April 14, 2010
Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center
Fairfax Campus
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Celebration
of Distinction
2010
alumni.gmu.edu
Where Innovation Is Tradition
2010
Awards Ceremony

INTRODUCTION
Christine Clark-Talley
Associate Vice President, Alumni Affairs

GREETINGS
Ted Arnn
President, George Mason University Alumni Association

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
Ted Arnn
Tennille Parker
President-Elect, George Mason University Alumni Association
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

THE DISTINGUISHED BLACK ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the Black Alumni Chapter
Eric D. Cevis, BS Marketing and Management ’86

THE LAMBDA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the Lambda Alumni Chapter
Robert L. Pilaud, JD ’01

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development
and the CEHD Alumni Chapter
Barbara D. Acosta, PhD Education ’05

THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the College of Health and Human Services
and the CHHS Alumni Chapter
Barbara L. Summers, FAAN, BSN ’78, MSN ’81, PhD ’95

THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Robert L. Traynham, MA Interdisciplinary Studies ’02

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the College of Science
Steven L. Monfort, PhD Environmental Science and Public Policy ’93

THE THOMAS W. ISZARD III DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sponsored by the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the CVPA Alumni Chapter
Benjamin (Ben) D. Ashworth, BA Art (Studio) ’99
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

THE INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION Distinguished Alumni Award
Sponsored by the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Lisa L. Schirch, MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution ’94, PhD Conflict Analysis and Resolution ’99

THE NEW CENTURY COLLEGE Distinguished Alumni Award
Sponsored by New Century College
Matthew T. Smith, BA Integrative Studies ’07

THE SCHOOL OF LAW Distinguished Alumni Award
Sponsored by the School of Law and the School of Law Alumni Chapter
The Honorable Leslie M. Alden, BS Business Administration ’78, JD ’83

THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT Distinguished Alumni Award
Sponsored by the School of Management and the SOM Alumni Chapter
Harold C. Rauner Jr., BS Finance ’81, MBA ’86

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY Distinguished Alumni Award
Sponsored by the School of Public Policy and the SPP Alumni Chapter
Adam J. Tabaka, MA International Commerce and Policy ’07

THE VOLGENAU SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING Distinguished Alumni Award
Sponsored by the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering and the Volgenau School Alumni Chapter
Claudia Sullivan Angelone, MS Information Systems ’92
THE SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD
Devraj Dasgupta
BS Electrical Engineering ’10

THE FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Todd B. Kashdan
Department of Psychology

THE ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
John T. Niehoff
BS Accounting ’84

THE ALUMNA OF THE YEAR
The Honorable Deborah A. P. Hersman
MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution ’00
THE DISTINGUISHED BLACK ALUMNI AWARD

Eric D. Cevis, BS Marketing and Management ’86, was born in Baltimore. In 1996, he continued his education at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Cevis is vice president of Verizon Enhanced Communities, a position he has held since September 2005. In this role, he is responsible for the delivery of bundled communications services (voice, data, and video) to entire communities. He has served as the national program chair of the National Eagle Leadership Institute, is a member of the National Association of Black Telecommunications Professionals, and was the founding president of the first black fraternity at Mason, the Mu Mu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc.

THE LAMBDA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Robert L. Pilaud, JD ’01, is a registered patent agent at Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office in Potomac Falls, Virginia, specializing in patent application preparation and prosecution on behalf of corporate clients before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), primarily in the electrical engineering industry. Pilaud is a former U.S. patent examiner at the USPTO and engineer for an international construction company. While earning a JD from Mason, he completed the Intellectual Property Track and was active with the Intellectual Property Law Society and the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Law Association, serving as president of both organizations. Prior to law school, Pilaud attended Clemson University on a full academic scholarship, earning a BS in civil engineering with a minor in fine arts. At Clemson, he was active in Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, student government, and numerous honorary and professional societies, including Blue Key Honor Society and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. Pilaud currently serves as secretary of Mason’s Lambda Alumni Chapter and president of the Clemson Alumni Society for Equality. He is a charter member of both organizations.

