

## Trustees Elect Underwood Next President

**T**he Board of Trustees of Mercer University unanimously elected law scholar William D. Underwood as the University's 18th president at their semi-annual meeting in December.

Underwood, who served as interim president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, until Jan. 2, will take office on July 1, upon the retirement of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey, who has been the University's chief executive officer for an unprecedented 27 years.

At the press conference held following the Trustees' vote, David Hudson, presidential search committee chairman and newly-elected chairman of the Board, recalled the group's first meeting with Underwood.

"One member said, 'Call in the dogs, put the water on the fire, the hunt is over,'" recalled Hudson. In an interview with the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, Hudson said Underwood stood out as a candidate because of his background teaching in the Baylor Law School since 1990 and his experience as interim president the past six months.

Underwood said he plans on "picking up where Kirby left off" and continuing many of Godsey's initiatives, including continuing to upgrade the quality of the faculty and the student body, with an eye on making Mercer "a premier, nationally recognized university."

Underwood will follow in the academic tradition of Mercer's 16th president, Dr. Rufus C. Harris, who also was a nationally noted law scholar and who had served as a law school dean before beginning his 19-year presiden-

cy at the University.

During his term at the helm of Baylor, Underwood was credited for

tion of the University. During his six-month presidency, he received a vote of affirmation as well as a standing ova-



President **R. Kirby Godsey** speaks with President-Elect **William D. Underwood** following the Dec. 2 press conference.

bringing unity back among the faculty, staff, students and alumni, which had become fractured during the previous administration over the future direc-

tion from the faculty senate and strong support from the alumni association.

Prior to his appointment to interim president, Underwood had been a mem-

ber of the faculty of the Baylor Law School since 1990. He held The Leon Jaworski Chair in Practice and Procedure and directed the rigorous Practice Court program, which has received high marks from *The Princeton Review* and *Litigation News*. In 2004, Baylor awarded Underwood the prestigious designation of Master Teacher for his commitment to teaching and scholarly research. Only nine of Baylor's current 800 faculty members have received the Master Teacher designation.

Underwood, the son of a Baptist preacher, earned his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma Baptist University. A *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, he was a member of the Board of Editors of the *University of Illinois Law Review* and a member of the Order of the Coif. After law school, he completed a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable Sam D. Johnson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Court.

He became a high-profile attorney practicing civil trial law with Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, a prominent litigation firm based in Dallas. Underwood has published extensively in the field of civil practice and procedure, including articles that have led to significant changes in federal and state procedur-

### Getting to Know

#### William D. Underwood

**Underwood** was born in Ft. Morgan, Colo., to William H. and Mary E. Underwood. He and his four younger siblings — Becky, Debbie, Jim and Mary — spent their childhoods in Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Underwood says he was inspired to become a lawyer when he was studying history. "I was struck by how often our country had turned to exceptional lawyers for leadership in times of crisis," he notes. "In a very real sense, exceptional lawyers have been our nation's great problem solvers." In 1990, Underwood went from practicing law to teaching it, and says the opportunity to play a significant role in developing the next generation of lawyers was an attractive one.

Underwood says that, prior to becoming the interim president at Baylor University, he received the best advice from a successful college president. "He advised me not to be crucified on six-inch crosses, and never to lose my desire and capacity to listen to others," Underwood recalls. "That was great advice from Kirby Godsey."

Underwood is married to the former Leslie Pearson, a third-grade teacher at an inner-city public school in Waco, who is a past president of the Waco Chapter of Parents for Public Schools and a past board member of National Parents for Public Schools organization. They are the parents of two children, Jessica, 17, and William, 12.

al law. After joining the faculty of Baylor's College of Law, he continued to successfully represent clients in a variety of civil and criminal cases.

An elected member of the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation, and the Texas Bar Foundation, Underwood has served as Reporter to the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas.

## Mercer Breaks Ground for New Science and Engineering Building

By Mark Vanderboek

**D**uring the festivities surrounding the School of Engineering's 20th Anniversary on Oct. 21, 2005, Mercer also passed another important milestone by breaking ground on its new Science and Engineering Building. The building will further the educational mission of Mercer University and cements the ties between Robins Air Force Base and the University. The new building will increase the level of activity under Mercer's longstanding Education Partnership Agreement with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WRALC) at Robins, which is the largest single employer of Mercer engineers.

A number of representatives from the WRALC were on hand for the

groundbreaking, along with university officials, students, graduates and former deans of the School of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts Dean Richard C. Fallis and United States Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Macon.

"This new state-of-the-art teaching and research facility will further advance the University's position as a leader in engineering and science education in the state of Georgia," said M. Dayne Aldridge, the

dean of the School of Engineering. "It will provide our students and facul-

ty the finest laboratories and specialized classrooms possible as well as an



Construction on the new Science and Engineering Building began on Oct. 21. Helping in the groundbreaking were: (left to right) **Michael Hatcher**, director of engineering at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center; **Richard C. Fallis**, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; United States Rep. **Jim Marshall**, R-Georgia; **M. Dayne Aldridge**, dean of the School of Engineering; **Elizabeth Embury**, president of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society; **Donald LaTorre**, chair of the National Engineering Advisory Board; and Mercer President and CEO **R. Kirby Godsey**.

outstanding materials-testing system.

"... Our School has a longstanding partnership with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center," Aldridge said, "and this new facility will help us address two of its greatest needs: the teaching of short courses and graduate education."

The new building will feature new laboratories, specialized classrooms, study rooms and a 150-seat auditorium. Students from the nine undergraduate and graduate engineering programs, as well as the core sciences, such as physics, will study in the new facility. The new facility will provide specialized classrooms and laboratories to meet the growing needs of the

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# AROUND THE UNIVERSITY

Mercer

## Summit Confirms Mercer's Baptist Commitment

In January, Mercer University called together some 200 church and lay leaders to begin a dialogue concerning the sustainment of the University's Baptist identity.

The two-day "Baptist Summit," held on the Macon campus, resulted from the November vote by the Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) to end its 172-year relationship with the University. In December, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Mercer came to an agreement with the Executive Committee of the GBC on how to sever the affiliation in an orderly manner over the next two years.

President R. Kirby Godsey, in his opening remarks, reaffirmed that Mercer is committed to being a Baptist university.

"That reality can never be changed by the action of the Convention," he told the standing-room-only audience. "Furthermore, it is our intention and commitment to strengthen our Baptist identity, and to relate even more closely to Baptists."

He stated that the challenge before the University is how to maintain the institution's "Baptistness" beyond its previous connection with the GBC. Continuing the University's Baptist identity, Godsey said, is critical since that is what sets Mercer apart from other institutions.

Godsey explained that what makes the Mercer Experience unique is the fact it is a union of the Mercer Idea and the Baptist Idea. "The Mercer Idea [is] the power of the mind and the

power of one person, and the Baptist Idea [is] the power of freedom and the power of grace," he said.

"Mercer is about the convergence of the power of thought and the power

that represent their religious roots to the nation, Shurden called upon Mercer to follow their lead and become the nation's Baptist university. "We really should think of becoming noth-

endorsements ... if Mercer is to become the kind of national Baptist University that is needed," he explained.

William D. Underwood, who will become Mercer's 18th president upon the retirement of President Godsey on July 1, 2006, closed the forum on an exciting, but cautionary note. He told those in attendance that a Baptist university has a distinct advantage over not only state-sponsored schools, which mandate that discussions of religion and theology be from a neutral, secular perspective, but also other faith-based institutions.

"What Baptist universities have ... is the historical and theological commitment of Baptists to individual freedom of thought and expression," he explained. "Because of our Baptist commitment to freedom, we, among all universities, faith-based or secular, should have the most open and robust exchange of ideas — the fullest and most rewarding pursuit of truth. This can be the exciting future of Baptist higher education at Mercer."

However, he warned the group that to preserve this great heritage of Baptist principles and to realize the university's full potential, Mercer must resist the threat of secularization and be intentional in its efforts to stay true to its Baptist roots.

"Mercer can be the single greatest resource in Baptist life, if Baptists will embrace us," said Underwood. "Mercer may be the best hope for preserving the principles that have defined Baptists. Today, there remain relatively few Baptist universities that have not been lost to either the threat of fundamentalism or the threat of secularization. ... Mercer can be the intellectual engine of a dynamic worldwide free Baptist movement."



President **R. Kirby Godsey** discusses Mercer's Baptist heritage with President-Elect **William D. Underwood**, Trustee **Griffin B. Bell** and Trustees Chairman **David Hudson**.

RIGHT: **President Godsey** chats with Mercer alumnus **Jim Griffith**, former executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, during the Baptist Summit.



of one person to make a difference with the gift of freedom and the gift of grace," Godsey added. "That, for me, is what it means to be a Baptist university."

Dr. Walter Shurden, executive director of the Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer and one of the three moderators for the forum, called upon the administration and Board of Trustees to see the departure of the GBC as an opportunity for Mercer to become "the" national Baptist university.

"I don't want Mercer to become less Baptist; I want Mercer to become more Baptist," Shurden urged the group.

Referencing Brandeis, Notre Dame and Brigham Young as universities

ing less than a national — not a regional, but a national — Baptist university ... that is proud of its Penfield roots," said Shurden.

However, he told the attendees he did not want the university to "ever again be hard-wired to another denominational entity." He instead recommended that Mercer develop "dotted line relationships" with several national Baptist denominational entities. "It will take these kinds of

## New Science and Engineering Building

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physics department and the School of Engineering. One of the new labs will allow faculty and students to develop curriculum designed to work with instruction software modules for students, a project partly funded by a recent Keck Foundation award.

The largest industrial complex in the state with more than 22,000 employees and military personnel, Robins Air Force Base is critical to the economic vitality of Central Georgia. One of the primary reasons Mercer is constructing the Science and Engineering Building is its longstanding partnership with the U.S. Air Force at Robins AFB.

The new facility will be located next to the Mercer School of Engineering, and with construction, equipment and furnishings, the Science and Engineering Building is expected to cost \$14 million.

Other labs in the facility will include equipment and devices for students to study basic mechanical, electrical, electromagnetic, solid state, optical and nonlinear phenomena; digital and analog solid state electronic devices; the design and fabrication of devices with imbedded microprocessors; digital signal processing; and composite materials.

The construction of the new building comes on the heels of the new \$40 million University Center, which was completed in 2004. Both buildings are part of the University's plan for major capital improvements to its

Macon campus.

During the most recently completed fiscal year, about 40 percent of the new engineers hired by Robins AFB came from Mercer School of Engineering, making it the number one provider of engineers to the base. Understanding the value that Mercer provides to the base, President R. Kirby Godsey and Maj. Gen. Michael A. Collings, Commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, in June 2004 expanded their joint venture, called the Education Partnership Agreement. The agreement provides the Air Logistics Center with extra assistance and a new perspective in research and development areas of interest to its work. It also provides Mercer students, faculty and staff with access to resources, such as unique, state-of-the-art equipment



An artist's rendering of the new Science and Engineering Building shows what the building will look like when it is completed. The \$14 million project will house numerous

and expert knowledge, along with the opportunity to work on practical problems of the Department of Defense and the aerospace industry.

At the groundbreaking, Michael Hatcher, the director of engineering at



# Engineering School Celebrates Two Decades of Excellence

By Mark Vanderboek

The School of Engineering celebrated its 20th anniversary on Oct. 21, 2005, bringing together many of the people who had a hand in its beginnings, including the first dean, many of the first students and even the Air Force general who helped to bring the school about.

As part of the celebration, the School held a special retrospective meeting of its National Engineering Advisory Board, as well as a groundbreaking on Mercer's new Science and Engineering Building and wound down the day with a dinner honoring the founders of the school and featuring United States Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Georgia, as the keynote speaker.

"We have built a tradition of excellence and have stayed committed to our mission of educating men and women to be engineers who are prepared to serve roles in the companies and industries of Georgia and the United States that help them to remain competitive," said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. "Today, we broke ground on the new Science and Engineering Building that will provide the School of Engineering with the space it needs to grow and develop — a space that will enhance Mercer's

ability to prepare engineering graduates to achieve all the greatness of their true potential."

## Achievements

Among its many achievements over the past 20 years, the School of

Engineering has built a reputation for producing graduates who are ready to work in industry and government and to pursue graduate studies in the most renowned research and professional schools. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Mercer's School of Engineering one of the top undergraduate engineering pro-

grams in the Southeast for the past seven years. Since it graduated its first class in 1989, the school has produced nearly 1,400 alumni, who have, in turn, been hired by more than 500 employers. The School of Engineering, from its inception, has worked closely with Robins Air Force Base, and is now the largest single provider of engineers to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WRALC) at Robins.

In establishing the school, Mercer worked with area employers, including the largest single employer in Central Georgia, Robins Air Force Base, to create a curriculum to meet the needs of the area. Mercer's curriculum has kept students on the cutting-edge of technology

while providing a broad-based, practical and innovative experience. Mercer also realized that a liberal arts approach — with written and verbal communication as a major component — and a faculty focused more on teaching students than doing research, would help graduates succeed in the real world. The approach has proven to be a winning one for the School of Engineering, as it continues to draw high-quality students and support from employers.

The School now offers the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree with six specialization areas: biomedical, computer, electrical, environmental, industrial and mechanical engineering. Undergraduates can also earn a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management or technical communication. For graduate students, the School offers the Master of Science in Engineering degree with specializations in computer, electrical, software and mechanical engineering, as well as engineering management. Also included in the curriculum is a Master of Science degree in technical communication management, software systems and technical management. Graduate courses are offered at the Robins Air Force Base Resident Center in Warner Robins, further cementing the bond between the School and Robins. The Master of Science in technical communication management is offered online.

## History of the School

Mercer and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce began exploring the perceived need for an engineering school in the Central Georgia area in January 1984, after Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey and Maj. Gen. Cornelius Nugteren, then commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, held discussions about the need for engineers on the base.

On Dec. 7, 1984, Mercer's Board of Trustees gave President Godsey authority to move ahead with an engineering school. The Chamber, then under the leadership of President Melvin Kruger, pitched in to help,

appointing a committee to help work on fund raising for the school.

Beginning in early 1985, Mercer began work to complete plans for its newest school, with the appointment of

planning and fostered by a talented, volunteer advisory board, the School of engineering earned accreditation of its B.S. in Engineering degree by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and

Technology within five years of accepting its first class. An accreditation team visit in the fall of 1989 resulted in accreditation that applied to the first graduate in the spring 1989 and the years that followed.

While it was building its first classes, Mercer drew upon the assets in industry and government to gain both support and expertise. In 1986, United States Sen. Sam Nunn helped the University establish the National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB). NEAB



Above: Those who have served as dean or interim dean of the School of Engineering — left to right, **Allen F. Grum, C.B. Gambrell, M. Dayne Aldridge, Mogens Henriksen** and **Benjamin S. Kelley** — attended the Oct. 21, 2005, 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Below: Inaugural students, faculty and staff from the School of Engineering gathered for the 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. Inaugural faculty members in attendance (seated, from left to right) were: **John Patterson, Harris Burns, C.B. Gambrell** and **Jack Mahaney**. They were joined by the students and staff (standing, from left to right) including: **Richard Weekley, Michael Smith, Peter Bryant, Bill Chandler, Tracy Patel, Jon Baker, Lonnie Morris** (first assistant to the dean), **Steven Penley, Scanlon Putegnat, Kate Zirkle** (inaugural staff), **Carol B. Hernandez** and **Kimberly Jordan**.



several committees. Mercer officials began to work with Robins Air Force Base officials on engineering programs and curriculum. Robins appointed a "tiger team" to work with Mercer in the planning process.

Technical growth at Warner Robins Air Force Base would not have happened without the engineering school, according to Maj. Gen. Nugteren.

Mercer hired Dr. C.B. Gambrell Jr. to serve as the School's first dean and admitted its first class in the fall of 1985. On Oct. 17, 1986, officials from Mercer, Robins and the Chamber joined a number of elected officials to dedicate the new 62,000-square-foot Mercer School of Engineering. In 1987, Mercer also began a research arm of the school, the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC), to provide clinical opportunities for students and faculty. MERC has since grown into a major contractor with Robins. Since its inception, MERC has exceeded \$165 million in contract revenue.

The School's nontraditional curriculum gained favorable recognition in engineering education's highest circles. Fortified by thoughtful administrative

continues to help provide the School of Engineering students and faculty premier research opportunities, contributing technical expertise and financial support and providing career opportunities for graduates.

With so much input from engineering practitioners, the School's curriculum has been built to help students meet real world demands. The School's goal from the outset has been to graduate 21st-century engineers capably equipped to demonstrate exceptional promise in their areas of specialty. Students also spend time outside of the classroom working on projects and working in internships and co-ops to build up their experience as working engineers.

"Industry reports that our emphasis on understanding the breadth and depth of complex problems provides graduates who rapidly engage their first work assignments with success," said Dr. M. Dayne Aldridge, dean of the School of Engineering. "Recent national reports indicate that our School of Engineering is positioned for a very bright future. The new building will give reality to this future, not only for Mercer University but also for all of Central Georgia."



labs and classrooms for the School of Engineering and physical sciences as well as the physics department of the College of Liberal Arts.

the WRALC, acknowledged the importance of the School of Engineering to his organization and praised the new building, which will help provide new engineers and further the education of its current employees.

role," Hatcher said. "It is through our longstanding academic partnership with Mercer University and its School of Engineering that we are able to meet the ever demanding needs for engineers."



