



Carole Gibson

NACAS South 40th Annual Conference
 April 19-23, 2008 • Hilton Savannah DeSoto
 Savannah, Georgia

Auxiliary Services...Your Bridge To Success



What can I say about Savannah? There was so much to do and see, I think we just hit the tip of the iceberg during our short time there. I will definitely be back. Savannah provided the ultimate location for our 2008 conference. Our hotel, the Hilton Savannah DeSoto, was located right in the middle of the historic district... so during our down time, we weren't really *down*, but out shopping, eating and just enjoying the atmosphere.

Our wonderful host committee, chaired by **Keith Chapman** of Georgia Perimeter College, went above and beyond to make sure a great time was had by all. We had perfect weather for the **Bob DeMoss Annual Golf Tournament** held at the premiere Southbridge Golf Course; and the Welcome Reception was definitely an event we will always remember, with great views of Savannah from the 15th floor of the DeSoto.

The Opening Session: "Conflict of Interest: Identifying, Evaluating and Resulting Actions" was an informative session given by **Eric Monday**, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administrative Services at Louisiana State University and newly appointed NACAS South Vice President. Eric did a great job explaining the issue and outlined several "thinking points" for us to consider in reviewing our own practices.

The Keynote Speaker was **Katrina Grider**, a practicing attorney as well as frequent author and speaker on labor and employment law. Her topic, "The Top Ten Most Dangerous Employment Issues," brought up issues that we all face but don't like to address. She was entertaining, informative, and gave us real examples with solutions to handle employment issues.

Mark Reeves, Director of Auxiliary Services at the University of West Georgia and **John Lyons**, ARAMARK Food Service Director for the University of West Georgia presented the topic of "Customer Driven Success". They spotlighted techniques that can help us listen to our customers in a proactive environment, resulting in both greater customer satisfaction and increased departmental success.

The sessions I mentioned above were just a few of the many informative and topical educational sessions offered during the 2008 NACAS South Conference. These sessions along with others offered proved to be a very positive experience for many of our attendees.



The Responsible Parties

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The **Business Partner Breakfast & Showcase** was an incredibly successful event with 41 partners displaying their products and services. Out of those 41 business partners, 12 were new. Attendees were able to mingle with the Business Partners and get to know the new ones. At lunch, NACAS South recognized and thanked its Business Partners. Special recognition was given to **ARAMARK Campus Services**, our Diamond Sponsor. Fourteen new business partners (*can you believe that?*) were also recognized: **Advanced Laundry Devices, Inc., Bergmann Associates, Design Collective, Heartland Campus Solutions, Integrated Business Group, Kodak, Niles Bolton Associates, Palacio Collaborative, Inc., Ricoh, S & D Coffee, Seating Concepts, Timothy Haahs & Associates, TransLoc Inc., and US Food Service.**

At the Business Meeting on Tuesday, **Kelly Venable Carroll** thanked all Board members for their service and dedication by bestowing each with a beautiful solid maple box with their name and "NACAS South 2007-2008" inscribed on each. She actually purchased the boxes from a local merchant right in the heart of Savannah. In addition, the Board of Directors honored **Wanda Budaj** as she completed her term as NACAS South Conference Coordinator with a gorgeous painting of Savannah.

The conference "Fun Event" was held on River Street at Kevin Barry's Irish Pub with great views of the Savannah River. It was quite fun watching those huge boats go out to sea. We enjoyed fantastic food, great people and wonderful atmosphere – the location was the perfect place for our final event.

The NACAS South 2008 Conference is now history. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a success. I can't wait to see what's in store for us at...



...the next NACAS South Conference in Nashville, May 2-6, 2009!