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The Princeton Review and Campus Compact Name Mercer a National Leader in Public Service

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer University is one of the nation's best colleges fostering social responsibility and public service, according to *The Princeton Review and Campus Compact*, a national organization committed to the civic purposes of higher education. The University is one of only two institutions in Georgia — along with Spelman College — featured in the book, *Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement*, which was released on June 21.

"A college with a conscience," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review vice president for Admission Services, "has both an administration committed to social responsibility and a student body actively engaged in serving society. Education at these schools isn't only about private gain; it's about the public good."

The Princeton Review and Campus Compact winnowed a list of 100 schools from a pool of more than 900 colleges. From this short-list, the editors collected extensive data about institutions' service programs and policies, surveying their students, faculty and staff. Finally, 81 schools were chosen for *Colleges with a Conscience*. Mercer is in excellent company in this new publication. Other institutions included in the *Colleges with a Conscience* include Duke University, Harvard University and University of Notre Dame.

John Carroll is a Mercer student committed to service. The senior Christianity major was so moved by the devastation that afflicted Southeast Asia after the December tsunami that he postponed his study abroad at the University of Oxford in England to spend two months assisting with tsunami relief efforts.



Mercer graduate **John Carroll** received the 2005 Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service.

"As I worked in Southeast Asia assisting with tsunami relief, an older gentleman and I became rather attached. We would both grin wide as I spoke what little of his native tongue I could to greet him or part with him," Carroll recalled. "From time to time we would also work

beside each other on the first house to

and such organization or that I could not speak his language and knew very little about constructing a house with only basic tools," he continued. "What did matter was that I could stand with him and then bend with him to pick up another board and carry it out into the sun to become a part of the new house being built." Carroll, who was the recipient of both the Griffin B. Bell award for Community Service and the Louis D. Newton General Excellence Medal at the May commencement, added, "Service teaches us in immediate and tangible ways what we cannot fully learn from books, lectures and discussions alone



Carroll was so moved by the devastation of the December tsunami in Southeast Asia that he postponed his study abroad experience at Oxford to assist with relief efforts. Carroll is pictured on the right digging pits for temporary latrines in the displaced persons camps in Banda Aceh.

On the cover — **Carroll** helps construct a temporary shelter for tsunami victims.

be rebuilt in his village. And occasionally, when I would pause for a break, he would hold on to my arm with firm thankfulness and have a mixture of pain and gratitude pour from his eyes — tearing me apart and healing me all at the same time.

"In those moments it did not matter that I had been president of such

— namely, we are not as important or as little as we would think ourselves to be. Service gives us the opportunity to move beyond the falsities of our self-perceptions of specialness and ineptitude. It teaches us how to rightly implement our gifts, not as emblems of our self-sufficiency, but as tools for service to the betterment of all creation."

Dennis Drummond, who was awarded the Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service at the May commencement, said service-learning has been an important part of his education at Mercer.

"One thing I have loved about Mercer University has been the availability of service-learning projects with which I could get involved," the elementary childhood education major said. "In my four years, I have been able to improve my skills in leadership, time management and dealing with people while at the same time giving back to the community around Mercer's campus. Through these service projects I have come to recognize that we gain the most when we give the most."

Drummond said one of his favorite community service projects was the Haunted Forest — a Halloween event he began as president of Circle K community service organization. Through this fundraiser, his club raised nearly \$1,500 and more than 2,000 pounds of food for the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank just before Thanksgiving. He also enjoyed serving as the director for the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity Charity Golf

Tournament to benefit the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. This year, the fraternity donated more than \$5,000 to the boys and girls at the youth homes.

Mercer faculty in all disciplines are committed to integrating service-learning into curricula, and students across the University are actively engaged in community service projects both inside and outside of the classroom.

Last fall, a group of students in Dr. Atul Saxena's "Principles of Finance" course in the School of Business on the

Macon campus counseled new homeowners in financial literacy in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. Spring semester, students in Mary Alice Morgan's "Women and Gender Studies" course worked with the Salvation Army Battered Women's Refuge, assisting children with their homework and working

on the hotline.

Through the Mercer Center for Service-Learning and Community Development, a group of four students in the University's Communication and Theatre Arts program worked with eight high school students to develop news videos to share with their classmates. Also spring semester, students from the Department of Family Studies and the Sociology Department worked with the Earned Income Tax

Credit Coalition to help people file their taxes at no cost.

In addition, students enrolled in Mercer's First-Year Seminar Experiential (FYX) course tutor children weekly at local elementary schools and participate in other community service projects throughout the year.

Dr. Peter Brown serves as associate vice president for the Mercer Center for Service-Learning and Community Development — a center devoted to fostering student involvement throughout the greater Macon community.

"Mercer's inclusion in *Colleges with a Conscience* recognizes the tens of thousands of hours that Mercer undergraduates contribute to the community as tutors, interns, volunteers and service leaders," Brown said. "It also is a tribute to the innovative faculty at Mercer who understand that civic engagement offers students exception-

— Continued on page 23



Mercer senior **Jules Toraya** teamed up with community activists to restore the Linwood Cemetery in Macon — a 13-acre cemetery mostly covered by vegetation. Toraya is pictured at right with Mercer professor **Randy Harshbarger**, who had students in his FYX course assist with the restoration project. When Toraya began clearing brush at the cemetery, the obelisk pictured was completely covered in brush.

"Service teaches us in immediate and tangible ways what we cannot fully learn from books, lectures, and discussions ... It teaches us how to rightly implement our gifts ..."

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CAMPUS TALK

university

Tutterow Named New Business Dean

Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey has announced that Roger C. Tutterow, Ph.D., has been named dean of the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. He joined the University in July.

“Roger Tutterow has exceptional academic experience and business expertise,” said President Godsey. “His numerous professional accomplishments demonstrate strong leadership in both the academic setting and the business community. Mercer’s business students, faculty, staff and alumni will benefit from his progressive vision for educating the next generation of business leaders and his steadfast commitment to excellence in teaching and scholar-

ship. We are extremely pleased to have him joining the University.”

Dr. Tutterow currently serves as chairman and professor in the Department of Economics and Finance at Kennesaw State University’s Coles College of Business. He serves as director of Econometric Center where he oversees the development of statistical models. His analysis of economic, business and political environments have been used by a variety of national and regional media, including *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *USA Today*, *New*



Roger Tutterow,
new dean of
Mercer’s Stetson
School of Business
and Economics

York Times CNN, CNBC, NPR, Bloomberg Television and CNN-Radio.

Before joining Kennesaw State in 1991, he was on the faculty at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.Va. He also has served as a visiting professor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and at the Institute for Industrial Policy Studies in Seoul, South Korea.

In addition to his work in academia, Dr. Tutterow is a consultant specializing in the application of quantitative analysis to economic, financial and business problems. Since 2003, he has served as chief economic advisor to the Henssler Financial Group. He has provided expert testimony on economic, financial and statistical matters in state and federal courts and before the Georgia Public

Service Commission.

In 1997, Dr. Tutterow was selected by *Georgia Trend* magazine as one of the “forty under 40” rising stars in business, government and academia. In 2003, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue appointed him to the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors, of which he serves as chair. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Directors for Community Bank of West Georgia, the Board of Governors for the Vinings Club, the Advisory Board for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Atlanta and the Board of Visitors at Berry College.

The Georgia native holds a B.S. in decision science from Berry College and a M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Georgia State University.

Today’s Mercer Student: Smart, Savvy, Engaged

By John P. Cole,
Vice President for Admissions

Three words describe today’s Mercer undergraduate student (and Mercer’s graduate and professional students, as well): Smart, Savvy, Engaged.

The market for college students is more competitive today than ever before, and Mercer University has been aggressive in recruiting the next generation of Mercerians. We want to attract the best students possible, and in so doing, the new students themselves have raised Mercer’s standards. The young people in the College of Liberal Arts, the Stetson School of Business and Economics, the School of Engineering and the Tift College of Education are raising the profile of Mercer.

1. Smart — *High-achieving students want to be with high-achieving students.*

Since 2003, Mercer’s freshmen have entered with average scores of 1200-plus on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). They also bring an average high school grade-point average (GPA) of 3.6. (Our transfer students are also the best in our history, entering Mercer with college GPAs of 3.2.)

Of all the colleges and universities in Georgia, only four have such high SAT averages. Two of those are the large state research universities, one is Emory University, and one is Mercer. Even in that list, however, Mercer stands out. Mercer enrolls more Governor’s Scholars (Georgia valedictorians, salutatorians, and STAR students) than any other private institution, and, as a percentage of total freshman enrollment, more than the

other major universities.

Mercer continues to attract more National Merit Scholars, as well. This year’s freshman class may have as many as 10 of these superior students.

Still, high test scores and high-school grades are just “predictors” of college success. Fortunately for Mercer, our students are living up to the predictions. Because of the quality of our new students and the hands-on approach of our faculty, today’s Mercer students (1) have better college grades than their predecessors, and (2) have higher retention rates.

These smart students are succeeding in the classroom.

Today’s smart Mercer students help recruit the next class, because high-achieving students want to be with high-achieving students. Mercer’s reputation is on the rise.

2. Savvy — *Today’s students expect results and know how to make things happen.*

Today’s Mercer students, while diverse in backgrounds and interests, have this in common: They expect to excel in their fields. These students choose Mercer for its breadth of programs and its personal size, because they see the value of private education, and because they know they can achieve great things while at Mercer. Today’s Mercer students have high expectations.

Because Mercer is a comprehensive university where every student is valued,

Mercer students can get their minds and hands to work — in labs, in the classroom, in industry — to an extent not possible at other universities, large or small. Our students perform award-winning undergraduate research, learn to dissect and resolve complex issues through internships across the region and the country, and discover the world through studies abroad.



Most of these students are taking advantage of research opportunities, internships and co-ops in business, and study abroad not only for the here and now, but also for their future. Mercer’s students expect to be accepted to the best graduate and professional programs, and they are. Mercer students expect to be recruited by industry and government for high-paying jobs, and they are.

These students are adding value to their Mercer degrees by adding experience to their resumes. Today’s students expect results and know how to make things happen.

3. Engaged — *“Citizenship” is more important than ever to the best students.*

Today’s Mercer student expects to be involved in community service, and Mercer’s culture of civic engagement is

a strong selling point to many recruits. Because of our size, it is hard for a student to get lost at Mercer; every student can get involved in some activity.

Mercer students compete on the playing field (varsity, club and intramural). Mercer students organize, fund, and run their own organizations (more than 100 on the Macon campus alone). Mercer students debate public policy and politics. Mercer students move into the larger community and put their classroom learning to the test.

Indeed, the commitment of our students to civic engagement was one of the factors in Mercer’s choice of a

quality enhancement project (“QEP”): “The Engaged University: Learning Together.” Our students and our schools were already emphasizing “Ethics, Service Learning, and Leadership.” The QEP will build upon the good work of our students and enhance the role of engagement in the curriculum.

No course requirement, however, is needed for today’s Mercer student to build a home for a struggling family, or start a club, or tutor a child. Today’s Mercer student is already engaged, because “citizenship” is more important than ever to the best students.

Conclusion

Three words describe today’s Mercer undergraduate student: Smart, Savvy, Engaged. If you know of any high school students who meet that description, send them our way. Mercer will be even better if you do.

More than 1,500 Graduate in Macon and Atlanta

By Nancy R. Fullbright

The more than 1,500 students who graduated from Mercer University's 10 colleges and schools in Macon and Atlanta last May were diverse in myriad ways, but connected by one common thread acknowledged by President R. Kirby Godsey in his charge to the graduates. "Your own personal stories have been shaped, to some measure, by the rich bonds of this learning place called Mercer," he said. "You did not arrive at this place, or to this day, on your own. We are all children of one another's caring."

The Macon commencement, held May 14 at the Macon Centreplex, saw the graduation of more than 500 students, the conferring of one honorary degree, and the special recognition of three outstanding students.

Dr. David Bottoms (CLA '71), poet laureate of the state of Georgia, urged the graduating class to take pride in their accomplishment and celebrate accordingly.

"Each of you stands already 'a long way above the ordinary world.' Each of you is already and has been for some time a 'citizen in the city of ideas,' but this diploma represents your undeniable credential of citizenship," he said. "But I want to emphasize this: citizenship in this very special city comes with many responsibilities ... It requires a willingness to take creative risks, a willingness to nurture ideas, a willingness 'to wake up to ourselves,' and also, it obligates us to recognize the sacrifices others have made for us and to nurture in our own lives a healthy willingness to sacrifice for others."

Following his commencement address, Dr. Bottoms was presented with an honorary doctor of letters degree by Dr. Godsey and hooded by his former English professor, Dr. Ben Griffith Jr.

In addition to special University honors, three outstanding students were recognized with prestigious awards.

John Michael Carroll, a Christianity major in the College of Liberal Arts, was presented with the Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service and the Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal. While at Mercer, Carroll was active in numerous campus ministries, including the Baptist Student Union, the Lord's Players church theater group, Ministry in Action and Vocational Opportunities in Christian Experience — a student organization dedicated to educating students on Christian vocation. The Waynesboro native also helped create

the Fishers Ministry — a ministry in which people take sandwiches and water to homeless people that do not seek help at stationary shelters.

He was so moved by the December tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia that he postponed his study abroad experience at Oxford University in order to

spend two months assisting with tsunami relief efforts in Banda Aceh.

The second recipient of the

Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service was education major Dennis Drummond. Drummond maintained an excellent academic achievement record at Mercer, including three semesters on the President's List and seven on the Dean's List.

He also coordinated all philanthropic and community service activities for his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, raising more than \$8,000 for The Georgia

Sheriffs' Youth Home in Hahira. As president of Circle K International, Drummond envisioned and created Mercer's first Haunted Forest, which included coordinating more than 40 volunteers and supervising the marketing/promotion for the event.

In 2004, he was selected Dean's Choice and the Student of the Year for the Tift College of Education, and is known as a kind, personable young man who has an astounding ability to lead those within his peer group.

Joshua Michael Rogers won the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for his unwavering commitment to the University, the Macon community and scholarship throughout his four years at Mercer. The history major served as

a member of the Student Government Association since his freshman year, having recently completed his tenure as the 2004-2005 president. He is the first student to graduate with the new "Southern Studies" concentration and

Rogers also worked to improve the greater Macon community by serving on the Mayor's Panel on Race Relations and as an intern with NewTown Macon, an organization dedicated to restoring historic downtown Macon.

In addition to the commencement held in Macon on May 14, other undergraduate degrees were awarded at commencements in Atlanta for Georgia Baptist College of Nursing (May 7), the College of Continuing and Professional Studies (May 21), Tift College of Education (May 21), and the

Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics (May 21).

For full coverage of commencement activities, and for copies of speeches delivered at the ceremonies, please visit www.mercer.edu.



Faces of the Mercer University Class of 2005 — For more photos of the Macon and Atlanta Commencements, please see page 12.

Grace Hosts New Program on CNN Headline News

In addition to her duties as host of Court TV's daily trial coverage program *Nancy Grace: Closing Arguments*, Grace, CLA '81, JD '84, in February began hosting a new program on CNN Headline News, *Nancy Grace*, which airs Monday through Friday, 8 p.m. ET. Grace recently discussed her new program with *The Mercerian*, as well as her new book, *Objection! : How High-Priced Defense Attorneys, Celebrity Defendants, and a 24/7 Media Have Hijacked Our Criminal Justice System*, which was published by Hyperion in June.

Mercerian: Please tell us how your new show is different from your work on Court TV.

Grace: It's very, very different. Court TV's *Closing Arguments* is like covering a sporting event. We are in live trials, gavel to gavel, starting at 9 a.m. or earlier, and when there is a break, we go in and explain to the viewer what's going on in the trial, if the judge is mad at the lawyers, if there has been a change in the jurors, etc. It's play-by-play coverage of the trial, with experts commenting on the trial. I always try to have shrinks on the show. The evening show on CNN Headline

News is a more fast-paced, adversarial wrap-up of court cases across the country. Whatever happened that day in news, we're there with analysts to break it down and put it back together for the viewer, and we're not limited to one trial. Right now we're covering the Michael Jackson trial and the trial of alleged Ohio sniper Charles McCoy Jr.

Mercerian: What has been the response so far to your new program on CNN?

Grace: I love it, and the ratings have been very good so far. We're just keeping our fingers and toes crossed.

Mercerian: When did CNN approach you about doing a new program?

Grace: I had lunch last year with Jim

Walton (president of CNN News Group) and we shook hands on the deal on 54th Street and Madison Avenue in New York and that was it.



David Linch, Nancy Grace, Robert and Georgia Hatcher, and President Godsey at Trustees' Dinner in April

They knew they wanted to re-launch Headline News with a linchpin in the prime-time hours. Walton and I met for coffee in New York and shook hands, very much the same way I took the Court TV job from Steve Brill in Atlanta. Every job I've ever had post law school has been sealed on a handshake.

Mercerian: How often do you broadcast from Atlanta?

Grace: I've been shooting from the Atlanta CNN studio quite a bit lately. There is an exact replica in Atlanta of the New York set. I'll be down in Atlanta later this year for the trial of James Vincent Sullivan (Sullivan has been indicted on charges of hiring someone to kill his estranged wife, Lita McClinton Sullivan, in 1987.)

I will also be in Atlanta in June for a book signing for my new book (*Objection! : How High-Priced Defense Attorneys, Celebrity Defendants, and a 24/7 Media Have Hijacked Our Criminal Justice System*), and I will be at the Mercer University Authors Luncheon in November.

I was in Macon recently for a University Board of Trustees meeting, and I was just overwhelmed by how much Mercer has grown. Mercer (the Walter F. George School of Law) was the only law school I applied to. If I hadn't gotten in, I probably wouldn't be a lawyer today. But I just knew in my heart that's where I wanted to be. I used to drive by the Law School building and look up and see students in the windows.