Mercer Shows Support to Alums in the Military

By Nancy R. Fullbright

Capt. John Newman, commander of B Company, 3-15 Infantry, and a 1999 BBA graduate of Stetson School of Business and Economics, doesn't shy away from a challenge. Currently stationed in Baghdad, Newman had his mettle tested in October when his infantry company thwarted a terrorist attack aimed at the Sheraton and Palestine hotel complex — home to many international journalists in Iraq. Despite a number of civilian casualties in the attack, Newman said the incident was “a success story. It could've been much worse.”

A typical day for Newman might include patrolling the sand swept streets to defeat insurgents, searching for weapons and seeking out known terrorists, and helping local governments and police forces get re-established. “It's honestly a very wide-ranging job, but it's been very interesting, and we really feel like we're making a difference,” Newman said.

In recognition of the difference its alumni and faculty are making through military service, Mercer is developing ways to express its support and gratitude. Sgt. 1st Class Allan Pitchford, the University's liaison to the Army ROTC program and a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, has launched Operation Visibility in conjunction with the Mercer Military Alumni Program. After purchasing six Mercer flags, they

forwarded them to AROTC alumni currently serving on active duty. These flags are now carried by Mercer AROTC alumni — one in Korea, two in Iraq, one in Afghanistan and one in Germany. The sixth is flown on the campus flagpole on the Macon campus as a symbol of support and as a reminder of their sacrifice.

“I want to encourage solidarity among these Mercer officers during this difficult period, and hope that they pass the flag on as new Mercer officers rotate in and out of their particular areas,” Pitchford said. “The Mercer community has historically been supportive of the military, and we want to carry on that tradition.”

Newman, who has posed with his flag throughout Baghdad, said the flag renewed pride in his alma mater and has given him a chance to meet other Mercer military alumni.

“Having a Mercer flag here in Iraq has done a few things for me personally. It has given me a chance to get to know other military graduates from

Mercer, both younger and older than myself — men and women who have had all different experiences and views, and whose knowledge and experiences I can now tap into and learn from,” explained Newman. “It

has also renewed a certain school spirit or pride. Having the flag hanging up in my room and taking pictures all over Baghdad with it has really renewed the pride in the school that I graduated from.”

Another initiative of the Military Science Department is Kittie's Corner. Through the efforts of the cadet staff and the departmental secretary, Kittie Wheelus, donated soccer balls, sports

equipment and toys are boxed and sent to active duty Mercer alumni stationed overseas, who then pass the items along to youth organizations, schools, hospitals and orphanages within their area of operations.

support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies — foreign and domestic — and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same.’ This program produces officers who understand their responsibilities and are prepared to lead!”

Newman agreed with Pitchford about the caliber of cadets Mercer produces, and said Mercer ROTC cadets should continue to be appreciated and encouraged in the work they are doing.

“I'd just like to remind everyone what important work is going on in the bottom floor of Penfield Gym. Many students only know of the ROTC folks as the guys or gals in uniform once a week, or the folks that threw them off the rappelling tower during their first-year seminar experiential wilderness weekend [formerly known as freshman seminar program]. The men and women that are being commissioned by Mercer are going on to lead literally thousands of soldiers, and are

working day and night to keep not only our soldiers safe, but to protect the way of life we currently enjoy,” Newman

said. “Those cadets in ROTC need a pat on the back and words of encouragement because they have a tough road ahead of them, but they will eventually be very, very proud they took the challenge.”

For more information on this effort, contact Pitchford at (478) 301-2658 or Pitchford\_AJ@Mercer.edu.



Capt. John Newman (far left) brings the Mercer spirit to several Iraqi children in Baghdad.

**Authors Luncheon Honors Godsey, Features Grace** — Twenty-four national and regional authors and more than 300 book lovers filled the conference area of the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta last November for the 26th Mercer University Press Authors Luncheon. During the program, Mercer President **R. Kirby Godsey** (below left) was honored for his vision in establishing Mercer Press in his first year of presidency in 1979. Mercer Press presented him with framed copies of the book jackets of his latest books, *The Courage Factor* and *Centering Our Souls*, both published last fall. Also, one of television's most respected legal analysts and host of *Headline News*' legal analysis program, Nancy Grace, on *Headline Prime*, **Nancy Grace**, CLA '81, LAW '84 (below right, seated), was a featured author at the event. She told the capacity crowd that it was the random murder of her fiancé that changed her life, resulting in her choosing a career in law and setting her on the path to become a felony prosecutor and an outspoken victims' rights advocate.



**President's Club Life Members Recognized** — Fourteen members of the President's Club were recognized in October as new Life Members. Qualification for recognition as a Life Member follows cumulative giving of \$100,000 to the University. Present to receive Life Member citations at the 41st President's Club celebration included: front row, **Mary Wasden, Patty Jones, Mary Anne Armour**; back row, **Jerry Vanderhoeft, K. Wayne Jones, Rollin Armour**. Not present to receive their citations were **Diane Owens, William and Nell Key, Roy and Eugenia Smith, and David Lynch**.



First Year Marked Success for Townsend Institute

By Denise Cook

Established in 2005 as a collaboration of Mercer University's Department of Music of the College of Liberal Arts and McAfee School of Theology, the Sophia Malin Townsend and Raymond Clay Townsend Institute Graduate Programs in Church Music prepares musical artists for ministry. With an enrollment of seven students in Macon and one student in Atlanta during its first year, The Townsend Institute is enabling musicians to serve in local church, community music, or music missions ministries.

According to current student R. Creston Groover of Macon, "The

Townsend Institute is raising the standard of excellence in church music and is preparing me to be a better musician, leader, disciple and scholar."

Dr. John Simons, coordinator for graduate music studies, reported the program is expecting enrollment for fall 2006 to be seven to 10 students, bringing the total expected graduate student population to between 14 and 17 students.

The Townsend Institute is now accepting applications for the 2006-



John Simons

2007 academic year. The admissions deadline for the program is July 1.

One of the community programs initiated by The Townsend Institute is the Mercer Children's Choir, which involves more than 70 children from Central Georgia. Comprised of the Preparatory Choir (ages 7-9) and the Touring Choir (ages 10-15), The Mercer Children's Choir helps young singers develop their singing and performance skills. The Touring Choir performs throughout Georgia and also performs in an annual out-of-state concert tour. The choirs experi-

enced an excellent first semester and performed in numerous concerts.

The choirs participated in the lighting of the Hospice Christmas Tree

This spring, the choirs are scheduled to perform Mahler's 3rd Symphony with the Macon Symphony Orchestra, perform at three area churches, give a spring concert, and participate in a concert tour to St. Augustine, Fla., and Tampa, Fla.

For more information about The Townsend Institute admissions or its community programs, visit [www.mercer.edu/music](http://www.mercer.edu/music) or contact Dr. John E. Simons, coordinator for graduate music studies, The Townsend Institute, at (478) 301-4012 or [simons\\_je@mercer.edu](mailto:simons_je@mercer.edu).

THE TOWNSEND INSTITUTE  
GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN CHURCH MUSIC  
AT MERCER UNIVERSITY

in Downtown Macon, performed on live television (channels 13 and 41), for the Macon City Council and at Colonial Mall, participated in Mercer's Music Department's performance of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, and presented a Christmas concert to a full house in Newton Chapel.

ROBERT MCDUFFIE  
& Friends  
FALL FESTIVAL FOR STRINGS  
at Mercer University

The Department of Music of the College of Liberal Arts hosted the Robert McDuffie and Friends Fall Festival for Strings Sept. 8-11, 2005. Sixteen high school junior and senior string musicians, eight violinists, four cellists and four violists, were chosen for this exclusive three-day strings immersion workshop with five of the nation's foremost



Robert McDuffie coaches Jennifer Chun of Marietta, Ga., after her solo performance during a violin and viola master class.

concert artists and two outstanding Mercer Music faculty members.



The three-day festival culminated with a public concert during which the students performed alongside their master teachers.

Students participated in both personal and group lessons that advanced them to a new level of music per-

formance. The University is now accepting applications for the 2006 Robert McDuffie & Friends Labor Day

Festival for Strings, Aug. 31-Sept. 4. For more information, visit [www.mercer.edu/mcduffie](http://www.mercer.edu/mcduffie).

Mercer Homecoming 2006!



Homecoming, with a theme of MercerPalooza, featured many events for students and alumni. Feb. 10-11 events included both men's and women's basketball games in the University Center, dinner and dancing at the class reunions and lots of good food and fellowship. Student events held throughout the week included talent shows, competitions and the annual homecoming dance. Cindy Strowbridge and Drew Hartley were named the 2006 Homecoming queen and king.





# Renovations Enhance Historic Grand Opera House

By Denise Cook

On Monday night, Sept. 23, 1884, an asbestos fire curtain rose on the opening performance in Macon’s new theater, then called the Academy of Music. After two years of construction, the facility was elegant beyond anything previously dreamt of in the small town of 15,000 people. The new theater was a source of enormous pride to the community. It was, according to the editorial writer of the *Telegraph and Messenger*, “... a model of elegance and a triumph of good taste; the prettiest amusement house in the south outside New Orleans.”

Fast forward more than 120 years, The Grand Opera House still stands tall on Mulberry Street in downtown Macon. The historic landmark theater is located just a few blocks down the street from Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law and is officially dubbed “A performing arts center of Mercer University.”

In its early years, The Grand hosted spectacular names like Houdini, Will Rogers, Charlie Chaplin, the John Philip Sousa Band, George Burns and Gracie Allen. Then, after decades as a movie theater and a target for demolition, community leaders recognized its historical and cultural impact and worked together to bring about its revitalization.

On Oct. 1, 1995, Mercer University signed a lease with Bibb County for the management and administration of The Grand Opera House. Since then, the renewed focus has been to broaden the community’s access to the arts and reflect the diverse interests of Central Georgians by presenting a multitude of quality arts and cultural experiences. The University’s efforts to keep The Grand alive are a direct result of Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey’s continued emphasis on community engagement. In his words, “What’s good for Mercer is good for Macon, and what’s good for Macon is good for Mercer.”

As in the past, The Grand continues to rely on the dedicated support of countless volunteers and community leaders. In addition to the programming booked by the University, The Grand serves as one of central Georgia’s premier rental venues and is home to the Macon Symphony Orchestra, the Macon Civic Club’s Annual Musical Revue, the Macon Kiwanis Club’s Travel and Adventure

Series, the Nutcracker of Middle Georgia, and the Central Georgia Opera Guild, among others. Mercer’s music and theatre departments frequently use the venue for student performances.

Since assuming stewardship in 1995, Mercer has made a substantial

investment in capital improvements and operations at The Grand. Along with Bibb County and the City of Macon, the University has made physical improvements to the theater, such as renovation and repainting of the lobby and façade; reconstruction of

office system, installing new phones and a computerized ticketing system to increase tickets sales and improve customer convenience. The University recently added online ticketing via [thegrand.mercer.edu](http://thegrand.mercer.edu), and the box office was renamed Mercer Ticket Sales. Over the past decade, attendance at the Broadway Series has more than tripled. According to Karen Lambert, executive director for The Grand Opera House, “Subscriptions to our Broadway Series increased from 345 in 1995 to 1,255 in 2005 — a 364 percent increase.” Many of these shows have opened to sell-out crowds in recent years.

“Thanks to the support of our sponsors and patrons, we’re able to present world-class entertainment every season. These shows are the same tours that perform at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta and other major venues all over the world,” Lambert said.

In addition, community use of The Grand has increased by more than 50 percent. “Besides its traditional use for performances, The Grand is the perfect place for corporate meetings, dinners on stage, weddings, receptions, award ceremonies, pageants, anything you can imagine,” Lambert explained.

In 1996, Mercer created the GrandKids Arts Education Series to provide rich learning opportunities to students, through exposure to professional music, dance and theatre performances at The Grand Opera House. According to Ann Fugate, house manager for the GrandKids program,

“We’ve had more than 38,000 students from both public and private schools in seven counties participate in the program. They arrive at The Grand excited and noisy, and then they walk in and their eyes get huge

es on the wall and the dirty carpet, but someone new comes in and sees that it looks pretty bad. The Grand has been in need of serious repairs for a long time,” Brittain said.

Among the work completed was the removal and replacement of the original stage floor. “The old floor was worn out and uneven, and that was a problem during show load-ins,” Brittain explained. “But we did preserve Houdini’s trap door!” he added.

A separate HVAC unit was installed in the balcony and noise reduction features were installed in all of the duct work. “With the old unit, it was nearly impossible to keep both the balcony and the floor level at comfortable temperatures. Now we can regulate them separately. We also removed some of the old duct work in the balcony to add another row of seats,” Brittain said.

The entire theatre — door frames, filigree work, columns and other details — have been painted bold, contrasting colors. The painting contractor responsible for the job was

Tony Long, who is known for his restoration work on many other historical facilities in town. “Before, you didn’t notice many of the architectural elements because everything was painted gold and

white. The new colors bring out all of the little details,” said Long.

In addition to a rich, new color scheme, which is the first color change since the 1970s renovation, the ceiling is now a breathtaking daytime sky that fades into night, complete with more than one hundred fiber-optic, twinkling stars.

The project was partially funded by a \$250,000 grant from the United States Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, Save America’s Treasures Grant Program. Additional funding was provided locally by a grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation. “The Grand’s Board of Governors and Mercer University are raising the remaining funds to cover the renovation costs,” said board chairman John Shoemaker.

The Board of Governors hopes to complete additional renovations and facility additions in the future. “This building belongs to the citizens of our community, and we need to do everything we can to preserve it for generations to come,” Shoemaker said.



ABOVE: The Grand Opera House underwent a complete repainting during renovations that included a new color scheme. BELOW RIGHT: The renovation project called for the replacement of the original stage floor. Scaffolding was constructed inside the theater for the repainting job to be accomplished.



and all they can say is ‘wow!’” Fugate adds, “For many children, this is their only opportunity to see professional performing arts.”

Through the program, more than 6,000 students visit The Grand several times during an academic year, experiencing a variety of professional art forms. Prior to each visit, the students watch a preparatory videotape workshop in their classrooms. Students also receive a *GrandKids Gazette*, which uses articles, puzzles and games to offer additional insight about the upcoming performance. Local radio personality Jami Gaudet writes the content for the workshops and serves as host in the videos and at the live performances. This distinctive approach moves the arts beyond leisure entertainment to a vivid learning environment.

The Grand underwent much needed renovation and repair work during the summer of 2005. Macon architect Charles Brittain was in charge of the project. “It’s kind of like your own house. You may overlook the scratch-



*For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a gift to The Grand, contact Mercer Ticket Sales at (478) 301-5470 or visit [thegrand.mercer.edu](http://thegrand.mercer.edu).  
Box office hours:  
10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday;  
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday.*

the sidewalk, curb and street at the front entrance; replacement of the roof; replacement and upgrade of all over-stage rigging; installation of a Wenger acoustical sound shell; complete re-carpeting of all interior floors; HVAC upgrade; and replacement of electrical service to the stage. Mercer also upgraded the old box



## International Conductor Performs at Mercer

By Denise Cook

**O**n Oct. 13, 2005, Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart led the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in a special performance, also featuring world-renowned violinist Robert McDuffie, in downtown Macon at The Grand Opera House, a performing arts center of Mercer University. The event was held in honor of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey and his wife, Joan, for their years of service to Mercer. Before the evening's concert, Lockhart spoke with some of Mercer's music students about his musical background and how he became conductor of the Boston Pops. The following narrative highlights Lockhart's discussion.

### Musical Beginnings

I had been a pianist since the age of 7. I also played clarinet, and I was heavily involved in all the ensembles. Music was pretty much my entire life, but I didn't know what I was going to do with it. I didn't have musical parents, two IBMers for parents, actually. And though they were very supportive, the only professional musicians I knew were my band director and my piano teacher.

I had decided that, since I didn't know anybody who actually did music for a living, who had taken this passion and turned it into something to which they would devote themselves professionally, that I had to do what everybody else had to do and get a real job. I decided that I would go to a school with a good music department. I would take the LSAT at the end of my four years and go to law school.

### Becoming a Music Major

During college, I tried to keep my options open, but I was unable to divorce myself from music. It literally

had become my life, and as I tried to remove parts of it and broaden my base a little bit further it just felt totally wrong. So I went to my parents and said 'I'm going to be a music major.' My father looked at me and said, "Well, you know I'll support anything you want to do as long as you're prepared to do it as well as anybody does it." That was a little daunting, but it was enough incentive to continue.

### From Piano to Conducting

About three years into my undergraduate training I realized that I didn't know what I was going to do with this degree. The easy choice was to go to grad school and get another degree in performance and piano, but I really wanted to be out there performing.

