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Engineering Professor Nominated for Major Technology Award

Marjorie Davis, professor and chair of the technical communication department in the School of Engineering, was named a semi-finalist in the Non-Profit/Public Sector category of the Women In Technology Awards presented by the Technology Association of Georgia.

As a semi-finalist, Davis was invited to participate in the awards presentation and dinner in Atlanta on April 27. Among the many highly successful technology leaders that Davis competed against for the award were two finalists: Cigdem Delano, deputy executive director of the Georgia Technology Authority; Barbara White, CIO and associate provost of the University of Georgia; and the winner: Jannet Thoms, assistant general manager for technology and customer service delivery with the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority.

"I was delighted and honored that I was named a semifinalist," Davis said. "That was such a talented group of professional women who are in leadership and executive roles around the state. I was honored to be a part of that."

The nomination "came out of the blue," the longtime Mercer professor said.

"This was a total surprise to me," Davis said. "It was just a great experience, and it was wonderful to be recognized both within the University and outside of it."

Davis has made numerous contributions to the University and has been on the faculty since 1972, when she began teaching in the English department. She served as associate provost at Mercer from 1984 to 1989, with various responsibilities including undergraduate admissions. In 1989, she became a faculty member in Mercer's newly established School of Engineering and, in 1991, she developed the technical communication program. She is the only female chair in the School.

During Davis' tenure, the bachelor of science in technical communication program has received national recognition. Additionally, she helped pioneer distance learning degree programs at Mercer by creating, along with the late Dr. David Leonard, the master of science in technical communication management degree.

Davis oversees the faculty of professionals who teach courses in technical communication, document and Web design, multimedia, communication in management, usability, instructional design, visual communication, technical editing and communication in high-tech environments. All students in the Mercer School of Engineering must take at least one course in technical communication before graduation, underscoring the importance placed on communication in the School's innovative curriculum.

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