Cover of **Nancy Grace's** new book, *OBJECTION!*

Putting Fido’s Nose to the Grindstone

By Nancy R. Fullbright

In 1989, the British medical journal Lancet published a report on a dog that sniffed out cancer in his owner. The dog — half Border collie and half Doberman — repeatedly sniffed the same spot on his 44-year-old owner’s leg, leading her to seek medical treatment. After performing a biopsy, doctors confirmed the presence of melanoma. Researchers wrote, “This dog may have saved her owner’s life by prompting her to seek treatment when the lesion was still at a thin and curable stage.”

Five years later, Duane Pickel, an expert dog trainer and former head of the Tallahassee (Fla.) Police K-9 Department, began training his standard schnauzer, George, to detect cancer scents. George eventually learned to detect skin cancer with 99.7 percent accuracy by sniffing bandages with melanoma samples. This research prompted Dr. Jim Walker, CLA ’74, to pursue new ways to detect cancer. As director of Florida State University’s Sensory Research Institute, he studies everything from the human olfactory system to environmental air quality to animal olfaction. “Historically, physicians have used smell and taste to diagnose all kinds of diseases,” noted Walker, who has an

undergraduate degree in psychology from Mercer and a doctorate in experimental psychology from Florida State University, with post-doctoral research in reproductive physiology and neurobiology. “Dogs have been trained to detect bombs, sniff out drugs and even smell gas leaks in pipelines 20 feet below the ground. It’s plausible to ask the question: is there a recognizable or distinctive odor to cancer?” Walker has been doing animal odor psychophysics since the mid-1970s. Along with west coast collaborators, Walker will be testing animal olfaction in breath samples of breast cancer patients, and will soon be testing urine samples from bladder and prostate cancer patients in collaboration with a uro-

logic cancer researcher at the Gainesville, Fla., VA hospital. Walker said his research team at the Sensory Research Institute was the first to develop a methodology for quantifying what dogs can do when tested with handlers. These tools include the use of a specific type of (Teflon) box to contain a scent, a set number of trials and the necessary concentration of a scent. Walker said he can very precisely control what the concentration is on every trial, and that the instrument (the dog’s olfactory system) cannot be properly tested unless you know what you are testing it with (what exact stimuli). “The core idea here is the bringing together of two worlds or cultures that have not interacted in the past – and have even had antagonistic views of each other,” noted Walker. “That of the professional dog handler charged with solving real-world problems and the laboratory olfaction expert.” Walker even had the opportunity to observe wonder-schnauzer

George in action. “I arranged a test on my own, with very old [melanoma] tissue. I randomized the test, so there would be no way to cheat,” Walker recalled. “I did 20 trials. [In] the first trial, I gave George nothing to find. He had to say to me, ‘No, I can’t find the stimulus.’ He performed well above chance level with a very weak stimulus.” Despite the amount of publicity this topic has received (articles in *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*; segments on *60 Minutes*; a forthcoming BBC documentary, among others), Walker said it has been difficult getting clinical support

from traditional medicine. “Scientists are just as desirous of conformity as everyone else and get nervous by new ideas,” Walker explained. “Plus, Americans love technology, and this is a low-tech way to detect cancer. There has to be a middle ground between laughing the idea off and being gullible.” Dr. Trib Vats, head of pediatric hematology and oncology at Savannah’s Memorial Health University Medical Center, said Walker’s research is interesting, and that he should be encouraged to conduct collaborative studies. “I think it is a fascinating study, and it should be compared to conventional methods,” said Vats, a professor of pediatrics at Mercer’s teaching hospital. “Every branch of science should be given equal opportunity to do research.” Despite the low-tech aspect of Walker’s research, it will hopefully lead scientists to better understand how dogs can detect cancer by scent, and could ultimately result in new technology to

— Continued on next page



Dr. Jim Walker, CLA ’74, inspects a tissue sample as part of his work with Florida State University’s Sensory Research Institute, where he studies everything from the human olfactory system to environmental air quality to animal olfaction.

Georgia Poet Laureate Serves as Writer-in-Residence Spring Semester

By Jenny Butkus

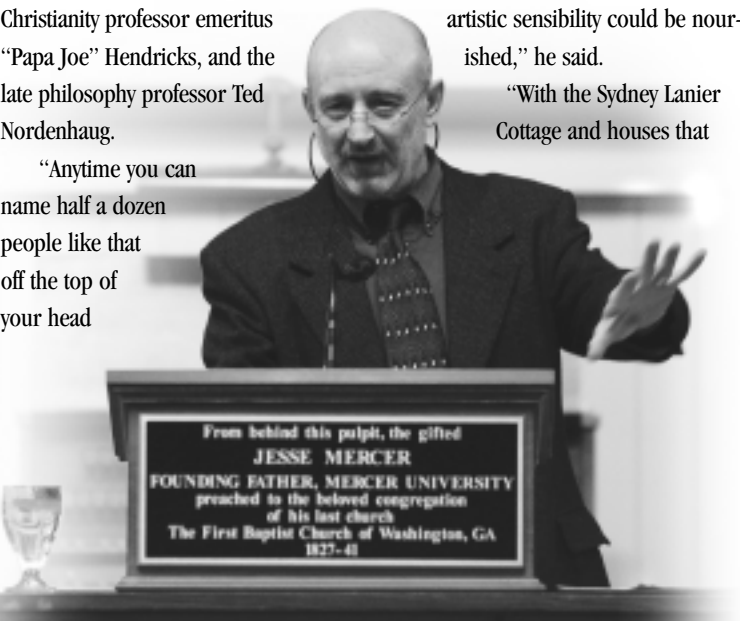
Thirty-four years after being a student on Mercer’s Macon campus, David Bottoms said the University has much the same aura as it did three decades ago. The spires and the quad are still the cornerstones of the campus, and the quality of the professors is still top notch. What is different is instead of sitting at a desk, Bottoms is now in front of a class teaching. Bottoms, a 1971 graduate of Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts and Georgia Poet Laureate, served as the Ferrol A. Sams Jr. Distinguished Chair in English at Mercer spring semester. He taught a creative writing course and gave four public readings of his works while in residence at Mercer. “Mercer is a special place for me, and it is a real thrill to be teaching here,” he said. “The character of the University is still very much the same as it was when I was a student, which is heartening. I am proud that the University is still so committed to the liberal arts.” Bottoms recalls with fondness his days at Mercer and the personal relationships he built with the Mercer College of Liberal Arts faculty, including

former English professor Ben Griffith Jr., English professors Diana and John Stege, English professor Mike Cass, philosophy professor Tom Trimble, Christianity professor emeritus “Papa Joe” Hendricks, and the late philosophy professor Ted Nordenhaug. “Anytime you can name half a dozen people like that off the top of your head who were influential in your life, you know it was a special place,” he said. The Canton, Ga., native said he has written since he was a young boy, but he did not share his writing with anyone in high school. When he came to Mercer and showed his poetry to his English professors Ben Griffith and Diane and John Stege, they were

encouraging. Mercer and Macon were influential during this pivotal time in his life as a writer. “Macon was a place where an artistic sensibility could be nourished,” he said. “With the Sydney Lanier Cottage and houses that look like they are straight out of *Gone With the Wind*, Macon has a sense of history, and it felt like a place of consequence. It was possible here to be a writer, to be an artist.” Since his student days at Mercer, Bottoms’s writings have been numerous and varied. His poetry book, *Jamming with the Band at the VFW*

(1978), was followed by the widely acclaimed *Shooting Rats at the Bibb County Dump*, which established Bottoms as a prominent new voice in American poetry. He continued his prolific poetic output with *In a U-Haul North of Damascus* (1983) and *Under the Vulture-Tree* (1987). Shifting genres, Bottoms used his poetic gifts in his novels, *Any Cold Jordan* (1987) and *Easter Weekend* (1990). Subsequently, he has returned to his first literary love with three poetry collections, *Armored Hearts: Selected and New Poems* (1995), *Vagrant Grace* (1999), and *Waltzing through the Endtime*, published last fall. The Mercer alumnus has received numerous awards for his writing over the years. His book of poems titled *Shooting Rats at the Bibb County Dump* was chosen by Robert Penn Warren as the winner of the 1979 Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets. Selected for fellowships from the National Endowment

for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, he was appointed Poet Laureate for the state of Georgia in 2000. The associate dean of fine arts and the John B. and Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters at Georgia State University, Bottoms was the eleventh honoree to hold the Ferrol A. Sams Jr. Distinguished Chair at Mercer. Made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation, the Ferrol A. Sams Jr. Distinguished Chair of English brings a nationally prominent fiction writer, poet or dramatist to Mercer University each spring to teach creative writing and highlight the literary arts. This endowed chair honors Dr. Ferrol A. Sams Jr., a physician, author and distinguished alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts, whose works include, *Run with the Horsemen*, *The Whisper of the River*, *When All the World Was Young*, *The Passing*, *the Widow’s Mite* and *Christmas Gift*.



Georgia Poet Laureate David Bottoms, CLA ’71, returned to Mercer in the spring to serve as the Ferrol A. Sams Jr. Distinguished Chair in English.

Chemistry Labs, Students Benefit from NSF Grants

By Katie Derthick
Junior, College of Liberal Arts and
School of Engineering

Dr. Arthur Salido, assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr. Caryn Seney, associate professor of chemistry, recently received grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Each professor submitted a proposal to the NSF and was awarded a grant based on merit and availability of funds.

Salido was awarded a \$102,000 grant from the NSF's Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement Program, which has helped Mercer obtain new laboratory equipment.

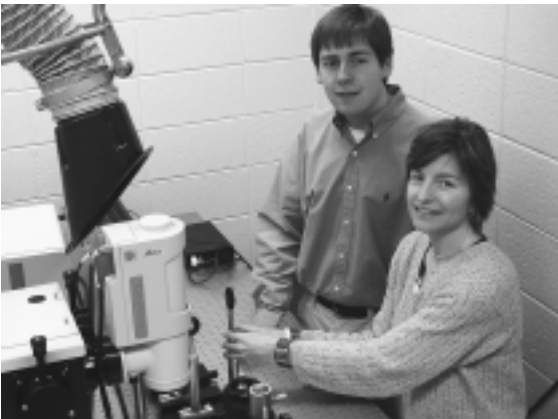
Mercer students now have the opportunity to work with an Inductively-Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICPOES), a cutting-edge instrument used in determining metals in samples and investigating air and water contamination.

"This is truly a piece of instrumentation the Chemistry Department needed," Salido said. The ICPOES is used by

the Chemistry Department and is also available for the environmental science and environmental engineering students at Mercer.

"This will promote collaboration between Mercer undergraduates and local high school students," added Salido. The addition of the ICPOES enhances Mercer's relationship with the local school system by offering opportunities for high school students to participate in college-level research.

To apply for the grant, Salido submitted a 50-page grant proposal, which included contributions from Dr. Ajaz Karim, assistant professor of Environmental Science, and Dr. Andre Butler, associate professor of Environmental Engineering. "After several years working on this proposal, I am excited to be awarded NSF funding. I believe that this grant will promote Mercer's commitment to community outreach, student learning and schol-



Dr. Caryn Seney, associate professor of chemistry, is pictured with Mercer chemistry student Josh Yelverton using a new piece of equipment they were able to secure with the NSF grant Seney was awarded.

arship," Salido said. Seney and Dr. Robin Bright of Fort Valley State University were awarded a three-year grant from the NSF

Research for Undergraduate Institutions Program totaling \$244,752. Mercer will receive \$178,552 of the total grant.

The funding has allowed Mercer to purchase multiple types of lasers and detectors, which have been used to build sensitive Raman spectrophotometers, instruments used in measuring light and molecular interactions.

"With the addition of this equipment, students are now immersed in a research environment similar to what they would experience in industry or graduate school," Seney said.

The grant will also provide oppor-

tunities for faculty to engage in scholarly pursuits, eventually bringing this research to Mercer students in classrooms and laboratories.

To apply for the grant, Seney collaborated with Bright of Fort Valley State University on a project titled "Studies of Antigen/Antibody Interactions with Nanoparticles."

"I am very excited to have been awarded this grant," Seney said. "It's a great opportunity to further research projects with Mercer undergraduates."

Thanks to Seney's grant, four undergraduate students — two from Fort Valley State University and two from Mercer — will participate in paid summer research in the lab using the new equipment.

Dr. Jim Walker

— Continued

help detect cancers at earlier stages.

In addition to his research with dogs, Walker is interested in other olfaction issues, including how Alzheimer's disease deteriorates the sense of smell (thereby leading researchers to early detection) and indoor air quality as affected by environmental contaminants.

With nearly 14 years of experience in corporate research and development, in addition to years of teaching and conducting research in an under-

graduate environment, Walker said he first became excited at the connection between brain and behavior while he was a student at Mercer.

"I was a little scared and intimidated when I first started attending Mercer, and had no idea that the Mercer University Psychology Department would be so strong," said Walker, who transferred to Mercer his junior year. "My interest in experimental and physiological psychology came directly from great professors like Jean Hendricks, Tom Glennon and Charles McBride. It was two of the most intense and greatest years of my life."

Professor's Instrument Detects Earthquake

Individuals could soon have an inexpensive way to learn of volcanic and earthquake activity from their home or business. Randall Peters, professor and chairman of the Department of Physics at Mercer, and James Shirley, a scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, have designed a sophisticated plumb bob device that records seismic waves from around the world. The inexpensive instrument, located in Macon, recorded the seismic waves from the December Indian Ocean earthquake that led to the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia.

The resulting response of the Macon instrument is shown in the figure above.

From the arbitrarily assigned time zero at the start of the record, just before first disturbance, it is seen that the plumb bob moved at levels above background noise for a period of more than two hours.



These results point to the possibility of a "volcanic eruption and earthquake detector for the masses." It would be an instrument designed not to gather scientific data, but rather for the purpose of information that could have the potential to provide a personal early warning sys-

tem. As envisioned, such an instrument would be both inexpensive and user friendly, yet capable of recording the larger earth events that precede a catastrophic tsunami or a volcanic eruption, such as that of Mount St. Helens in 1980.

Although the mechanical function is analogous to a carpenter's plumb bob, used to insure that the walls of a building stand vertical; the other components of this instrument are high-technology. It was designed by Mercer Professor Peters in collaboration with Shirley of NASA, to test predictions made by a new theory involving gravity and inertial forces.

Peters also recently designed an inexpensive electronics support package for the capacitive sensor of the instrument. Preliminary testing has gone well, and he hopes with this new electronics package the instrument could be purchased for about \$200.



Mercer Students Perform at the Lincoln Center — Music students Stephanie Cox, clarinet, and John Jenkins, trombone, along with Dr. Douglas Hill, center, director of instrumental ensembles in Mercer's Music Department, pause outside the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. Cox and Jenkins performed Feb. 25 in the Center's Alice Tully Hall. The two Mercer musicians were chosen from universities across the United States to participate in the Small College Intercollegiate Band, as part of the College Band Directors National Association's biannual convention.



Monroe County Taps Mercer Alumnus to be Hospital Administrator — The Monroe County Hospital recently welcomed Oliver Jackson "O.J." Booker, CLA '77, as its new Chief Executive Officer. Booker, whose father served as hospital administrator of the Medical Center of Central Georgia for many years, earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Mercer University in Macon in 1977, and said it was his experiences there that shaped the "landscape of his life."

Last March, Booker (far right) posed with Dr. William Rawlings (third from left) chairman of the School of Medicine's Board of Governors, at a meeting of the Forsyth-Monroe County Rotary Club. Pictured with Booker and Rawlings are Mercer alumni Greg Tapley, CLA '90, and Cheryl Treadwell, CLA '81.

Digital Storytelling: An Alternative to Papers

By Jenny Butkus

Dr. Mary Ann Drake, professor and chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, is hooked on a new teaching tool. It's called a digital story, and after taking a seminar last spring with Kelly Jones, director of Mercer's Media Center, she rewrote all of her course syllabi to incorporate this new tool.

Digital stories are short films, complete with images, music and sound. The students make them on computers using special software, such as iMovie or Movie Maker. Drake asked her students both spring and fall semesters to create digital stories that were about three minutes in length on three different topics.

It has been a hit with her students. "When I assign a digital story, I don't get that collective sigh I often hear when I assign a paper," Drake said with a laugh. "This is technology. The students are in their element. This allows them to use technology to channel their creativity."

Digital stories provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain critical thinking skills, make their writing really focused, and get excited about

writing and expressing themselves creatively, according to Drake. "Throughout their education, students are taught to write from a distant, reserved position," she said. "They end up forgetting how to think and feel. Digital storytelling helps them start to think and feel again."

For one of Drake's assignments, Mercer freshman Josh Walters created a digital story about a serious car accident he and his family were in when he was an adolescent.

He said a digital story was the perfect way to tell the story of this life-altering accident that felt "like I [had] to grow up all in one moment." Through the project, he was able to show clippings from his local newspaper about the accident and images of his parents' demolished car. He opted to play Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" as he read his script.

"To create a good digital story you have to see it with your eyes, comprehend it in your brain, feel it in your heart, and roll it up into one ball," the Lawrenceville biology

major said. Drake said she likes using digital stories not only because they lend students to be actively engaged in the learning process, but also because of the sense of community that comes with their creation. The students are animated and interested when they do peer editing on one another's scripts,

and the technically talented ones assist their peers in using the software and hardware outside of the classroom.

"The digital stories definitely brought us together," said Mercer freshman Emily Hill. "We got to see different sides of people because they were sharing really personal stories. We also got to know one another better as we were all scrambling to complete our stories and needed help using the software or using the mic."

The journalism major said the process of creating a digital story was quite challenging because she had to keep her material so concise and focused. But she also believes that it made writing more fun and less

intimidating because there was not a set number of pages to fill up, and she was able to express herself creatively with pictures and music as well as words.