So this young professor at my college, Dr. John Roberts, now chair of Mercer's Music Department, said, "Have you ever thought about conducting?" This sparked my interest in conducting as a profession. I had toyed around with conducting in high school. I had conducted some musicals, and I

was the assistant conductor of the band. I also led some various ensembles during undergrad. But I always did it because I love the process of assembly. I love the fact that you can take something and make something greater than the sum of its individual parts — the collective effort. And I love being the person who was in charge of getting that to happen.

I applied and was accepted that summer to the conducting program at the Ashton Music Festival. I had an amazing experience. I lived life next to a lot of professional musicians. I saw conductors who were young enough that I could imagine being them. I also saw grand old maestros in their 70s in front of me in line at the grocery store. I saw them in love with music, and I saw them continually challenged by it. I saw the possibilities I think for the first time of somebody actually doing that. So I came back to senior year, put the blinders on, barely squeaked out my senior recital because by that point, it was around the same time as my grad school conducting audition, and my focus was elsewhere.

### The Road to Boston

After receiving my master's degree from Carnegie Mellon, I joined the faculty, where I taught for six years. I conducted the wind ensemble, managed the orchestra, and was the resident conductor of the orchestra.

By the time I left, I was the director of orchestras and in charge of the conducting program.

I left Carnegie Mellon to accept a position at the University of Akron. The next year I became the assistant conductor of the Akron Symphony.

the associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and the Cincinnati Pops. Because of that exposure, people in Chicago called me to do educational concerts and corporate events. Then people in L.A. and Hollywood saw me, and



While in Macon to guest conduct the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the Presidential Musical Gala on Oct. 13, Boston Pops conductor **Keith Lockhart** met with Mercer music students to discuss his career in conducting and answer questions.



Mercer Music Department Chair **John**, left, and wife, **Jean Roberts**, spend time with **Keith Lockhart**.

Our general manager left a year later to become the operations director of the Cincinnati Symphony, which had been looking all year for a new associate conductor. The former general manager of the Akron Symphony said to them, "You know who you should call ...," and I got a call asking me to audition. I became

because of those events, people in Boston saw me.

Around 1992, when the conductor of the Boston Pops decided to retire, we began a two-and-a-half-year courtship in which I would guest conduct several times a year. In February of 1995, I was appointed conductor of the Boston Pops.

I'm now in my eleventh season with the Boston Pops, and I've done more than 800 concerts, about 60 television shows, and nine recordings over the last decade. In 1997, I was a candidate for the music directorship of the Utah Symphony. I auditioned for them and got that job. And now I have a nicely balanced plate that involves me being in Boston for about 20 weeks and in Utah for 17 weeks of the year.

## Student Benefits from New Women's and Gender Studies Major

By Mark Vanderboek

**E**rin Porter, a senior from Walkerton, Va., has made a big impact on the Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) program since arriving a little more than a year ago, fresh from earning her associate's degree in her home state.

Porter is the president of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance chapter at Mercer and turned a WGS service-learning project into a job with Crisis Line of Middle Georgia, where she is an advocate for victims of sexual assault. Porter recently put her knowledge of women's and gender studies to further use. She represented Mercer as a discussant on a panel about

human trafficking during the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Southeastern Regional Conference at Spelman College in Atlanta. The Mercer WGS program was a co-sponsor of the conference, which featured such speakers as Eleanor Smeal, former president of the National Organization of Women and publisher of *Ms.* magazine.

"She did an absolutely fabulous presentation at this conference," said



**Erin Porter**, right, a junior in Mercer's Women's and Gender Studies Program, represented Mercer as a discussant on a panel the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Southeastern Regional Conference at Spelman College in Atlanta. Porter was able to meet one of her heroes, **Eleanor Smeal**, left, former president of the National Organization of Women and publisher of *Ms.* Magazine.

Mary Alice Morgan, professor of English and director of the WGS program.

Morgan has been impressed with Porter's focus and her "non-traditional" status. Porter, 28, went to college briefly after high school, but eventually stopped and began working. Taking a job at a hotel, she worked nights, reading *USA Today* and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and as many as five novels a week.

"I went to an all-girls high school, and I've always been really interested in women's issues, but I didn't know until my 20s that I could make a career out of it," Porter said.

Before she arrived at Mercer, Porter had already made the decision to major in English and minor in women's and gender studies. She received good news last year, when

the University announced that it would include a WGS major.

"I was really excited when I found out I could major in it," she said.

Now, Porter is a double major in English and WGS and aspires to a career working with women's rights internationally. She is currently applying to graduate schools outside the United States, including schools in England, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

"Eventually, I'd like to work someplace like the United Nations and go to developing countries and study gender and then make suggestions for small changes," she said. "Because I hate it when people want to go over and change everything right away without studying what it's like in that country."

CLA Grad Tackles High-Profile Cases

By Andy Peters

The Walker County crematory case of 2002, in which 334 rotting corpses were found strewn about the grounds of a northwest Georgia crematory, was one of the most challenging in the long career of Judge James G. Bodiford, BA '74. It involved extremely complex legal maneuverings and incessant queries from state, national and international media.

But Bodiford didn't even have to be there.

Bodiford, who in January 2005 took over as Chief Superior Court Judge of the Cobb Superior Circuit, accepted a request to be the presiding judge in the state of Georgia's case against Walker County resident Ray Brent Marsh. Marsh pleaded guilty in November 2004 to dumping the corpses, admitted to hiding bodies intended for cremation and passing off cement dust as their ashes, and was sentenced in January to 12 years in prison.

Jody Overcash, administrator for the 7th Judicial Administrative District, asked Bodiford to consider presiding over the case, because all four of the judges in the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit recused themselves from the case.

The case took months (although it could have been even longer, had it gone to trial) and coincided with an agreement Bodiford made with the U.S. Department of Justice to travel on four separate occasions to the European nations of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Estonia to consult with government officials on designing a judicial system. Suffice to say that Bodiford admits he didn't have much in the way of down time between early 2002 and early 2005.

"I had handled other high profile cases before, but I didn't quite realize how much work this one would be," said the 55-year-old Bodiford.

Still, Bodiford said that when other attorneys asked him what possessed him to take the case, he responded that he didn't hesitate when approached about the assignment.

"Any judge would have accepted it. We needed a Superior Court judge to handle that case," said Bodiford, who majored in history and minored in business at Mercer. "I think any judge would have done that."

Part of the reason Bodiford decided to be the presiding judge in the Marsh case was because, in 1997, Walker County was chosen as the site for the high-profile trial of prominent Cobb County attorney Fred Tokars, who was charged with the murder of his wife, Sara. Bodiford said the hospitality he and his staff were afforded at that time from Walker County's residents only

called for a favor in response.

"Walker County had been gracious enough to let us move (the Tokars) case from Cobb County," he said. "That was a death penalty case which took 59 days. I said that I owed Walker County a favor, and that all of Cobb County owed Walker County a tremendous debt of gratitude."

The Tri-State Crematory case involved some very unusual legal maneuverings — some that Bodiford had not experienced before or since. One was the vast number of counts against Marsh — he pleaded guilty to 787 counts of theft, abuse of a corpse, burial service fraud and making false statements.

Other legal challenges included determining whether Marsh was an indigent and should be held financially responsible for the clean-up and investigation of the Tri-State Crematory. Bodiford also faced the challenge of selecting a jury from the population of Lee County, in southwest Georgia, and moving them to Walker County.

"That was extremely unusual and complex," Bodiford said. "That has its own problems: picking a fair and impartial jury from Lee County. I didn't think we'd get too many volunteers for

a case that might take weeks."

The case was very time consuming for Bodiford and his staff.

"We spent a lot of time on that case," he said. "And I don't mean to say that I resent it, but it's just that's



Photo courtesy of The Rome News

Judge Bodiford has presided over some of the state's highest-profile cases.

the amount of time that it took. I have a good staff and we were prepared to give as much time as we needed and we spent an enormous amount of time on the case."

That Bodiford would accept the assignment to preside over the Marsh case says a lot about his character, according to Heather Currier Wright, LAW '99.

"That's the kind of guy he is," said Wright, an attorney with the Atlanta firm Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, who clerked with Bodiford from 2000-

2001. "He's real considerate about his decisions and very, very careful about ruling on the merits of any particular issue. He's an excellent judge."

In the area of fielding media requests, two areas helped tremendously. One was a Web site, administered by the 7th Judicial Administrative District, that was updated continuously with new docket items and other information. Another was that Bodiford's clerk, Leanne E. Dolin, held a law degree and was very savvy in talking to the media.

"Most of the media interested in the case knew my law clerk on a first name basis," Bodiford said.

The highly unusual nature of the Walker County crematory case drew extremely high levels of interest from print and broadcast media worldwide. Such was the media coverage of the crematory situation that when Bodiford traveled to Europe during the case, his audiences knew what he was working on.

"I traveled to these countries thousands of miles away, and I was introduced

as the judge who was the crematory judge and a majority of people there had heard about the case," he said.

"It was sort of astounding."

With the Marsh crematory case

and the Tokars death penalty trial, one would think that Bodiford would have used up his allotment of high-profile cases. But Bodiford has not been able to escape the bright lights of media exposure this year, either.

In 2004, Bodiford presided over the Houston County, Ga., trial of Julia Lynn Turner, who was convicted of poisoning her husband with antifreeze. This trial was broadcast live, gavel-to-gavel, by Court TV and received extensive national media attention.

Also, in the wake of the fatal shootings at the Fulton County Courthouse in early March, Bodiford told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that Cobb County was in the process of designing a new courthouse that would consolidate courtrooms and eliminate security gaps in several older buildings now used by county courts. While no Cobb judges or judicial personnel have been killed on the job, there have been tense moments, Bodiford told the paper. One incident that resulted from a melee that broke out during a divorce case more than two decades ago resulted in new handguns for deputies.

Despite his busy schedule, Bodiford continues to maintain close ties with his alma mater. Since 1994, Bodiford and

John O. Cole, professor at the Walter F. George School of Law, each year collaborate on teaching a 20-hour course in constitutional criminal procedure case. The class, which is sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia and is held throughout the state, is geared toward magistrate and municipal judges.

“... considerate about his decisions and very, very careful about ruling on the merits of any particular issue.”

MERCER'S

Summer Experience

There is something for everyone during Mercer's Summer Experience.

For students who plan to stay in Macon for the summer, there is a full range of guaranteed undergraduate courses being offered on campus. Summer provides a great opportunity to accelerate academically by earning additional credit. It allows students the opportunity to focus on more difficult courses without the distraction of a full schedule of classes. Students also benefit from smaller classes and closer interaction with faculty members.

However, Mercer's Summer Experience is not just about the books. Students who attend classes in Macon may take advantage of a full schedule of fun activities planned by the Office

of Student Life. The University Center and pool will be open for use. Apartment housing and dining options are also available on campus. Everything students need to maintain a good balance between academics and summer fun is available in Macon.

For many students, home is the destination of choice for the summer months. By employing the latest technology, students can take Mercer with them wherever they go! A limited number of courses will be available online and via video podcasting, including *Harry Potter and 20th Century Literature*, *MAPS 305*, and

*Technology and Culture*.

One of the most popular summer activities is traveling to exciting destinations. Mercer's Study Abroad programs are an excellent way to earn college credit and see the world during summer break. Scotland, Paris, and Morocco are among the planned academic excursions for Summer 2006. These exciting trips are led by faculty members and complemented with accompanying texts and assignments.

Summer is also the ideal time to participate in an internship. Through Mercer's Summer Experience, students have the opportunity to com-

plete an internship for college credit. By working closely with an advisor, students may be matched with an internship that best meets their academic and career goals. Students are also welcome to pursue internships in their own hometowns. Internships for academic credit must be approved by the student's advisor.

Summer is a great time to have fun, play in the sun, and earn college credit. Mercer's Summer Experience offers all of that and more.

For a complete listing of available summer courses, an activity calendar, and pricing, visit Mercer's Summer Experience at [www.mercer.edu/ss](http://www.mercer.edu/ss).



Mercer Education Paved Way to National News

By James Madden

The 2,300 miles between Mercer University and Los Angeles, Calif., takes a mere five hours by airplane, but for Tom Madden, BA '74, the journey has spanned 30 years and thousands of experiences. The stories woven into Madden's journalistic and business career have included politicians, celebrities, average citizens and even America's best-known corporations. However, despite that success, Madden rarely forgets the academic institution that laid the foundation that aids him today.

Like many growing up in Central Georgia, Madden was raised by parents that spent a lifetime working at Robins Air Force Base, employment that brought economic freedom to thousands in the area. That strong work ethic instilled by his parents motivated Madden to seek a college education, a first for his family. At Mercer, he studied history under professors such as Dr. Spencer King, Dr. Jamie Cockfield and Dr. Henry Warnock.

In addition to his studies, he was hired by the late, legendary Harley

Bowers at the *Macon News & Macon Telegraph*, allowing him to pay his way through school and support his family. Madden spent his days taking classes and his nights learning the dynamics of the newspaper business. Mercer refined many talents in Madden, but one in particular impacted him the most — writing.

"The History Department at Mercer taught me that you needed to learn how to research and to learn how to write — sound writing was critical to the career path I chose," Madden said.

Madden's success at the *News & Telegraph* attracted the attention of the *Warner Robins Sun*, where he was appointed managing editor — not a small task for the 26-year-old Lizella native. While at the *Sun*, Madden interviewed then candidate Jimmy Carter, an interview that ultimately earned him a job with United Press International (UPI).

"Interviewing Jimmy Carter in 1975 — as he was beginning his run for President — certainly was a big break for me. I knew this was a moment in history for Georgia and the South," said Madden.

It was with UPI that Madden cov-

ered notable events of the late 1970s and early 1980s — Elvis' funeral, Muhammad Ali, James Earl Ray, Mississippi floods, even Herschel Walker's first game — each story filling the pages of the nation's newspa-

"When people ask me what I am most proud of in my life, among the first thoughts is my degree from Mercer — it has shaped me in so many ways over the years and helped to define who I am."

— Tom Madden, CLA '74



tant city editor at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and as managing editor with the former *Gwinnett Daily News*, Madden then moved into the media field that would dominate the remainder of his career — corporate newswires.

It was in the newswire industry that Madden translated the ease with which he spoke to his interview subjects into increased sales for companies requiring news distribution services. After transferring to Southern California with PR Newswire, Madden harnessed his Mercer education and 30-year career into the creation of PrimeZone Media Network in 1998.

PrimeZone is a global press release and multimedia distribution company, disseminating news for companies such as Delta Airlines, JetBlue, Northrop Grumman and MSNBC. He attributes Mercer as an integral part of that success.

"When people ask me what I am most proud of in my life, among the first thoughts is my degree from Mercer — it has shaped me in so many ways over the years and helped to define who I am. I am forever grateful to Mercer and what it has meant to my life."

Speedway Case Among Those of Interest During Judge's Career

By Mark Vanderhoek

Judge Stacey W. Cotton, AB '60, LLB '62, is one of the most respected bankruptcy lawyers and judges in Georgia. For 23 years prior to his appointment, Cotton, now retired, practiced law in Atlanta specializing in the fields of corporate reorganization, creditors' rights and bankruptcy. He founded and was the senior and managing partner of the law firm of Cotton, Katz & White, P.A., which consisted of 12 lawyers. During his practice, he represented a broad variety of interests in bankruptcy cases, including debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, receivers, trustees, creditors' committees and equity holders. He also served as a trustee in some cases. Some of his cases included Atlanta International Raceway Inc., Trend Carpet Mills, Hi-Fi Buys, Atlanta Metallic Casket Company and Highland Bakery.

While a bankruptcy lawyer, perhaps his most notable case, and one of his most successful outcomes, had as much to do with racing as with bankruptcy law. He served as the Chapter X trustee, and later as the lawyer for the trustee, for the Atlanta International Raceway Inc., now known as Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cotton spent nearly four years in the

early-to-mid-1970s making sure the racing operation kept running. His efforts resulted in the raceway turning a profit, which enabled him to attract new investors and successfully devel-



Retired Judge Stacy Cotton '60, '72

op and implement a reorganization plan to pay creditors and shareholders, which is generally judged a major success in a bankruptcy filing.

The experience with the raceway also has given Cotton some great stories. One of his favorite stories happened in 1973, when a tornado hit the track on a Thursday morning before a Sunday race. More than 1,400 seats were destroyed, as were several build-

ings. The press box was heavily damaged. The track superintendent called on his friends from around the south and soon truckloads of racing fans were arriving to help clean-up, repair the damage and get the track ready for the race, Judge Cotton said.

"Some of them worked Thursday through Sunday without sleep, or very little sleep, and they replaced 1,000 of the 1,400 seats, ran electrical wires to the press box so they could broadcast the race on television, and it all came together on Sunday," Cotton still marvels. "We had a big crowd and a big race." The experience amazed Cotton, who learned about the dedication of stock car fans and the goodness of people. "To me, it was just really unbelievable that those fans cared that much about racing and the track itself, to drop everything and come down to help us," Cotton said. "It's one of those things that really reaffirms the fact that people do nice things — even in the commercial arena."