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Barbara D. Acosta, PhD Education ’05, is a scholar in the field of second language acquisition and multilingual and multicultural education. Acosta has served as a research scientist, consultant, adjunct faculty member, and program evaluator at various universities, within public school systems, and at a number of educational organizations. Her research and writing in the area of bilingual education was recognized by the American Educational Research Association from which she received
the Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2007. Working with her husband, she helped found Oscar Romero University in 1994 in the rural countryside of El Salvador. In addition to her research and teaching contributions at Mason, George Washington University, and the University of Virginia, and within the University of Maryland system, Acosta remains committed to the local and national community of multilingual and multicultural scholars and practitioners. She was a founding member of the National Capital Area’s affiliate of the National Association for Bilingual Education. She continues to work with local school districts and state and national policymakers to find and create solutions for at-risk linguistically and culturally diverse students.

THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Barbara L. Summers, FAAN, BSN ’78, MSN ’81, PhD ’95, has accountability for the nursing care outcomes of more than 2,700 registered nurses. As the vice president and chief nursing officer at the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Houston, she leads and directs nursing practice across a spectrum of local and regional satellite and international partner institutions. From 1993 to 1997, Summers worked at the National Institutes of Health, where she was manager of critical care services and a nurse specialist in ambulatory cancer care and research. In addition, she worked for 13 years as a clinical nurse specialist in the cancer center and as director of medical and psychiatric nursing for Inova. Summers has received numerous honors and awards; in November 2009, she was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing.

THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Robert L. Traynham, MA Interdisciplinary Studies ’02, has been a part of the Washington political scene for more than 15 years and was consistently ranked as one of the most powerful staffers on Capitol Hill during his tenure in government. He is now the Washington, D.C., bureau chief of the Comcast Network, host and moderator of the weekly Sunday political talk show Roll Call with Robert Traynham, political analyst for National Public Radio, and a weekly columnist for the Philadelphia Tribune. He earned a master’s degree in political communication from Mason.
THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Steven L. Monfort, PhD Environmental Science and Public Policy ’93, serves as the director of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), headquartered in Front Royal, Virginia. He conducts science within the broad discipline of reproductive physiology, endocrinology, and behavioral ecology, and is renowned for having helped pioneer noninvasive hormone monitoring techniques that are now widely used for assessing reproductive status and well-being of wildlife species in zoos and nature. Monfort is an affiliate professor at Mason who cofounded the Smithsonian–Mason Semester in Conservation Studies, an in-residence program at SCBI that immerses students in an interdisciplinary conservation learning environment. He also is cofounder and chair of the board of the Sahara Conservation Fund, cofounder of the Conservation Centers for Species Survival, cofounder of the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project, lead Smithsonian representative to the Global Tiger Initiative, chair of the Asian Wild Horse Species Survival Plan, and a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s antelope, ceryid, and conservation breeding specialists groups. Monfort received a BA in biology from the University of California, San Diego, and doctor of veterinary medicine (1986) and master’s (1987) degrees from the University of California, Davis.

THE THOMAS W. ISZARD III DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Benjamin (Ben) D. Ashworth, BA Art (Studio) ’99, is a polymath—the School of Art’s facilities technician and Sculpture Studio manager, a visual artist, a skateboarder, a designer, and a fabrication specialist. During his undergraduate work, Ashworth quickly established himself as an important member of the Mason community working in various support roles within the visual and performing arts. After Ashworth graduated, Tom Ashcraft, associate professor and sculpture coordinator, hired him as an assistant, which began an 11-year collaboration of creative projects on and off campus, and engagement in multiple levels of community outreach. Ashworth has become a catalyst, instrumental in the development and growth of the sculpture program at Mason. Exhibiting quiet leadership, Ashworth’s true passion resides in a culture of civility, creativity, and action. He has embarked on personal projects that blur the lines and definitions of activism and art, such as teaming up with the Washington, D.C.-based Green Skate Laboratory to organize and build a skate park for an inner-city recreation center constructed from more than 3,000 reclaimed tires by an all-volunteer labor team, and forming an underground skatepark/gallery/creative social space in an abandoned Washington warehouse that...
has become a center for local and national cultural events. Ashworth continues to provide leadership in the Sculpture Studio, the School of Art, and the Mason community, and grows tomatoes where and when he can.