Drake has also used this teaching tool in her Women and Gender Studies courses, and she has applied for a grant to allow all of the Women and Gender Studies faculty to be trained in digital storytelling.

She said this should by no means replace traditional papers because they are still extremely important in many settings. But she plans to continue to use digital storytelling with her students when appropriate.

"It enriches and enhances traditional writing," she said. "Students share these with their families and friends. They don't share papers."



Student Creates His Own TV Show — Mercer University English major **Shane Gottwals** and two of his friends created a sketch comedy show that has aired on Macon's Cox Cable and Mercer's Television station, Mercer 99, since May 2004. The show, titled "Tomato Time," is full of sharp and family-friendly humor and the rising Mercer student edits, acts and produces the show. He is pictured in his studio at home.

Prize-Winning Daylily and Insects Named for Mercer Alumnus

by Rachel H. Garza

Ever wondered how plants and animals are named? "There is a rule that you can never name anything for yourself," said Binion Amerson, CLA '58.

Amerson doesn't have to; this Mercer alumnus has made such a powerful impact in his work as an entomologist, ecologist, and gardener that others have named their discoveries in his honor.

After graduating from Mercer University in 1958, Amerson pursued graduate studies in the Entomology Departments at the University of Georgia and the University of Kansas through teaching and research fellowships.

"While I was working on my degree at the University of Kansas, the Smithsonian Institution recruited me in late 1963 to work under a contract from the Department of Defense, which meant that I was actually doing work for the U.S. Army," said Amerson.

His charge was to work on a team to complete a biological baseline survey of the uninhabited islands of the Central, West and South Pacific. His special assignment was to survey the



Binion Amerson stands among the over 700 daylilies in his American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) daylily display garden in Dallas, Texas.

arthropods, such as fleas and ticks. "There were Navy and Coast Guard ships that would pick us up from one island and drop us off on another. We would spend a couple of weeks living on each island, camping and studying the plants and animals. In fact, for migration studies, we tagged over a million birds during our work on those islands," he said.

"For my work, two U.S. Public Health officials named a couple of insects after me for my work on the survey: the *Ixodes amersoni*, a tick from the Phoenix Islands, and the

Blankardii amersoni, a chigger from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. [Since] you can never name anything for yourself, I was honored that my colleagues recognized my work on the project by naming these two arachnids for me."

Amerson spent seven years traveling from island to island with his team, tagging indigenous animals and identifying the native vegetation. He returned to the University of Kansas in 1970 where he completed his Master's degree in Systematics and Ecology in 1973.

An environmental consulting job

took Amerson to Texas in 1974, and he made the Dallas area his home. For this company, he spent 1-1/2 years as principle investigator for a U.S.

Department of Interior financed study in American Samoa as well as other government and private environmental studies in the South Pacific, Central and South America, and across the US.

A recent retiree, Amerson's passion now centers around his beautiful garden and his prize-winning daylily cultivars. His interest in gardening began as a high school student while living in Georgia.

"My mother, Agnes Amerson, used to grow daylilies in the Macon area. I tried cross-pollinating a few for my biology class and was successful. That gave me my start with daylilies," he said.

Today, he has an official American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) daylily display garden with more than 700 daylilies blooming each summer. The peak blooming season is May through June.

One of the most popular and beautiful varieties is his namesake, Binion Amerson, a ruffled yellow daylily. This flower was named for Amerson by Mrs. Bertie Ferris, a member of Dallas' daylily royalty. Mrs. Ferris was well-known in Dallas for her work with daylilies and the AHS. In 1996, this former president of the AHS surprised and honored Amerson by naming her latest daylily hybrid for him.

Amerson has even produced his own unique and now registered flower that he named for his mother. The Agnes Amerson daylily won an AHS Junior Citation award in 1998.

More than 600 visitors tour his garden each year, and it is a regular stop on Daylily Growers of Dallas tour of gardens. For more information about visiting Amerson's garden, contact him at binion@daylilies.com.

Conducting: Perfecting the Art *By Denise Cook*

It is the hands and baton that people notice. First a quick tap on the music stand, then upward in anticipation of that first sound. Pulling in each musician, marking the notes so the entire orchestra comes together with the same precision of a fine clock to bring to life the masterpiece of the composer.

The conductor of an orchestra has a much more complex role than what audiences see from their seats. Rather than simply cueing certain instruments at the right time, the conductor also interprets the written musical composition and communicates that interpretation to the orchestra through body movements. The way the conductor moves is based on his or her training and personal style and significantly affects the sound

the audience will hear. This summer, professional conductors from around the world will come to Mercer University for the third time in two years to study the art of conducting and to perfect their own form.

Distinguished Artist in Residence at Mercer University, Maestro Adrian Gnam has served as an instructor for the past workshops and will be an instructor again at this summer's workshop, the International Academy of Advanced Conducting. He has served as music director and conductor of the Macon Symphony Orchestra since 1983. Gnam explains the typical academic path to become a conductor. "In order to become a good conductor, you need to begin studying conducting during early college and continue studying through the graduate degree level." After academic requirements are met, Gnam also insists, "You need years of experience to become a *good* conductor." Helping conductors reach their potential is exactly what Gnam and the other instructors are aiming to do through the conducting workshops at Mercer.

The only rule of conducting regarding correct technique is that it should be easily understood and easy to follow. "The study of conducting involves developing one's own individual style," Gnam said. "Much of the work we do in the

international conductors workshops involves guiding the person's individual style along to make it better, rather than teaching a single, proper way to conduct. For example, whether or not a conductor uses a baton is just a personal preference. During the workshops, we try to get the participants away from using one all the time because they often think they have to have one to perform well." When asked what are the most important things to remember while conducting, Gnam replied, "Absolutely everything! Gestures, knowledge of form, the style of music



William McClain, one of the three workshop winners, practices conducting. McClain is from Exeter, N.H.

they're conducting, what instruments they have to help along or cue, tempos, musicality of the work itself, and style of the piece they're conducting."

Mercer's Department of Music recently hosted its second International Conductors Workshop in the McCorkle Music Building on the Macon campus January 12-16. Mercer presented the workshop in conjunction with the Macon Symphony Orchestra and the Academy of Advanced Conducting of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Society in Russia. The intensive five-day workshop invited conductors from around the world of all levels of experience to study orchestral conducting styles with an internationally recognized faculty.

Faculty for the workshop included Oleg Proskurnya, conductor of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Society Symphony Orchestra; Leonid Korchmar, Chief Conductor of the Kirov Opera and Ballet and professor of opera and symphony conducting at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory; James MacDonald, associate dean for the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Columbia College in Chicago; Douglas Hill, director of the Mercer University Wind Ensemble, and Gnam.

To be eligible for the workshop, applicants were required to have an academic background that includes

study of conducting at both undergraduate and graduate levels. They also needed adequate conducting experience. "All 12 of the participants had experience conducting college orchestras, and some had conducted professional orchestras," Gnam added.

The workshop consisted of score study, podium time with the Macon Sinfonia, master classes, and individual lessons and concluded with a final concert open to the public. The participants chose which piece they wanted to perform with the Macon Sinfonia from a list of 15 works prepared by the faculty. Gnam added, "We chose three winners based on their progress from day one of the workshop to the

"Much of the work we do in the international conductors workshops involves guiding the person's individual style along to make it better."

final day. They will have the opportunity to guest conduct during the Macon Symphony Orchestra's next season." While other institutions around the

world hold similar events, Mercer's International Conductors Workshop is unique. "Our workshop is the only one that includes a concert and offers the prize of conducting a professional orchestra," Gnam explained.

Mercer's Music Department co-hosted its third conductors workshop with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic

Society July 11-17. The internationally recognized faculty included Yuri Temirkanov, Sian Edwards, Leonid Korchmar, Oleg Proskurnya and Gnam. "Participants of the International Academy of Advanced Conducting received ample daily podium time to learn advanced conducting techniques. A public performance was held at Mercer at the end of the workshop." Gnam continued, "Another workshop will be held in St. Petersburg, and at the conclusion of both workshops, faculty members will select one or more winners to conduct a concert with the Macon Symphony Orchestra and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Society during the 2005-2006 season."



Keitaro Harada of Champaign, Ill., conducts the Macon Sinfonia during the workshop.

McDuffie Festival Slated for September

Sixteen very talented high school musicians will soon have the opportunity to gain pointers from some of the world's finest concert artists at the Robert McDuffie & Friends Fall Festival for Strings. Internationally renowned violinist and Distinguished University Professor of Music Robert McDuffie, in collaboration with Mercer music faculty, designed an intense three-day string festival for high school juniors and seniors to be held on Mercer's Macon campus Sept. 8-11.

The selected junior and senior string musicians will be immersed in a three-day music learning extravaganza with five of the nation's foremost Master Teachers and two outstanding Mercer faculty members. Students will have both personal and group lessons that will advance them to a new level of music performance.

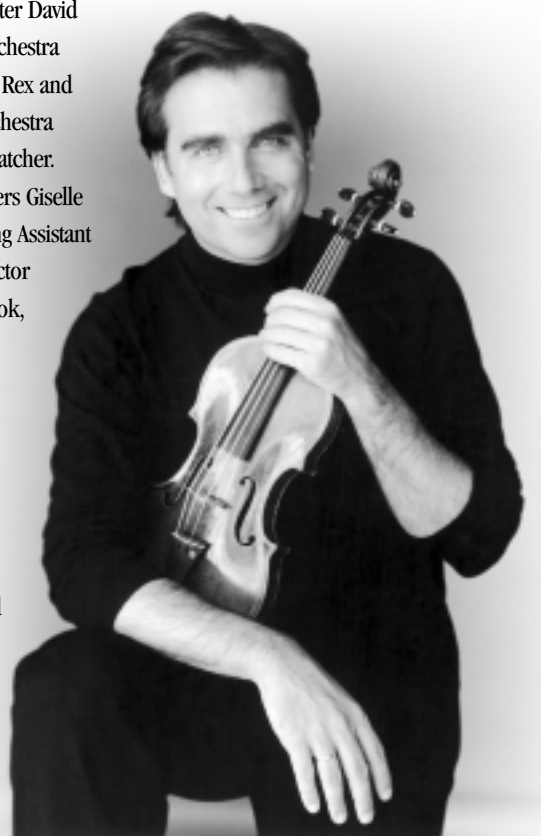
Committed to providing festival participants with a superb opportunity to study with the very best, McDuffie personally selected and invited each of the four concert artists from across the

nation to serve with him as Master Teachers for this exceptional event. Guest Master Teachers include renowned concert artist Adrés Diaz, St. Louis Orchestra Concertmaster David Halen, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Principal Cellist Christopher Rex and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Principal Violinist Sabina Thatcher. Mercer string faculty members Giselle Hillyer, the Caroline Paul King Assistant Professor of Music and director of orchestra, and Nathan Cook, assistant professor of music, will also teach workshops.

Enrollment for this premier workshop is limited to eight violinists, four cellists and four violists. For more information, contact Dr. Giselle Hillyer, Caroline Paul King Assistant Professor

Robert McDuffie, world-renowned violinist and Distinguished University Professor of Music

of Music and Director of Orchestra, at hillyer_g@mercer.edu or (478) 301-5631. All forms are available online at www.mercer.edu/music.



Alumnus Helps Entrepreneurs Grow Business

By Nancy R. Fullbright

There is one regret David E. Linch, BBA '80, has about starting his own business is that he didn't do it earlier in his career. "My advice to entrepreneurs just starting out is to do it sooner rather than later," he said. "I certainly wish I had."

Waiting, however, didn't seem to impede Linch's success. After overseeing business development for RBC Capital Markets' media and communications group and after serving as head of Stephens Inc.'s corporate finance office, Linch decided to strike out on his own. In 2003, he and two partners founded ELM Capital Group, LLC, an Atlanta-based boutique investment bank that primarily assists entrepreneurs with raising capital and buying and selling businesses. "Capital is the lifeblood for entrepreneurs — you have to have it in order to grow your business," noted Linch, who serves as the company's managing director and principal. As an entrepreneur himself, Linch

can understand other entrepreneurs' mindsets. He said he decided to start his own company in order have more control over his own destiny and to avoid "spending 20 hours a week on an airplane." He conceded that getting a business going requires an inordinate amount of patience. "It's one thing to have office space ready, but another thing to re-connect with former clients and network to let people know you're in business," he said. "We've been more successful than I thought we would be, but closing that first deal took a lot longer than I first estimated." As they say, success breeds success. ELM is fortunate to have recruited several financial whizzes in

addition to Linch — Wilbur N. Ellis, managing director and principal; Timothy C. Mages, vice president and principal, and Thomas D. Chen, senior analyst. Since 1996, ELM's professionals have executed 36 private placement transactions raising over \$1.6 billion, 29 merger and acquisition transactions with combined values of more than \$6.3 billion, and 35 public offerings raising more than \$3.3 billion. To date, Linch said the young company's biggest success has been Wild Adventures, a theme park in Valdosta, Ga., that grew from a small petting farm to one of the 50 largest theme parks in the United States, drawing in more than one million guests each year. When founder and CEO Kent Buescher had the opportunity to sell Wild Adventures, he sought assistance from ELM Capital. "We advised Wild Adventures to find a financial partner and expand," recalled Linch. "After raising \$79 million in a leveraged recapitalization, Wild Adventures purchased Cypress Gardens, Florida's oldest theme park. Cypress Gardens, which closed down in the spring of 2003, re-opened in December 2004."



David Linch, BBA '80
Chairman of the Board of Governors for SSBE

my business while completing this financing," he said. "ELM helped me analyze and evaluate the various transactions available, and their experience was crucial in identifying our equity partners and in pushing the deal through to completion." Linch said that after working in the same business for the past 14 years, he has detected a common thread amongst entrepreneurs.

"The traditional business entrepreneur usually falls into two categories. They're either someone without an MBA or a college degree who started their own business because nobody would hire them, or they are so ornery and headstrong they couldn't work for anybody else," he said. "The smart entrepreneur has good business instincts and knows how to grow their business." The Fayetteville native said he had a great experience while he was a student at Mercer, and it was those lessons learned that helped prepare him for his work today as an entrepreneur. "I got a first-rate business and liberal arts education, and I would rate the education at Mercer as good as, if not better, than elsewhere," noted Linch, who also received an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Today, Linch also enjoys serving as a trustee for the University, an experience he described as surreal. "I recall being a student and seeing the trustees coming to campus in their suits and ties," he said. "It's a bit strange now to realize I'm one of them in the board room."

Gerberding and Jones Close Out 2004-2005 Executive Forum

By Andy Peters

The 25th anniversary season of the Executive Forum ended with on a high note, as Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Bill Jones III, chairman and chief executive of the Sea Island Co., gave intriguing presentations in Macon and Atlanta.

Several public-health crises were in the headlines when Gerberding made her visits to the Macon and Atlanta campuses in March: the tsunamis hit Southeast Asia in December, and the avian flu virus outbreak in Asia this spring. "We're doing a surveillance of birds to prevent the virus from being introduced in the U.S.," said Gerberding, who in June 2002 was named as the first woman to lead the Atlanta-based agency. "We're not now seeing any evidence of an epidemic."

Gerberding, a infectious-disease specialist, discussed her agency's response to the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Asia, by forming a new venture with the UN's World Health Organization to open a lab-response network in hospitals in Canada, China, France, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo. "We see this as essential," she said. Gerberding's tenure at the CDC has been praised by health-care and government officials. "Under her leadership, the agency has soared to new heights," said Mercer Trustee Kellie Appel, who introduced Gerberding at her visit to the Atlanta campus. "She has a passion for health protection, and she is the person the nation turns to during a health crisis." The growth of the CDC facilities in



Bill Jones III

Atlanta, located just a few miles to the southwest of Mercer's Atlanta campus, was also highlighted by Gerberding. The CDC is in the midst of a \$1.65 billion capital-improvement plan, with five new buildings being constructed, including a new communications center that is targeted to children and tourists. Jones, the fourth member of his family to manage the Sea Island

Company, spoke at length about the company's founding in 1926, and the challenges that were faced in the building of a hotel in the Golden Isles. "The perception of the Georgia coast in the 1920s was that it was swampy, mosquito-ridden and of little economic value," Jones said. "The market today for the Georgia coast is as intense as it has ever been, and we're responding to that demand. He also discussed his family's efforts to achieve its goal of creating the world's finest resort, while at the same time conserving the delicate environment that makes the Georgia coastal area special. "We've tried to balance development with the need to protect the natural resources," Jones said. The extremely high quality of the Sea Island experience led the resort to be named host of last year's G-8 Summit, which brought President Bush and other world leaders to the Georgia coast. That milestone has not led to stagnation at the Sea Island Company, however, as Jones has embarked on new ambitious plans, including tearing down most of the

historic Cloister hotel and rebuilding it; and developing the Frederica community and golf course on the north end of St. Simons Island. The introduction of the 350 single-family-home Frederica development to St. Simons Island will be seamless, Jones said. "We're excited about Frederica, because it really will not have an impact on the roads and infrastructure of St. Simons Island," he said. Mercer's Executive Forum was founded as a way to link the Macon and Atlanta business communities to the University and the Stetson School of Business and Economics. The Forum's steering committee has met in recent weeks to discuss a program for the 2005-2006 season and the slate of speakers will be announced later this year, President R. Kirby Godsey said. The other speakers featured in the 2004-2005 season of the Executive Forum were: George Tenet, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; William Cohen, former U.S. Secretary of Defense; and Anderson Cooper of CNN.

MBA Grads Taste Success in Restaurant Ventures

By Andy Peters

As the daily lunch line forms inside Mediterranean Bakery & Sandwich, Charbel Maalouf slides a piece of lahmajoun into a large metal oven.