Into Bankruptcy

Cotton grew up in Atmore, Ala. After high school, he moved to Macon to live with his sister and brother-in-law and to

enroll at Mercer. He found success in Mercer's 3-3 program where he spent his first three years in the College of Liberal Arts majoring in history and the next three years in the Walter F. George School of Law, to earn his law degree. Cotton managed to pass the Georgia Bar Exam after his second year in law school, and though he could have begun to practice, he elected to complete his degree, graduating in 1962.

"Getting my degree was very important to me," Cotton said. "I am the first member of my family to earn college degrees."

The judge enjoyed his time at Mercer, particularly after moving on campus when his sister and brother-in-law moved away. While he was in Macon, Cotton met and married the former Suzanne Dixon, his wife of 44 years.

The couple has two adult children who have continued the Mercer tradition. Their son, Stacey L. Cotton, earned his degree at one of the University's Regional Academic Centers while serving as police chief for the City of Covington. In addition to serving as police chief, he now teaches as an adjunct professor at

Mercer's Henry County Regional Academic Center.

The Cottons' daughter, Kimberly Cotton Tomlinson, is enrolled at the Macon Regional Academic Center and is studying for her teaching certification. Kimberly has a son, Andrew: Stacey has twin sons, Kyle and Kole, named partly in homage to the family's NASCAR roots.

Cotton got an early start on his bankruptcy law career. During his third year in law school at Mercer,

one of Cotton's professors, Charles Nadler, invited him to take a trip to Atlanta to meet with a firm that specialized in bankruptcy law. The firm, Lipshutz, Macey, Zusmann & Sikes, offered Cotton a job and, after graduating, Cotton moved to Atlanta.

In 1966, Cotton went into practice for himself, forming a law partnership a year later. The firm was then known as Cotton, Katz & White P.A. and exists today as Lamberth, Cifelli, Stokes & Stout P.A.

Cotton left his firm three decades later, in 1985, to accept appointment to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

— Continued on page 22



Students Develop Marketing Plan for PAWS Atlanta

By Mark Vanderboek

Mercer's business program in Atlanta aims to bring real world experience into the classroom, and that's just what the 28 students in Bob Anservitz's undergraduate Marketing Promotions class did. The students put what they were learning in the classroom to work developing a strategic marketing plan for PAWS Atlanta, one of the area's oldest and most well-regarded animal welfare organizations.

The students' work was of the quality that the chairman of the board of directors of PAWS, Chris Tierney, said he and his fellow board members would consider utilizing a significant amount of what was proposed. Among the most impressive items was a modified logo and a new tagline for the organization: "Pets. Love. Homes." "This was clearly a high-caliber group," Tierney said. "The enthusiasm and the effort of the students showed through. They really put more into this than what they had to just to get a grade. They really worked hard for us." All 28 students in the class presented their ideas and materials on March 6 to PAWS Atlanta's executives and board members. The students got tough questions, but also glowing

reviews. In addition to their regular coursework and exams in this class, the students also spent time in and out of this class working in task forces on this client's marketing needs. In response, they developed a number of deliverables, including a strategic marketing plan, public relations plan, PowerPoint walk-and-talk presentation, public service commercials, volunteer recruitment plan, and print and electronic advertising. The task forces were responsible for different portions of the marketing plan, with each group presenting dur-

ing a three-hour session that included numerous questions from the PAWS Atlanta board members. In the end, students got a lot out of their experience, according to Catherine McGillivray, a senior in the class. "I definitely think it is a very worthy cause, and it was fabulous that we were able to work with them," McGillivray added. "I felt proud to be able to contribute to it." The volunteer animal welfare effort began in 1966 and later was incorporated as the DeKalb Humane Society. Over the past 40 years, it has expanded to include numerous services to homeless pets and has become the largest no-kill adoption shelter in the Atlanta area. Because PAWS Atlanta is so well run, it earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This rating held special appeal for Anservitz. "When choosing a client to work with a class, among my main criteria is that the prospective client have both significant marketing needs and unquestionable fiscal integrity," he said.



Members of the Print Media and Direct Marketing Task Force present to PAWS Atlanta on March 6. CiCi Lacinova shows one of the brochures the group designed as Taiane Ferretto, center, and Michael Li look on.

into the metro Atlanta area, the organization changed its name to PAWS Atlanta in 2004. The name change and the widened scope created a challenge in marketing, and Mercer's Marketing Promotions class helped to fill that void, Tierney said. Tierney told students during the presentation that now that PAWS Atlanta is serving a larger area it is essential that it have more visibility in

order to be supported by the community. "At our next board meeting the students' project will be a focal point for all the members," Tierney said. "The tagline is generating the most buzz right now, but we're going to go back through what the class provided us, which was just a tremendous amount of information, and pick out the things we can implement immediately and the things that we can use down the road." Anservitz, who has been an adjunct marketing professor at Mercer for 20 years, knew the majority of the students in this class from having prior classes with them. "While working for an actual client in a class setting can be a dicey situation, I knew the remarkable potential of so many of these students," Anservitz said. "I teach here because the caliber of student that Mercer attracts is second-to-none." Still, Anservitz explained the demands of this type of client work and then put the decision to a vote. "The class voted to take on these major client commitments and ended up delivering a total tour de force," he said. "This is truly an exceptional group of individuals. They developed great work for a great client. I couldn't have asked for more," Anservitz said. "This was really a win-win for Mercer, for PAWS Atlanta and for the students."

Goddard Honors Former Professor with Classroom Dedication

By Mark Vanderboek

The University dedicated a state-of-the-art classroom in honor of longtime economics professor Charles H. Andrews on Oct. 25, 2005. The large classroom, located in Stetson Hall, features some of the latest teaching and presentation technology as well as photographs and memorabilia of his teaching career. Andrews, who will retire at the end of the spring semester, is a professor of economics and holds the James D. Stetson Chair in Economics, as well as the founding dean of the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. He returned to the classroom fulltime in 1988 and has continued to earn acclaim from his students. "It seemed like for awhile that we would have to retire the Faculty Teaching Award because Charlie won it all the time," said President R. Kirby Godsey, during the ceremony. One of Andrews' former students, Mercer alumnus Robert Goddard III, CLA '77, and his wife, Kathleen, made the generous gift to name the room in Andrews' honor. "Through Bob and Kathleen's gen-

erosity, this classroom is equipped with the latest teaching technology designed to provide the highest-quality learning environment for students," said President Godsey during the dedication. "A classroom that offers the very best to a student's learning experience is truly a fitting tribute to Dr. Andrews, who has served as a professor and mentor to the thousands of young men and women who have studied economics at Mercer over the past 32 years." Andrews had a vital role in the growth and development of Mercer's business program. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics at Mercer in 1960, and went on to earn his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1967. After teaching at Stetson University's business school, he returned to Mercer in 1973,

joining the business faculty in the College of Liberal Arts. In 1978, he became dean of the business school, then a division of the College of Liberal Arts. During his tenure as dean, he led the planning process for establishing the School of Business and Economics and led the faculty in designing and initiating the evening executive development and master of business administration programs. In July 1984, the school became a separate unit within the University.

After serving 10 years as dean, Andrews returned to teaching full-time in 1988. Goddard is chairman and CEO of Goddard Investment Group, a privately held firm focused on investing in commercial real estate and serves as Chairman of the Board for Post Properties, the preeminent developer and operator of upscale multi-family apartment communities. He studied economics under Andrews, earning his bachelor's degree in 1977. He later continued his studies at Harvard

University's Graduate School of Business, where he is a graduate of the Owners and Presidents Management Program. In 1978, he joined the Atlanta real estate firm of John Hunsinger & Company. In 1984, he became president of Brannen/Goddard Company, one of Atlanta's premier full-service commercial real estate companies, later serving as the company's chairman and CEO. Goddard has had a number of leadership roles in the community and at his alma mater. As well as serving on the Board of Visitors of the Stetson School of Business, he also served a term on the Mercer Board of Trustees. His wife, the former Kathleen Hill, is a graduate of Wesleyan College and also serves on many community and civic boards. Goddard spoke at the dedication about his profound respect for his former economics professor. "I think the world of Charlie Andrews, and he has meant a lot to me through the years, not just as a [teacher], but also as a friend," Goddard said.



Economics professor Charles Andrews, second from left, was honored with a classroom in his name during a dedication ceremony in October. Marking the occasion were, left to right, Andrews's wife, Lorain; Andrews; Bob Goddard (CLA '77), Kathleen Goddard; President R. Kirby Godsey and Business Dean Roger Tutterow.



Senators Bring World Issues to Forum *By Mark Vanderboek*

World issues took center stage at The Executive Forum in December, as both of Georgia's United States senators urged support for the United States' mission in Iraq and the war on terror.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Georgia's senior senator, spoke on Dec. 5 in Macon, urging support for the Iraq War, as well as a push to expand science and math education in the United States. On Dec. 9, in Duluth, Sen. Johnny Isakson denounced politicians who are calling for a withdrawal from Iraq and pushed for the renewal of the Patriot Act.



Saxby Chambliss



Johnny Isakson

Both men also took time out to praise Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey for his work in building Mercer into one of the Southeast's leading educational institutions.

"What a great job Kirby Godsey has done at the University," said Chambliss, whose son graduated from Mercer. "It was a good university before he arrived, but has he ever made it take off."

Said Isakson: "Your service, what you've done for Mercer University, what you've done for the state of Georgia and what you've done to change the lives of countless thousands of students over the years is just incredible."

In his speech, Chambliss briefly advocated for a fair hearing for Judge Samuel Alito, President Bush's latest nominee to the Supreme Court, as well as immigration reform, but spent a larger portion of his speech on the looming deficit the United States could face in technological innovation. Without an increase in science and math education, Chambliss said, combined with reforms in tax policy, streamlining the patent system and

providing affordable broadband Internet access, the United States could be left behind by the rest of the world.

"Although many people assume that the United States will always be the world's leader in science and technology, that may not continue to be the case," Chambliss said. "I can't stress enough how quickly the lead in science and technology can be lost and how hard it is to recover once it's lost — if, indeed, it can ever be recovered."

Chambliss' major focus drew on one of the most significant issues in American policy and politics: the war on terror and a push to continue the U.S. presence in Iraq until victory is achieved.

Chambliss, who is a Republican, took issue with recent attacks by Democrats about the Iraq conflict, including the criticisms of the now-debunked intelligence about weapons of mass destruction, which helped make the case for war, as well as the calls for an early withdrawal from Iraq. Chambliss defended the Bush Administration's handling of the pre-war intelligence, noting that "every other industrialized nation had access to the same intelligence and came to the same conclusions."

Chambliss also pointed to the great strides that Iraq has made since Saddam Hussein was deposed.

"The leadership (within the Iraqi military) is increasing, and at some point — we're hoping in the very near future — we'll be able to turn that country back over to them and that's when we'll have victory in Iraq."

U.S. troops are steadily training Iraqi troops to take their places, and the fledgling democracy is growing in Iraq, Chambliss noted, and American troops and their families are resolved to keep up the fight.

"Is this the time for us to leave, as some folks are out there publicly saying? It's not the American way," Chambliss said. "Americans have always stood by their allies to the end of the battle. We're a ways away from total vic-

tory, but we are winning this battle."

Isakson, a Republican, also devoted his speech to the war on terror and the Iraq conflict. He had harsh words for war critics, especially Howard Dean, the chairman of the Democratic Party and the former governor of Vermont. Isakson said he was happy to have a forum in which to refute a Dean statement made earlier in the week that "the idea that we're going to win the war in Iraq is an idea which is just plain wrong."

Isakson denounced the statement and compared it to statements made in the Vietnam era, when, he said, politicians turned to making anti-war statements for political advantage.

"Now, for a man this week to say the idea of winning the war is wrong and to recognize we've already secured two-thirds of the goals we publicly stated when we went into Iraq, is troubling to me when our sons and daughters are deployed there in harm's way," Isakson said. "We have deposed Saddam Hussein, Iraq has had two elections and, in six days, will have a third and final election. They have written and ratified a constitution, and they fight side by side with us. We have trained 200,000 and are on the way to training the sufficient force necessary for Iraq to defend itself."

"The idea that somebody would say that we can't win a war that we are, in fact, winning by the measurement we established three years ago, is disappointing; it's disconcerting and it's just morally wrong for a leader to say that," Isakson said.

Isakson also took the opportunity to advocate for the renewal of the USA Patriot Act, the legislation passed in the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks that has drawn fire from civil liberties groups.

"We must extend the Patriot Act," Isakson stated. "I have great respect for those who are speaking against it and express concern about civil liberties, and we should always be concerned about civil liberties. But I want to tell you that had we not had the Patriot Act and passed it when we did, and allowed our intelligence networks

*"Americans have always stood by their allies to the end of the battle. We're a ways away from total victory, but we are winning this battle."*

to have the capabilities to do what they can do today, I do not believe that America would have survived without another terrorist attack in the last four years, and we have."

Citing intelligence he has seen since

Sept. 11, 2001, Isakson also defended the Bush Administration's wider war on terror and the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, noting that without the Patriot Act, and the enemy combatant role at Guantanamo, the U.S. would not have gone without a terrorist attack on its soil.

"Had we not established the enemy combatant role ... and had we not found a way to incarcerate enemy combatants that we could verify were a part of the terrorist network," Isakson said, "I'm not sure we could have fought as effectively as we have in Iraq, and I'm confident we wouldn't have stopped all the terrorist attacks we've stopped in America."

From the MBA Bookshelf *by Linda L. Brennan*

Do you ever get so caught up in "doing," running from appointment to appointment, keeping up with mail and messages, trying not to get any further behind than you already are — that it feels like you never have time to think? Or do you have that nagging sense that one day is the same as the next, that you are working hard but not making much progress?

Then you need to think for a change.

John C. Maxwell, acclaimed author, inspirational speaker and leadership expert, has some suggestions for you. His book, *Thinking for a Change: 11 Ways Highly Successful People Approach Life and Work* (Warner Books, 2003), advocates that "people must learn *how* to think well to achieve their dreams and reach their potential."

The book describes 11 skills that constitute good thinking:

- Seeing the Wisdom of Big-Picture Thinking
- Unleashing the Potential of Focused Thinking
- Discovering the Joy of Creative Thinking
- Recognizing the Importance of Realistic Thinking
- Feeling the Energy of Possibility Thinking
- Embracing the Lessons of Reflective Thinking
- Questioning the Acceptance of Popular Thinking
- Encouraging the Participation of Shared Thinking
- Experiencing the Satisfaction of Unselfish Thinking
- Enjoying the Returns of Bottom-Line Thinking.

Each chapter starts with an inspirational quotation, a humorous vignette ("What Were They Thinking")

and examples of the kind of thinking skill described. Maxwell then outlines WHY you should cultivate that particular skill, followed by HOW to develop that skill. Each chapter ends with a "Thinking Question" and suggestions for next steps. There is a good balance between the inspirational and the practical aspects of the book.

I am hard-pressed to point to a favorite chapter, torn between the one on strategic thinking and the one on reflective thinking. Both chapters had very specific suggestions to help you make sure that you are spending your time on things that are important. One suggestion is to MAKE TIME FOR THINKING. Schedule that time into your calendar. Maxwell says that at the beginning of every month, he spends a half day working on his calendar for the next 40 days (this way he gets a "jump" on the next month and avoids being surprised). That's a form of strategic thinking. Then he also suggests that, in reflective thinking, you set aside a few hours to review your calendar from the previous month (p. 189):

"Review your appointments. Check your to-do lists. Figure out where you spent your time and whether you did so wisely. As you look at individual entries, ask yourself: Have I already reflected on this event? What went right? What went wrong? What did I learn? What can I do differently next time? Don't forget to write down insights to be filed and action points to be completed."

The point is that investing that time will reap dividends; the challenge is to find the time to invest. Start by investing in the time to read this book. Take it to the beach with you this summer — you won't be sorry!

**Executive MBA students and professors** spent 10 days in China last summer, visiting numerous American companies and sites in the Beijing area. The students stopped for a photo at the Great Wall of China during a tour. Standing (left to right): **Karen England, Maria Grant, Lashanda Gray, Valeria Antonio Policarpo, Cathy Hood, John Mascaritolo, Andri Weathersby, Mathew Otto, Joel Bulger, Nelton Gartner, Jason Ghannadian, Stephanie Turpin, Dr. Ken Lord, Dr. Frank Ghannadian;** sitting (left to right): **Don Sumner, Bonnie Johnson, Fritz Valsaint, Hisham Khalafalla, Marie Johnson, Eric McMath.**





# A Presidential Extravaganza



## Celebration of The President's Club Honors Kirby and Joan Godsey

The 41st annual celebration of The President's Club, held Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, honored Mercer President R. Kirby and Joan Godsey. The Presidential Extravaganza, which featured a video in tribute to Dr. Godsey's 27-year tenure as president and CEO, was held at the InterContinental Buckhead in Atlanta.

During the Extravaganza, Dr. Godsey was presented a glass sculpture by Merridy Palmer, the same artist who designed the glass sculptures hanging in the McCorkle Music Building and the University Center, and Joan was presented a limited edition Boehm porcelain of Van Gogh Irises. Also, Mercer alumnus and Trustee Doc Schneider read a poem he had written for the occasion.