THE INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Lisa L. Schirch, MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution ’94, PhD Conflict Analysis and Resolution ’99, is the founding director of the 3D Security Initiative and a professor of peace building at Eastern Mennonite University’s graduate Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. The initiative helps make the links between civil society efforts in conflict prevention and peace building with U.S. policymakers. A former Fulbright Fellow in east and west Africa, Schirch has worked in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Taiwan, Ghana, Kenya, Brazil, and 15 other countries. She has written five books on conflict prevention and peace building. Along with her graduate degrees from Mason, she has a BA in international relations from the University of Waterloo, Canada.

NEW CENTURY COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Matthew T. Smith, BA Integrative Studies ’07, moved to Seattle, Washington, after graduating from New Century College. He took a one-year sabbatical from Responsible Outgoing College Students (ROCS), a staffing firm founded by two Mason students, and worked as an intern for Barokas Public Relations, a successful independent firm in downtown Seattle that specializes in high-technology industries. After Barokas, Smith worked for Washington Energy Services as an online marketing coordinator where he oversaw a $20,000 plus online marketing budget and was on a team responsible for helping research solar products. In late spring 2008, Smith rejoined ROCS. Since then, he has been able to secure coverage in MSNBC.com, ABCNews.com, BNET.com (a popular business blog), Yahoo! Hot Jobs, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the Austin Statesman. In about a year and a half, Smith has helped ROCS bring in almost $750,000 in new business and employ more than 100 Mason students. He is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. In his spare time, Smith has helped rebrand the New Century College Alumni Society, of which he serves as vice president. He has also volunteered with various events for the Alumni Association and its Legislative Advocacy Committee.
THE SCHOOL OF LAW DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Honorable Leslie M. Alden, BS Business Administration ’78, JD ’83, has been a trial judge for the Fairfax County Circuit Court since 1996. Prior to this position, she was a member of the General District Court. She serves as president of the International Association of Women Judges through which she has delivered a judicial perspective about the importance of the rule of law and the observance of human rights principles in courts, by speaking to legal groups in Nigeria, Cuba, Chile, South Africa, Italy, Russia, Turkey, Jordan, Hungary, Brazil, India, and South Korea. For 21 years, she has consistently supported the school with her time, talent, and financial contributions. In the past decade alone, she has participated in trial and career programs for students and alumni, taught as an adjunct faculty member, interviewed on campus as the Fairfax Circuit Court representative, and hired Mason students in her own chambers.

THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Harold C. Rauner Jr., BS Finance ’81, MBA ’86, is president of United Financial Banking Companies, a multisubsidiary financial holding company and parent of the Business Bank and Business Venture Capital. Rauner is also CEO and president of the Business Bank and Business Venture Capital. In addition to being a former director of the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, he is a founding director and past president of the Rotary Club of Dunn Loring. Rauner is chair of the board of directors of the Community Bankers Bank headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, and on the board of directors of the Potomac Conservancy. A proud graduate of the School of Management, Rauner serves on the School of Management Dean’s Advisory Board.

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Adam J. Tabaka, MA International Commerce and Policy ’07, has been involved with the School of Public Policy (SPP) Alumni Chapter since graduation. Notably, he served as chapter president from July 2008 to June 2009. As president, he continued the SPP Meet the Authors events, held the first SPP Post-Election Analysis Panel in November 2008, and organized a highly successful Signature Event featuring former Congressman Tom Davis in March 2009. Tabaka currently serves as the chapter’s vice president. He is a management and program analyst for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Office of Inspector General. In this position, he received the 2009 New Employee Award and an On-the-Spot Award in January 2010 for his leadership in mentoring new employees.
THE VOLGENAU SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Claudia Sullivan Angelone, MS Information Systems ’92, is a successful executive who has created and grown a number of small businesses, culminating in the successful venture of TLA Associates, which was sold in 2003 to WFI Government Service. Her information technology experience coupled with her business experience led to roles as a chief operations officer and a senior vice president and general manager. She is currently the director of special projects with Dynamics Research Corporation. Her support at the Volgenau School includes a donation to name the Angelone Study Lounge in the Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building and sharing her experience as an adjunct professor for the Department of Applied Information Technology senior-level Capstone Courses.