Aficionados of Middle Eastern cuisine across Atlanta have learned that Maalouf's restaurant near Mercer University's Atlanta campus is one of the best places to find baba ghannouj,

"The MBA gives you the tools to be more well-rounded. This has been about taking that knowledge I got from Mercer and building a business plan."

falafel and similar fare. In a recent review, Atlanta Magazine called Mediterranean Bakery & Sandwich one of the city's best new small restaurants.

Meanwhile, farther south in LaGrange, John Hudson Messerall has opened his first outlet of the upstart chain Bruster's Ice Cream Inc. Since its opening last year, Messerall said his Bruster's is ahead of schedule in reaching profitability, and its success has Messerall consulting with his partners on opening future locations.

What do Maalouf and Messerall have in common? They are both Mercer business graduates.

Maalouf, a native of the Elchouf district of Beirut, Lebanon, never thought he'd open a restaurant when he was majoring in computer science at Mercer's Stetson School of Business and Economics on the Atlanta Campus. But he always knew he'd run his own business.

"Mercer helped me know how to search for what I wanted to do," said the 33-year-old Maalouf, who also owns Carpet Design, Inc., a flooring company with his brother, Salim Adib Maalouf, a 1997 Mercer business graduate.

In particular, two business classes, managerial accounting and business law, helped the 2001 Mercer graduate plan the opening of his restaurant in October 2003, and its upcoming addition of a bakery in the same space.

"Accounting helped me learn how to prepare a database for purchasing groceries, and the business law class helped me learn how to read contracts," Maalouf said. "I had to learn how to plan for a business, how much I could spend. Without Mercer, I don't think I would have been able to do this."

When he decided to join with his sister and brother-in-law, Anthony and Jennifer Westbrook, to open a Bruster's

Ice Cream in LaGrange, Messerall used the extensive knowledge he gained while earning his MBA from Mercer to create a detailed business plan to present to



banks, complete with marketing and demographic research and an analysis of how long it would take to recoup our return on our capital investment and a forecast of profitability.

"The MBA gives you the tools to be more well-rounded," said the 34-year-old Messerall. "This has been about taking that knowledge I got from Mercer and building a business plan."

Messerall has drawn on his business classes in finance, marketing and business operations for his Bruster's

Mercer graduates **John Hudson Messerall** (left) and **Charbel Maalouf** (right) have used their business education to succeed in the food service industry. Messerall has opened a Bruster's Ice Cream store in LaGrange, Ga., while Maalouf owns Mediterranean Bakery & Sandwich in Atlanta.



enterprise. He's also picked up some new knowledge along the way.

"I've learned more about real estate development I've ever wanted to know," he said.

Like Maalouf, Messerall also holds down more than one job. Although his Bruster's is in LaGrange, Messerall works in private wealth management for Merrill Lynch in Columbus. He's also used his Mercer MBA in that job.

"The tools I learned in the business program have helped me make

smart investments," he said. "And the Mercer MBA gives you instant credibility in the community."

But it's his venture with Bridgewater, Pa.-based Bruster's that really gets Messerall's blood going.

"There are few things in life that you're passionate about, and I know this will sound hokey, but ice cream is one of those things for me," he said. "When you go to a party and people find out you own a Bruster's, they get really excited."

MAPS Provides Real-World Experience

By Daniel Cole, Sophomore, Stetson School of Business

Whether they chose to intern with exciting companies and organizations, such as Pfizer and the American Cancer Society, or to study abroad at Oxford in England or the Down Under, students in the Managed Academic Path to Success (MAPS) program at Mercer's Stetson School of Business and Economics are getting a feel for the real work world before they graduate.

MAPS is a unique academic program in that it allows students to graduate with a BBA with a specific area of focus that fits each student's interests and goals. Students enrolled in the program are also required to complete an experimental component either through an internship, co-op, service activity, or study abroad.

Thomas Howell, a 2005 School of Business graduate, had literally a world of experiences at Mercer. His MAPS focus was international corporate law. Howell, who transferred to Mercer in the fall of 2003, spent his first two semesters on Mercer's Macon campus and his last two semesters in other countries through the University's Study

Abroad Program. For the first half of his senior year, he was in Oxford, England, and second half, in Queensland, Australia.

"There are a variety of different skills and lessons that I [have taken] away from my study abroad experiences," Howell said. "I am much more understanding of various cultures now than I ever was before. I have learned to appreciate, listen and understand, rather than make assumptions. My independence has also risen to remarkable heights."

He said the international experience gained through the MAPS program, combined with the unique focus of his degree, will give him a competitive edge in the marketplace.

"From our first semester at Mercer, we begin defining our course focus that will carry on into our careers," he said of the MAPS students. "Employers see we have created a unique degree that shows that we put thought and consideration into our schooling."

Nancy David of Fayetteville has also gained valuable real-world experience through the MAPS program. With a MAPS focus in marketing and finance, the Mercer junior did a pharmaceutical sales internship with Pfizer last summer. After completing training in New York City, David worked at Pfizer's Atlanta office. For two weeks she shadowed one of Pfizer's pharmaceutical

"From our first semester at Mercer, we begin defining our course focus that will carry on into our careers. Employers see we have created a unique degree that shows that we put thought and consideration into our schooling."

representatives. She was then allowed to venture out by herself into the world of sales for three weeks. David was in charge of presenting three drugs and their benefits to doctors.

"Through my internship, I learned that I enjoyed sales, and I think this experience has opened the door for future opportunities after I graduate," David said. "It was a great source for networking, and it gave me an idea of what a professional career is like."

When the MAPS program was introduced to Mercer business students in 2002, Jennifer Elsey, BBA '03, quickly signed up for as many of the MAPS offerings as she could. Her MAPS focus was healthcare management. She not only spent a summer studying abroad, but also participated in two separate internships.

In her sophomore year, Elsey studied in Italy, and like Howell, appreciated the opportunity to learn more about another culture.

"There is no better way to learn about another culture than to immerse yourself in it," Elsey said. "Studying abroad is an experience that I will always treasure."

During the second semester of her junior year, she completed an internship with the American Cancer Society. Elsey's duties included assisting with various health fairs, putting together information for Relay for Life, attending board meetings, doing clerical work and attending functions sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

sored by the American Cancer Society.

Eager to get as much experience as possible before graduating, she did not stop with one internship. During her last semester at Mercer, she interned at Upson Regional Medical Center. Her responsibilities included shadowing every department, submitting a written report to the CEO of Upson, and preparing a management project for the board of directors.

"Having two internships at different organizations allowed me to experience extremely separate environments and the logistics of both," Elsey said. "I learned how to work in a professional setting and how to be a team player."

The two separate internships allowed her to experiment in the working world to determine her true interests. Elsey is currently working as a staff assistant for Senator Saxby Chambliss.

"My business classes through Mercer's MAPS program coupled with my internships prepared me for practical and vital avenues of the real world," Elsey said.



Emerson Makes *ESPN* Academic All-America Team

By Andy Peters

In a time when superior performance in athletics and academics don't always go hand-in-hand, Mercer University men's basketball junior forward Will Emerson has successfully combined the two.

In early March, Emerson was named to *ESPN the Magazine's* Academic All-America first team, the day after he was named to the Atlantic Sun All-Conference first team.

Emerson is the first men's Division I college basketball player from the state of Georgia named to an academic all-America team since Georgia Tech's Matt Harpring in 1998, according to the NCAA.

"Will represents the very best of Mercer and the student-athlete. He is not only committed to success on the basketball court, but also to excelling in his academic studies in the classroom," said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. "He sets a fine example for all of our student-athletes to follow."

ESPN the Magazine's Academic All-America first team, consisting of five players, is the premiere academic all-America team in the U.S.

"This the ultimate honor for me as a student-athlete," said Emerson, a biology major from St. Mary's Ga. "I never expected to be considered for something like this, but it definitely feels good to be recognized for all the hard work I have put into basketball and schoolwork."

Emerson, a biology major from St. Mary's Ga., was one of only three players named to the *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-America teams with a per-

"Will represents the very best of Mercer and the student-athlete. He is not only committed to success on the basketball court, but also to excelling in his academic studies in the classroom."

fect 4.0 grade point average. Emerson is also the only player from Georgia, and one of only two from the Southeast, along with third-team member Chris Paul of Wake Forest University, to be given the honor this year.

"It's quite an accomplishment," said Mercer head coach Mark Slonaker. "We're extremely proud of how Will represents Mercer, both on and off the court."

While Emerson loves sports, he's also dedicated to his coursework. He's often seen studying in the stands during women's basketball games, and pouring through textbooks on bus trips to games. Emerson also scored a 39 on the MCAT medical-school entrance exam, a score that placed him in the 99th percentile nationwide.

A three-time Atlantic Sun academic all-conference honoree, Emerson started every game for the Bears this season and led the team in scoring, averaging 15.7 points per game. Emerson scored in double figures in 26 of 28 games and recorded five double-doubles.

Emerson ranked third in the Atlantic Sun in scoring and fourth in rebounding at the conclusion of the regular season. He was twice named Atlantic Sun Player of the Week this season. Emerson's leadership on the court has contributed to the Bears' successful play: this is the third-consecutive season that Emerson and the Bears have played in the Atlantic Sun conference tournament.

"We knew Will was an outstanding student, and he took his basketball game up a level this year," said Mercer Athletics Director Bobby Pope. "If you're looking for the ideal student-athlete, it would be him. He's the total package."

Emerson cited the support of his Mercer professors as reasons for his success.

"My professors here at Mercer have been always been supportive and willing to help when I miss class on road trips," Emerson said. "They



Will Emerson

really seem to care about me as a person and they make sure that I have a chance to succeed."

He also thanked Assistant Coach Jerry Luther for his help.

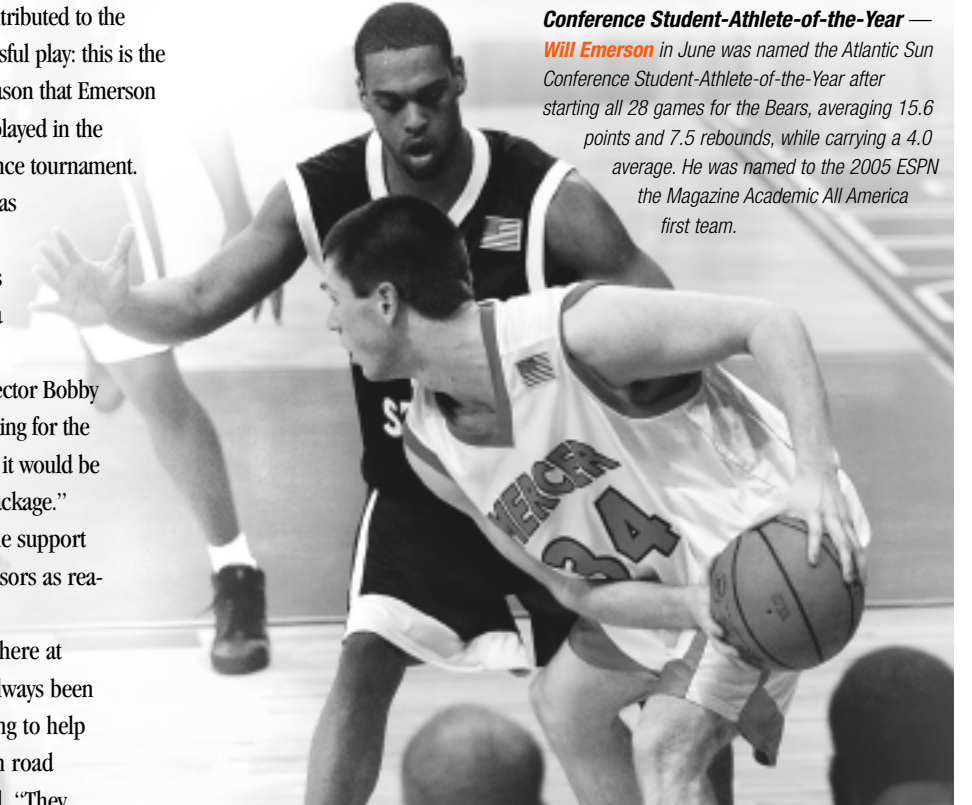
"[Coach Luther] is always willing to sit down with me on road trips and work with me on any problems that I might be having with schoolwork, whether it is a paper I am writing or processing scientific calculations," Emerson said. "I have been very lucky to have a coach with such a strong academic background as Coach Luther; he is really like a traveling teacher for me."

Not only is Emerson a star on the basketball court and in the classroom, he's also very active in the community. A volunteer with the

Dolphin Swim Program for disabled children and with His Able Hands Respite Care Program, Emerson has helped Boy Scouts earn chemistry merit badges. Elected senior class president with Mercer's Student Government Association, Emerson has also served on the SGA's academic affairs committee.

The other four players chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America to be named to the *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-America first team were: Eric Castro of Southern Methodist University; Johannes Herber of West Virginia University; Chris Hill of Michigan State University; and Derek Winans of Southeast Missouri State University.

Conference Student-Athlete-of-the-Year — Will Emerson in June was named the Atlantic Sun Conference Student-Athlete-of-the-Year after starting all 28 games for the Bears, averaging 15.6 points and 7.5 rebounds, while carrying a 4.0 average. He was named to the 2005 *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All America first team.



Two New Members Inducted into Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame

Two former athletes became the newest inductees into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame at a dinner in the President's Dining Room at the University Center preceding the men's homecoming basketball game. The two newest inductees joined 131 other illustrious athletes who previously were enshrined into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Emma Mumphery

Emma Mumphery was a member of the women's basketball team from 1979-83. She is the third all-time leading scorer in Mercer school history with 2,098 points and a career average of 18.2 points per game. Her highest



Emma Mumphery is congratulated by Director of Athletics Bobby Pope.

season average was during the 1982-93 campaign when she averaged 21.8 points per game.

She is the all-time leading rebounder in Mercer history with 1,355 rebounds for an average of 11.8 per game, which is second best in school history.

She is second in Mercer career field goal percentage at .564 making 859 of 1,524 shots during her four seasons.

She played in 115 games while at Mercer and was a finalist for the Margaret Wade Trophy in 1983, presented annually to the top women's basketball player in the nation.

Ed Everett

Ed Everett was captain of the Mercer golf team from 1965-68. While at Mercer, he won the Macon City



President Godsey, right, awards Ed Everett his plaque.

Championship in 1965, 1966 and 1968. He won the club championship at Idle Hour Country Club in 1965 and won the Middle Georgia Tournament in 1965 and 1968.

At the State Amateur at the Savannah Country Club in 1966, he finished eighth; at the United States Amateur at Broadmoor, he finished 33rd; and at the Georgia Amateur Golf Classic at

Houston Lake, he finished second.

He was the low amateur in the 1968 Macon Open.

He is a member of both the Albany and Macon Sports Halls of Fame and long-time golf professional at Doublegate Country Club in Albany.

Among his titles as a professional was the National PGA Senior Club Professional Championship in 1997. He won the Georgia Senior Open in 1997, 1999 and 2000. He won the Georgia PGA Senior Championship in 1994, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

He was awarded Teacher of the Year from the Central Chapter of the Georgia PGA in 1995.

At halftime of the men's homecoming basketball game, Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey and Director of Athletics Bobby Pope presented the newest inductees with plaques signifying their accomplishments.

Scholarship Honors Winningest Mercer Coach

For future reference, the name of Barry Myers will not only be synonymous as the “winningest” baseball coach in Mercer history with 660 wins in his stellar 26-year career. Thanks to a scholarship established by Robb Myers and Emily Myers, each year a Mercer baseball player will be presented a \$1,000 scholarship in the former coach’s honor.

For the first year, two players — Kyle Johnston and Sean McCahill — were selected to receive the Barry Myers Endowed Scholarship. The announcement of the first year’s recipients was made May 3 prior to the Bears’ game against Georgia College and State University. Coach Myers threw out the ceremonial first pitch for the game and then joined Johnston, McCahill and current head coach Craig Gibson for the presentation.

Myers’ many accolades include three conference championships and three divisional titles. His success on the field was more than matched by the performance of his players in the classroom. One season, 24 of his 30 student-athletes were named All-Academic.



LEFT, former baseball head coach **Barry Myers** throws out the ceremonial first pitch against GC&SU.

ABOVE, coach Myers shares a laugh with scholarship recipients (left to right) **Kyle Johnston** and **Sean McCahill**, and head coach **Craig Gibson**.

Wesley Duke Slams His Way to Final Four Competition and on to NFL

The icon of Mercer basketball player Wesley Duke for the past several years has been his thundering dunks at Bears’

basketball games. As his stellar career slowly wound down in early March, looking back it now seems he was, in reality, just on the brink of stardom.

First, Duke was invited to participate in the Slam Dunk Competition at the Men’s Final Four at St. Louis. In the second round, Duke wowed not only those in attendance at the event, but a national television audience on ESPN. On his second dunk, he tossed the ball in the air, stripped off his white and orange Mercer jersey and caught the ball above the rim just in time to rip it through the net. As the crowd went into a frenzy, the judges all awarded

Duke a “10” for his effort that helped propel him to an overall fourth place finish in the competition.

The national exposure did not make Duke a national sensation overnight but it did also catch the eyes of some National Football League scouts who certainly could not ignore Duke’s mus-

cle-bound physique. After being contacted by several NFL scouts and a visit to the Mercer campus by several team representatives, Duke was offered a free agent contract with the Denver Broncos following the NFL draft.

Duke is currently in training with the Broncos in hopes of making the team as a tight end. If hard work and a big heart will allow for the transition, keep your eyes on the former basketball player who just may slam his way into a football career.



Give Him a 10 — Wesley Duke showed a capacity crowd and a nationally-televised audience why he was known for his thunderous dunks during his Mercer career.

Duke wowed not only those in attendance at the event, but a national television audience on ESPN. ... As the crowd went into a frenzy, the judges all awarded Duke a “10” for his effort ...

Rooke's Jersey Retired During Homecoming Activities

President R. Kirby Godsey and Director of Athletics Bobby Pope joined men’s soccer coach Tom Melville during halftime of the men’s homecoming basketball game Jan. 28 to honor one of Mercer’s all-time greatest athletes.

