

# CONGRATULATIONS GSCPA AWARD RECIPIENTS

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER IN INDUSTRY



The Outstanding Member in Industry Award recognizes individuals who have exhibited outstanding leadership skills while providing vision and knowledge of broad business

issues. The individual champions change and community service while demonstrating team building and partnering. The GSCPA recognizes **James Freeman** as the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Member in Industry Award. The award was presented at the Spring Decision Makers Conference in April.

James is considered a model for objectivity and ethical commitment to accounting by showing significant dedication to raising ethical standards as a CPA.

James earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a major in Biology and minors in both Chemistry and Business Administration. He later received his Master of Accounting from the UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School, with a concentration in Tax and Real Estate. In addition, he later received his Master of Business Administration from the Duke University Fuqua School of Business with a concentration in International Economics. He received his CPA certification in 2008.

He began his career at Arthur Andersen's Global Tax practice, assisting multinational clients with global tax strategies, working on corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions. After a three year expatriate assignment in Brussels, Belgium, he later joined Deloitte & Touche's Brussels Tax practice where he furthered his expertise by structuring complex tax models for major national and international clients.

More recently, he has worked for Valvoline Oil Company first in International Tax, and most recently as the national managing director of Valvoline's business in Germany. There he managed and balanced all aspects of the business in Germany and is credited with doubling the company's business during his tenure.

He currently serves as the chief financial officer of Strategic 1031 Exchange Advisors or "SEA," an Atlanta based consulting firm that provides real estate and tax consulting services.

James' continual commitment to excellence and leadership is evident in the success of the internal controls that SAS has implemented. It

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## ACCOUNTING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



The Accounting Educator of the Year Award recognizes individuals who have exhibited leadership in professional and civic organizations as well as writing, speaking and curriculum development.

**Kel-Ann Sheldon Eyler** has worked tirelessly over the years in her quest for academic excellence. She is a role model for professionalism and compassion, and she is an educator to her core. She is committed to the success of her students and is devoted to effectively communicating challenging topics to her students using various modes of delivery. She has taught students at all levels and across a wide-range of courses. Her passion for all of her students is extensive, and she is renowned for her classroom performance and ability to integrate new presentation styles.

Kel-Ann began her career in accounting as a student in the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia and received her degree in 1977. Post graduation she joined the audit staff of Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) in Washington, D.C. After working in public accounting, she worked in industry, first as an Assistant to the Corporate Controller and then as Division Controller. Upon returning to Georgia after living for a short while in London, England, Kel-Ann entered and completed her Master's in 1986 and Ph.D. in accounting at Georgia State University in 1990. She has been teaching accounting at the undergraduate and graduate levels for approximately 25 years and currently serves as the Associate Professor and Interim Department Chair of Business and Economics at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia.

Over the years, Kel-Ann has proven her commitment to the accounting profession. In spite of her busy teaching schedule, she finds time to pursue a rigorous research agenda and remain involved in numerous professional organizations. She regularly participates as a presenter at state, regional and national accounting meetings and frequently takes her students with her to these meetings. Dr. Eyler has been a member of a number of accounting organizations through the years, including the Georgia Society of CPAs (GSCPA), the American Accounting Association, the Institute of Management Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Academy of Accounting

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## PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



The Public Service Award recognizes a CPA who has made a significant contribution to his/her community, while demonstrating that it is possible to make a difference in the lives of others.

The GSCPA recognizes **Jack Smith** as the recipient of the 2009 Public Service Award. The award was presented in June at the Annual Convention in Amelia Island, Florida.

Jack is president and CEO/COO at Smith, Conley & Associates, PC in Fayetteville.

Jack devotes a significant amount of his time to public service activities. Through his positions on numerous boards for civic and nonprofit organizations, he is well known within the Fayetteville community.

A variety of organizations benefit from Jack's tireless dedication and commitment:

**Peachtree City United Methodist Church** - Served as treasurer for six years and implemented transitional steps to becoming financially self sufficient.

**Optimist Clubs** - Served in a variety of positions including secretary, treasurer and president. He also holds several awards including Optimist of the Year and a Life Membership in Optimist International.

**Boy Scouts of America** - He has served as troop leader and district leadership positions over multiple years working to ensure young men were given the opportunity for individual growth and leadership training.

**Fayette County Chamber of Commerce** - Served three terms as treasurer, receiving the Chet Wells Service Award before being elected president. Jack is still active in the Chamber where he is active in the President's Roundtable and serves in an advisory role to the current chairman.

