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An Evening with Dr. Ben Carson brings nearly 1,000 guests to campus



Langdale College held "An Evening with Dr. Ben Carson" on Sept. 11th, 2014. Carson delivered a keynote presentation based on his book titled "America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made this Nation Great" to a sold-out crowd of over 700 in VSU's Whitehead auditorium.

Hosted by VSU's Langdale College of Business Administration (LCOBA) and Beta Gamma Sigma international honor society, proceeds from the event provided \$10,000 to the Valdosta Early College Academy (VECA). The event was sponsored by Farmers and Merchants Bank, 100 Black Men of Valdosta, Southeastern Federal Credit Union, and South Georgia Medical Center.

For years Carson has told the story of how he was raised by a single mother and overcame the struggles of a troubled youth living in Detroit. He began to excel academically and graduated from Yale University with a degree in pre-med and psychology. He later earned an M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School.

Carson became the first physician to successfully separate conjoined twins joined at the head. He has served as director of pediatric neurosurgery for 39 years at Johns Hopkins Children Center.

His inspiring life story and successful achievements are portrayed in his memoir, Gift Hands: The Ben Carson Story, which was later made into an award-winning movie with the same title starring Cuba Gooding Jr.

Carson is the president and co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, which recognizes young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. He

is the author of Gifted Hands; THINK BIG; The Big Picture; Take the Risk: Learning to Identify, Choose and Live with Acceptable Risk; and America The Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great. His newest book, One Nation: What We Can All Do to Save America's Future, released in May 2014.

In 2001, Carson was named as one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists by CNN and TIME magazine. The same year, he was selected as one of the Library of Congress "Living Legends" during its 200th anniversary.

The renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, motivational speaker, New York Times bestselling author, and Fox News contributor is a highly sought national speaker. "An Evening with Dr. Ben Carson's sponsor's dinner and keynote address were quickly sold out months before the event," said Dr. Wayne Plumly, dean of the LCOBA. "We were very pleased to be able to offer live high definition streaming in Jennett Hall of Dr. Carson's keynote address. This additional viewing allowed us to accommodate nearly 1,000 people to participate in this event. The response to Dr. Carson's visit was unexpected and overwhelming. •



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Health Sciences and Business Administration Building

As part of Valdosta State University's new Health Sciences and Business Administration (HSBA) building, the university has named classrooms, computer centers, conference rooms, and administrative offices in the new building in honor of donors and companies that have contributed to the Langdale College of Business Administration.

In addition, the Southeastern Federal Credit Union Financial Trading Center, which was temporarily housed in Thaxton Hall has a new home on the third floor of the HSBA building.

Valdosta State University has secured approximately \$250,000 in donations to establish endowments for student scholarships, development of health care research, and support for the new health care administration programs.

"The Langdale College is very fortunate to have donors that are dedicated to our students and to the economic development of our region," said Dr. L. Wayne Plumly, dean of the Langdale College. "Their contributions enhance the quality of education that we can provide."

The HSBA building has provided the Langdale College with additional classroom space and faculty offices to create a Bachelor of Business Administration and online Master of Business Administration in health care administration.

"Adding the health care administration programs to the Langdale College will enable collaborations between the Langdale College and the regional community," said Plumly. "Collaboration with South Georgia Medical Center, medical offices, home health care delivery businesses, medical commodity suppliers such as pharmaceutical and equipment suppliers, insurance underwriters, medical software companies, and many other will be possible."

Both degrees address the rapid growth in health care administration. These highly specialized degrees focus on the delivery of health care management, as it relates to finances, human resources, information technology and policymaking. Graduates with an undergraduate or graduate degree in health care administration are prepared to work

in hospitals, nursing homes, public health clinics, and private practice.

"The new programs in health care were constructed by committees made up of primarily regional health care professionals," said Plumly. "Internships and jobs are



Dr. Len Weld, head of the accounting and finance department, retired on June 30, 2014. Dr. Weld taught at Langdale College for 12 years prior to retiring. Dr. Weld said, "My time at Langdale College was some of the best years of my 26 year career as an accounting professor. I especially enjoyed teaching in the MAcc program and being involved with Beta Alpha Psi." Dr. Weld's retirement hobby is competitive pistol shooting. He is a member of the NRA and the International Defensive Pistol Association. Dr. Weld enjoys shooting with the local club in Valdosta as well as Jacksonville, FL.