Max Rooke, who played at Mercer from 1998 through the 2002 season, had his jersey retired following an outstanding career for the Bears.

Among his accomplishments:

- Rooke was the Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Year in 2002;

- He was a three-time All Conference and All Tournament team member;
- He was a four-time Academic All-Conference honoree;
- He represented Great Britain at the World University Games, serving as captain in 2003;

- This past season, while coaching at Tatnall Square Academy, he was named the GISA coach of the year in 2004.
- Rooke was presented a resolution from the President and the Mercer Board of Trustees as well as his framed number 17 jersey.

L to r: **Tom Melville**, **President R Kirby Godsey**, **Max Rooke** and **Bobby Pope**



MACON COMMENCEMENT 2005

1,500 Join Mercer Alumni Family

In nine commencement ceremonies over a three-week period, Mercer graduated approximately 1,500 students from the University's 10 schools and colleges in May.

Tyler McGurry and other excited graduates seated in the Macon Coliseum await the beginning of the ceremony.



Drew Cravey of Hawkinsville (center) poses with identical twins **Jennifer** and **Carla Paschke** of Macon at the Macon Commencement on May 14. All three graduated from the School of Engineering with perfect grade point averages.



The Macon commencement saw the graduation of more than 500 students, the conferring of one honorary degree, and the special recognition of three outstanding students.



A new graduate proudly displays his diploma following the business school commencement in Atlanta.

Dennis Drummond, one of two recipients of the prestigious Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service, listens intently to the commencement address by **Dr. David Bottoms**.



Excited graduates from the Tift College of Education file into Sheffield Student Center at their Atlanta commencement.



View more photos of commencement by visiting www.mercer.edu

Under "Department & Services:"
Click on "Community,"
Click on "University Advancement,"
Click on "University Relations & Marketing,"
Click on "UR&M Photos."

Just select the event you would like to view!

ADVANCING THE VISION CAMPAIGN

Campaign Volunteers Meet at UC

Many volunteers assisting with Phase III of the Advancing the Vision Campaign gathered April 13 at the University Center to hear updates from Campaign Chairman Griffin B. Bell and Vice Chairman Robert L. Steed. A joint meeting was held in the UC Arena and then break-out sessions for all components of the Campaign were held later in the afternoon.

Mercer has more than 1,000 volunteers participating in the Campaign, which has now reached 72.89 percent of the \$350 million goal.

Trustees **David E. Linch**, BBA '80, and **Thomas W. (Chip) Barron**, JD '74, discuss campaign with former Trustee **Preston Williams**, '47.



Nancy and Judge **Griffin B. Bell**, LLB '48, LLD '67, with **Robert L. Steed**, AB '58, LLB '61, LLD '79. Judge Bell and Steed, who are both Trustees, are chairs for the Advancing the Vision Campaign.



Trustees **Sidney A. Hopkins**, BA '66, and **Timothy G. Millwood**, BA '93, discuss the CLA Scholarship portion of the Campaign.

**President and Mrs. Godsey to be Honored at President's Club**

With the ensuing retirement of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey on June 30, 2006, this fall's annual gathering of The President's Club will honor the President and his wife, Joan. The 2005 President's Club Celebration will be held Oct. 28-29 at the new InterContinental Hotel in Buckhead and the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta.

The Friday event will include a reception and dinner in the Windsor Ballroom, beginning at 6 p.m. The annual meeting, with Eli Morgan, CLA '83, presiding,



will be held at the Saturday morning brunch in the ballroom of the Piedmont Driving Club, beginning at 11 a.m. The program will include the election of officers and the recognition of new life members. The annual golf outing for President's Club members is being arranged for Friday afternoon, with the winning foursome recognized at the dinner.

Other events to honor Dr. Godsey during the 2005-2006 year are being planned and will be announced at a later date.

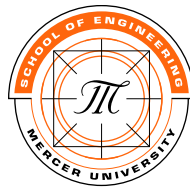


Nancy and Judge **Griffin B. Bell**, LLB '48, LLD '67, with **Robert L. Steed**, AB '58, LLB '61, LLD '79. Judge Bell and Steed, who are both Trustees, are chairs for the Advancing the Vision Campaign.

Becky and **John Shoemaker**, who serve on the Grand Opera House Campaign Committee, review some of the books published by Mercer University Press.



Robert W. Haney Jr., BA '85, **Adela Ford**, BA '91 and **Elijah "Eli" Morgan**, BA '83, serve on CLA components of the Campaign. Morgan is currently the president of The President's Club.



First-Year Students Face Off in Design Competition *By Jenny Butkus*

The University Center was abuzz on April 22. Parents and students sporting Mercer t-shirts and hats sat in bleachers and buddled in clusters to see the action. But something was different about this competition. The crowd wasn't there to see the Mercer Bears basketball team. They were there to watch engineering students compete in the annual Mercer University School of Engineering Introduction to Engineering Design Competition.

Approximately 110 first-year and transfer students put their engineering designs to test when they competed in one of six unique events. Students enrolled in Engineering 107 — “Introduction to Engineering Design” — were divided into teams of three and then assigned a professor who served as their client. It was the students’ job to talk with their client and find out what type of product needed to be created. Each student team was given the same materials with which to build — a building kit featuring K’Nex rods and connectors, rubber bands, motors, a mouse trap and more.

Crystal Condra, a freshman mechanical engineering student

from Suwanee, said figuring out what the client needed was challenging because the professor did not come straight out and tell the team what was needed.

“They tried to make this as realistic as possible, and we realized that the client often doesn’t know exactly what he wants. He just knows the final product he envisions. We had to ask a lot of questions before we really figured out what he needed,” she said.

Condra’s team built a vehicle that competed in the “Rampster” competition. In this event, vehicles climb up a ramp, cross a horizontal section and then go down another ramp. Two vehicles compete at once



Freshman **Eric Sims** of Jacksonville prepares his vehicle for the Introduction to Engineering Design Competition, which took place at the University Center on April 22.

starting at opposite ends and moving toward each other. The vehicle closest to the opposite end at the end of two minutes wins.

Across the University Center floor, Kyle Steele and Joshua Husak prepared their vehicle for the “Chicken Race,” a competition similar to the “Rampster” in which two vehicles start at opposite ends and move toward each other on a tiled, horizontal surface. The one closest to the opposite end within two minutes wins. At a towering 5 feet and 10 inches, their vehicle was the tallest in the competition, and some of their competitors questioned whether it was “legal.” The competition had length and width limits, but no height limit, so Steele, Husak and their other teammate Zsauquez Flucker opted to make the tallest vehicle possible, thinking when it fell that as long as the tip of their vehicle was closer to the opposite end of the runway, they would win. They devised seven different designs before settling

on this one, which their client said did, in fact, comply with the rules.

“We learned to know our limits and where we could stretch them,” Husak, an electrical engineering student from Stockbridge, said.

Unfortunately, two hours before the competition, Steele discovered they had forgotten one thing. They were still using a test motor from one of their personal K’Nex building kits rather than the motor from the official building kit. They had done hours of

“We learned to know our limits and where we could stretch them ... I realized I definitely I have a lot more to learn, but I enjoyed learning about the engineering design process and its practical applications.”

testing with that motor, and to their dismay, when they switched out the motor, it cut the speed of their vehicle in half. They competed and lost both times.

“I realized I definitely have a lot more to learn, but I enjoyed learning about the engineering design process and its practical applications,” said Steele, an industrial management student from Meriwether County. “I also feel good because my professor said I made the right ethical decision in using the regular motor.”

There were many victories at the competition as well. One student discovered his vehicle worked in each of the six unique events, even though the vehicles were only designed to

compete in one of the competitions, prompting the event organizers to consider creating a new decathlon event next year.

Michael Whatley, Andy Kalliat and Vu Lu placed first in the “Rampster” competition. They said the key to their success was teamwork.

“We all got along with one another really well,” said Lu, a freshman from Lawrenceville.

They also had a crafty design. When their vehicle hit the other vehicle on the ramp, the mouse trap would clamp onto the opponent, slowing it down and sometimes breaking a piece of their opponent’s contraption.

Charles Dreblow, a freshman mechanical engineering student from Temple Terrace, Fla., said the key to his team’s first place win in the “Boat” competition was speed, noting their vehicle moved at 216 RPM.

“We were also praying all the way through,” his teammate, Erica Eaton, a freshman computer engineering student from Virginia Beach, Va., said with a smile.

Their third teammate Robert Capellaro said the process of designing and building their own vehicle gave him a good idea of how engineering calculations are used and how much writing is involved in engineering design projects.

Dr. Philip McCreanor, associate professor of environmental engineering, is the course coordinator for “Introduction to Engineering Design.” He said this

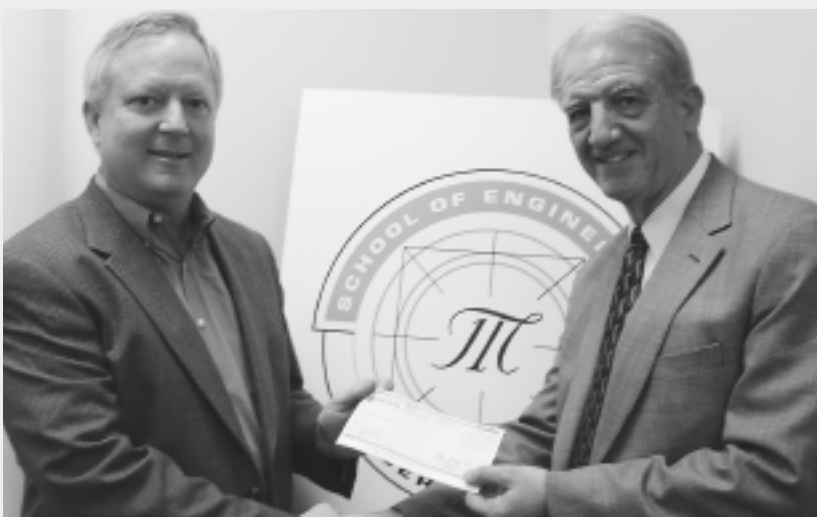
competition is intended to help students learn about the design process in a fun and challenging environment. It is also a great

way to expose them to the engineering design process early in their engineering careers.

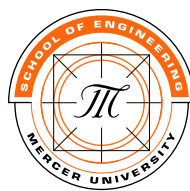
“In the design process, engineers combine imagination, technical knowledge, and communication skills to supply a client with a desired product. This course demonstrates to students how these three seemingly separate concepts come together and provides a frame of reference for how students will ultimately apply the technical knowledge they develop through the study of engineering,” McCreanor noted. “Finally, it sets them up for success when they encounter their senior design projects during their capstone Senior design course sequence.”



Boeing Gift Benefits Scholarships and Lab, Technology Upgrades — **Obie Jones**, site leader-general manager of The Boeing Company, (pictured on the right) presents a check to President **R. Kirby Godsey**, who accepted the check on behalf of the University.



Imerys Supports Mercer for 23rd Consecutive Year — **Ernest Gay**, executive vice president of Imerys Pigments and Additives Group, (pictured at left) presents a check to School of Engineering Dean **Dayne Aldridge**, who accepted the check on behalf of the University.



Zipper Project More than Doubles Productivity

By Jenny Butkus

Laura Brown Mock and Amanda Parish could not help but sing “Zippity Do Da!” when they learned of the success of their recent senior design project.

Last fall the two Mercer engineering students were assigned a process improvement project at one of YKK USA’s Macon plants for their senior design project. Their task was to improve the productivity and efficiency of the final metal zipper assembly process in which workers use a machine to cut the zippers to the appropriate length, add the zipper “top stops,” inspect the items for quality, and package the zippers for shipment. The project was a perfect fit with their engineering studies. Mock of Waycross was completing an engineering degree with a specialization in industrial engineering, and Parrish of Macon, a degree in industrial management.

Mock and Parish aimed at increasing the productivity of the assembly area they were told to observe by 20 percent and the efficiency by 30 percent. Much to their delight, within two weeks of making recommendations to YKK management about how to improve the process, the assembly area productivity increased by more than 70 percent and the machine efficiency rose by 30 percentage points.

Dr. Scott Shultz, assistant professor of mechanical and industrial engineering and the students’ senior design project manager, said the students’ work on

this project was truly outstanding.

“These types of results without spending any money on capital improvements are almost unheard of,” he said. “Usually plants get excited with 5 or 10 percent increases.”

Robert Stamps, vice president of manufacturing planning at YKK and a 1974 graduate of Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts, said, he, too, was

impressed with the students’ work.

“YKK is a technically oriented manufacturing company seeking to improve our processes so we can be more competitive on a global basis. These industrial engineering students are helping us achieve that goal,” he said. “Amanda and Laura have demonstrated a high degree of technical expertise and engineering know-how.”

The new work configurations that Mock and Parish developed after extended video and time studies can also be implemented at other YKK facilities, increasing the scope of their project’s success. Stamps said it is too early to determine the actual cost savings Parish and Mock’s recommendations have afforded the company, but a conservative estimate of the savings is

\$43,000 annually.

Parish and Mock, who graduated during spring commencement in May, credit their Mercer education for their success.

“At Mercer, we not only received a solid understanding of engineering theory, we also gained a lot of practical experience,” Mock said.

Parish said Mercer challenged her throughout her four years, and this has prepared her to tackle the challenges she will face in industry.

Both students also say they enjoyed working with the other engineers at YKK.

“They really listened to what we had to say, and they seemed to value our input,” Parish said.

The two students appreciated the efforts of Dr. Joan Burtner, assistant professor of mechanical and industrial engineering and their technical advisor for the project, who was helpful in keeping them focused.

“She would ask us a lot of questions, but she would not give us the answers. She made us think,” Parish said.

Burtner said she was pleased that the students had statistically significant improvement in production levels.

“The analytical skills of the student team, combined with the professionalism and cooperation of the YKK employees has resulted in a win-win situation for Mercer School of Engineering and YKK,” she said.



Laura Brown Mock (left) and **Amanda Parish** recently completed a senior design project with YKK USA that caused the assembly area productivity at the Macon plant they observed to increase by more than 70 percent and the machine efficiency to rise by 30 percentage points.

Technical Communication Students Win International Awards

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer University’s Society for Technical Communication (STC) Chapter in the School of Engineering recently received two honors at the STC international conference in Seattle, Wash. Mercer’s STC chapter received the Student Chapter of Distinction Award, the highest honor given to a student chapter in this professional society. The award is only given to one student chapter in each of the STC’s two chapter size categories. The student group also received the Best of Show Award for its newsletter, “Connections,” in the STC Newsletter Competition.

Thirty-eight organizations submitted entries for the international newsletter competition, including 31 professional chapters, four student chapters and three special interest groups. The newsletter was judged based on its content, design and ability to communicate news and information between STC chapters and special interest groups and their members.

Mercer technical communication student Carla Paschke of Macon

accepted the two awards on behalf of her chapter. Paschke, who graduated at the May commencement, served as the newsletter editor and chapter president.

“I feel so very honored to have received these awards,” she said. “I have served as newsletter editor for three years during which time I have been continuously working to improve the publication. I still find it unbelievable that a small student chapter from Georgia could win such a prestigious award. The chapter has come so far during my three years on the board, and I am confident that the new executive board will continue the traditions we have started.”

Dr. Marjorie Davis, chair of Mercer’s Department of Technical Communication, senior member of STC and Mercer student STC chapter advisor for many years, said being honored with these two awards is a tremendous honor for a small student chapter like Mercer’s.

“In all the years that the international newsletter competition has been held, I have never known many stu-

dent newsletters to make a significant showing; after all, they compete with all the professional newsletters from around the world,” she said. “Carla Paschke has done a spectacular job with our Mercer STC newsletter. Last

year she won an Award of Excellence. This year, winning the Best of Show, is the highest accolade possible. She is a credit to her chosen profession of technical communication, and an outstanding ambassador for Mercer

University.”

The Society for Technical Communication is a 25,000-member organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication.



Alumni Host Careers in Engineering Roundtable — The Mercer School of Engineering Alumni Association recently hosted a roundtable discussion on careers in engineering for current engineering students. Front row from left, are **Barry Hollis**, BSE '95 (Board Member), **David Tribble**, **Akshay Patel**, a Mercer electrical engineering graduate student, and **Selina Mustafa**, BSE'97. Back row, from left, are **Jennifer O'Neal Tribble**, BSE '03, **Kamlesh “Kenny” Desai**, BSE '92 (Alumni Association President), **Anant Bhushan**, BSE '94 (Board Member), **Sam Martinez**, BSE '97 (Alumni Association Past President), and **Adam Wofford**, BSE '02.

Alumni Moving Up with Major Atlanta Firms

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer engineering alumni are climbing the corporate ladder with a variety of large Atlanta companies thanks to the strong engineering foundation they gained as students at Mercer.

Josh Brookshire has been working at Scientific Atlanta since he graduated from Mercer’s School of Engineering in 2000. Currently working as a senior electrical engineer, Brookshire has the job of designing cable electronics for Scientific Atlanta, a leading supplier of digital content contribution and distribution systems.

He said that he has had an advantage over graduates from larger schools because he was able to get one-on-one attention from his professors.

“At Mercer, if I had questions, I could actually get answers,” the Grayson resident said. “And I still keep in touch with some of my professors today.”

Brookshire added that through projects like his senior design project in which he and team members built a video camera sensor for an autonomous car, he learned early that what one design team does affects other design teams. This lesson has helped him a lot in the working world.

Several Mercer engineering alumni work with Georgia Power Company. Chris Caldwell has worked with the electric utility company since he graduated in 1999. He currently serves as transmission supervisor for the West Atlanta territory. A team of 13 engineers responsible for maintaining facilities in the transmission grid report to him.

