

The College of Business presents
Jim Wood
SPEAKER SERIES
SPRING 2017



MARCH

Bernie Burgener

Executive Director, Greenhouse Accelerator

Bernie Burgener is the Executive Director of Greenhouse Accelerator, a program of the Atlanta-based Green Chamber of the South. The program's objective is to create sustainable local jobs, either by advising and financing early-stage clean tech startups, or by supporting sustainability initiatives within existing companies.

March 21, 2017
6:15 pm to 7:30 pm
James M. Baker
University Center
Room UC 272

Greenhouse Accelerator is a non-profit and provides assistance to entrepreneurs over a period of up to three years. Success is measured along a triple bottom line: impacts on revenues generated; sustainable jobs created; and the responsible use of natural resources. The effort blends expertise from senior executives with initiatives from new entrepreneurs which is a win-win for communities.

Burgener spent his professional life on three continents. Previously, he served as Vice-President of International Business Development for BioLab Inc., (then a subsidiary of LONZA), a water treatment company in Atlanta. Over a period of twenty years, he provided leadership in areas such as: domestic and international sales; strategic planning; marketing; identifying, negotiating, and executing acquisitions; and managing key raw material contracts.

Early in his career, Burgener helped fund and grow businesses in various countries while working for a private investment company out of Lima, Peru. He honed his expertise as a financial analyst and business consultant in Canada, Europe, and South Africa. He grew up in Switzerland and is fluent in four languages.

He is a Ph.D. economist by education and a sustainability advocate by avocation. He holds the Sustainability Professionals Certificate (SPC) from the International Society of Sustainability Professionals. Burgener is also owner of Responsible Strategies through which he approaches sustainability as a business best practice and promotes accountability for all resources: financial, natural, and human.