MBA in Health Care Administration helping new graduates succeed

As an MBA/HCAD student nearing the end of my graduate studies, I feel the onset of endless opportunities. I began VSU's Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Administration program in the fall of 2013. Being that I had recently graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Management (summer 2013), I was skeptical about jumping right into graduate school. However, it has certainly proved to be one of the best decisions of my life. I recently accepted a position at UF Health (Shands Hospital) in Gainesville, FL. As the Accreditation Specialist/Manager in the Graduate Medical Education department, I ensure that all residency/fellowship programs for the University of Florida's College of Medicine remain accredited with the

ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education). I am absolutely thrilled to be starting my career in healthcare administration with such a dynamic, reputable organization.



For all of those considering graduate school, I highly recommend the MBA/HCAD program at VSU. The program is remarkably flexible and allows you ample time to handle all course requirements as well as work full-time. As someone who recently moved from Miami to Gainesville, got engaged, and started building a house, I know that life can be extremely hectic (and I haven't even had kids yet). Trust me when I say, this program will allow you to live your life and continue to reach your educational/career goals. ●

Where are they now?



Dr. Kent Moore, Associate Dean and Professor of Management, retired on June 30, 2014. He was in the Langdale College of Business for 40 years, including 26 years as Associate Dean. During his career, he also served as Director of the M.B.A. Program, Head of the Department of Management, and Head of the Department of Marketing and Economics. He taught statistics, quantitative methods, production and operations management, and calculus.

Dr. Moore stated: "My time at VSU was very fulfilling and I'm thankful for the privilege of working with so many great colleagues over the years." During the next phase of his life, he plans to travel, spend more time with his family, and participate in various church activities, including international ministry projects.

Dr. Phyllis Holland, head of the management department, retired on June 30, 2014. Dr. Holland began teaching at VSC (as it was then) in 1987. Adding her other teaching experience to her years at VSU, Dr. Holland retired with 40 years in the classroom. Dr. Holland stated, "The highlight of these years has been the interaction with students. It is especially rewarding to encounter former students and hear their accomplishments. Valdosta State does a fine job in preparing students for meaningful careers and making contributions to their communities." Dr. Holland served as department head under three deans, Ken Stanley, Ralph Allen, and Wayne Plumly. Dr. Holland said, "Their leadership of the College of Business has been inspiring. As for retirement plans, my theme is "Get in Shape." I have been working on my yard and house this summer with no end in sight. I have signed up for tap dancing and joined a gym to get myself in shape. We have a derelict house in Mexico Beach that needs shaping up, too. I hope by next summer it will be fit for habitation and we are looking forward to enjoying those beautiful Gulf of Mexico sands and sunsets."

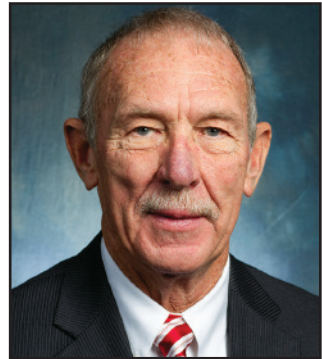


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essential to the success of these programs. Local businesses will have the needed workforce to expand. Entrepreneurial ventures in health care related fields will have the needed employees to develop and thrive." •



New Faculty



Mr. James McGahee

Mr. James McGahee, Jr., CPA, joined the staff at South Georgia Medical Center in 1982 as the Chief Financial Officer. Mr. McGahee assumed

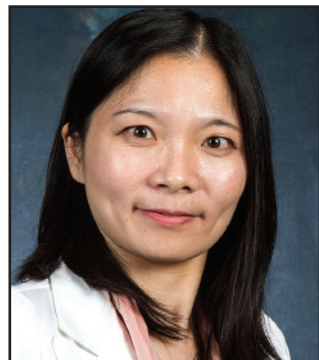
the position of Chief Operating Officer in 1992, and took over the position of Chief Executive Officer in 2000. Mr. McGahee retired as chief executive officer of South Georgia Medical Center in August, 2011. Mr. McGahee holds an MBA from the Langdale College of Business Administration, and is excited to return to his alma mater to share his professional expertise as an instructor in our health care administration program.