ABOVE: **Stephanie Shepherd**, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Godsey, reads the salute to her father, while Mercer development officer **Matt Hall** presents the glass sculpture to **Dr. Godsey**.



LEFT: Mercer development officer **Shawna Dooley** presents the Irises sculpture to **Joan Godsey** while son **Hunter Godsey** looks on.



**Emily and Remer Crum** enjoy President's Club activities.



**Leneal and Tamlin Fortner** at the Extravaganza

Godsey family members present for the Extravaganza include, left to right: **Jack Godsey**, Dr. Godsey's brother, and his wife, **Judy**; **Joseph and Erica** (daughter) **Godsey Daniell**; **Hunter Godsey** (son); **Joan Godsey**; **Kirby Godsey**; **Raleigh** (son) and **Judy Godsey**; **George and Stephanie** (daughter) **Godsey Shepherd**; and **Jeannine Morrison** (George's mother).



**Carolyn and Bill Self** at the tribute to Kirby and Joan Godsey



**Eli Morgan**, president of the Mercer Alumni Association, and his wife **Phyllis**



**Carolyn and Max Westmoreland** at the Friday night tribute



Mercer's School of Theology namesake **Carolyn McAfee**, left, with **Kirby** and **Joan Godsey**



# Mercer Presents a Musical Tribute to President and Mrs. Godsey

## Presidential Musical Gala



Gala guest conductor **Keith Lockhart**, with **Kirby** and **Joan Godsey** and guest solo violinist **Robert McDuffie**

**T**he Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, with Keith Lockhart as guest conductor and Robert McDuffie as guest solo violinist, performed a Presidential Musical Gala Oct. 13, 2005, at The Grand Opera House in Macon. Lockhart serves as music director of the Utah Symphony and as conductor of the Boston Pops. McDuffie has appeared as soloist with many of the world's major orchestras.

James A. and Mary Bishop of Sea Island and William A. and Neva L. Fickling of Macon served as co-hosts of the Presidential Musical Gala.



ABOVE: From left, Mercer Trustee and Gala Co-hosts **William A.** and **Neva L. Fickling**, with **Kirby** and **Joan Godsey**, and Mercer Trustee and Gala Co-hosts **James A.** and **Mary Bishop**



Former Trustee **Mimi** and **Tommy Holland** at The Grand Opera House

**Janet** and **David Hudson**, chairman of the Board of Trustees, enjoy the Gala.

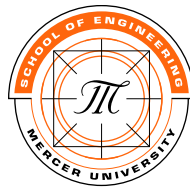


**Joan** and **Kirby Godsey** speak to the capacity crowd at The Grand Opera House.



World-renowned violinist **Robert McDuffie** with **Neva Fickling**, for whom Mercer's Fickling Music Hall is named





## Founders of School Honored on 20th Anniversary

**D**uring the 20th Anniversary dinner for the School of Engineering on Oct. 21, 2005, the University, the School of Engineering and the National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB) recognized the four men who were instrumental in the successful development of the School of Engineering.

**Dr. C.B. Gambrell**, dean emeritus of the School of Engineering, was hon-



President **R. Kirby Godsey** presented **C.B. Gambrell** (left) a citation for being the inaugural dean of the School of Engineering.

ored for his significant contributions to the School in its earliest days. Gambrell served as founding dean of the School of Engineering from 1985 to 1993. In 1987, he organized the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) in Warner Robins, and was its director from 1987 to 1995. He retired in 1996 as vice president for University Research.

The special recognition for Gambrell stated in part that he “provided valuable guidance and leadership to the School by recruiting and hiring the inaugural faculty and staff and directing them through the accreditation process in record time. [He] organized the Mercer Engineering Research Center in Warner Robins to serve the engineering needs of

Robins Air Force Base and to provide practical work experience for Mercer’s engineering students and became the center’s first director, serving from 1987 to 1995.

“For [his] visionary leadership, development of innovative programs and tenacious efforts to increase the size and stature of the School of Engineering, we honor [him] with this resolution as an expression of our profound gratitude for [his] devotion to the establishment and development of the Mercer University School of Engineering.”

**Melvin Kruger**, CEO L.E.

Schwartz and Son Inc., was chairman of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce in 1985, and helped to provide much needed community support in establishing the School of



**Melvin Kruger** (left) served as chair of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce at the time of the School of Engineering’s founding and was instrumental in gathering support for its founding. He was presented a citation by President **R. Kirby Godsey** during the celebration dinner.

Engineering. He served on the inaugural NEAB board, is a former chairman of NEAB and still serves on the Board.

The special resolution honoring Kruger noted that he “shared the University’s vision for the School of Engineering and played a key role in working to ensure that this vision became a reality. [He] faithfully, tirelessly and generously has supported the engineering programs at Mercer University through not only [his] time and leadership, but also annual gifts and the establishment of the Harry Morris Schwartz Endowed Scholarship.

“And, [he] believe[s] so firmly in the high quality of a Mercer education that [he has] hired Mercer engineering graduates for [his] company, Schwartz Precision Manufacturing,” the resolution continued.

“For [his] long demonstrated belief in the Mercer School of Engineering and [his] unwavering dedication to its success through [his] wise leadership, we wish to honor [him] with this resolution as an expression of our sincere appreciation on the occasion of the Engineering School’s 20th anniversary.”

Retired **Maj. Gen. Cornelius**

**Nugteren**, who served as the commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at Robins Air Force Base from 1982 to 1988, was instrumental in the alliance between Mercer and the WRALC.

According to the resolution, Nugteren contributed to the success of the School

through his “persistent and determined efforts to have an engineering program in Central Georgia while serving as Commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center that the University took steps to establish the School of Engineering.

“[His] dedicated service as a member of the National Engineering Advisory Board and as an inaugural member of the National Engineering Advisory Board Fellows demonstrated [his] staunch belief in the Mercer School of Engineering and assisted in the school’s continuing success,” stated the resolution.

“For [his] strong conviction in the vision of the Mercer University School of Engineering before the first student ever enrolled, for the key role [he has] played to ensure that our shared vision became a reality and for [his] time, resources and efforts to advance this school, we wish to honor [him] with this resolution along with our deepest

appreciation as we mark this 20th anniversary milestone.”

The National Engineering Advisory Board surprised the key founder of



Retired Maj. Gen. **Cornelius Nugteren** (left) was the commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at the time of the School of Engineering’s founding. During the 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, President **R. Kirby Godsey** presented him a citation recognizing his role in helping to establish the School.

the School of Engineering, President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey, with a special award at the end of the evening.

— Continued on page 21



President **R. Kirby Godsey** (center) was honored during the School of Engineering’s 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner as a National Engineering Advisory Board Fellow “in recognition of his inspiring courage to step forth and meet a vital academic need in Central Georgia in establishing the Mercer School of Engineering.” **Melvin Kruger**, (left) a former chair of NEAB, and **Donald LaTorre**, the current NEAB chairman, presented Dr. Godsey with the award on behalf of NEAB.

## Students Develop Control System for Train Exhibit at Hartsfield-Jackson

By Andy Peters

**T**he senior engineering design project of Mark Kwamusi, Mahran Mohebi and Nabil Salman, completed as Mercer University School of Engineering students, is on display for millions of people to see at one of the world’s busiest destinations, the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The students, who graduated at Mercer’s 2005 commencement, used their electrical engineering expertise to develop a sensor control system for one of the trains in the “Model Trains Through the Ages” exhibit that went on display in

Concourse T of the airport last August.

In fall 2004, in conversations with their professor, Dr. Edward O’Brien, the students learned that the Central Georgia Model Railroad Club needed someone to develop a control system that would allow passengers to activate the trains when they get close to the glass surrounding the exhibit. The group also needed a counter so that they could monitor how many times the trains are activated, and they needed a control system that would allow them to vary the speeds of the trains in the exhibit.

The three students were assigned

the project in September, and by December 2004, they had a working prototype. They said they enjoyed being able to put their engineering education into practice through this

*“Failure was not an option.... It was exciting to work on such a high-profile, complex project.”*

senior design project prior to graduating. All three students specialized in electrical engineering at Mercer.

“It was challenging. We had a tight timeline to complete the project, and we had to get used to getting up at 6 a.m., but we did it,” Mohebi of Dubai, U.A.B., said.

Kwamusi said having a real-life client, a hard timeline and a budget for his senior design project provided him with insight into the workings of the real business world.

“Failure was not an option with this project,” Kwamusi, who is from Kenya, said. “It was exciting to work on such a high-profile, complex project.”

Salman of Greenville, S.C., said he and his two fellow students had a lot of fun, too.

“We really had a great time,” he said. “There were so many components, and we ran into

obstacles that we couldn’t have predicted, like interference issues, but we were able to get past those obstacles. I think we all have a certain fondness for trains now.”

Since graduating, two members of the group have continued their engineering studies at the graduate level, and the other has begun his engineering career. Mohebi is pursuing a master’s degree in electrical engineering at Duke University in North Carolina and Kwamusi is working on a master’s degree in electrical engineering at California State University — Los Angeles. Salmon is an electrical engineer for Kraft Foods in South Carolina.



# Baseball Letterman Inducted into GACA Hall of Fame

**H**arold Lee Scott, AB '55, who lettered in baseball for four years at Mercer, was inducted into the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Hall of Fame at the 67th annual GACA Awards Banquet in 2005 in Dalton, Ga.

Scott, who has received many local, state and national honors during his illustrious coaching career, graduated from Sylvania High School in 1950 after a stellar four-sport athletic career. He played for the Mercer Bears under coach Claude Smith from 1951-1955.

His first coaching job was in 1956 at Nahunta High School. He immediately coached a state championship squad and a state runner-up in his first three seasons in boys' basketball. Two years later, he moved to Cherokee High School where his girls were region

champs five of six seasons, state champions once and state runner-up twice. His boys' teams made it to the state playoffs three times, finishing in the top four in the state twice.

From 1966-1974 at Savannah High, Coach Scott was the Region Basketball Coach of the Year five times and Savannah Coach of the Year six times. Scott then returned to Sylvania to farm with his father. However, the man "born to coach" came out of retirement in 1987 and led the Sylvania boys to their first and only region championship the next season. In 1995, he led the Gamecocks to their only other state playoff.

Coach Scott retired in 2001 after receiving a host of awards and honors for his accomplishments including induction into the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame, the Screven County Athletic Hall of Fame and the Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame.



Harold Lee Scott

He received the National Federation Interscholastic Coaches Association State Distinguished Service Award, the GACA Dwight Keith Award, the GACA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year, the National High School Association Southeastern Region 3 Coach of the Year, the Atlanta Tip



Scott's Hall of Fame Recognition

Off Club Award and, several times, was named Basketball Coach of the Year by various Georgia newspapers.

Also, the new Screvens County High School gym was named the Harold Lee Scott Gym in his honor.

## NFL Starter Hosts Former Teammates

**F**ormer Mercer basketball player Wesley Duke, now a tight end for the Denver Broncos, hosted the Bears at the Broncos' facility in December when they traveled to Denver to play the University of Colorado. Duke's conversion as a college basketball player at an institution that does not have a football program, has captured the hearts of NFL fans from Macon to Colorado.

Duke not only made the Broncos' team as a walk-on, but caught a touch-

down pass leading to a Denver win and, ultimately, started in the AFC Championship game against Pittsburgh.

Duke will continue playing football this spring. The six-foot, five-inch, 235-pound tight end has been assigned to the Hamburg Seadevils of NFL Europe. He reported to that team's training camp at Tampa, Fla., on Feb. 10. The NFL Europe season ends in early May, and he will be back at Denver's training camp in July. He still has two one-year contracts remaining with the Broncos.



Men's head basketball coach **Mark Slonaker**, left, stands with **Wesley Duke** in front of the former basketball player's locker at the Denver Broncos' training facility.

# Mercer Golfer Advances to Match Play in Canadian Amateur Golf Championships

**M**ercer men's golf team members Brandon Price, Michael Gregory and Andrew An competed in the Canadian Amateur Championship in mid-August.

Mercer held the distinction as the only school to send three returning players to the competition. The tournament format featured 36 holes on Sunday, Aug. 14 and Monday, Aug. 15, before the field was cut to 64. After the cut, match play began on Tuesday and concluded with the championship match on Friday, Aug. 19.

Bears' sophomore Andrew An made the cut of 64 and advanced to the match play portion. An shot a 76 in the first round and followed that up with a 73. His two-day total of 149 put him in a tie for 58th place with eight other golfers. Those eight golfers competed in a playoff that sent the top seven to the match play rounds. An went on to make the cut and Tuesday morning was matched up against Andrew Ross, an Ontario native that plays at Arkansas State.

Price struggled in the first round shooting an 81, but he made a strong push for the cut after shooting a 69 in the final round. He birdied three of the last four holes and finished in a tie for 66th place. His score of 69 was one of only nine scores in the 60s on that Monday.

Gregory finished in a tie for 81st, after shooting scores of 78 and 73. Gregory had an up and down second

round as he made the turn at three under par, but proceeded to shoot four over par on the back nine to miss the cut by two strokes.

An defeated Ross by a score of two up on Tuesday to advance to the round of 32, and faced Ben Moser, a Kent State graduate, on Wednesday morning in an 18-hole match with the winner moving on to play in the round of 16 in the afternoon. The Richmond Hill, Ontario, native lost one down to Moser in the round of 32 on Wednesday morning.

After a back and forth front nine, An made the turn one down. Moser won the 12th hole, but An proceeded

to birdie holes 13 and 14 to even the match at all square. A costly double bogey at the par four 15th, and another bogey on hole

number 16 allowed Moser to take a two-hole lead. An won the par-three, 17th hole to pull within one, but Moser closed out the match on number 18 to win one up.

After stumbling slightly to open the fall season at the Reynolds Plantation Classic, An closed out

the Bears' fall season with a team-best 71.7 stroke average, finishing in a tie for fourth place at the Sam H. Hall Intercollegiate, hosted by Southern Mississippi, Oct. 31-Nov. 1. He recorded a career-low round of 63 at the Farms Golf Club in Hattiesburg.



Andrew An

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The Voice of a Teacher

By Shannon Friedman

This article first appeared in the September 2005 issue of Legacy and is reprinted with permission from the Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

It's shortly after 7 a.m. and Erin Keel's first day of school. Most of the back-to-school newspaper ads show gently blowing fallen leaves, curled by the autumn wind, but if you've ever stood at a bus stop on a late August day in Georgia, you'd know that the morning sun is as sharp as a No. 2 pencil. The heat only adds to the first day jitters, but as the bell rang and students slowly trickled in, Erin, or Ms. Keel as she will be known for the next 272 days of the school year, straightened to her hardly-taller-than-an-eighth-grader height and welcomed her first period class at Upson-Lee Middle School in Thomaston, Ga.

"I was more nervous as a teacher than I ever was as a student," Erin says, "but I was determined to let my humor and personality show." Once the class was settled, Erin looked into the rows of pre-teen faces

and remembered how it felt to be 12 years old. "How many of you think that I loved middle school?" she asked. Some students' arms flew up — why else would anyone volunteer to

eternally repeat junior high, they wondered. Others rose only halfway, unsure in their adolescent insecurity of the "cool" answer. Erin waited until she saw a sea of high fives. "Well, I hated it, and that's exactly why I'm here today," she said. "This year, I will do everything thing that I can to make you love middle school."

Consistency plays a major role in Erin's approach to teaching. Perhaps it's because, from an early age, she displayed an unwavering drive to learn. In the evenings the three Keel girls would gather around their text books instead of the television, pens pressed to loose-leaf paper, wagging at the speed of thought.

One sister's school project would become a "house project" — an opportunity for the entire family's education.

"Our parents trained us young, but we picked it up from there," Erin says. "We'd study for hours until they'd

make us close our books." As the oldest, Erin set the bar high. Keeping the hours of an Olympian-in-training — she often woke up at 4 a.m. to study — her dedication was an early hint of her future career.



Erin (right) and her sister and fellow Watson-Brown scholar, Carrie, pose after a Mercer Singers concert in Austria.

Meanwhile, her father's sense of leadership at home and as a youth minister as well as her mother's caring nature were rubbing off on her. Combine those traits, add a high school choir director that she

admired, and it's easy to see why, after leaving Lakeside High School in Augusta, Georgia, Erin decided to major in music education at Mercer University.

"After my first week at Mercer, I realized I was in the right place, and I would not trade those years for anything," she says.

While Erin took over four years to graduate, her 5-year plan was hardly slack: She balanced a 10 or 11 class load each semester, was elected to student government every year (her junior year she served as student body president), guided freshman as an orientation leader, joined a sorority, minored in history, and toured Europe with the elite Mercer Singers — all while

maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She also met her future mentors, Dr. Stanley Roberts, Mercer Singers director, and Mrs. Marie Roberts, Erin's voice teacher.

— Continued on page 21

Henry Teacher of the Year Dedication, energy earn county honor

By Heather Vogell, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Joy Brown doesn't know who the geniuses are in her class. Frankly, it doesn't matter. Each child gets a shot at success in her class at Hickory Flat Elementary School, she says.