THE SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Devraj Dasgupta, an electrical engineering major with a minor in theater, came to Mason as a University Scholar. As a freshman, he established a strong academic record as evidenced by his current 3.88 GPA. In his sophomore year, Dasgupta made Mason’s track team as a walk-on sprinter and javelin thrower. He has received the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Scholar-Athlete and CAA Commissioner’s Awards. The current Mason student body president, Dasgupta has demonstrated his leadership capabilities in a number of areas, including service as vice president of the Armed Forces Communications, Electronics Association, and attendance at the 2008 Mason Leadership Institute and Leadership and School of Embodied Leadership at the Strozzi Institute in Petaluma, California. A member of Pi Kappa Alpha, the largest social fraternity on campus, Dasgupta served as the Interfraternity Council vice president for academics. In addition, he has returned to his high school alma mater, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, to talk about Mason and intercollegiate athletics. Dasgupta was a biomedical intern at the Magnetic Resonance Engineering Lab at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, where he conducted a computer simulation project to optimize magnetic resonance imaging.

THE FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Todd B. Kashdan, associate professor of psychology, has published more than 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals and given more than 100 presentations at national and international conferences. He recently wrote Curious? Discover the Missing
Ingredient to a Fulfiling Life (William Morrow, 2009) to promote the science of well-being for a general audience and is co-author of the forthcoming book Designing the Future of Positive Psychology (Oxford University Press). He is the associate editor of the Journal of Positive Psychology and the Journal of Personality and is on the advisory board for the Templeton Flourishing Children Project. Kashdan is director of the Laboratory for the Study of Social Anxiety, Character Strengths, and Related Phenomena. His work mostly focuses on meaning and purpose in life, happiness, curiosity, gratitude, positive emotions, how strengths operate in everyday life, anxiety and depression, social relationships, and self-regulation. His research has been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Veterans Integrated Service Network, the Anxiety Disorder Association of America, the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology, and the Positive Psychology Network. He has been active in the positive psychology movement since 2000, when he taught one of the first college courses on the science of happiness. He has received a series of honors recognizing his research and teaching, including Mason’s 2007 Emerging Research, Scholar, Creator Award. His research has been featured in such popular media outlets, as the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, National Public Radio, The Tavis Smiley Show, O: The Oprah Magazine, Montel Williams Radio Show, Reader’s Digest, Psychology Today, Prevention Magazine, and Parenting magazine. Kashdan received a BS in human service studies from Cornell University and an MA and a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Buffalo.

THE ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

John T. Niehoff, BS Accounting ’84, is a partner with Baker Tilly (formerly Beers + Cutler) with nearly 25 years of public accounting experience. A certified public accountant, Niehoff leads the company’s law firms and professional services firms practice and provides audit, tax, and general business advisory services to closely held businesses. He has performed in-depth reviews of financial operating procedures, internal control structures, cost containment strategies, and partner compensation and benefit plans, as well as other advisory services to assist law firms with managing their profits. His broad industry experience also includes other professional service firms, commercial businesses, technology companies, and hospitality enterprises. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Greater Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.
Niehoff is also a member of the School of Management’s Accounting Advisory Council and the Dean’s Advisory Board. Niehoff is a former basketball player and long-time supporter of Mason Athletics.

THE ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Deborah A. P. Hersman, MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution ’00, was sworn in as the 12th chair of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on July 28, 2009, following her nomination to the post by President Barack Obama and confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Her two-year term as chair runs until July 2011. She is also serving a second five-year term as a board member, which expires December 31, 2013. Hersman has been a member of the NTSB since June 21, 2004. During her tenure on the board, she has been the member on the scene of 17 major transportation accidents, including the June 2009 collision of two Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority trains that killed nine people. Before joining the NTSB, Hersman was a senior professional staff member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation from 1999 to 2004, where she was responsible for a number of transportation issues. Prior to that position, she served as staff director and senior legislative aide to U.S. Representative Bob Wise (D-West Virginia). Along with the MS degree in conflict analysis and resolution from Mason, Hersman holds a BA in political science and a BA in international studies from Virginia Tech. In addition, she holds a commercial driver’s license with passenger, school bus, and air brake endorsements. Hersman also holds a motorcycle endorsement and is a certified child passenger safety technician.
PAST RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