McGahee is a past member of the board for Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, Healthcare Financial Management Association, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Georgia Hospital Association, and American College of Healthcare Executives. Mr. McGahee is the former chairman of the Langdale College's Business Advisory Board and currently resides on the BAB's executive committee.

Dr. Yun Cheng

Dr. Yun Cheng is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Langdale College of Business. She joined the faculty in the fall of 2014. Dr. Cheng completed her MPAcc at University of West Georgia in the fall of 2008 and in the summer of 2014 at Florida Atlantic University she finished her Ph.D. in

Accounting. Her fields are financial reporting and managerial accounting. Her research empirically investigates the quality of financial disclosures and the effect of the disclosure on the capital market. At Valdosta State University, she teaches Accounting Principle course and Cost Accounting course.



Dr. Kelly F. Gamble



Dr. Kelly F. Gamble is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the Langdale College of Business Administration. She joined the VSU faculty in fall 2014. Dr. Gamble earned her Bachelor's degrees in Computer Science and Accounting from Boston University and Florida Atlantic University (FAU) respectively. She later earned her Master's degree in Taxation from FAU and her Ph.D. in Accounting from Florida State University. Her teaching areas are financial accounting and taxation, and her research inter-

ests include financial reporting and investor decision-making. Dr. Gamble is currently licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and she worked for several years in both public and private accounting positions before beginning her career in academia. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and playing with her dog. In addition, Dr. Gamble has been a competitive ballroom dancer for nine years.

Dr. Lynn Comer Jones

Dr. Jones' professional experience includes Big 4 public accounting, Fortune 500 financial services and a sole proprietorship. After several years in the accounting profession, she was a guest lecturer at Appalachian State University. She completed her PhD at Georgia State University and joined the University of North Florida (UNF) faculty in 2003. Dr. Jones served as the Associate Dean for Accreditation, Assessment and Continuous Improvement in UNF's Coggin College of Business from 2011 - 2014. She currently serves as Accounting Department

Head in Valdosta State University's Langdale College of Business. Her research interests include taxpayer equity, tax policy, and income shifting. She has published in The Tax Adviser, The CPA Journal, The Journal of Legal Tax Research, Issues in Accounting Education, and others. She is a member of the American Accounting Association and American Tax Association (ATA), and was appointed as an ATA Trustee for 2012-2014. In 2014, she was elected as the ATA Secretary. From 2013-2014, she served as Board Chair and State Coordinator for the Florida Office of Women in



Higher Education (an independent, state network for the American Council on Education's Women's Network). She enjoys traveling, reading and singing. She supports local and global missions, and breast cancer charities.

Newest Director of the Small Business Development



Mrs. Lynn Bennett

Mrs. Lynn Bennett brings twelve years of industry experience in private and public accounting, as well as thirteen years of teaching experience to SBDC clients in the Central Southern region. Lynn

completed her B.B.A. in Accounting at Valdosta State University in 1994 and earned her Master of Science in Accounting at Liberty University in 2012 as a graduate with high distinction. Prior to joining the Georgia SBDC, Lynn was the Department Chair of Business Education and the Accounting Program Coordinator for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. In 2006, Lynn was the recipient of the Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year for WGTC and the Southwest District of Georgia. Her area of expertise includes instruc-

tion in financial and managerial accounting, financial statement preparation and analysis, payroll processing and payroll tax returns, along with QuickBooks Pro. Her past experience also includes cost accounting for international tolling operations. Lynn is married with three children and enjoys spending time with her family and participating in church activities at First Baptist Church in Lake Park where she is an active member.



Langdale College New Executive Committee Team

As a result of retirements, realigning departments, and creating a new department, the Langdale College has three new department heads and a new associate dean. From left to right, Dr. Attila Cseh, head, Economics and Finance, Dr. Ed Walker, head of Management and Healthcare Administration, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, associate dean, Dr. Wayne Plumly, dean, Dr. Lynn Jones, head of Accounting, and Dr. Aubrey Fowler, head of Marketing and International Business.