

For Immediate Release
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The Southeastern School of Banking Graduates 50 Students Athens Banker Wins Scholarship

Nashville—Bankers from across the state of Tennessee have completed the 2004 session of *The Southeastern School of Banking*SM (TSSB). Fifty students, representing all facets of banking, graduated from TSSB, held at the Owen Graduate School of Management on the campus of Vanderbilt University in Nashville. *The Southeastern School of Banking* (TSSB) is one of the four highly respected Southeastern Banking Schools conducted annually by the Tennessee Bankers Association.

Organized in 1939, the TSSB is one of the oldest and largest state association-sponsored banking schools in the country. It has provided professional training for more than 8,000 bankers since its inception. The school offers 80 hours of instruction over a two-year period at an intermediate-level. The curriculum focuses on critical banking functions, their interrelationships, and determinants of profitability.

“*The Southeastern School of Banking* concentrates on developing the banker’s analytical skills and management techniques,” said Philip Calahan, senior vice president, First community Bank of Bedford County, and president of the board of trustees for TSSB.

“Additionally, students learn how to compete effectively in the ever-changing financial services environment.”

Students who excel receive special honors recognition. This year, five students graduated with honors, ranking in the top 10 percent of their class. They were:

- **Myra Sharp, First Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Columbia**
- **Ashley Dennis, The Hardin County Bank, Savannah**

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- **Emily Gray, The Hardin County Bank, Savannah**
- **Casey Midgett, DeKalb Community Bank, Smithville**
- **Ashley McGhee, First Century Bank, Tazewell**

TSSB's curriculum incorporates over 80 hours of classroom instruction and spans a two-year period with a one-week resident session each year. In addition to traditional banking classes, TSSB students participate in a computer bank simulation game tailored to different levels of experience. Students generally are career financial industry employees in higher-ranking staff or junior- to mid-management positions.

Scholarship Award

In addition to the honors program, one student is selected each year to receive a scholarship to continue their banking education by attending the Graduate School of Banking (GSB), conducted at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The 2004 winner of the scholarship was **Shane Sewell, Athens Federal Bank, Athens**. The scholarship covers the tuition for the first year, which is \$3,025 for next year's program.

The scholarship committee bases its selection on final exam grades, home-study problem grades, evaluations by school instructors, and interviews with the candidates.

The GSB is a three-year program organized in 1950 and sponsored by 15 southern bankers associations, including the TBA.

A list of the 2004 TSSB graduates, arranged alphabetically by city, is attached.

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The Tennessee Bankers Association, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Nashville, is a not-for-profit organization representing the state's 244 banks and thrift institutions and their 33,000 employees. The Association provides continuing education, develops and monitors state and federal legislative agendas, disseminates information on all facets of the financial services industry, and promotes the public image of financial institutions. Visit the TBA online at www.TNBankers.org.

**Tennessee Bankers Association
2004 TSSB Graduates
Add 1**

**Tennessee Bankers Association
The Southeastern School of Bankingsm
Class of 2004 Graduates**

Alcoa	United Community Bank.....	Chris Reagan
Ashland City	PrimeTrust Bank	Larry Roberts
Athens	Athens Federal Community Bank.....	Shane Sewell
Carthage	Community Bank of Smith County	Jason Lankford
Chattanooga.....	Cornerstone Community Bank	Gregg Phillips
Chattanooga.....	First Tennessee Bank National Association	Scott Cornelius
Chattanooga.....	First Tennessee Bank National Association	Christie Dillard
Chattanooga.....	First Tennessee Bank National Association	Brian Paris
Chattanooga.....	First Tennessee Bank National Association	Matthew Wages
Clarksville	Legends Bank	John Morrow
Cleveland.....	Bank of Cleveland.....	Teresa Davis
Cleveland.....	First Tennessee Bank National Association	Bridgette Bethune
Clinton.....	The Community Bank Of East Tennessee	Susan Hatmaker
Clinton.....	The Community Bank Of East Tennessee.....	Cara Wallace
Columbia	First Farmers and Merchants National Bank.....	Myra Sharp*
Decaturville	Decatur County Bank.....	Sharon Livingston
Dunlap.....	Mountain Valley Bank	Jennifer Worley
Halls	The Lauderdale County Bank.....	Shelley Kimble
Helenwood.....	The First National Bank of Oneida.....	Mona Queen
Hermitage	Wilson Bank & Trust	John Goodman
Hohenwald.....	FirstBank	Tracie Lomax
Huntingdon.....	Carroll Bank & Trust	Donna Christian
Huntingdon.....	Carroll Bank & Trust	Sherry Young
Knoxville.....	Pugh and Company, PC.....	Amber Huddleston
La Follette	The Peoples National Bank of La Follette	Logan Hickman
Lebanon.....	Wilson Bank & Trust	Tiffanie Littlefield
Lenoir City	United Community Bank.....	Brett Hurst
Lexington	FirstBank	Sandy Woods
Livingston.....	Union Bank & Trust Company.....	Andy Stafford
Loretto.....	First Farmers and Merchants National Bank.....	Miriam Green
Madisonville.....	Volunteer Federal Savings & Loan Association.....	Ruby McLemore
Mount Juliet.....	Bank of the South.....	Charlcie Finley
Mount Juliet.....	Wilson Bank & Trust	Steven Ford
Murfreesboro	Cavalry Banking	Lisa Burkhardt
Oak Ridge.....	TNBank of Oak Ridge.....	Greg Byrd
Parsons	Decatur County Bank	Beronica Vise
Portland	The Farmers Bank.....	Teresa Anderson

Powell.....First Century Bank Denise Girard
 SavannahCentral Bank Karen Jaggars
 SavannahCentral BankCarol King
SavannahThe Hardin County BankAshley Dennis*
SavannahThe Hardin County BankEmily Gray*
 Sevierville.....Citizens National Bank..... Wes Farragut
Smithville.....DeKalb Community Bank..... Casey Midgett*
 SmithvilleDeKalb Community Bank Amanda Odom
 SmithvilleLiberty State BankRhonda Caplinger
 SomervilleOakland Deposit BankSteve Glover
 Springfield.....The Farmers Bank..... Angela Landrum
Tazewell.....First Century Bank Ashley McGhee*
 Vonore.....Citizens National Bank..... Kristie Smith

*** Denotes honor graduate**