



**Special points of interest:**

- College of Business welcomes new dean
- Dr. Mechitov selected as the University Scholar
- Dr. Blevins Retires
- Alumnus in the spotlight—Jeremy Young (1995)

**Fall 2003**

## Meet Bill Rupp

When William “Bill” Rupp started his new job as dean on June 2, 2003, a new chapter began in his life and the Stephens College of Business.

Rupp comes to Montevallo from Robert Morris University, in Pittsburgh, where he was a professor of management and associate dean of the school of business.

While at Robert Morris, Rupp taught both undergraduate– and graduate-level courses, provided the leadership for the development of the M.S. degree program in nonprofit management, and developed a problem-based externship program for that degree program, as well as developed a new curriculum format for the M.B.A. program.



*“I want to develop a collaboration between faculty, students and alumni to do extraordinary things that benefit society”*

As a course coordinator, Rupp served as lead faculty for the development of departmental course syllabi, textbook selection, case selection and classroom processes for a number of undergraduate and graduate courses.

From 1996-1999, Rupp served as director of business accreditation, a position in which he was responsible for the planning, organizing and directing of the school of business’ AACSB accreditation project.

Rupp has authored over 50 peer reviewed publications and proceedings, ranging in topics from ethics to e-commerce.

Rupp is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Sigma Iota Epsilon, and Sigma Beta Delta honor societies.

Rupp earned a B.A from Azusa Pacific University in 1982, a M.B.A from the University of Montana in 1990, and a Ph.D. in strategic management from the University of Georgia in 1994. While at the University of Georgia, Rupp received the doctoral student award for excellence in teaching.

Rupp is a golf enthusiast with a handicap of 12-15. He plays acoustic and electric guitar and writes and performs gospel and country music. Not content with *just* fly fishing, he ties his own flies and has built his own rod. He has already started searching for the best fishing spots in the area.

Rupp moved to Montevallo with his wife, Carlene, and their cat named *Cat*. Carlene is a registered nurse and has a masters degree in education. They have one child Jimmy, who with his wife Tiffany, live in Columbus, Ohio. Jimmy, with a degree in marketing, works for an insurance company while Tiffany teaches elementary school children.

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## COB Advisory Board

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## Letter from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

What a pleasure to join the Stephens College! The faculty and staff have been gracious and a delight to get to know. The College is in very good condition and is poised to move ahead.

Since July, we have made changes to meet the needs of our students and their future employers. The vision, regarding the physical aspects of the College is to create an atmosphere of professionalism that stimulates learning while simulating the conditions students will find in the workplace. To this end, one of the first priorities was to upgrade our computing lab. This summer, new Dell computers and monitors were installed providing true state of the art hardware for our students. The old typing chairs, wooden and very hard, were replaced with standard office furniture. The work area was transformed with new partitions. An equipment room was transformed into a conference room for faculty meetings, receptions, and special presentations. An additional classroom was transformed into a presentation classroom with an LCD projector, computer, and DVD/VCR combo. This brings the total to four such equipped classrooms. The student lounge was equipped with new chairs and decorated with plants. New success oriented artwork from Pin Gallery proclaims positive messages to motivate and inspire. As I said, the changes are everywhere and are quite remarkable given our lean resources.

On the teaching/learning side, we have a pilot program running in our Leadership class called "Theory, Practice, Communications" or "TPC." This pilot program takes the theory students are learning in the classroom to the workplace. The students meet with employers and ask a series of questions to discover the practice as it actually occurs. The students develop a paper that explains the theory, its application and actual practice, and communicates the findings back to the class in a presentation. We are excited to see how this experiential pedagogy brings the classroom alive.

I want to personally thank you for your interest in the Stephens College of Business and invite you to drop by and stay awhile. I would love a chance to get to know you...

Sincerely,



## Mechitov Selected as University Scholar



The 2003-2004 recipient of the University Scholar Award is Alexander Mechitov, associate professor of business.

Mechitov was honored with the award at the 107th Founders' Day convocation, which took place on Thursday, Oct. 9.

The designation of University Scholar is in recognition of significant contributions to scholarship and creative endeavors, as well as to teaching and service to the campus.

At Montevallo, Mechitov teaches courses in management information systems, systems analysis and design and database management systems.

Networking is a newsletter published for alumni, faculty and friends of the Stephens College of Business at The University of Montevallo.

Send address corrections, news and suggestions to:

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## Dr. Dallas R. Blevins Retires



Dallas R. Blevins is truly a remarkable man. His students have always been a top priority throughout his career. Also, he took on important leadership positions with the Air Force, secondary schools, and universities. Leadership roles in the Air Force included Aviation Cadet

Training, Composite Squadron Unit Supply Officer with the 4677th Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron, 559th, 4th, and 558th Tactical Fighter Squadrons where he volunteered for several administrative and aerial activities. As a result he received the Outstanding Contributions Award. With the secondary schools, he led the Boy Scouts and served as Vice President of the Boys Debate Club and as Student Representatives of the Highway Safety Council. While employed with the University of North Florida, Dr. Blevins was an editor of the *Journal of Cost Analysis* for nine years. While at Montevallo, he served as Treasurer, Secretary, and President of the University of Montevallo Chapter of Phi Kappa National Honor Society. In addition, he

was designated the University Scholar and Professional Development Man of the Year. In addition to serving on various committees and boards, Dr. Blevins is published in *Fortune*, *TSU Business and Economic Review*, *Business Quest*, *American Business Review*, and others. Obviously, he was an important asset to the University of Montevallo from 1982 to May 2003. We wish him the best in his retirement.

**Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.**

Sam Ewing

## Dr. Gary Rovelstad Receives Award

Gary Rovelstad was presented with the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants' (ASCPA) Educator of the Year Award at the organization's annual meeting, which took place on Tuesday, June 3, 2003 at the HealthSouth Conference Center in Birmingham. Rovelstad has been a member of the University of Montevallo faculty since 1982.

The mission of the ASCPA is to promote the common professional interests of Alabama certified public accountants. The society is dedicated to improving the accounting, tax, management, auditing and other professional services provided by its members to their clients, employers and the public.



## Randall Valentine Joins COB Faculty

The Stephens College of Business is proud to have Randall Valentine as part of the COB faculty. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration degree at Mississippi State University. He received his Bachelor of Science from Arkansas State University in Corporate finance, and his Masters of Science from Mississippi State University in Finance with a minor in Statistics. In addition, he has been featured in several journal articles from the *Journal of Business, Industry, and Economics*; *Mid South*



*Journal of Business Disciplines*; and *Journal of Education for Business*. His presentations and proceedings indicate that he is clever at communicating to his audience. We

are looking forward to Mr. Valentine being an important asset to the College of Busi-

**In the modern world of business, it is useless to be a creative original thinker unless you can also sell what you create. Management cannot be expected to recognize a good idea unless it is presented to them by a good salesman.**

## May 2003 Graduates

Matthew B. Atchison  
 Ruby Yi Benton  
 Taj Omar Bizzell  
 Bryan Blackmon  
 Kristi Michelle Byrum  
 David Alan Clemons  
 Nick Collins  
 Caroline Rose-Ann Croes  
 Frank Nicholas Flow  
 Brandy Alisha Hamm  
 Bradley L. Haynes  
 Carrie Downs Henderson  
 Jason H. Hetzler  
 James Allen Higdon  
 JoAnn Lindsey Hollon  
 Sara Elizabeth Hollon  
 Emily Sue Holmes  
 Melissa Lynn Janney  
 Joy Johnsey  
 Jonathan Allen Mathis  
 Jay Downey Morgan  
 Gary Heath Park  
 Regina Peterson  
 David B. Rumph  
 Shannon Samples  
 Joseph Phillip Seales  
 Stephanie L. Siener-Herring  
 Kelley Anne Smith  
 John Corey Stewart  
 Terrica L. Taylor  
 Benjamin Tyler Thomas  
 Sarah Thompson  
 April Harris Thrasher  
 Brandy Jo Toole  
 Jonathan Edward Treesh  
 Toni Maria Ware  
 Karine Rouviere Yakap

## August 2003 Graduates

Kenneth Dewayne Brazzell  
 Carolyn Perry Griffith  
 Lindsey Marie Jones  
 Phillip D. Kelce  
 William Maxwell L. Mitchell  
 Jeremy Ronald Mitchell  
 Cristina Rayfield  
 Kerry Ray Satterwhite  
 Anthony Mylin Schroeder  
 Santevia Londrell Swain  
 Amy Genette Tilley  
 Miles J. Weston, III



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### HOMECOMING RECEPTION

Join faculty and staff for a reception on Friday, February 13, 2004 in Morgan's Student Lounge from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

## "I feel I'm one of the few people in the world that can honestly say I get paid to have fun."...Jeremy Young



Jeremy W. Young graduated from the University of Montevallo in December 1995 with his business degree in Marketing. Originally from the small town of Goodwater, AL, Jeremy aspired to have a career in the world of transportation from a very early age. After graduating in '95, he moved to Birmingham where he spent almost two years with Mark VII Transportation.

During that time, he learned the foundation skills of both over-the-road and rail transportation. In October 1997, Jeremy left Mark VII to take a position as Marketing Manager of the Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway (AGR), at the time a newly created railroad in south AL. Based in Monroeville, Jeremy was instrumental in growing

the railroads business during his first year largely from industry that had not shipped by rail in over 10 years. After spending two years with the AGR, he then pursued corporate America.

In May 2000, Jeremy left AL and moved to Ft. Worth, TX and began his career with Ft. Worth based Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway, a 33,000 plus mile rail network covering all of the western half of the United States. He began his career as an analyst in the company's intermodal department, dealing with domestic freight moving in stack container service. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to Assistant Manager - Domestic Truckload Marketing and became the primary account manager for dry motor carriers, a base of business whereby trucking companies move 53' trailers by rail in a long-haul environment. Later, Jeremy was promoted to Manager - Domestic Truckload Marketing and today is responsible for a base of business in excess of \$40 million and growing.

When asked about his career, Jeremy commented, "I feel I'm one of the few people in the world that can honestly say I get paid to have fun. I'm very blessed in this regard and very proud of the company in which I'm employed. I never fail to be

intrigued by the impact rail transportation plays in our everyday lives, from toothpaste and shampoo, to wine and designer suits. It's all touched in some regard by rail."

While at Montevallo, he received the honor for Senior Elite - Marketing, served as president of Alpha Kappa Psi, and graduated with honors. Jeremy also contributes back to the community. While in AL, he was a presenter for Operation Lifesaver, a national organization committed to the education of people on the dangers of highway-rail grade crossings, as well as involved with the Kiwanis of Monroeville. While in TX, he has been involved as a campaign coordinator for the United Way, and participated in both the American Cancer Society Walk-a-Thon and the American Diabetes Walk-a-Thon.

In December 2003, Jeremy will be graduating with his Masters of Business Administration degree from Texas Wesleyan University, a private Methodist university in Ft. Worth, with a double concentration in Organizational Management and Management Information Systems. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking and throwing dinner parties for friends, traveling, and in the last 4 years began taking classes to play the cello.