“My Mercer degree has paid off big for me,” Caldwell, who specialized in mechanical engineering, said. “The broad area covered through Mercer’s general engineering degree program has been extremely helpful in my job. My position is highly technical, but it involves a variety of different disciplines, sometimes electrical engineering, sometimes mechanical engineering, and sometimes civil engineering. Thanks to Mercer’s program, I have a broad base of knowledge in each of these areas.”

Angela Sullivan Grant, a senior engineer with Georgia Power, agrees.

The 2000 engineering graduate said, while her specialization was in biomedical engineering, she has not missed a beat with Georgia Power. She is in charge of maintaining a \$250-million support facility tracking system that allows engineers to do cost analysis and estimates for various electrical facilities.

“I felt like I had a leg up on what to

expect after I graduated,” Grant said. “The cross-training we received through Mercer’s program was excellent. My professors challenged me, and I learned to be very detail-oriented.”

Grant said in addition to arming her with a strong engineering philosophy, her professors also gave her tips on long-term career planning, like telling her to take advantage of her 401k.

“When a professor gives tips on career planning, that shows he really cares about the student’s overall well-being,” she noted.

Scott Morgan, a 1994 School of Engineering graduate who works as a senior engineer at Georgia Power, said he is grateful that he was able to jump into engineering coursework early in his college career.

“I have heard of some places where students did not begin thier coursework until their sophomore year. We were seeing practical applications of engineering theory in our freshman year,” he said.

Morgan, who specialized in electrical engineering, did a co-op with Southern Company at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant in Baxley throughout his time as a student at Mercer. He said that he felt extremely comfortable working at the plant when he was as young as a sophomore with the electrical engineering knowledge he had gained from Mercer’s program. Morgan was so successful in his co-op that by the time he reached his senior year, he was supporting the emergency diesel generator system on his own. This also proved a good inroad to the company. Morgan has worked with Georgia Power since he graduated.

His job is to oversee transmission line and substation construction for the North Atlanta area, the Hartsfield Jackson International Airport expansion, and the relocation of transmission facilities for the Georgia Department of Transportation and county projects statewide. Morgan said Mercer set him up for success in his career.

“When I graduated, I had already applied theory to real-life problems, and I had the skill set necessary for success,” he said. “Mercer School of Engineering gave me a road map that I could use when presented with problems.”

Coby Nixon, a 1998 engineering graduate, went a different direction with his Mercer degree. After working as a computer programming and process analyst with Accenture technology services firm for two years, he entered law school at the University of Georgia. He now works as a patent attorney in the Intellectual Property Section of Smith, Gambrell and Russell, LLP in Atlanta.

He said his Mercer degree set his career on a great path by enabling him to get a challenging position with a reputable company like Accenture straight out of college. The company targeted Mercer engineering students because they knew that Mercer students would have the right skills to solve the problems of their clients, Nixon noted.

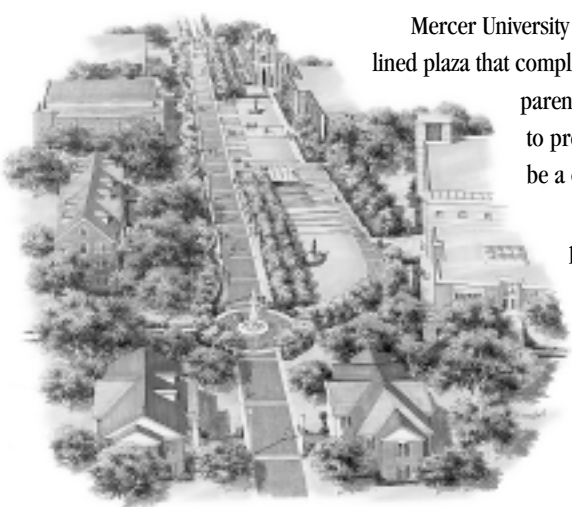
And the specialized education he gained as an engineering student at Mercer has helped him a lot as a patent attorney. To write a patent application or enforce, defend against or advise a client about an issued patent, Nixon said he has to familiarize himself with the technological field to which the application or patent relates and then develop an understanding of why, or whether, the subject matter of the particular application or patent qualifies as a novel improvement over what has been done before.

“You are constantly learning how things work and how to recognize and appreciate why other things work better. You are always challenged,” he said of his work.

The Atlanta attorney said Mercer School of Engineering’s reputation has also bolstered his career.

“People seem to recognize and value that I have an engineering degree from Mercer, especially in the Atlanta area,” Nixon said. “Such recognition is important for my job, where developing clients and earning their confidence is a major aspect.”

Alumni ... Commemorate Your Time at Mercer.



Mercer University is in the process of designing and building a brick-lined plaza that compliments the new University Center. Alumni, students, parents and friends of Mercer have the unique opportunity to preserve their memories by purchasing a brick that will be a one-sentence tribute to your days at Mercer.

Your \$100, tax-deductible gift secures a personalized brick that can include your name, year of graduation, and even your primary student organization, such as a fraternity, sorority, BSU or SGA — up to three lines on the face of the brick. As part of this offer, Mercer University will send a written acknowledgment of your gift, including the wording as it will appear on the brick.

YES, I want to participate in this unique opportunity!

Your Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on the brick. One character (including letters, spaces, punctuation marks, etc. — Greek letters may be used) per block and a maximum of 14 characters per line.

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Abbreviations for Colleges & Schools

CAS College of Arts and Sciences

CCPS College of Continuing and Professional Studies

CLA College of Liberal Arts

BUS School of Business & Economics

EDU College of Education

ENG School of Engineering

LAW School of Law

MD School of Medicine

NUR College of Nursing

PHA Southern School of Pharmacy

THEO McAfee School of Theology

TIFT Tift College

Please return this form with your check, payable to Mercer University, to The Office of Alumni Services, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, Georgia 31207. Questions? Please call Kristi Dobbins at (800) 837-2911 for more information.

Alumni Student Recruitment Referral

If you know an outstanding prospective student, please complete and mail this form to Mercer’s Office of University Admissions, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207. You may also call in your submission at (800) 840-8577 or e-mail us at admissions@mercer.edu.

Your Name _____

Student Name _____

Hometown _____

High School _____

Year of graduation _____ SAT/ACT _____ GPA _____

Activities _____

Home telephone number _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

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THE MERCERIAN / SUMMER 2005

Scholarships Enable Students to Pursue Dreams

By Jenny Butkus

When Sanjuana Carrillo and Miguel Garcia moved to the United States from Mexico as third graders, they did not speak any English. They recall feeling confused and scared as children in a foreign country where people were talking in a language they didn't understand.

They also recall the kind teachers who helped them learn to speak English and learn to read. They remember with fondness the teachers who took extra time to serve as their mentors and support them as they acclimated to the United States and began to think about going to college.

They were so inspired by their teachers that the two decided that they wanted to become teachers so that they could help Hispanic/Latino students who do not speak English as

“Miguel will be such a good role model for young men in his future classes as well as an inspiration to all students in his future classes.”

their first language to succeed in school. Both students fulfilled that dream and graduated from Mercer's Tift College of Education in May.

But their path to college was not an easy one. In their families, college was not a typical topic of conversation, as their parents were not college graduates. With their parents working in the carpet factories in the North Georgia town of Dalton, finding money to attend college was also an issue.

But the two students were determined to go to college.

“I remember one summer I was helping at the factory, and I was helping dye the carpet,” Garcia said. “I went to the break room and looked in the mirror and I was covered in dye. It was all over my hands and clothes. Then, a man walked by in a suit, and I thought to myself, ‘That’s going to be me one day.’”

Garcia began his college career at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on a scholarship through the migrant assistance program. Carrillo began her career at Dalton State College with the assistance of the HOPE scholarship. Then Garcia learned about The Goizueta Foundation scholarship at Mercer. “I knew Mercer had a prestigious reputation, and that this was a great opportunity, so I applied for the scholarship,” he said.

After he received the scholarship, he told his friend Carrillo that she should apply for it as well. The two had known each other since middle school. She was also awarded a schol-

arship from the The Goizueta Foundation, and the two came to Mercer in fall of 2003.

Carrillo said words can hardly express her gratitude to The Goizueta Foundation for enabling her to attend Mercer.

“Without The Goizueta Foundation, attending a private college would not have been an option,” the early childhood education major said. “The tuition at Mercer is as much as my parents make in a year.”

The two students have thrived at Mercer. Garcia joined the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, worked in the fitness center and was active in intramural sports, while also serving as a referee for a volunteer soccer league. Carrillo joined the Educators in Action club, was a member of the Kappa Delta Epsilon honor society, volunteered with the Girl Scouts of Middle Georgia and worked as a teller at Wachovia Bank.

They said they have enjoyed the personal attention they have had from their professors at Mercer, and they value the lasting friendships they have developed with their classmates.

Carrillo did her student teaching at Vineville Academy with a fourth grade class; Garcia recently completed his professional practicum at Southwest High School. They said their experi-

ences in the field have wet their appetites for what is to come.

Carrillo had the opportunity to work with a fourth-grade student from Mexico at Vineville. She said the teachers knew the student was having difficulty with his schoolwork, but they thought it was because he did not know how to speak English. Carrillo discovered the boy did not know how to read or write in Spanish, either, and she was able to alert the teachers to his needs.

“It was really rewarding working with that student,” she said. “I have a real heart for kids who do not know English.”

Garcia said he also has found being in the classroom rewarding, and he feels like he is already making a difference.

“One of the high school students I was working with in the fall came up to me on my last day and said, ‘Meeting you has made me have a different outlook on Hispanic people,’” he recalled.

His academic advisor at Mercer, Carolyn Garvin, said she is confident Garcia will succeed.

“Miguel will be such a good role model for young men in his classes as well as an inspiration to all students,” she said. “His positive attitude, his perseverance, his commitment to a task and his spirit of cooperation all add up to a person who will make a difference in the lives of the students he will teach.”

Garcia hopes to teach high school Spanish in the Macon or Dalton area.

Carrillo is planning to earn a Ph.D. Last summer, she researched writing samples of Hispanic/Latino students



Sanjuana Carrillo and Miguel Garcia were the first in their families to graduate from college when they graduated from Mercer's Tift College of Education in May. They graduated with the assistance of scholarships from The Goizueta Foundation.

through the Ronald McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and she really enjoyed it. She will be entering a master's program in the fall, and she hopes to further research ways to help Hispanic/Latino students be academically successful.

Angela Finn was a student teacher

“The characteristics that have always stood out with Sanjuana are her eagerness to learn and her sense of civic responsibility.”

at the elementary school Carrillo attended in the third grade. Finn helped Carrillo learn to read, and she has kept in touch with the student throughout the years.

“The characteristics that have always stood out with Sanjuana are her eagerness to learn and her sense of civic responsibility,” Finn, an Early Intervention Program teacher at Park

Creek School in Dalton, said. “She wants to succeed, so she can give back to the community. She truly believes that it is possible to do well and to do good.”

Finn, who shares Carrillo's interest in helping Hispanic/Latino students, is completing her dissertation on “Literacy Practices of Academically Successful Mexican-Origin Girls.”

“There is so much still to be learned about creating an academic environment in which Hispanic students can succeed, and I am sure that Sanjuana will contribute to the body of research and to the practice of teaching,” she said.

Both Carrillo and Garcia said they look forward to helping fellow Hispanic/Latino-American students succeed.

“I really want to let students know that higher education is possible regardless of their situation,” said Garcia. “What better way to get to them than teaching.”

Kelley Leads Florida School in Innovative Education

By Andy Peters

Situated on the Atlantic coast about 15 miles south of Daytona, the small city of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., with a population of about 20,000, might not seem to be a place where some of the nation's most innovative ideas in education are being implemented.

But because of the leadership of Dr. Carol W. Kelley, CLA '68, New Smyrna Beach High School students benefit from a bevy of rewarding academic and career-oriented programs.

New Smyrna Beach students interested in becoming a doctor can shad-

ow a physician during his or her rounds at a hospital. Or, if a student is interested in another field of health care, from nursing to medical technology, shadowing opportunities are available there as well. New Smyrna Beach students with an interest in entering the field of culinary arts also have shadowing opportunities.

The high school's medical academy and culinary academy are just two of the small learning communities developed in New Smyrna Beach that helped the school recently win a \$450,000 grant from the Smaller Learning Communities program of the U.S. Department of Education.

“This practical experience has been great for kids,” Kelley said.

Another facet of New Smyrna

“I learned that you could make a difference, that you had some obligation to care about people who were less fortunate than you were.”

Beach High School, which Kelley said is “almost unheard of” for a high school, is the alumni program. Last year the alumni association provided 32 college scholarships for students, mostly lower-income students, worth about \$1,600 per year.

Combined with the academies and with the school's test-score performance, New Smyrna Beach has racked up some awards in recent years, including the National Blue Ribbon School citation and in 2001, Kelly was named Secondary Principal of the Year the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education.

Kelley, who was involved with the Upward Bound program at Mercer, said she learned numerous lessons at Mercer that she still applies in her work today. Specifically, Kelley cited Papa Joe Hendricks, AB '55, as one of her biggest influences.

“I learned that you could make a difference, that you had some obligation to care about people who were less fortunate than you were,” she said.

Kelley said she and her husband, Arden W., Kelley, CLA '67, were richly rewarded with their Mercer education.

“We learned a lot about leadership and a lot about giving back,” she said. “I don't think that's a lesson that can be measured by money. I got far more than I paid for when I went to Mercer.”

Alex II Magnet School Offers Unique Field Experiences

By Jenny Butkus

The holistic child major at Mercer's Tift College of Education is unique in that when students graduate they have both P-5 certification and special education certification. This dual certification equips graduates to meet the varied needs of today's diverse learners. To prepare these students for both areas of education requires the College of Education to provide them with unique and diverse field experiences.



Mercer junior **Nicole Nather** goes over a journal assignment with Alexander II student **Elysicia Whitehead**.

These experiences have been found at Alexander II Magnet School in Macon. Through a partnership between Mercer and the elementary school, holistic child majors are able to rotate among a wide variety of teachers with various specialties. Rather than the traditional field experience of shadowing and assisting one teacher in a one classroom, Mercer students assigned to Alexander II watch and assist an Early Intervention Program (EIP) teacher, a science lab teacher, a math lab teacher, a speech-language pathologist, a gifted teacher and a physical education teacher.

Mercer junior Nicole Nather recently observed the Alexander II physical education teacher. "I learned a lot about classroom management," said the Fayetteville resident, adding that she enjoyed seeing Coach Jim Mills interact with the students.

"When the students enter the gym, he plays soundtracks from popular movies. He then checks to see what kind of mood they're

in," she said. "If they are hyper, he has them dance. If they are quiet, he sits them down and talks with them about the sport they are going to play. He is really sensitive to the students' personal needs."

During another rotation, Nather had the opportunity to observe Leolene Tate, the EIP teacher at the school. Tate goes into general education classrooms to help students who may be struggling with specific skills. Nather explained that she enjoyed watching Tate work with students and observing the various techniques she uses to help the students grasp the material. The 21-year-old student wants to work with special needs children after she graduates. She said several of her fellow classmates have also really enjoyed watching the speech-language pathologist because they are interested in taking their careers in that direction after graduation.

"Rotating between various teachers at Alex II has allowed us to see the different possibilities for our major," Nather said. "It also has given us insight into the school community. It's been really cool to see the different parts of the school and how they work together. It takes so many people to make a great school."

Erin Thompson, a junior holistic child education major, said she has particularly enjoyed her time observing and assisting teachers in the math and science labs at Alexander II, which is the science and math magnet school for Bibb County.

"I've been able to see some great activities in the math and science labs at Alex II that I can't wait to use in my own classroom," she said. "I had never had an experience in a magnet school before, and I did not know much about them. Alex II has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to learn more about these type of schools."

Margaret Morris, associate professor of early childhood education and chair of the teacher education programs in Macon, including the Holistic Child Program, said Alexander II has been an important avenue for students to experience teaching and learning in various settings.

"When we use the term 'holistic,' that is exactly the focus of everything these students experience," Morris said. "Whether this includes observing children from the physical, emotional, cognitive and social characteristics of development or evaluating the perspectives of the diverse populations inhabiting the

public school classrooms of today, our students clearly learn to value the individual and authentic worth of the young child through the inclusive lens of all of the experiences they encounter in this program."

Carolyn Garvin, director of field placement/certification and assistant professor of education, said Mercer has long had an informal partnership with Alexander II, but this year Mercer and Alexander II entered a formal partnership. In addition to allowing 17 holistic child majors to do their fieldwork at the magnet school at the same time, Alexander II's principal has partnered with Mercer to allow for faculty exchanges in which an Alex II teacher comes to Mercer and teaches a workshop while a Mercer professor

"Our students clearly learn to value the individual and authentic worth of the young child through the inclusive lens of all of the experiences they encounter in this program."

goes to the elementary school and teaches a class.

"Through the faculty exchanges, we've been able to get the expertise of people who are out in the field," Garvin said. "This also gives us a cadre of teachers in the field who can give us feedback on how we can improve our programs."

Alexander II Principal Rochelle Sims believes having the students observe various teachers throughout her school is important because it will allow them to work better as a team player once they enter a school full-time.

"It increases collegiality," she said.

The principal added that having the Mercer students at the school brings an extra dimension to the classroom. "We always believe that two heads are better than one," she said. "The Mercer students bring fresh, new ideas. This is a pretty energetic school, but when you bring in 17 young people, it brings the energy to the next level."

Mercer also has partnerships with Burke Elementary School, Skyview Elementary School, and the Butler Early Childhood Center, where holistic child majors have benefited from field experiences. Morris summarizes the spirit of the partnerships that have been established by adding, "The mission of Mercer University is to reflect an 'engaged community of learners.' Tift College of Education takes seriously this challenge by extending the Mercer community to embrace the community of public schools."