"Even if a child does not excel in math or science, when they're in the music room, they're treated as equally as possible," she says.

Brown hopes her approach gives everyone the chance to taste victory in school early on. That, she hopes, will propel them to achieve later on in all subjects.

"If children have a successful experience in elementary school, they are more likely to enjoy school and do better in middle and high school," she says.

Brown's energy, innovation and dedication earned her Teacher of the Year honors for Henry County this year. She's now competing against teachers across the state for Georgia Teacher of the Year, which will be announced at a spring banquet.

Hickory Flat principal J.R. Isenberg said Brown is an upbeat, outgoing instructor with an impressive knowledge of music.

"The kids love her, the faculty loves her, I love her," he says. "She's just one of those people who is going to make sure that whatever she does, she does it right."

Brown's a Georgia native who studied at Mercer University in Macon

and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. She and her husband have a teenage daughter.

Brown has taught for nine years. Before that, she worked in social services, at a teacher retirement office and at a psychiatric center for emotionally disturbed children.

"I feel everything else I've done has prepared me for what I'm doing now," she said.

The student population at the McDonough school includes children who speak 14 different languages at home, and her principal lauded her for incorporating music that celebrates students' divergent backgrounds.

But she also gives lessons in American music history — from Yankee Doodle to slave spirituals to Scott Joplin.

"For many children, the place they're going to learn American folk music, the place they're going to learn the music of our culture, is going to be in the school," she says.

She touches on subjects other than music, too. Kids as young as first grade, for instance, learn two eighth notes make a quarter note. That's an early fractions lesson.

It's satisfying to hear students have gone on to win honors in performing arts. But that's not her only measure of success.

"What I hope is that they will have a lifelong enjoyment of music," she says. "Whether or not they perform."

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Douglas County Science Lab to be Named in Honor of Borrishes

By Anna Sandison

With the help of benefactors Fred W. and Aileen K. Borrish, Mercer's Douglas County Regional Academic Center is renovating its science laboratory. The center opened in 1996 as a modern facility with a state-of-the-art laboratory, but the ever-changing nature of science can outmode techniques and equipment quickly.

The need for the expanded space is due to the science requirement in the core curriculum and the growing interest in science-based careers. All undergraduate students enrolled at a Regional Academic Center are required to complete at least two science classes, regardless of their major; education or criminal justice students must take even more.

Popular television shows, such as CSI, Law & Order and Bones, have amplified interest in the various fields of science, particularly forensics. Mercer offers a forensic biology course, and the waiting list of students grows longer every semester.

Expansion of the current science laboratory will enable the Center to bet-

ter accommodate the increasing demand for these courses. Dr. Frederick Ming, assistant professor of science and faculty consultant to the renovation oversight committee, states that the "new lab signals a significant



The new science lab in Douglas County will be named in honor of Fred W. and Aileen K. Borrish, who were presented honorary degrees in the fall.

turning point for the status of science in our college." Work on the laboratory is expected to be finished by fall semester.

The new facility, to be named the Fred W. and Aileen K. Borrish Science Laboratory, will include a minimum of 30 student workstations outfitted with the latest technology, including ports for student laptops. Along with computers, projectors and audio-visual equipment,

the lab will have extra sinks, an emergency shower and eyewash center and a sprinkler system designed specifically for science laboratories.

According to Ming, "The combination of presentation

[multimedia] technology and instructional laboratory furnishings and equipment will guarantee a significant impact on instruction and learning. New experiments and activities that are not [currently] possible will be incorporated into existing courses." He particularly looks forward to the addition of a "wet lab," which will allow the Center to offer additional courses, such as chemistry and biochemistry.

Longtime supporters of educational endeavors, the Borrishes have continued to support Mercer with funds to endow the Douglas County Center. In April 2005, they were honored with the dedication of their portrait, which hangs in the entrance of the Center. Last fall, on the day they both received honorary doctorate degrees from Mercer, Mayor Mickey Thompson of Douglasville proclaimed Oct. 20 Fred and Aileen Borrish Day.



— COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS —

ACHIEVEMENTS

1936

**William J. Crump**, AB, of Savannah, celebrated his 90th birthday surrounded by 86 friends and family. A native of Carnesville, he retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District in 1972 after 32 years of federal service as chief of the Office of Administrative Services. In 1970, the Crump Annex building was named after Crump because of his instrumental role in its final realization. He was inducted into the Savannah District's Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees in 1978.

1955

**The Rev. Samuel M. Waldron**, AB, of Macon, has been an interim associational missionary with the Pulaski-Bleckley Association since 2004. From 1966 to 1994, he served as a foreign missionary to the Philippines. When not participating in mission activities, he has served as pastor to several Baptist churches.

1956

**The Rev. Tolly L. Williamson Jr.**, AB, of Decatur, who retired from Emory University in 2001, recently became interim director of the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the CPE Partnership in Nashville, Tenn. In 2004, he was named supervisor emeritus by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. He and his wife, **Jerry**, GBCN '58, will maintain their residence in Decatur.

1958

**Oliver Chappell Wilson Jr.**, AB, of Marietta, celebrated the 50th anniversary of being ordained to the Baptist ministry on Sept. 21, 2005.

1962

**B. Ray Hardman**, AB, of Hoover, Ala., participated in the national Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh, Pa. His team, the Hoover Legends, placed fifth among the 46 teams in the 65-69 age division. Hardman, a retired information technology specialist at BellSouth, was the team's leading scorer.

1972

**Lynda M. Kay**, BA, of Buford, was promoted to regional field trainer for the Southeast Region Lifetouch Portrait Studios. She was named Manager of the Year in 2003. **Linda Teal Willoughby**, BA, of Grapevine, Texas, opened a marriage and family counseling practice in Bedford, Texas. She has been in private practice since receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Denver in 1990.

1975

**Karen L. Smith**, BM, of Eagle Pass, Texas, and her husband David,

are directors/coordinators of House of Mercy Orphanage, a 106-bed facility for children in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico.

1978

**Merry W. Fort**, BS, of Macon, was promoted to vice president of Nursing Services Corporate of the Medical Staffing Network, the largest provider of *per diem* nurse staffing in the United States.

**Lt. Col. Terry J. Mularkey**, BA, of Ormond Beach, Fla., who retired from the Army after 21 years of service, is executive director of alumni relations at Embry-Riddle University. He and his wife, **Nancy Creech**, BA '79, who teaches international baccalaureate English at the local high school, have been married for 25 years. Their son, Jack, is a cadet at West Point Military Academy.

**Michael L. Ruffin**, BA, of Augusta, published a new book, *Living Between the Advents*. He has been the pastor of The Hill Baptist Church in Augusta since January 2003.

1982

**Jeffrey Begeal**, BA, of Smithfield, N.C., has written a new book, *Americans in Florence During the 20th Century*. He is the international baccalaureate coordinator at Parkland High School in Winston-Salem, N.C.

**The Rev. C. David Dean**, BA, of Gainesville, Fla., recently returned to the United States from Great Britain. He spent the past 12 years involved in local church and campus ministries overseas. He is now involved in the Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ Student Center at the University of Florida.

1985

**Lynn H. Murphy**, BA, of Cordova, Tenn., has written her second novel, *Moonlight In His Hand*, a sequel to *I'll Be Seeing You*. The characters in the book come from a short story Murphy wrote during her time at Mercer. She also writes freelance articles for magazines, as well as drama scripts for worship services. She is working on a novel set in the Terezin concentration camp.

1990

**Jodonna G. Baker**, BA, of Lithonia, has written her first book, *Hurt so good: A woman's journey*, under the name J.D. Baker. The book was published in June and is available online through major bookstores.

1994

**Amy Smith Boyer**, BA, of Forsyth, was promoted to partner with Vaughn Wright and Boyer LLP in April 2005.

1995

**Calla Busby-Ragin**, BA, of Macon, graduated from Leadership Macon.

1996

**Jennifer Bryant Dornan**, BS, of Buckhead, was promoted to managing attorney of the Atlanta office of William E. Curphey & Associates. She has been practicing real estate law with the firm for three years.

1997

**Brian Regienczuk**, BA, of Atlanta, designed a project called Ambient Experience for Healthcare. The project was recognized by *BusinessWeek Magazine* as a 2005 IDEA Gold winner. He works at Philips Design in Atlanta.

1998

**Elaine Turk Nell**, BA, of Clemmons, N.C., became a licensed clinical social worker, the highest license in social work in the country. **Eli Denard Oates**, BA, BBA, of Racine, Wisc., joined the legal services department of We Energies as counsel.

2000

**Evans Robert Davis**, BA, of Decatur, was named head men's basketball coach and instructor in health and physical education at Truett-McConnell College.

**Henry Sherman Pinyan IV**, BS, of Marietta, accepted a position as first officer flying an Embraer Regional Jet for Chautauqua Airlines. Chautauqua is a regional carrier for Delta, United, American and US Airways.

**Margaret Anne Pitts Ritter**, BA, lives in the Philadelphia, Pa., area and serves as director of annual giving at the Shipley School.

2002

**Lacey Perkins Gwyn**, BA, of Centerville, earned her MA in professional counseling from Argosy University in September 2005.

**Matthew R. Miller**, BS, was promoted to captain in the United States Army on Sept. 1, 2005.

2004

**Meredith D. Waters**, BS, of Clemmons, N.C., is a military contractor with Halliburton-KBR. She is currently working with the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department at Camp Anaconda, Balad Airbase, Iraq.

MARRIAGES, ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHS

1937

**Harriet W. Tindal**, AB, of Novi, Mich., announces the birth of her great-grandson, Everett R. Wallace of Fort Collins, Colo.

1955

**The Rev. J. Olan Jones**, AB, of Waycross, and his wife, Ann, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Sept. 17, 2005. Jones is president emeritus of Baptist Village Inc.

1986

**David C. Leeth**, BS, and his wife, Melanie, announce the birth of their son, Elias Bialko, on June 1, 2005. The family resides in Atlanta.

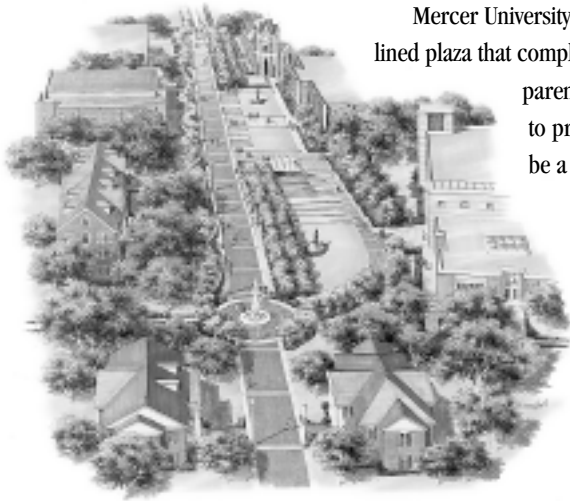
1989

**Aravind Arepally**, BA, and his wife, **Holly Greene**, BS '90, announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Ann Arepally, on March 11, 2005. The family resides in Baltimore, Md.

1990

**Holly Greene**, BS (*see Aravind Arapally '89*)

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	EDU	College of Education	NUR	College of Nursing
CCPS	College of Continuing and Professional Studies	ENG	School of Engineering	PHA	Southern School of Pharmacy
CLA	College of Liberal Arts	LAW	School of Law	THEO	McAfee School of Theology
BUS	School of Business & Economics	MD	School of Medicine	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 Kim Adams at (800) 837-2911 for more information.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, *continued*

**Chandra Carter Tutt**, BA, and her husband, **Charles S. Tutt**, BA, announce the birth of their second son, Cameron Carter, on Jan. 29, 2005. The family resides in Atlanta, where Ms. Tutt is an attorney with BellSouth and he is an American Airlines pilot.

1992

**Jennifer B. Arends**, BA, and her husband, Gregory, announce the birth of their third child, Addison Eve, on May 16, 2005. The family resides in Travelers Rest, S.C., where she is the president of GA&J Inc.

1993

**Jennifer Sherwood Bragg**, BS, and her husband, Steve, announce the birth of their son, Tyler Seaver, on July 17, 2005. The family resides in Atlanta.

**Lesley R. Gardner Murrah**, BBA, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their son, Josey Ray, on March 24, 2005. They have two other sons and reside in Madison, Ala.

1994

**Amy Smith Boyer**, BA, and her husband, Kenneth, announce the birth of their son, Daniel Smith Boyer, on July 13. The family resides in Forsyth.

**Sharon Flagg Dailey**, BA, and her husband, Charles, announce the birth of their son, Lawson Joseph, on April 1, 2005. They have three other sons, John Scott, Will and Preston. The family resides in Tallahassee, Fla.

**Monica Thomas Tritto**, BA, and her husband, Amedeo, announce the birth of triplets, Sophia Elizabeth, Samuel Matheson and William Grayson, on Jan. 21, 2005. The family resides in Wake Forest, N.C.

1995

**LeAnna Rensi Casey**, BA, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of their daughter, Ellayna Rensi, on July 14, 2005. They also have a son, Aidan. The family resides in Louisville, Ky.

**Aaron D. Strand**, BS, and his wife, Karen, announce the birth of their son, Peyton Dale, on July 22, 2005. The family resides in Lakewood Ranch, Fla.

1996

**Marla A. Smith**, BA, and her husband, **Hilton Smith**, BBA '97, announce the birth of their second daughter, Gwyneth Elizabeth Smith, on April 28. The family resides in Ruston, La.

1997

**Angela Scott Girdley**, BA, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their second child, Grace Elizabeth, on May 18, 2005. The family resides in Parma, Mo.

**Amy Miller Hollis**, BA, JD '00, and her husband, Lance, announce the birth of their son, Knox Edward, on April 4, 2005. The family resides in Atlanta, where she is an associate at King & Spalding LLP.

**Stacy Veasey Lange**, BA, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their child, Linden Hollis Lange, on Aug. 20, 2005. The family resides in Smyrna.

1998

**Elaine Turk**, BA, married William Elmer Nell on Feb.12, 2005, at Wesleyan Drive Baptist Church in Macon. The couple resides in Clemmons, N.C., where he is a chemist with R.J. Reynolds.

**Kimberly Walker-Thurmond**, BA, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Ellen, on March 17, 2005, at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta. The family resides in Norcross.

1999

**Lori Redwine Varnadoe**, BA, and her husband, **Erik Varnadoe**, BA '97, announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail Grace, on March 27, 2005. The family resides in Gray.

2001

**Kelley Shirelle**, BS, married Derrick William Grogan on April 2. The couple resides in Cumming. She received her M.Ed. in science education from Georgia State University in 2003 and is a science educator at Northview High School in Duluth.

**Brian J. Smith**, BA, married Kelly West on June 18, 2005, in Nashville, Tenn. She is the daughter of **James F. West**, BA '71. The couple resides in Franklin, Tenn., where he is a financial consultant for AmSouth Investment Services.

2002

**Elizabeth Cline**, BA, married Nicholas Lawton on July 30, 2005. The couple resides in Virginia Beach, Va., where she is pursuing a master's degree in counseling at Regent University.

**Heather Van de Voort**, BM, married Richard Davis Ellison on Jan. 1, 2005, at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Macon. The couple resides in Atlanta where she works for the Atlanta Opera, and he is an architect with Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench and Hensley.