THE ALUMNUS/A OF THE YEAR

2009  John Paul Phaup
2008  Jeffery Taubenberger
2007  Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda
2006  D. Jean Wu
2005  Edward J. Newberry
2004  Zainab Salbi
2003  J. Gregory Bedner
2002  Michael G. Anzilotti
2001  Julie A. Holdren
2000  Teresa M. Klaassen
1999  Jonathan C. Thacher
1998  Thomas J. Webb
1997  Lovey L. Hammel
1996  Katherine K. Clark
1995  Susan Rook
1994  Barbara Esstman
1993  Rob Muzzio
1992  Camille T. Barry
1991  James S. Corrigan
1990  S. Anna Kondratos
1989  Jay W. Marsh
1988  Ray F. Smith
1987  James W. Hazel
     Bruce Johnson
     Mariann Johnson
1986  Richard C. Bausch
     Dennis C. Daley
     Judith M. Garcia
     Kathleen S. Katz
1985  M. Constance Bedell
     Nancy Zimmerman
1984  Frances F. Batchelder
1983  Gilbert L. Sager
1982  Carl F. Henrickson
1981  Joann P. DiGennaro
1980  Elizabeth G. Clements
1979  James W. McCarthy
1978  Elbert J. Jarvis II
1977  Anita L. Capps
1976  Michael A. Alexander

THE ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

2009  Jeffery M. Johnson
2008  Penny Welke
2007  Bruce and Mariann Johnson
2006  James Laychak
2005  Alan H. Harbitter
2004  Barbara Parker Granieri
2003  Jennifer A. Hess
2002  Carolyn A. Taylor
2001  Craig B. Young
2000  Joseph A. Heastie
1999  Juliana Kuo
1998  Lisa A. Mayne
1997  Lucy Canary Church
1996  See Golden Medallion Award
1995  Doris H. Kidwell
1994  Brian C. Drummond
1993  Scott McGeary
1992  Donna Mills
1991  Eileen Feuerbach
1990  Jonathan C. Thacher
1989  Mark W. Bisbee

THE GOLDEN MEDALLION AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

1996  George W. Johnson
1984  John C. Wood

THE FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

2009  Peter Boettke
2008  Harold Geller
2007  Roger Wilkins
2006  Rick Davis
2005  Cynthia M. Lont
2004  James B. Young
2003  Doris A. Bitler
2002  Lloyd E. Duck
2001  Don E. Kash
## PAST RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Stuart S. Malawer</td>
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<td>Edwinna T. Smith</td>
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<td>Karen Oates</td>
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<td>Amit Sinha</td>
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<td>Diane S. Erickson</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Ryshed M. McClendon</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>John L. Wiley</td>
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## THE SENIOR OF THE YEAR

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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>David Lieu</td>
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<td>Ryan Lowry</td>
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<td>Ryshed M. McClendon</td>
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted Arnn  
BS Law Enforcement ’93  
President

Tennille Parker  
BA Government and Politics ’97  
President-Elect

John E. Ross  
BS Finance ’05  
Vice President, Advocacy

Christopher M. Preston  
BS Management ’96  
Vice President, Member Involvement

Gary D. Dittmer  
BS Business Administration ’72,  
MS Taxation ’96  
Treasurer

Ted D. Burnes  
BA Government and Politics ’96  
Secretary

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

John W. Butler Jr.  
BA Integrated Studies ’99

Charles E. Chrosniak  
BS Geology ’91, MS Biology ’00

Dennis V. Pereira  
BS Computer Science ’01

Marcus J. Perry  
BA Government and Politics ’93,  
MBA ’00

Lisa Rosser  
BA Speech Communication ’89

Tia M. Wade  
BS Finance ’03

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

Black Alumni  
Timothy W. Cotman Jr., BA English/  
Writing ’95, MEd ’99

College of Education  
and Human Development  
Camille F. Hodges, MEd ’97  
Carol K. Padgett, MEd ’08

College of Health and Human Services  
Lori M. McLean, MSN ’96  
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