

BEERS & CUTLER GIFTS GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY THE LARGEST CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIP IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

March 29, 2006, Tysons Corner, VA – Beers & Cutler, the leading accounting and consulting firm focused on the Washington, DC region, announced today its plans to establish the *James R. Beers Accounting Scholarship Endowment* with a donation from Beers & Cutler matched by founding partner Jim Beers totaling \$250,000 to George Mason University's *Campaign for Mason Students*. This is the largest corporate scholarship gift in George Mason University's history and will be directed through the George Mason University Foundation, Inc. The scholarships will benefit students in the George Mason University School of Management's (SOM) accounting program.

Beers & Cutler shares in George Mason's commitment to seek students who excel in academic performance and who demonstrate the potential for exemplary contribution to the accounting profession. The firm has created the *James R. Beers Scholarship Endowment* to honor its founding partner Jim Beers, a long-time and active supporter of the educational development of accounting professionals.

Three university junior and three senior *James R. Beers Scholars* will be chosen annually based on the assessment of the following criteria:

- Accounting majors
- Accounting GPA of 3.25 or above and a cumulative GPA of 3.15 or above
- Community service and leadership activities
- Faculty recommendations

Each student selected will receive an award of \$2,000, renewable the following academic year should the recipient remain in good academic standing.

Recently launched, George Mason's *Campaign for Mason Students* has resulted in over 70 scholarship endowments and continues to grow. The university hopes to raise a minimum of \$8 million for scholarships, fellowships, prizes, awards and student programs under this initiative.

“Beers & Cutler's inaugural leadership gift to the *Campaign for Mason Students* enhances our already strong alliance with the firm and is also a fitting tribute to the professional accomplishments and community leadership of Jim Beers,” said Richard Klimoski, dean, George Mason University School of Management. “Beers & Cutler has long been a champion of accounting education, and its generous gift will not only fortify George Mason's endowment but will also help build a talented and diverse community of accounting professionals ready to contribute to the economic vitality of the Northern Virginia region,” he added.

“Through our evolving partnership with George Mason and SOM, we understand both the academic and financial demands that its students face. We hope that our gift will

lessen the burden for SOM students who have shown both a deep interest and aptitude for the accounting profession,” said Beers & Cutler’s managing partner, Ed Offterdinger. “Supporting accounting education and thereby fortifying the CPA talent pool in Northern Virginia with an endowment in Jim Beers’s name will provide a lasting legacy to our founding partner, Jim Beers,” Offterdinger added.

About Beers & Cutler

Beers & Cutler is the leading accounting and consulting firm focused on the Washington DC region with more than 250 employees providing tax, assurance and consulting services to many of the area’s top companies and institutions. As experts in the industries that drive the region’s economy, Beers & Cutler blends technical expertise with in-depth industry experience in real estate, commercial business, professional services and government contracting.

Beers & Cutler is one of the “Top 50 Firms in the Nation” as cited by Accounting Today. The firm is an independent member of Baker Tilly International, a premier international network of accounting and business advisory firms.

About George Mason University School of Management

The School of Management at George Mason University educates future business leaders through world-class teaching, innovative academic programs and strategic business partnerships. The School of Management is one of just 170 business schools world-wide accredited in business and accounting by the Association to Advance Collegiate Business Schools International (AACSB), and is ranked in the top 25% of accredited business schools by *US News and World Report*. The School of Management has seventy-one full-time faculty members, with expertise in topics such as corporate governance, executive compensation, insider trading and entrepreneurship. Approximately 3,250 undergraduate students and 500 graduate students are enrolled in School of Management programs.