IN SYMPATHY

1928

**Dorris Sherrer Hogan**, 95, of Auburn, Ala., died May 4, 2005.

1931

**Euler B. Thompson**, 96, of Atlanta, died Jan. 13, 2005.

1936

**Jere C. Ayers**, AB, 91, of Comer, died May 13, 2005.

1937

**Herman K. Moore**, AB, 88, of Tampa, Fla., died July 7, 2005.

1938

**William Arthur Barrow**, AB, 88, of Fairhope, Ala., died Feb. 27, 2005.

**Samuel L. Chiles**, 90, of Savannah, died April 10, 2005.

**A.B. Conger**, AB, 88, of Columbus, died Oct. 1, 2005.

1939

**Dorothy Tucker Burgamy**, AB, of Macon, died July 31, 2005.

1941

**Ralph B. Reeves**, 86, of Macon, died July 23, 2005.

**David A. Walker Jr.**, AB, 86, of New Fairfield, Conn., died Nov. 12, 2005.

1942

**The Rev. Robert T. Jones**, AB, 91, of Snellville, died Aug. 29, 2005.

1943

**William W. McCowen**, AB, 84, of Macon, died April 3, 2005.

**Sara M. Owen**, AB, 85, of Atlanta, died Aug. 16, 2005.

1944

**Richard L. Hanberry Jr.**, AB, 82, of Macon, died Oct. 1, 2005.

**Pattie Swallum Witham**, 83, of Macon, died July 9, 2005.

1945

**Waldo P. Harris III**, AB, of Washington, died July 2, 2005.

**Pittman M. Jackson Jr.**, AB, 79, of Milledgeville, died July 26, 2005.

1946

**Rear Adm. John Curtis Dixon Jr.**, United States Navy, retired, 78, of Hamilton, died Jan. 31, 2005.

**Wofford H. Martin Jr.**, AB, of Macon, died July 14, 2005.

1947

**John G. Joiner Jr.**, AB, 88, of Macon, died June 15, 2005.

1948

**Thomas B. Kellam**, AB, 80, of Dublin, died April 4, 2005.

**The Rev. Charles F. McMinn**, AB, 78, of Nashville, Tenn., died June 29, 2005.

**M.G. Wood**, AB, 82, of Tallahassee, Fla., died May 22, 2005.

1949

**Dan Bullard III**, AB, 79, of Macon, died June 14, 2005.

**Ruby Kelly Durham**, AB, 81, of Gray, died June 3, 2005.

**Harold E. Hart**, AB, 82, of Waycross, died Sept. 10, 2005.

**James B. Kopp**, AB, 80, of Macon, died June 1, 2005.

**William R. McArthur**, 81, of Macon, died July 20, 2005.

1950

**The Rev. Andrew R. Haman**, AB, of Ormond Beach, Fla., died Jan. 3.

**Joseph H. Harvey Jr.**, 76, of Sea Island, died Aug. 18, 2005.

**The Rev. Jordan W. Holland Jr.**, AB, 75, of Savannah, died June 19, 2005.

**George A. Horkan Jr.**, AB, 78, of Moultrie, died Feb. 2, 2005.

**Lee P. Oliver Jr.**, of Macon, died June 10, 2005.

1951

**George R. Genung Jr.**, AB, 75, of Montgomery Village, Md., died Jan. 28, 2005.

**The Rev. Estus W. Pirkle**, AB, 74, of Myrtle, Miss., died March 3, 2005.

**The Rev. W. Marvin Poe**, AB, 82, of Rome, died Sept. 1, 2005.

**Grover J. Robbins**, AB, 83, of East Bend, N.C., died Jan. 19, 2005.

1952

**Mary Lynn Banks Blitch**, AB, 74, of Newborn, died Oct. 15, 2005.

**Maribeth U. Calhoun**, 73, of Savannah, died Feb. 21, 2005.

**Boyd L. Culp**, AB, 77, of Cedartown, died Aug 27, 2005.

1953

**Josiah Everett Flournoy Jr.**, 73, of Macon, died April 18, 2005.

1954

**Cecil M. Anderson**, AB, 74, of Decatur, died June 8, 2005.

**Patricia Reach Cullens**, 72, of Winter Park, Fla., died April 18, 2005.

**The Rev. George V. Deadwyler Jr.**, AB, of Clarkesville, died Aug. 4, 2005.

**Jack C. London**, AB, 72, of Macon, died April 24, 2005.

**Bobby N. McElroy**, AB, 72, of Macon, died Aug. 13, 2005.

**Laura von Seeberg Roberts**, 71, of Macon, died June 21, 2005.

**Ben E. Weeks**, AB, 80, of Marion, Ind., died April 11, 2005.

1957

**Martha Dykes Bryan**, of Reynolds, died March 1, 2005.

**James A. McFarlane**, AB, 70, of Marietta, died March 17, 2005.

**Charlotte Richardson Tatro**, of Atlanta, died Nov. 16.

1958

**James R. Busby**, 65, of Orange Park, Fla., died June 2, 2005.

**Frank L. Hobby**, AB, 71, of Milledgeville, died June 29, 2005.

1959

**Fay H. Browne**, 68, of LaGrange, died Jan. 28.

**Voncile O. Compton**, AB, of Atlanta, died Aug. 2.

**James E. Miles**, AB, 68, of Macon, died Aug. 20, 2005.

1960

**Karen H. Smith**, AB, 67, of Columbus, died July 27, 2005.

1961

**Malcolm B. Miller**, AB 72, of Dawson, died Sept. 3, 2005.

**Linda W. Wharam**, AB, 64, of Macon, died April 13, 2005.

**Olene Burton Worley**, AB, 73, of Cordele, died April 15, 2005.

1962

**William E. Farley**, AB, 74, of Cleveland, Tenn., died Feb. 21, 2005.

**Angela Anderson Hasty**, AB, of Macon, died Aug. 5, 2005.

**Genie Greene Hearn**, 62, of Stone Mountain, died April 12, 2005.

**Carolyn H. Kinman**, AB, 88, of Vidalia, died July 31, 2005.

1964

**Donnie H. Morris**, 63, of Baxley, died May 16, 2005.

**Charles H. Robertson**, BS, 62, of Hawkinsville, died Aug. 10, 2005.

1965

**Cathey A. Smith**, AB, 64, of Macon, died Nov. 12, 2005.

**Oliver E. Snow Jr.**, of Macon, died Aug. 29, 2005.

1969

**Thelma L. Goss**, BA, 92, of Macon, died April 20, 2005.

1975

**Ted W. Pickren**, BA, 51, of Macon, died June 15, 2005.

1977

**The Rev. Joseph D. Gordon**, BA, 54, of Porterdale, died Oct. 13, 2005.

1979

**Debra F. Clark**, BM, 48, of Atlanta, died Aug. 9, 2005.

1981

**Phyllis Davis Lowe**, BS, of Macon, died June 27, 2005.

1982

**Jeanine Williams Allen**, BS, 46, of Lilburn, died May 7, 2005.

1985

**Purcell Whitsel Jr.**, BA, 50, of Macon, died July 22, 2005.

1992

**Stephanie Higingbotham**, BA, 35, of Macon, died Dec. 5, 2005.

1998

**Shannon Lynn Roquemore**, BA, 29, of Arden, N.C., died July 13, 2005.



## — STETSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS —

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**1991**

**Charles N. Eldred**, MBA, of Omaha, Neb., is the vice president and chief financial officer of the Omaha Public Power District, one of the largest publicly owned utilities in the nation. The Association of Government Accountants presented him with the 2005 Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award.

**1994**

**Mark S. Wright**, BBA '92, MBA, of Kirkwood, Mo., was named the associate athletic director for development at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Mo.

**1995**

**Shenlia Hill**, MS, of Duluth, graduated from the Georgia 100 Executive Leadership Development Program. She is also pursuing a Ph.D. in organization and management from Capella University.

**1997**

**Andrea C. Miller**, BBA, of Antioch, Tenn., earned her MBA in management from Middle Tennessee State University on Aug. 14, 2005. She is employed by HCA Shared Services of Nashville, Tenn.

**1999**

**Laura E. DeMars**, MSHA, of Atlanta, was promoted to manager of materials management for Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, an entity of Saint Joseph's Health System. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in health care administration from Walden University.

**2002**

**Henry W. Smith**, BBA, earned his MBA from the University of Notre Dame in May 2005. He is employed by Ernst & Young financial consulting practice in McLean, Va.

**Cassandra Hayden**, BBA, joined the East Cobb sales team at Prudential Georgia Realty in Marietta. She resides in Cobb County

**2003**

**Lt. Chris Angel Fuller**, BBA, is a quartermaster officer in charge of the supply support activity area at the Al Asad Forward Operating Base outside of Fallujah.

**Lt. Morenika V. Richards**, BBA, is an adjutant general officer serving as the S-1 human resources manager for her battalion at Camp Victory in South Baghdad. She is in charge of personnel documents and accountability for more than 500 soldiers.

**Lt. Kelley Nalley Smith**, BBA, is a quartermaster officer at Camp Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. As the water storage and distribution officer for the entire camp, she must overcome an inadequate infrastructure in order to provide water to dining facilities, showers and laundry.

**Lt. Patty Vithaya**, BBA, is a medical service officer in charge of the health clinic at Camp Victory in South Baghdad. She also assists the doctors with minor medical procedures.

**2004**

**J. Barrett Carter**, MBA, of Smyrna, is the vice president and director of transactions at Timbervest, LLC, a timberland investment management organization. He specializes in the acquisition, management and disposition of the company's timberland holdings.

**1998**

**Andrea C. Banks Ferrell**, BBA, and her husband, Justin, announce the birth of their daughter, Isis Pauline, on May 4, 2005. The family resides in Bonaire. She is an accountant with the Bibb County Board of Commissioners.

**2002**

**Camellia Childers**, BBA, and her husband, **Richard**, BSE, announce the birth of their son, Hunter Ethan Childers, on Nov. 11. The family resides in Killeen, Texas.

**2004**

**Melanie Thomas Meade**, BBA, married **Jason Meade**, BSE, on June 4, 2005, at Riverside United Methodist Church in Macon. The couple resides in Savannah.

### MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

**1988**

**Todd Adams**, BBA, and his wife, Heather, announce the birth of their son, Alfred Troy Adams, on Feb. 3, 2005. They have two other children, Hayden and Megan. The family resides in Flowery Branch.

**1995**

**Marguerite Perkins Aring**, BBA, and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Elizabeth, on June 29, 2005. They also have a son, Briggs. The family resides in Winter Park, Fla.

**1996**

**Patricia Carey Connor**, BBA, married David C. Connor on May 21, 2005, in Middleburg, Va. The couple resides in Manassas, Va. She is employed by Alion Science & Technology of Fairfax, Va.

**1997**

**Hilton Smith**, BBA, and his wife **Marla A. Smith**, BA '96, announce the birth of their second daughter, Gwyneth Elizabeth Smith, on April 28, 2005. The family resides in Ruston, La.

### IN SYMPATHY

**1976**

**Bettie B. Duttenhaver**, BBA, 81, of Atlanta, died Aug. 25, 2005.

**1989**

**David E. King**, BA, 58, of Thomaston, died Jan. 24, 2005.

**1998**

**Sumowuoi Pewu**, MBA, 42, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Oct. 2, 2005.

**2000**

**Mark Lee Jones**, MBA, 41, of Macon, died July 27, 2005.

## 1960 Grads Remain Best Friends

For many, graduation marks the bittersweet end of many close relationships as friends become separated by geographic location, life experiences, and busy careers.

However, for one group of Mercer alumnae, their 1960 graduation from the College of Liberal Arts marked the beginning of a friendship that has grown stronger over the past 45 years.

In the months after their separation, the group began corresponding through letters to share their post-graduation experiences. These letters continued for the next 28 years. In 1988, the group decided to have a reunion to celebrate their 50th birthdays. This was the beginning of a new tradition for the friends, and they have held several subsequent reunions over the past 12 years.

While they are separated by geography, they remain close in spirit through letters and e-mail. They have served as a support group for each other during times of grief and joy.

Although their lives and interests have become very different since their college graduation, they still share a common love for their alma mater, Mercer University. When these eight alumnae get together, they share stories and reminisce about their years at Mercer.

Friendship is a bond that can last

forever. This group of women would like to encourage other Mercer alumni to make contact with their classmates from Mercer and reestablish the connection that began during their years in college.



From left, **Martha Clark Almand** of Macon; **Betty Ann Echols** of Jacksonville, Fla.; **Kay Hatcher Norton** of St. Petersburg, Fla.; **Tempie Hill Oliver** of Jonesboro; **Beverly Bloodworth Presley** of Statesboro; **Ruth Kilpatrick Pearce** of Athens; **Ila Kidd Tribble** of Anderson, S.C.; and **Emmalyn Phillips Wilson** of Lake Jackson, Texas

**Class of 1955 Enjoys 50-Year Reunion** — Sixty-five class members and spouses attended the Golden Anniversary class of 1955 reunion on Oct. 8, 2005. The previous evening the class joined more than 200 members of the Half Century Club for dinner. This picture of 39 smiling classmates was taken at the Lee Alumni House steps. Afterwards, the class enjoyed a tour of the campus and a luncheon in the Presidents Dining Room of the University Center. **Bruce Yandle** served as moderator with **Joe Watson** and **Chuck Haffenden** leading the "walk down memory lane." Other program participants were **Bill Middlebrooks**, **Jean Bolen Bridges**, **Peggy Carlisle Neal** and CLA Dean **Richard Fallis**.



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



## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

### ACHIEVEMENTS

1990

**Joel Lee Tolbert**, BS, of Decatur, graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2005. He is serving as pastor of Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Decatur. His wife, **Jill Patterson Tolbert**, BA '88 is graduating from Columbia Theological

Seminary. They reside in Decatur with their three sons, Adam, Daniel and Michael.

1997

**Sam Martinez Jr.**, BSE, of Macon, was promoted to director of operation at Burgess Pigment Company on April 1, 2005.

### MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1997

**Erik D. Varnadoe**, BSE, and his wife, **Lori Redwine Varnadoe**, CLA '97, announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace, on March 27, 2005. The family resides in Gray.

1998

**Karen Davis Morrow**, BSE, and her husband, **Alvin**, BSE '99, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Joseph Morrow, on April 27, 2005. The family resides in Hephzibah.

1999

**Alvin Morrow**, BSE, and his wife, **Karen**, BSE '98, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Joseph, on April 27, 2005. The family resides in Hephzibah.

2002

**Richard Childers**, BSE, and his wife, **Camellia Childers**, BBA, announce the birth of their son, Hunter Ethan Childers, on Nov. 11, 2005. The family resides in Killeen, Texas.

2004

**Jason Meade**, BSE, married **Melanie Thomas**, BBA '04, on June 4, 2005, at Riverside United Methodist Church in Macon. The couple resides in Savannah.

## TIFT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### ACHIEVEMENTS

1940

**Gertrude A. Tharpe**, AB, is the executive director of the Alabama Grief Support Foundation in Birmingham, Ala.

1992

**Linda Pyatt Merrick**, BS, of Virginia Beach, Va., left the legal field to join Sullivan, Andrews & Taylor PC, a

CPA/Consulting firm as an administrator.

**Michael G. Michaels**, BS, of Oro Grande, Calif., celebrated the grand opening of his Iron Hog Saloon in May. The Iron Hog is housed in a 100-year-old building off Route 66 in California. According to local historians, the building was originally part of the Pony Express route, and a frequent stop for Roy Rogers.

1997

**Roderick Hilton**, BA, received a Ph.D. in educational leadership, K-12, from Capella University on Oct. 1, 2005.

1998

**Myron Massey**, BS, of Hiram, received an award for five years of service with Coca-Cola Enterprises. He was promoted to business analyst in the information technology organization in Atlanta.

### MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1988

**Kimberly Carlson Chaiken**, BA, and her husband, **Mark A. Chaiken Sr.**, BBA '91, announce the arrival of their fourth child, Mercer Rafael, born July 31, 2004. The child was named Mercer in remembrance that the couple met at the University. They reside in Lighthouse Point, Fla.

2001

**Melissa Zubia McNinch**, BA, and her husband, Jaye, announce the birth of their son, Joseph McNinch, in March 2005. She received a master's degree in human resources management from Troy State University in March 2004. They reside in Antioch, Tenn.

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

### No? Well, why not?

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### How to Access the Online Community

Visit [www.mercer.edu](http://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 Kim Adams at 1-800-837-2911, ext. 2189, or E-mail [adams\\_km@mercer.edu](mailto:adams_km@mercer.edu).



TIFT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, *continued*

2002

**LaKisha Dennis Deon**, BLS, and her husband, Alonzo, announce the birth of their son, Armon Walter, on July 20, 2005. The family resides in Dover, Del.

2003

**Brandi Lee Hodges**, BSED, and her husband, Clay, announce the adoption of their son, Evan, on April 15, 2005. Evan was adopted from Russia. The family resides in Covington.

**Kelly Marie Smallwood**, BSED, married Will Collins on June 11, 2005, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. The couple resides in Macon, where She is a third-grade teacher at Sonny Carter Elementary and he is a franchise owner of Firehouse Subs.

2005

**Tasha S. Warren-Nears**, BSED, married Jerry Nears Jr. on July 9, 2005. The couple resides in Stockbridge. She is a third-grade teacher at Parklane Elementary School in East Point and plans to attend graduate school in 2006.

IN SYMPATHY

1912

**Annie Maude J. Johnson**, AB, of Turin, died June 7, 1995.

1927

**Cecelia Lawrence Cook**, AB, 99, of Decatur, died April 28, 2005.

1929

**Grace Turner Swan**, AB, 96, of Fort Valley, died July 24, 2005.

1930

**Mary C. Hoffman**, AB, of Dothan, Ala., died March 25, 2005.

1933

**Jeanette Wallace Mecabe**, AB, 92, of Watertown, Conn., died Aug. 2, 2005.

1941

**Louise G. Doughty**, AB, 85, of Smyrna, died March 16, 2005.

1943

**The Rev. Howard R. Allen**, AB, 84, of Pelham, Ala., died March 4, 2005.

1946

**Carolyn Cutts Waters**, AB, 80, of Chamblee, died June 5, 2005.

1949

**Ardath Loyd Bradshaw**, M.Ed., 94, of Ocilla, died July 3, 2005.

1951

**Winifred Colquitt Williams**, M.Ed., 81, of Americus, died July 24, 2005.

1954

**Ann Adella Henry**, M.Ed., 85, of Macon, died April 26, 2005.

1956

**Florence M. Sanders**, AB, 93, of Macon, died Sept. 28, 2005.

1958

**Faye M. Walker**, of Lizella, 69, died Aug. 22, 2005.  
**Robert R. Gentry**, M.Ed., 81, of Hawkinsville, died Dec. 3, 2005.

