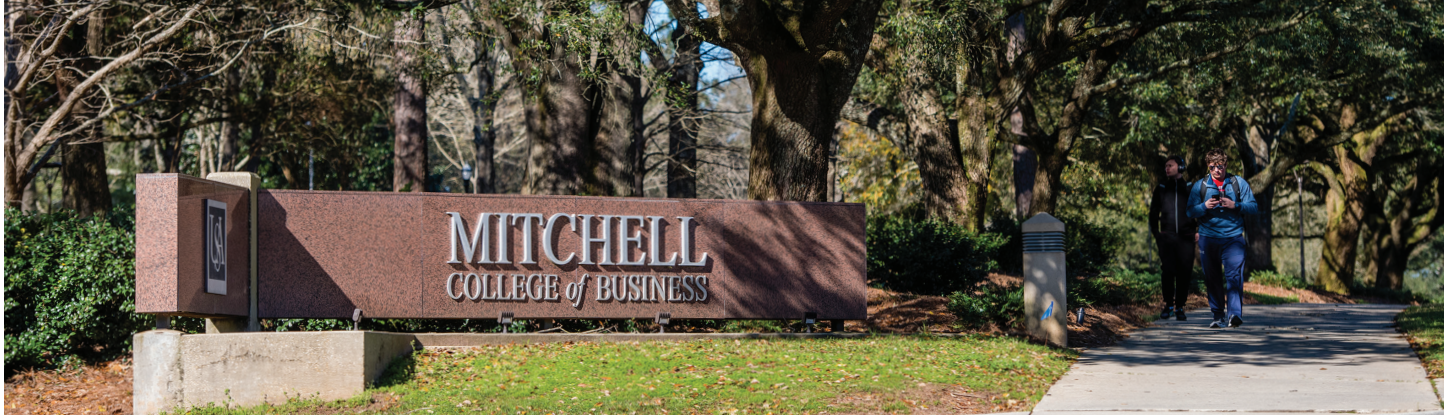
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