Tift College of Education Now Offering Dual Certification Program at Centers

By Rachel H.Garza

The Tift College of Education of Mercer is now offering its innovative Early Childhood/Special Education General Curriculum dual teacher certification program at Mercer's Regional Academic Centers.

But because of the leadership of Dr. Carol W. Kelley, CLA '68, New Smyrna Beach High School students benefit from a bevy of rewarding academic and career-oriented programs. New Smyrna Beach students interested in becoming a doctor can shadow a physician during his or her rounds at a hospital. Or, if a student is interested in another field of health care, from nursing to medical technology, shadowing opportunities are available there as well. New

Smyrna Beach students with an interest in entering the field of culinary arts also have shadowing opportunities. The high school's medical academy and culinary academy are just two of the small learning communities developed in New Smyrna Beach that helped the school recently win a \$450,000 grant from the Smaller Learning Communities program of the U.S. Department of Education. "This practical experience has been great for kids," Kelley said. Another facet of New Smyrna Beach High School, which Kelley said is "almost unheard of" for a high school, is the alumni program. Last year the alumni associated provided 32 college scholarships for students, mostly lower-income students, worth about \$1,600 per year. Combined with the academies and with the school's test-score performance, New Smyrna Beach has racked up some awards in recent

years, including the National Blue Ribbon School citation and in 2001, Kelly was named Secondary Principal of the Year the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education. Kelley, who was involved with the Upward Bound program at Mercer, said she learned numerous lessons at Mercer that she still applies in her work today. Specifically, Kelley cited Papa Joe Hendricks, AB '55, as one of her biggest influences. "I learned that you could make a difference, that you had some obligation to care about people who were less fortunate than you were," she said. Kelley said she and her husband, Arden W., Kelley, CLA '67, were richly rewarded with their Mercer education. "We learned a lot about leadership and a lot about giving back," she said. "I don't think that's a lesson that can be measured by money. I got far more than I paid for when I went to Mercer University."

Master’s in Ed. Leadership Program Off to a Great Start

By Jenny Butkus

Faculty and candidates agree that the first semester of the new

Master’s in Educational Leadership Program was a tremendous success. The program, which is designed for in-service teachers looking to move into administrative roles, began in January on the Macon and Atlanta campuses and at the Regional Academic Center in Henry County.

Forty candidates are enrolled in the first cohort, with a new cohort beginning this fall. Dr. Penny Elkins, chair of the new program, said she is particularly pleased with the highly qualified educational leadership candidates in the program. The candidates represent a diverse array of disciplines and school districts. Twelve school districts are represented in the Mercer program, including Houston, Bibb, Barrow, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett and Spalding counties.

One of the special elements of the graduate program is the Leadership Academy that provides opportunities for the students to hear from top educational leaders from across the state. The first Leadership Academy, which was held March 12, brought together the candidates from all three locations. Educational leadership

candidates heard presentations from Dr. Beth P. Reynolds, program coordinator for Georgia’s Leadership Institute for School Improvement, and Harvey Franklin, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for Walton County Schools. The Leadership Academy also allowed them to ask questions of panel members Linda Daniels, director of special projects and former principal in Gwinnett County; Ronald T. Trussel, principal of Creek View Elementary in Fulton County; and Dwala Nobles, principal of Duchtown High School in Henry County.

When asked to write feedback on the first Academy, students seemed to really value the information gleaned from the workshop. The evaluations from the students included comments such as “Powerful commitment - and great accomplishment!”; “Thanks for ‘empowering’ us to go out and ‘empower’ others.”; and “I thought the diversity of presenters was awesome. Each one provided valuable information from many perspectives.”

Wynetta Scott-Simmons said hearing the different perspectives of the three principals who were each at a different level in their different counties at the Leadership Academy was priceless. The candidates will have the opportunity to participate in five more Leadership Academies during the two-year program.

Scott-Simmons, a reading specialist at Hood Avenue Primary School and Fayetteville Intermediate

School in the Fayette County School System, knows the value of a Mercer program. She earned her initial certification, her master’s in education degree and her specialist degree at Mercer’s Tift College of Education in Atlanta. She is now acquiring “add-on” certification through Mercer’s Educational Leadership Program at the Henry County Regional Academic Center.

“Having already been through three Mercer programs, I knew this program was going to be top-notch,” she said. “It has exceeded my expectations.”

Much research was put into the creation of this Mercer’s Educational Leadership Program. The Tift College of Education faculty who designed the program consulted with many local school system leaders to get feedback on how they could best prepare candidates for the challenges of today’s schools. Faculty researched best

practices across the region and country and made sure the curriculum met the standards of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. In fact, the program is based

“The leadership program is rigorous, but relevant. We want to equip leaders with the necessary knowledge and related skills to impact and transform education.”

on the most current national standards in educational leadership — those of the Education Leadership Constituent Consortium.

Mercer’s Educational Leadership Program blends theory with practice by requiring all leadership candidates to participate in internships each semester, giving them hands-on experience in dealing with current issues faced by educational leaders.

Scott-Simmons said she knows teachers who

enrolled in educational leadership programs at other institutions and their programs have not measured up to Mercer’s.

“When I told them that Mercer’s program is based on the latest national standards and that we each have a mentor that we shadow throughout the program, they have said, ‘That would be really nice,’” she said.

Martin Wright, a fifth-grade teacher at Hampton Elementary School in the Henry County School System and a candidate in the Educational Leadership Program, said having classes two evenings a week has been conducive to his busy schedule. But more importantly, he said is the depth of information he has already learned.

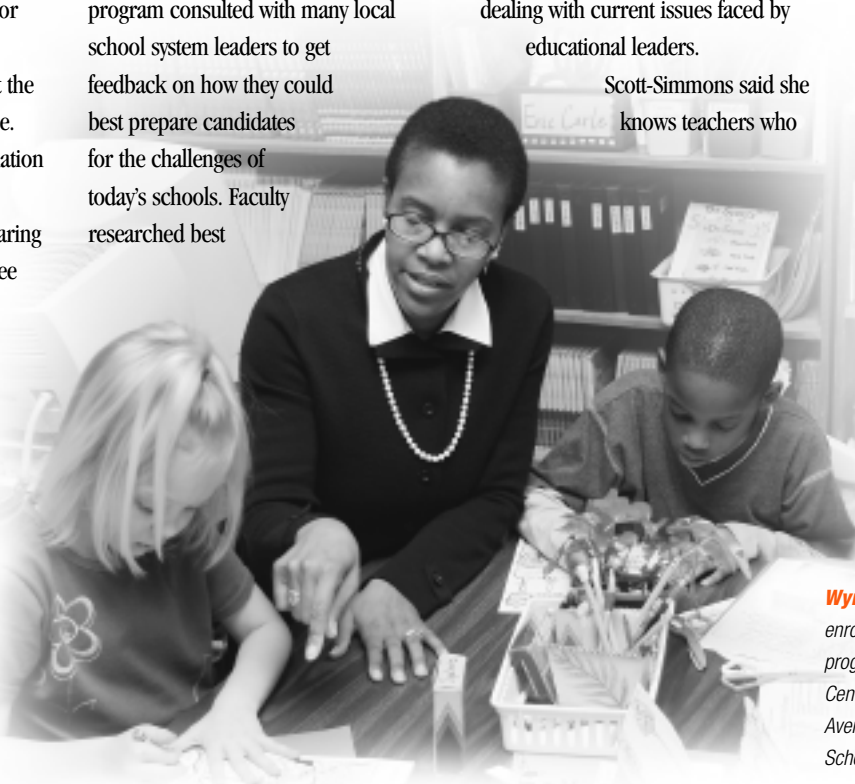
“The assignments have been extremely meaningful and practical,” he said. “We aren’t just learning theory.”

Elkins said students will have many tangible documents and artifacts that will assist them as they participate in interviews after completing the program.

“At Mercer University, we are absolutely committed to quality,” she said. “That means that the leadership program is rigorous, but relevant.

We want to equip leaders with the necessary knowledge and related skills to impact and transform education.”

Wynetta Scott-Simmons, second from left, is enrolled in the master’s in educational leadership program at the Henry County Regional Academic Center. She works as a reading specialist at Hood Avenue Primary School and Fayetteville Intermediate School in the Fayette County School System.



Mercer Students Mentor Virtual Science Fair Participants

By Jenny Butkus

Several years ago the annual science fair at the American International School in Israel (AIS-I) was eliminated due to the logistics of storing the traditional tri-fold cardboard displays and finding qualified judges. This year, the school’s science fair is back, but with a twist. AIS-I middle school science teacher Dr. Stuart Fleischer re-introduced the science fair back into the curriculum by developing a virtual science fair in which students’ projects are displayed and judged online using digital images and streaming video with Blackboard interactive software.

Twenty-eight Mercer Tift College of Education students in Dr. Randy Spaid’s “Science Education Methods” course served as e-mentors to the virtual science fair participants. Their role in this innovative pilot project was to assist students throughout the scientific

process as they prepared for the competition. This pilot project was so successful that Fleischer was awarded a \$25,000 seed grant from the U.S. State Department to expand this new virtual science fair to include 10 international schools in the Near East and South Asia (NESA) region in 2006 and then to include 11 countries in 2007. Spaid, an assistant professor of secondary and science education at Mercer, will be the principal investigator for the project. He will investigate how this concept of a virtual science fair and e-mentors affects the learning of the college and middle school students involved.

Spaid thinks this e-science fair project has positively affected both the Mercer students and the AIS-I students involved. The majority of the students at AIS-I do not speak English as their

primary language, but this did not impede the learning of the Mercer and AIS-I students.

“Through this project, we’re really breaking down borders,” Spaid said. “Essentially, the distinctions between cultures disappeared. We learned that

“Through this project, we’re really breaking down borders. Essentially, the distinctions between cultures disappeared.

We learned that science really is a universal language of inquiry.”

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Dennis Drummond, an early childhood education major in Spaid’s scientific education methods course, mentored a group of three students in a project in which they were trying to determine which paper airplane design

could maintain the most stable trajectory while also achieving the greatest in-flight distance. He found many “teachable” moments as an e-mentor, including helping the students stay on task and encouraging them to limit their variables rather than

branching off in other directions during the experiment.

“I enjoyed learning the similarities that children from around the globe share with students I have taught right here in Macon,” the May 2005 graduate from Cedartown said.

“I learned that all children have a propensity to wonder and are innately curious. If we as educators can somehow tap into that curiosity, I think we would be amazed at the increased motivation the students would show in discovering the answers to their own questions rather than someone else’s.”

According to Spaid, the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students seemed to really enjoy the interaction with the American mentors. He thinks they probably even worked a little harder in an effort to please their e-mentors overseas. Fleischer agreed.

“The initial success of the NESA Virtual Science Fair rode on the participation of Dr. Spaid and his students,” Fleischer said. “Their invaluable contributions as mentors in science increased tenfold the final product produced by our middle school science students. No single science teacher could have ever guided his or her class to the level of exploration and research without the help of Dr. Spaid.”

The students who placed 3rd, 5th and 6th in the virtual science fair were mentored by Mercer students and Dr. Spaid.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1964

John N. Hayes, AB, M.Ed. '68, of Summerville, received a doctor of ministry degree from Covington Theological Seminary in July 2004. Hayes was ordained at Trion First Baptist Church Nov. 7, 2004, and is pastor of Silner Hill Baptist Church of Summerville.

1965

Tom Oliver, AB, of Chestnut Mountain, was elected chairman of the Hall County Board of Commissioners in July 2004. He will serve a four-year term.

Toni Vissage Sweeney, AB, of Laguna Woods, Calif., has published her fifth book, *The Rose and the Dragon*. "Dark Lover," a piece written while she was a student at Mercer, will be included in the anthology *Vintage Wine*.

1968

Edward L. Everett, BA, of Leesburg, recently won his fifth Georgia Senior Open title, bringing his Georgia PGA senior victories total to 12.

1971

Andrew Perry, BA, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is in independent practice in psychotherapy. He is married and has four daughters.

1976

Anne Broughton Kerr, BA, of Lakeland, Fla., was selected as the 17th president of Florida Southern College.

1978

William Keith Baker, BA, and his wife, Evelyn, purchased The Trailhead (www.TheTrailHeadCO.com), a specialty outdoor retail business in Buena Vista, Colo., in May 2004.

Rozine Britt Bickel, TIFT BSED '74, M.Ed. '78, retired in March 2004 after teaching for 30 years at Crawford County Elementary School. She remarried Don Bickel on Aug. 20, 2003.

1981

William D. Blossch, BA, received his doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Dec. 18, 2004. He is serving as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Plantation, Fla.

John T. Forrester, BA, is serving as a church starter strategist missionary with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Kotzebue, Alaska.

1984

David A. Weber, BA, of Marietta, published his first book, *Sticks and Stones Exposed: The Power of Our Words*.

1989

Neil Stevens, BS, of Alpharetta, has been named Georgia area executive at Iron Stone Bank, assuming overall management responsibility for retail, mortgage, business and commercial banking.

1992

Marci L. Bozeman, BA, of Decatur, was named associate campaign director at Coxé Curry & Associates, Atlanta's oldest fund-raising consulting firm.

1993

Tom McKlin, BA, of Decatur, received his Ph.D. in instructional technology from Georgia State University.

1995

Heather Warren Kleinmeulman, BA, of Dublin, graduated Dec. 11, 2004, from Georgia College and State University with a master's degree in interrelated special education.

1996

Nora L. Kilroy, BA, of Gainesville, Fla., was recently hired as assistant dean of students/director for off-campus life at the University of Florida.

1997

Brian S. Regienczuk, BA, of Atlanta, co-authored a positioning paper, *The*

Future of Shopping, for Philips Design. Over the last year, Regienczuk has taken on managing design services provided to Philips' Medical Systems and Lighting divisions and Corporate Marketing in North America. He also has two patents pending.

Reggie Lewis, BS, of Union City, was named Mr. United American 2004-05.

1998

Allen T. Waldrop, BA, of Winston, has been appointed as chaplain to the Department of Homeland Security for Georgia by Gov. Sonny Purdue. A ceremony was held Feb. 17 at the State Capital.

1999

Keta Jones Barnes, BA, of Knoxville, has joined the Litigation Practice Area at Bass, Berry & Sims PLC in the law firm's Nashville, downtown office.

Todd M. Eldridge, BSE, was successfully licensed as a professional engineer in the State of Georgia. He received the project manager of the year at Prime Engineering, Inc.

Tyler H. Simmons, MSE, recently accepted a position at Kinetic Concepts located in San Antonio, Texas, as senior product development engineer. Tyler recently was employed at Altea Therapeutics as research engineer.

2000

Thomas D. "Tommy" Meador, Jr., BA, of Franklinton, La., received his Masters of Divinity from New Orleans Theological Seminary. He serves as pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Franklinton, La.

Darrell W. Tullis, BS, of Lompoc, Calif., is working as a radar technician for InDyne Inc., a contractor on Vandenberg AFB.

2001

Stephanie A. McClung, BA, of Conyers, received her Masters of Education with a specialization in social work from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Dec. 2004.

Stacy D. Robinson, MBA, of Atlanta, accepted a position with Medtronic as senior manager of human resources.

2002

Beatrice L. Holmes, BS, of Ellenwood, is the 2005 Teacher of the Year for Roberta T. Smith Elementary in Clayton County. She is also one of 29 educators selected from a pool of 68, the only one from her county, to participate in the PAGE Teacher Academy.

Jocelyn Z. Hunt, BS, of Macon, was recently awarded the American Waterworks Association's Meritorious Operator Award, recognizing the best water plant operator in the Georgia. Hunt was also promoted to assistant manager of the Macon Water Town Creek Plant.

MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1993

Crystal Meadows Hughes, BA, BM, and her husband, Doug, announce the birth of their daughter, Tori Dawn, on Sept. 13, 2004. The family resides in Milledgeville.

Michael E. Lake, BS, and his wife, Susan, announce the birth of their son, Patrick Russell, on Nov. 18, 2004. The family resides in Atlanta.

1994

Douglas Maddox, BA, and his wife, Cathy, announce the birth of their first child, Elizabeth Ann, on Oct. 19, 2004. They in Warm Springs, where Douglas is a fourth and fifth grade EIP teacher at George E. Washington Elementary and was selected the 2004 Teacher of the Year for Meriwether County Schools.

1995

Ralph B. Smith, BA, married **Vanessa Etheridge Smith**, PHMD '03, on Sept. 25, 2004. The couple resides in Alpharetta where Ralph is a senior technical sales specialist with IBM and Vanessa is a clinical pharmacy specialist at Kaiser Permanente.

Charles Tutt, BA, and his wife, **Chandra Carter Tutt**, BA '90, announce the birth of their son, Cameron Carter, Jan. 29.

1997

Tyrone A. Hill, BA, and **Adrienne Harris-Hill**, BA '98, announce the birth of their daughter, Tyra Ginia Christina, on Oct. 2, 2004.

Erik D. Varnadoe, BS, and his wife, Lori, announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace, on March 27. The family resides in Gray.

1998

Dustin J. Heizer, BS, married Jennifer Jenkins on June 21, 2003. They currently reside in Atlanta.

1999

Glen Behrend, BSE, married Christi Sizemore Jan. 15. The couple resides in Atlanta.

Todd M. Eldridge, BSE, married Allison Williams on Nov. 26, 2004. They currently reside in Norcross.

Hai Nguyen, BA, married on May 21. He will attend the Southern School of Pharmacy in the fall.

Tyler H. Simmons, MSE, and his wife, Rebecca, announce the birth of their son, Garrett Edward Simmons, on Nov. 12, 2004. He joins sister Morgan. The family resides in San Antonio, Texas.

2000

Damon Eric Woodson, MSE, married Jennifer Lynn Stoudt Aug. 14, 2004. The couple resides in Macon.

2001

John P. Land, BSE, and his wife, Kelley, announce the birth of the daughter, Samantha Carol Land, on Nov. 5, 2004. The family resides in Macon.