1967

**Carole D. Pengra**, M.Ed., of Pompano Beach, Fla., died Aug. 4, 2005.

1969

**Frances Hammond Funderburk**, M.Ed., 79 of Valdosta, died April 1, 2005.

1970

**Eva Mae Ball**, BA, 96, of Hiram, died Aug. 28, 2005.

1979

**Timothy Jackson**, of Augusta, died March 15, 2005.

1980

**Annie Rawlins**, BS, 80, of Zebulon, died June 13, 2005.

1982

**John M. Gillespie**, 61, of Thomaston, died July 13, 2005.

1985

**Mary Tollena Waters**, 57, of Dublin, died Jan. 22, 2005.

1994

**Charles Vernon Merrick**, BA, 56, of Virginia Beach, Va., died June 20, 2005.

2003

**Alicia Roberts Sampson**, M.Ed., 44, of Stone Mountain, died July 31, 2005.

Voice of a Teacher

— *Continued from page 16*

“They were my parents away from home,” Erin says. “I have their phone number memorized. They love me enough to correct me if I’m wrong — everyone needs that.” And now, the voice that once reverberated in the domed cathedral of St. Paul and climbed the gilded cupola of the Vatican is contained by four school-room walls in the only middle school in Upson County. Thirty students per period, eight periods everyday, Erin’s leading the county’s black, white, Hispanic, low-income, high-income, middle-class, shy, hyper, eager, learn-

ing-impaired, and bright students. Sometimes they study composers and instruments. Sometimes they sing in German and Latin. And sometimes Erin records *American Idol*, and they watch it the next day, adding their own critiques to Simon, Paula, and Randy’s. Ms. Keel promised her students that by the end of the year, they would love middle school. What she didn’t tell them was that she would do it by loving them.

“I try to concentrate on every kid individually,” she says.  
“One day, Casey might smile or a shy sixth grader might finally raise his hand. The smallest things make every-day rewarding.”

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](mailto:admissions@mercer.edu).

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown \_\_\_\_\_  
High School \_\_\_\_\_  
Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ SAT/ACT \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Penfield's Perpetual Caretaker

By Wayne Ford, Athens Banner-Herald

**C**urtis Whittaker stood among the tombstones — the final resting place for so many people who once lived in Greene County. Here were people he knew as a child, those he grew up with and those about whom he only has heard stories. Here also are his parents and the place he too expects to lie one day.

“He loved that tree,” Whittaker said about his father’s admiration for the huge red oak that shaded this corner of Penfield Cemetery where his parents and brother are buried.

In the distance a group of crows could be heard on this mild and sunny October day, where Whittaker had been mowing the cemetery grass. Since 1959 he has served as the cemetery’s caretaker, tending to its needs from picking up fallen branches to cutting the shrubbery. And for about 10 years before that, it was a task taken on by his father, William Whittaker.

Penfield Cemetery, with a perpetual-care endowed fund, shows the care it is afforded. Surrounded by a brick and granite wall, the tombstones that line the cemetery are joined by holly, cedar, magnolia and oak trees. Whittaker lives in a house just outside the front gate where he keeps an eye on a cemetery that is important to Mercer University, which

has campuses in Macon and Atlanta.

It is here, in this rural community, that Mercer University had its beginning.

Jesse Mercer, its founder, and Bullington Sanders, its first president, are buried here. Mercer University was founded in Penfield in 1833, and in 1871 it moved to Macon. But that move doesn’t mean Mercer has lost touch with its roots. Every fall, the University takes freshmen class members to Penfield to roam the cemetery, place wreaths on the graves of its early leaders and tour the old Mercer Chapel, a large two-story columned building set on a crest of the hill that gives a compelling view for those driving into this rural community.

During his time as the cemetery caretaker, Whittaker has come to know Mercer presidents such as Spright Dowell, who served Mercer from 1928 to 1953.

“He loved Penfield and wanted to be buried here,” Whittaker said.

And he knows R. Kirby Godsey, the current president, who is retiring this year after 27 years.

“Dr. Godsey was up here last week, but I didn’t get to visit him. They are real interested in this place,” Whittaker said about the Mercer University leaders.

The cemetery’s fund for upkeep was established by Col. James G. Boswell, a wealthy Californian, whose mother, Minnie Griffin Boswell, was

the Northern District of Georgia. As chief judge, he helped to oversee a pilot project to create an electronic court by participating in the development of a computerized electronic case filing and case management system to be installed in the nation’s federal bankruptcy courts.

Cotton retired in 2004, after 42 years in law.

His former colleagues say that Cotton left a positive mark on bankruptcy law in Georgia, both as a lawyer and as a jurist.

“He was just a good lawyer and a good judge; he performed well, he stuck to it, he was on time, he was prepared, and he didn’t bark or holler,” said James Timothy White, a longtime bankruptcy attorney, friend and former law partner of Cotton’s. “The only thing anybody ever said that was even halfway a criticism of him was that he spoke so softly people couldn’t hear him. He never raised his voice. He’s just a gentleman and a fine, fine jurist.”

raised in this part of Greene County.

“When she was buried here, it was just an old country cemetery and he gave the money and bought several acres of land here to keep it under perpetual care,” Whittaker said.

The cemetery has a serene appeal.

“There was a preacher who came out here at least once a week to sit and meditate,” Whittaker said. “He said it was the most quiet and peaceful place he’d ever been in Greene County.”

taking on the role as guardian of the gate. A few weeks ago, Skipper was bitten by a copperhead snake, one of the hazards of country living. But the small terrier survived the wound.

“I’ve always worked two jobs. I taught school and this is a hobby for me. I’d come in from school, despondent and aggravated, and I’d get on the lawn mower and first thing you know, I’m as happy as a bird,” said the man, who taught at Gatewood School, a pri-

Church of Christ.

Whittaker recalled telling someone the benefits of living in Penfield.

“I said I wouldn’t take nothing for living in Penfield. We haven’t had a bank robbery in a hundred years and a murder in 200 years,” he said with a smile. “There was once a bank in Penfield — a warehouse. It was a bustling little village at one time.”

Whittaker is a member of Penfield Baptist Church, which meets in the



Curtis Whittaker, caretaker for Penfield Cemetery, has been caring for the property since 1959.

In fact, many people would like to be buried here, but few can.

“It’s real restrictive. You’ve got to be a long-time resident of Penfield or former long-time resident of Penfield before you can be buried here. There are a lot of disappointed people because when you drive through the cemetery, you want to be buried here,” he said.

“The most we’ve had out here is five burials in one year. Sometimes we’ll go one or two years without a funeral. There are not many native Penfield people left,” he said. “I’d say 50 percent of the tombstones you see out here have been put here since I’ve been here.”

The presidents of Mercer are eligible for burial here. Dowell, the last president buried here, died in 1963.

The name most often found on the tombstones is Boswell, a family with a long history in Penfield and Greene County.

Also buried here is L.A. Carrie, a former printer for *The Christian Index*, the Southern Baptist newspaper that Jesse Mercer moved to Penfield, where it was published for many years.

Others include Peter Northern, a veteran of the War of 1812, who was buried here in 1863. And there is a brigadier general of the U.S. Army, Hughes L. Ash, who was buried here in 1985. The Rev. John Sanders Calloway, who died in 1914, preached at Bethesda Baptist and Penfield Baptist during his long career spanning four decades.

Caring for the cemetery is a year-round job.

“In the wintertime, there’s always some kind of work that needs to be done — limbs and leaves,” said Whittaker, who explained he took over as caretaker after his father died in 1959.

Often while he is mowing the grass, his dog, Skipper, will lie at the entrance

vate school in Eatonton.

Whittaker said he grew up in Macedonia Community, in the upper end of Greene County near Watson Springs and about a mile from Scull Shoals, a town that died out in the 19th century. His father moved the family to Penfield in 1948 to take on the caretaker’s job at the cemetery.

It’s a small community today. The two things that bring the most traffic to Penfield are the Penfield Christian Home, a Christian-based treatment center for alcohol- and drug-addicted persons, and The Swamp, a large church retreat center for the Atlanta

historic chapel, a facility that was erected in 1846 and restored in 1949. The church has about 15 active members.

Penfield is a place off the beaten path, as only a county road passes through. Whittaker sometimes sees the occasional visitor who happens upon the community with its cemetery, historic chapel and old homes.

“Unless you’re just riding around looking for something,” Whittaker said, “you’d probably never know anything about it.”

*Reprinted with permission*

## Judge Cotton

— Continued from page 9

The district, based in Atlanta, has eight judges and court divisions in Newnan, Rome and Gainesville, covering the northern third of the state.

### Judgeship

As a judge, Cotton heard a number of high profile cases, with several involving celebrities, including, rhythm and blues legend Isaac Hayes. One of his most memorable cases involved the popular music group TLC, based out of Atlanta. At the time, the singing group was locked in dispute with its management and creditors.

“That was one of my very interesting cases because the nature of the litigation and the number of people they had to deal with,” Cotton said. The case resulted in two years of legal wrangling. In 1996, the case was settled, with TLC renegotiating its contracts with its managers and getting back to recording hit records.

In 1995, Cotton was named chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for



Mercer Trustees and their spouses visited the Penfield Cemetery following the December 2005 Board meeting held in the historic chapel on Mercer’s Penfield campus.



# Beall's Hill Master Plan Receives Citation Award

By Anna Sandison

**I**n the last half century, the once thriving neighborhood of Beall's Hill has encountered many of the problems that afflict inner-city neighborhoods. Of those houses that have escaped fire or demolition, many have succumbed to the corrosive effects of time and neglect. The prime location of this neighborhood makes this deterioration an even more regrettable situation. Beall's Hill is situated near the Medical Center of Central Georgia, Mercer University's Macon campus, an elementary school, Tattnall Square Park and downtown Macon's variety of shops, restaurants and museums.

Mercer's Center for Community Engagement and its partners are working to recreate the safe, attractive neighborhood that once existed at Beall's Hill. This development plan is a 30-block component of the larger Central South Revitalization Project. The overall goal is

to create a variety of economic, educational, health and social service programs in the 120-block Central South neighborhood.

In November 2001, Mercer, the City of Macon and the Knight Foundation Program in Community Building at the University of Miami organized a public design charrette. The charrette included all persons with ties to the project who wished to discuss the general design. The project was not developed solely from an architectural viewpoint, but considered the opinions of designers, community leaders and residents. Ayers/Saint/Gross, Architects+Planners took the ideas garnered at the charrette and developed a master plan and architectural guidelines for the project. A generous grant to Mercer from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation supported this design work.

In September of this year, the Maryland chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) notified Ayers/Saint/Gross that the Beall's Hill Master Plan and Guidelines had earned a 2005 AIA Maryland Design Award. Of the 121 designs submitted by various Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia architecture firms, 26 received awards. The designs were displayed at the 2005 Annual Meeting and Design Awards

held at the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md.



Cover of Beall's Hill AIA Maryland Design Award announcement

Members of the Connecticut AIA reviewed the designs and selected those deserving of honors. The jury based their selection of the Beall's Hill project

on the idea that "it is important to acknowledge the architect's role in

projects which deal with broader urban context issues that heal neighborhoods, provide a greater sense of community and repair fractured links between towns." Dhuru Thadani, director of ASG's Town Planning Studio, accepted the Citation Award on behalf of the Beall's Hill partnership.

Such recognition is not new to those involved with the Beall's Hill project. Earlier, the Congress for the New

Urbanism honored the Beall's Hill Urban Design and Architectural Guidelines with a Charter Award. Of 136 submissions from around the

world, only 14 designs received an award. The Charter Award honors projects that improve the overall neighborhood environment, including layout and landscaping — not simply the appearance of the buildings.

In 2002, former president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, presented Mercer University and CORE Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc., with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration. The exceptional effort toward improvement and preservation demonstrated by the Beall's Hill collaboration stood out among 33 nominated programs in Georgia.

For more information about the Beall's Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Project, visit [www.mercer.edu/MCCD](http://www.mercer.edu/MCCD).



## Doss Named Superior Court Judge — Oliver Harry Doss,

BA '66, JD '69, of Blue Ridge, was installed as Superior Court Judge in the Appalachian Circuit by Gov. **Sonny Perdue** in December ceremonies at the State Capitol. Doss served from 2001-2003 as the president of the CLA Alumni Association Board of Directors. He served as president of the 1966 senior class as well as president of his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega.

## FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNED AND ESTATE GIFTS — Planning for Your Future

By Claude D. Smith Jr.

**I**n today's busy world, it seems that we spend so much time taking care of others, that we neglect many of our own needs — especially our financial planning needs.

Year after year, we put off meeting with an estate planning attorney, a financial planner and other key professionals who can help us plan a secure future for ourselves and our loved ones.

Whether you are self-employed, work in a small office or large corporation, planning early is key. By maximizing your contributions to an IRA or other retirement plan at work, you allow money that is sheltered from income tax to grow over the years. For example, by investing \$150 per month for 30 years, assuming an 8 percent return, you would accumulate \$223,553.92 for your retirement. However, if you increased your contri-

bution by only 10 percent every year, you would accumulate \$954,028.11 after 30 years.

Now, assume that you have maximized your annual retirement contribution, but would still like to contribute more toward retirement. One alternative is to establish a deferred charitable gift annuity. There are two distinct advantages to this type of gift. First, there is no annual contribution cap as there is with a tax deferred retirement plan. Second, the payment rate is higher.

As an example, if you make a gift of \$100,000 to Mercer when you and your spouse are 50 years old and elect to begin receiving payments when you both are 65, you will receive an annual payment of 12.3 percent, or \$12,300, for your lifetimes. You also qualify for an income



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

tax deduction of \$49,939 at the time of the gift. At death, the remaining funds in the annuity are transferred to your preferred school.

If you have a desire to make a charitable gift which would benefit you and your spouse as well as Mercer, you may want to consider a deferred charitable gift annuity. Of course, there are other methods of estate planning that you can access on Mercer's Web site by clicking on Alumni/Gift Planning. For more information, contact Claude D. Smith Jr., special counsel for planned and estate gifts, or Richard C. Spivey, assistant vice president for planned and estate gifts and development, at (800) 837-2911 or (478) 301-2715.

*As individual circumstances vary, please be sure to consult your personal advisor.*



**Richard Spivey,** CLA '94, BUS '03, assistant vice president for estate gifts and development

## UNIVERSITY NEWS BRIEFS

■ **McAfee School of Theology** began a pastoral residency program in June. The program is funded by a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Foundation. The residency program is designed to help McAfee graduates transition from the classroom to full-time pastoral ministry. The grant will expire in five years, but McAfee hopes to continue a smaller-scale program through support from participating churches.

■ The **Southern School of Pharmacy** introduced a pharmacy education program geared for the community. Called "Pharmacy College," the program sponsors lectures on practical information topics, such as herbal medicines and reducing medicinal costs.

■ Last June, Mercer announced its partnership with Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta to create the Center for Health and Learning. The first initiative through the Center addresses the growing need in Georgia to attract and educate more nurses. On Dec. 5, the Center introduced the inaugural group of Piedmont Scholars, 12 **Georgia Baptist College of Nursing** students who will receive their clinical training at and begin their nursing careers with Piedmont Healthcare.

■ Dr. Martin L. Dalton Jr. has been named the new dean of the **School of Medicine**. His career took him to Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, the District of Columbia — via the United States Army — before bringing him to Georgia. He participated in the first successful human lung transplant in 1963. In the medical school, he also serves as professor and chair of Mercer's Department of Surgery, is chief of surgery and directs the surgical residency program at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon.



**Martin Dalton**

■ According to *The Princeton Review*, "Professors Rock" at Mercer's **Walter F. George School of Law**. For the second year in a row, Mercer's law professors have made this top10 list, based on the quality of the classroom experience and accessibility outside of class. This year, Mercer's faculty ranked ninth nationally. This fall, the School of Law also began offering Business Certificate Programs in Practice Management and Corporate Finance. To complete these programs, law students enroll in specific courses through the Stetson School of Business and Economics without having to actually enroll in the MBA program.



- 1 Trustees Elect Underwood Next President  
*Mercer Breaks Ground for New Science and Engineering Building*
- 2 Summit Confirms Mercer's Baptist Commitment
- 3 Engineering School Celebrates Two Decades of Excellence
- 4 Mercer Shous Support to Alums in the Military
- 5 First Year Marked Success for Townsend Institute  
*Robert McDuffie and Friends Fall Festival for Strings*
- 6 Renovations Enhance Historic Grand Opera House
- 7 International Conductor Performs at Mercer  
*Student Enjoying Success in New Women's and Gender Studies Major*
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## Share Your Latest News!

Alumni Services would like to keep your classmates up to date on your latest news. If you've recently moved or are planning to relocate, please send in this form so we can keep our records current. We also want to know if you have recently married, had a baby, received a promotion, retired or accomplished something else noteworthy.

*(Please print)*

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## Preparing to Pass the Reins

After an unprecedented 27 years as President and CEO, Dr. R. Kirby Godsey prepares to hand over leadership of the University to William D. Underwood.

*Story on page 1.*

### Also Inside

Photos from the President's Club *Presidential Extravaganza* and the *Presidential Musical Gala* at The Grand — *pages 12-13*

