

## 192 Seniors Graduating

Tomorrow morning at 9:00, GSBSLU will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> graduating class as 192 Senior students cross the stage of LSU's **Union Cotillion Ballroom** to receive their diplomas. When the last one does, GSBSLU alumni will reach **16,698**. We could not be prouder of these individuals, the majority of whom being forced to stretch a three-year graduate school career to four years and some to five years. We thank you *all* for the wonderful memories and wish you the greatest success in your careers!



As our JRs & SRs are well aware (and our FR will soon learn), the work put into bank-study projects between sessions can at times be nothing short of grueling. You're all busy, professional people with day-jobs and the majority with spouses, kids, and other important responsibilities. In the long history of our school, only **112** of its graduates have earned "A"s on every one of those projects. This year, we'll add *three* to that distinguished list and congratulate them at graduation tomorrow with a certificate for this accomplishment. Our three high-graders in the Class of 2022 are:

- **Steven Caudell**, GA Dept. of Banking & Finance,
- **Alma Hales**, Tennessee Tech University, and
- **David Hazeslip**, First Arkansas Bank & Trust

Congratulations to all three of you!

Presiding over the graduation ceremonies will be **Mike Allen**, President of GSBSLU. Other GSBSLU officers on stage will be **Colin Barrett** (Chairman of the BoT) **Stephen David** (President-Elect), **John Naughton** (Executive Director), **Dr. Mike Highfield** (VP for Curriculum), **Corinne Long** (VP for Administration), and **Dr. Don Woodland** (Director Emeritus).

We are also honored to be joined by **Kappie Mumphrey**, VP of Online & Continuing Education at LSU, who will bring greetings from the university and participate in the ceremonies.

## Today @ GSBSLU...

12:00 pm	Eval portal opens
3:00-5:30 pm	BMSim Presentations
3:00-7:00 pm	SR Exams
4:45-5:45 pm	FR/JR Exams

## Graduation Ceremony Info

Just like college... there is no rehearsal. Everyone will have assigned seats in the Cotillion Ballroom and all SRs should be seated by no later than 8:50 am (a seating chart will be sent to you via Canvas... please take a minute to review it and familiarize yourself with the arrangements). Guests will be seated in the section behind the students.

Presentation of diplomas will be row-by-row starting from the front. Each row will rise when directed by the Marshall (Mike Highfield) at the far left. The row will proceed to the left steps of the stage with candidates stopping at the top step and proceeding onto the stage to receive diplomas as their names are announced. When you receive your diploma from Mike Allen, please pause for a picture and then, proceed across to the other side of the stage where you will exit, return to your row, and be seated. At the conclusion of the program, we will hold a reception at the back of the ballroom.

You won't wear your nametag during graduation, but you may want to keep it in your pocket to put on for the reception. Men – coat and tie; women – appropriate dress for the occasion.

## Check-out Procedures

"Official" check-out will begin at 7:00 tomorrow morning. FR & JR students who would prefer to check-out today following completion of the exam may do so by visiting the front desk of your dorm building, which will be manned by a representative from LSU, to turn in keys and keycards. Same procedure tomorrow morning. SRs at the ECA will turn in both keys to the same desk where you picked them up in the ECA Activity Center. Shuttle buses to the Baton Rouge airport will run from 7:30-11:30 am tomorrow (about every 15 minutes) and will pick students up on S. Campus Drive in front of the dorms.

## GSBLSU's Growing Alumni

As stated above, by around 9:30 tomorrow morning, the Graduate School of Banking at LSU will have a grand total of 16,698 alumni. Below is a state-by-state count of graduates (including 2022) from the 15 states within our "footprint," other US states outside of the Southeast, and Mexico.

- Louisiana 2,284
- Tennessee 1,813
- Mississippi 1,795
- Florida 1,697
- Georgia 1,695
- Alabama 1,488
- South Carolina 914
- Kentucky 879
- Arkansas 869
- North Carolina 782
- Texas 658
- Virginia 479
- Missouri 339
- Other States 308
- Mexico 268
- Oklahoma 234
- West Virginia 172

Fun fact... based on current enrollment of the c/o 2023, and if that enrollment stays the same between now and then, the state of **Georgia** will pass the state of **Florida** in total alumni with next year's graduation (not that the Southeast is competitive or anything).

The Graduate School of Banking at LSU plays an extremely important role in advanced-professional education and personal-career development. Our best advertisement is word-of-mouth endorsement from current & past students to others who might be interested in attending. You would be doing your friends & associates a good turn by urging them to consider enrollment. Recent surveys indicate that most bankers attending the session asked a graduate about the school before enrolling. Information & applications are available from the school office and at [gsblsu.org](http://gsblsu.org).

## New Wisdom – Draper

A new FR Case Study for 2022 that I have personally been really looking forward to seeing in action is *Crisis Communication* taught by **Doug Draper**.

Doug Draper joined the Louisiana State University Manship School in August 2018. His previous role was marketing director for the Novant Health Medical Group in Winston-Salem, NC. He also served as a vice president of communications for Wells Fargo, National City Corporation, and Mead Corporation. Other positions included communications director for SPX Corporation and financial communications manager for Dow Chemical. While at Dow, one of his projects earned the

Best of the Silver Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America. He also was an account executive for Aaron Cushman PR in Chicago and a public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force with assignments in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Airforce Academy and in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He has achieved his accreditation in public relations (APR) and published a novel, "Mad Dad, Fun Dad."



Doug has a master's degree in mass communication and journalism from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Brigham Young University.

## Special Guest - Womack

In addition to Watts Steger (whom you met in yesterday's RST), we are delighted to have **Mr. John T. Womack** on campus once again as a guest judge of our BMSim presentations this afternoon.

Mr. Womack is Chairman & CEO of Arvest Bank of the River Valley in Fort Smith, AR, a position he has held since 2010. Prior to this appointment, he served the bank as President & CEO (1999-2010). Mr. Womack is a seasoned banker with nearly 50 years of experience in correspondent, regional, retail & commercial banking.



Mr. Womack is a 1974 graduate of Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR, a 1982 graduate of the ABA Commercial Lending School, and a 1990 graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at LSU. He has dedicated more than 20 years of his life in service to GSBLSU as both instructor and President of the school (**2011 & 2012**) and is so kind to return year-after-year to judge BMSim presentations to help our industry's leaders.

*We're so glad to see you, again, John... and thank you for all that you do (and have done) for our school and our industry!*

**Dorms close at noon tomorrow  
- safe travels!**

**We'll see you FR & JR  
students next year!**



We're putting EVERYONE to work! **Dr. Don Woodland** preparing diplomas for tomorrow's graduation ceremony.

**Tomorrow @ GSBLSU...**

7:00 am	Check-out Begins
9:00 am	Graduation
9:30 am	Graduation Reception