**Fayette County Development Authority** - Appointed treasurer and served successive terms for 10 years.

**Fayette County Public Facilities Authority** - Serves as vice chairman.

**Fayetteville Rotary Club** - He served separate terms as treasurer, secretary and president. He was president during the Rotary's centennial year of service. Jack is currently serving his tenth consecutive year as treasurer.

**Joseph Sams School** - Jack is currently the treasurer for the school, which is designed for developmentally disabled children in

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# MEMBER AND CHAPTER NEWS



Lundstrom

**Ron Lundstrom** of **Lundstrom LLC** enters into exclusive partnership with GH&I to perform forensic accounting and fraud investigation services.

**Michelle "Shelly" Compton, CPA** and tax manager with **Deemer Dana & Froehle LLP**, has earned accreditation to become a Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA).

**Marvin Brown, CPA/ABV** of **Brown Valuation Group**, is the author of Valuation Tips for the AICPA's ABV E-Alert.

**Moore Colson CPAs**, announces that **Steven Murphy**, senior tax manager, is the recipient of the firm's coveted Peak Award for his significant contributions to the firm.

**Braver Schimler Pierce Jenkins, LLP** is pleased to announce the promotion of four new partners to the firm: **Cheryl Clifton, CPA; Karyn Lowrey, CPA; Suzanne Novak, CPA** and **Marshall Schwartz, CPA**.



Clifton



Lowrey



Novak



Schwartz

## In Memoriam

We sincerely regret the loss of the following members and extend deepest sympathy to their family and friends.

**Franklin Jordan**  
Macon, Ga.

**Joseph Lake**  
Rome, Ga.

**Harry Marshall**  
Atlanta, Ga.

Member and Chapter News is open to all GSCPA members for announcements regarding professional achievements. Please send all submissions to Jamie Etzbach at [jetzbach@gscpa.org](mailto:jetzbach@gscpa.org). Announcements are placed as they are received. In the event an issue fills up, announcements will be run in the next available issue. Photos are welcome.

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is because of his ethical values and practices that the firm is one of the only in the country to have implemented such critical internal controls.

James believes in exceeding professional expectations. His best practices approach has helped move the 1031 industry from reactionary to more proactive planning. With his firm, he has championed new methods and solutions, including client-directed account options and the innovative design of a system that safeguards the principal of client funds and ensures their liquidity.

Outside of the office, James is active in his church in Roswell and has volunteered with the American Heart Association, Big Brother - Big Sister Fundraisers and Junior Achievement. He is also active with the Atlanta Young Professionals, Duke Alumni Association and the Harvard Business School Real Estate SIG of Atlanta.

James has been a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs since 2008.



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Historians and the Georgia Association of Accounting Educators (GAAE). Her involvement with the GSCPA includes serving on the GSCPA College Outreach Task Force and on the GSCPA Educational Foundation Executive Committee. Dr. Eyler has participated in numerous committees and served as a speaker at a number of events for the GSCPA in recent years. During her career, she has also acted as a volunteer judge for the national IMA scholarship competition, on the board of a local IMA chapter, helped students charter a student chapter of the IMA, served as faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi, supervised student honors theses and helped review accounting curriculums.

Dr. Kel-Ann Eyler is a superb teacher, a collaborative colleague, a supportive mentor, a professional and a scholar. She has dedicated herself to helping her students both inside and outside the classroom. She has made the effort to teach face-to-face, online and a combination hybrid approach in her courses including principals of financial and managerial accounting, intermediate and advanced financial accounting, cost accounting, auditing, fraud examination, tax accounting and many more. Kel-Ann has and will continue to greatly contribute to the education of accountants. She has been a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs since 2004.



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Fayette County. He has held this position for over 10 years.

**Board of Commissioners** - Currently serves as chairman. By virtue of serving as chairman, he serves as a board member of the **Atlanta Regional Commission** in the position of treasurer. In addition he serves on a variety of task forces and sub committees.

**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and Transit Implementation Board** - Currently serves on each of these boards.

**Association of County Commissioners of Georgia's Insurance Program** - Serves as a board member and helps oversee a captive insurance plan offered to eligible counties within Georgia.

Despite Jack's busy schedule with the aforementioned organizations, he makes time each year to visit local high school accounting classes, where he discusses careers in accounting and fields questions from interested high school students.

While serving and promoting causes near and dear to him, Jack and a partner started a public accounting practice, which has grown to include four other CPAs and seven support positions. He encourages employees of the firm to get involved and provides services to many nonprofit entities gratis or at reduced costs. Jack has been a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs since 1977.