Mercer, Piedmont Announce Partnership

Piedmont Healthcare and Mercer University have formed a partnership that will create a number of joint initiatives, including nursing, pharmacy, research and other medical and allied health education programs as part of a *Center for Health and Learning*.

While the partnership is not exclusive, both institutions have identified potential areas of collaboration. Piedmont Healthcare aims to enhance its teaching environment and expand on-campus research that is focused on outcomes and improved patient care. Piedmont also seeks increased access to students and potential employees in nursing, pharmacy and other allied health fields. Long-term, Piedmont hopes to establish unique hospital/university integrated programs.

Mercer University seeks to establish a more vigorous research presence and to deepen program offerings in nursing and pharmacy. Mercer also expects to broaden its medical residency program. In addition, Mercer aims to broaden its non-clinical education programs, such as chaplaincy, health management and health law.

One of the first initiatives under the Center for Health and Learning will be a collaborative nursing partnership between Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University and Piedmont. This partnership will help recruit, educate and ultimately place more nurses at Piedmont and in the community at large. Georgia is expect-

ed to need 80,000 nurses by 2020 to meet the state's healthcare needs. Current projections estimate there will be only 48,000 nurses, 40 percent below what will be needed.

"We are pleased about the opportu-



nity to work with Mercer. Healthcare continues to change and requires us to find innovative solutions for the delivery of care as well as patient outcomes," said R. Timothy Stack, president and CEO of Piedmont Healthcare. "We want to attract and influence the number and quality of individuals entering healthcare and bolster interest in the profession, which is why the nursing initiative is an ideal first step."

R. Kirby Godsey, president and CEO of Mercer University said, "Piedmont has been one of Mercer's educational partners for almost 20 years. Our pharmacy and nursing students have gained invaluable clinical experiences at its hospitals. The new Center now enables Mercer and Piedmont to broaden and enhance that strong foundational relationship through new initiatives and partnerships so the healthcare needs of Georgians can be better met for generations to come."

The nursing partnership will include efforts to increase the number of nursing graduates, an enhanced nursing clinical practice at Piedmont, and addi-

tional faculty opportunities. Piedmont and Mercer will share resources and costs, hold community activities to promote healthcare/nursing careers and establish an annual nursing research conference. A Piedmont Scholars program is being established to attract highly qualified students to enroll at Mercer to study nursing and to receive clinical experience at Piedmont.

Mercer also has partnership agreements with two other major hospital systems: the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon and Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. The two medical centers are the teaching hospitals for the clinical education of Mercer medical students.

Celebrating a century of health care service, Piedmont Healthcare is a not-for-profit organization comprising three acute-care hospitals, outpatient clinics with a 460-member physician network and a 72-member primary care physician group with 20 offices throughout metro Atlanta. Piedmont Hospital, a 500-bed acute tertiary care facility located in the north Atlanta community of Buckhead, and Piedmont Fayette Hospital, a 100-bed acute care community hospital in Fayetteville, are the only two Georgia hospitals on the 2005 list of Solucient 100 Top HospitalsR. The health care system also has the Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, a 35-bed community hospital in Jasper.

IN SYMPATHY

1930

Braswell E. Collins, AB, of Macon, died Oct. 25, 2004.

1935

J. Carlton Warnock, BA, of Soperton, died Feb. 4.

1937

Allan R. Bloodworth, AB, of Fort Myers, Fla., died Jan. 3.

1940

Frank H. Edwards, AB, of Atlanta, died Feb. 3.

Sidney L. Hancock, BS, of Cairo, died Jan. 6.

Roy C. Smith, AB, of Eatonton, died Jan. 6.

1944

Lanier Beasley, AB, of Hawkinsville, died Nov. 13, 2004.

William L. “Shep” Sheppard, BA, of Greensboro, died Dec. 29, 2004.

Crowell W. Stewart, of Macon, died Dec. 29, 2004.

1947

Walter E. Kirkland, AB, of Douglas, died March 10.

1949

Robert L. McCommon, Jr., AB, of Macon, died Feb. 15.

1950

George A. Horkan, Jr., AB, of Valdosta, died Feb. 2.

Isaac F. Salter, AB, of Warner Robins, died Jan. 7.

1951

Barney L. Garrett, III, AB, of St. Simons, died Jan. 2.

Isaac F. “Rastus” Salter, AB, of Warner Robins, died Jan. 7.

1955

Ida Young Walker, M.Ed., of Macon, died Nov. 9, 2004.

Wesley Lee Wilson, of Gordon, died Dec. 2, 2004.

1956

Everett L. Waters, AB, of Mauldin, died Nov. 6, 2004.

1957

Minton E. Williams, M.Ed., of Macon, died Feb. 17.

1958

Mildred Witherington Malaier, M.Ed., of Pineview, died Feb. 23.

1959

Walter Kenneth “Ken” Smith, AB, of Cullman, Ala., died Feb. 19.

1961

Shirley Sanders Collier, of Lizella, died Oct. 30, 2004.

1962

John C. Spivey, AB, of Beaufort, S.C., died Jan. 30.

1966

Ann Benton Culpepper, M.Ed., of Warner Robins, died Nov. 16, 2004.

Alton W. Ellis, AB, of Dexter, died Nov. 9, 2004.

1969

Judith Force Wilbanks, BS, of St. Petersburg, Fla., died Dec. 20, 2003.

1972

Alfred C. Lindstedt, of Mableton, died Dec. 24, 2004.

Peter Massey, of Fayetteville, died July 8, 2004.

Doris Greyson Wellborn, M.Ed., of Macon, died Dec. 12, 2004.

1973

Annie Shook Dyer, of Blairsville, died April 2, 2004.

1975

D. Timothy Estes, BA, of Warsaw, Ky., died Aug. 18, 2004.

1979

Fred C. Davison, HDIW, of Athens, died April 28, 2004.

1982

Ronald F. “Buck” Alexander, BS, of Atlanta, died Jan. 1.

1983

John B. Wright, BA, of Waynesboro, died May 25, 2004.

1985

Beverly N. Tharpe Haines, BA, of Darien, died Dec. 31, 2004.

1995

Duane L. Pace, Jr., MSE, of Monterey, Calif., died March 17, 2004.

1999

Delois Ann Brown, BA, of Macon, died Jan. 12.

BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE J. WALKER, BA '56, United States Army Retired, died April 11 at his home in Niceville, Fla. He was born Jan. 16, 1934, in Rome, Ga. General Walker had been a resident of Niceville, Fla., since 1998.

General Walker was a graduate of Mercer and received a master's degree in political science from Auburn University, Montgomery, Ala. Following his graduation from Mercer, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and entered active duty in November 1956. General Walker served six years in the Quartermaster Corps of the Army and the remainder of his active service in Military Intelligence. He served tours in France, Germany, Korea and Vietnam as well as stateside assignments at Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, N.Y.; Fort Holabird, Md.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Hood, Texas; Washington, D.C.; and Fort McPherson, Ga.



U N I V E R S I T Y
N E W S *B R I E F S*

Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics

The Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics will introduce a new MBA for Physicians program on its Macon campus in January. Designed to equip physicians with the business knowledge they need for a successful medical practice, classes will be held every other weekend on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Tift College of Education

The Tift College of Education will introduce a new master's program in educational leadership in January. This program will be offered on the Atlanta and Macon campuses and the Regional Academic Center in McDonough and is designed for in-service teachers who want to become school administrators.

School of Engineering

The School of Engineering is ranked 12th nationally in the percentage of female undergraduates enrolled in engineering programs, according to the latest report of the Engineering Workforce Commission. At 30.6 percent, Mercer is 12.6 points above the national average of 18 percent in this area.

College of Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts American Chemical Society Student Affiliate chapter received an Outstanding Award for the second straight year. This is the highest award given to a student affiliate chapter by the national organization.

Southern School of Pharmacy

Henry Nettey became the University's first graduate of the Southern School of Pharmacy's Pharm.D./Ph.D. dual-degree program at commencement last May. The 43-year-old native of Accra, Ghana, works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where he performs drug analysis on counterfeit drugs obtained from third world nations. The Southern School of Pharmacy offers the dual degrees as a way to give students a chance to pursue careers in both the professional and research areas of pharmacy. It is the only one of its kind in the state.

School of Medicine

The School of Medicine was ranked among the top schools in the nation in the annual “Best Graduate Schools” rankings released April 1 by *U.S.News & World Report*. In the new category of Family Medicine, Mercer School of Medicine ranked 17th among the nation's 126 accredited medical schools. The School of Medicine is the only medical school in Georgia to be recognized in this category. *U.S.News & World Report* considers several quality indicators, including reputation as determined by surveys of medical school deans and senior faculty; amount of research funding from the National Institutes of Health; primary care rate; student selectivity; and faculty/student ratios.

Walter F. George School of Law

U.S. News & World Report, in its newest edition of "Best Graduate Schools," ranked the Mercer Law School first in the nation in legal writing.

Alumni Mentor Today's Students *By Nancy R. Fullbright*

Think back to being a new college graduate. Fresh-faced and full of optimism, you may have found your dreams sidelined for a while when you realized that landing that first job required not only an esteemed degree, but also experience and networking skills.

The Office of Career Services at Mercer University is attempting to bridge that gap with an alumni mentoring program, made possible by MonsterTrak, the largest job search engine in the industry. Interested Mercer alumni can register online to be partnered with Mercer students who have similar professional aspirations.

“The program is designed to allow alumni the opportunity to be accessible to undergraduates who may be interested in the field the alumni are working in,” said Steve Brown, director of the Office of Career Services. “The alumni — often business owners and leaders within their communities — can help students answer questions, provide advice and develop a career network.”

The database is structured so alumni can indicate how they prefer to be contacted by the student, whether through e-mail or by phone. The year-and-a-half old program currently has 51 registered alumni. According to Brown, the greatest support has come from the College of Liberal arts alumni.

“We wanted to have a diverse cross-section of professions in the database, and I believe we have that,” Brown noted. “Now, the challenge is making the students aware of the

program and making sure they know how to utilize it.”

Mike Crook, CLA '69, a partner at Proctor, Crook and Crowder, P.A. in Stuart, Fla., was one of the first Mercer alumni to support the program. He said the career mentoring program is a win-win for alumni.

“The program makes all kinds of sense and is very sound,” he said. “I encourage Mercer professors to use this tool when they are assisting students with finding internships.”

Brown also pointed out that not only alumni can participate, but also parents of Mercer students are welcome.

“If parents are willing to serve in this capacity, we would be happy to have them,” he said. “It only broadens our scope to have more people mentoring students.”

If you are interested in registering, please visit the Career Services Web site at www.mercer.edu/career, and click on “Parents and Alumni.” Directions are provided for registering online.

 Please complete the form, detach and mail to Mercer University.

Mercer University alumni, students and friends have an opportunity to proudly display their school loyalty by purchasing a Mercer University commemorative tag.



If you would like to receive a Mercer University commemorative tag, please complete this form and return it to the Mercer University Office of University Relations at 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207, along with a \$25 check made payable to Mercer University “Commemorative Tag.” Mercer will mail you a release form to take to your county tag office, which will have your tag shipped from the Bibb County Tag Department.

COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE TAG INFORMATION

(Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

County in which vehicle is registered _____

** Your local tag office may require additional fees for commemorative tags.*

Calling all alumni home for ...

Homecoming & Alumni Reunions '06 February 10-11

Alumni and friends are invited to Homecoming 2006 featured events:

- **Friday, February 10** — Alumni Pre-game Reception followed by the Women's Basketball game vs. Stetson, 5:15 p.m., and the Men's Game vs. Stetson to immediately follow
- **Saturday, February 11** — Homecoming Parade, Alumni College, Cookout, Greek and other student organization reunions, Reunion Year Gatherings, and the Homecoming Dance
(Tentative plans — subject to change)

Look for more information late fall! But, mark your calendar now for the first Alumni Reunion on Mercer's campus in seven years!



Have You Registered in Mercer's New Alumni Online Directory?

No? Well, why not?

This secure service is provided at no cost to you by the Mercer Alumni Association!



You can...

- search for other alumni
- update your record
- receive a permanent e-mail address
- post and read class notes
- receive e-mail about your Alma Mater

How to Access the Online Community

Visit www.mercer.edu, click on the Alumni Menu and choose the Directory link. This link takes you to the Alumni Online Community. There you can register by using your unique Mercer Alumni Identification Number. The six-digit number that you need to register for the online community is the last six digits of your Alumni Identification Number, located on the top of the address label on the back of this publication.

If you have any problems accessing or registering in the Alumni Online Directory, call Jennifer Joyner at 1-800-837-2911, ext. 2131.

Atlanta Campus Gets Extreme Makeover

By Andy Peters

From the swimming pool to street signs, Mercer's Atlanta campus is in the midst of significant enhancements. The projects, which started in December and are scheduled to be finished in August, will give Mercer students, faculty and staff a much more pleasant place to study and work.

"This is really all about bringing the whole campus up to a uniform standard," said Dr. Richard V. Swindle, senior vice president – Atlanta. "Over the years, we have been constructing buildings and renovating spaces and so some of the campus has received attention and other parts have not."

Among the projects are:

- Renovating the swimming pool in the Sheffield Student Center and building a new outdoor deck next to the pool. The pool



has a new saline water system instead of a chlorine one.

- Upgrading cracked, broken and flood-prone sidewalks. Two new sidewalks will also be constructed. New benches will be placed throughout campus.
- Installing new directional signs for vehicles and pedestrians. Current directional signs at all campus entrances and within the campus are being replaced with larger, easier-to-read signs. Pedestrian signs will include campus maps at three different locations.
- Installing new lighting and emergency phones in strategic locations across campus, including parking lots and along sidewalks.
- Landscaping parts of the campus that have not already received a professional landscape upgrade and installing an irrigation system to preserve the quality of current landscaping.
- Repairing the roof of the Monroe E. Swilley Jr. Library.
- Installing a fiber-optic ring around the campus, to create a redundant system for telephones and computer networks, in case the existing line is damaged or broken.

At right, workers from ValleyCrest Landscape Development make improvements to a sidewalk outside the Davis Administration Building on the Atlanta campus. Upgrades on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus include new sidewalks, improved storm-drainage systems and additional landscaping and irrigation. Below left is the renovated swimming pool in the Sheffield Center. Below right is the installation of new fiber-optic cables, and new vehicle and pedestrian signs. The improvement projects started in December and are scheduled to be completed by August.



The campus improvements are part of the University's capital improvement program. After the completion of the current projects, the next scheduled improvement will be

the integration of the Georgia Baptist Convention building into the Atlanta campus. Once Mercer takes possession in summer 2006 of the building, which sits on a hill overlooking Mercer's

Atlanta campus, a road will be constructed to allow vehicular traffic. A new sidewalk and a staircase are also planned, probably near the Southern School of Pharmacy building.



A National Leader in Public Service

— Continued from page 1

al learning opportunities that strongly complement classroom instruction."

Randy Harsh-barger has taught FYX for the past four years, and his class recently completed a project in which they researched and memorialized individuals buried in the Macon's Lynwood Cemetery, which dates back to the 1800s. The students wrote profiles of individuals buried in this cemetery, much of which was covered in brush, and created a book, which they shared with the community in honor of those buried there. Mercer students are continuing to assist the community in clearing brush from the cemetery.

"We have an obligation to the community around us," said Harshbarger, an assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies at Mercer. "Our students are going to be leaders, and as leaders, they need to be active citizens in the community. We must expose them to the realities around them so they

can elicit change."

The Princeton Review partnered with Campus Compact to develop *Colleges with a Conscience* and choose the schools featured in the book. The book's editors also invited dozens of organizations with expertise in campus community service and student engagement to nominate colleges for inclusion. Criteria included: the college's admissions practices and scholarships rewarding community service; support for service-learning programs, student activism, and student voice in school governance; and level of social engagement of its student body.

Each institution in *Colleges with a Conscience* has a two-page profile that provides detailed information about civic engagement and service-learning programs on campus, in the classroom, and in the community, as well as advice for applicants. The book also includes a section on researching colleges with service-learning programs and gaining financial support for service. Profiles of 15 students share perceptions and feedback about their civic engagement activities, advice, and experience.

FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNED AND ESTATE GIFTS — Mercer Establishes Estate Planning Website

Are you concerned about your legacy? Do you want to plan your estate, but are not sure where to start? This spring, Mercer's Office of Planned and Estate Gifts established an Estate Planning website to assist Mercer's alumni and friends that will answer many, if not all, of your general questions about estate and gift planning. We think in terms of a simple will, and for some of us that may be adequate. The problem, though, is that approximately half of us do not have one at death.

Also, many of us do not understand that good estate planning can help us while we are living. One example you will see in the information provided concerns powers of attorney. A power



Claude Smith, CLA '74, LAW '82, is special counsel for planned and estate gifts

of attorney allows you either permanently or temporarily transfer to a named individual, the ability to act on your behalf to handle matters concerning your financial affairs as well as your healthcare needs.

Another example concerns the integration of charitable giving into your estate plan, which you may not ever have considered. Interestingly, you may have the ability to assist future Mercer students with scholarships you establish either through lifetime income gifts such as a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, or through your will, revocable living trust, or life insurance.

By clicking on Mercer's gift planning website in the privacy of your home or office, you can learn more



Richard Spivey, assistant vice president for estate gifts and development

about the above examples. There is a glossary of terms, a question and answer page, a page just for essentials, and much more.

Every month, the site is updated with the latest tax changes and planning strategies. We will also feature a story on a Donor who has made a commitment to Mercer through a planned gift and the influence it makes on the life of a student.

While the website does not substitute for good advice from your attorney and financial advisor, it should open a world of information for you.

For more information, contact Claude D. Smith, Jr. Special Counsel for Planned and Estate Gifts, Mercer University
Or
Richard C. Spivey Assistant Vice President for Planned and Estate Gifts and Development
(800) 837-2911, (478) 301-2172