

## Making an Influential University Even Better

**S**ince becoming the 18th president of Mercer University on July 1, 2006, Bill Underwood has set an energized pace for the institution, not only working to complete projects that were in progress under Dr. R. Kirby Godsey's administration, but also introducing new ones that reflect his vision for the University.

Mercer Board of Trustees Chairman David Hudson, who also headed the presidential search committee, gives Underwood high marks for his inaugural year.

"We are extraordinarily fortunate in President Underwood to have someone who has mastered the nuts and bolts and mechanics of leading a university and at the same time is a visionary educator," said Hudson. "Not every college

president can do both of those tasks well. Some are good at the nuts and bolts of management and don't have vision and vice versa. But Bill Underwood can do both extraordinarily well. Mercer has hit a

home run in persuading him to come and serve as our president."

### The Potential of the University

One of Underwood's first initiatives was to meet with the faculty and

"I have always had a high opinion of Mercer, because of its outstanding reputation. But, it has exceeded all my expectations," said the former Texan.

"Mercer is very well positioned, with the potential to become even more successful," Underwood continued. "It has talented faculty who are genuinely committed to transforming students. It has very attractive facilities and a national reputation for having a rigorous and impressive array of academic programs. Mercer is positioned to become one of the most influential universities in the nation."

### Boosting Enrollment

Throughout the year, Underwood stated that the University's peers should be Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, Duke and Emory. Explaining that Mercer's students, faculty, schools and programs are similar to those institutions, he focused on continuing the University's move to the national arena.

"I don't necessarily want to grow the University, but instead increase the level of demand — allowing us to be more selective," said Underwood. "Most of our effort will be in telling the Mercer story to more prospective students, especially high school sophomores and juniors, because that is when students begin to choose a college."

The President provided additional financial resources to enhance



President Underwood and Bob Colvin, CEO of Memorial Health in Savannah, discuss the expansion of the Medical School program at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

the marketing for undergraduate admissions on the Macon campus. In January, a senior vice president of Enrollment Management, Terry E. Whittum, previously with Stetson University in Florida, was hired to direct undergraduate admissions and financial aid and to provide overall coordination for retention.

The academic programs for "working adults" offered through the University's four regional academic centers also received a major boost. A consulting team held focus groups of students, faculty and alumni and developed a marketing campaign with the tagline of "The Next Chapter of Your Story Begins NOW! Higher Education for Working Adults." The study also resulted in locating two new under-

graduate programs on the Atlanta campus: Information Systems and Criminal Justice.

"Studies indicate that the largest growth in the higher education market will occur in non-traditional students," Underwood explained. "Some of our greatest success stories are adults whose lives have been transformed by their experience at Mercer."

### Medical School in Savannah Positively Impacts All Georgians

The new President also worked on expanding Mercer's professional programs. On June 20, Underwood stood with Bob Colvin, president and CEO of Memorial Health in Savannah, to

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President Underwood speaks with Mercer student Khusboo Patel at the 2007 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

administrators of each of the 11 colleges and schools to learn about their specific strengths and goals of their programs. The more Underwood has learned about the University, the more pleased he says he has become.

## Service-Learning Project Leads Macon to Establish Commission

By Mark Vanderhoek

**A** service-learning project by four Mercer seniors to create a development plan for the area around Mercer led the city of Macon to establish a new commission to study and implement the plan. On April 27, Mayor Jack Ellis announced the creation of the College Hill Corridor Commission to implement the students' plan for the development of the corridor.

Students' yearlong effort to develop a plan for a "college town" corridor connecting the University with downtown Macon was part of two service-learning courses at Mercer.

During a press conference, Ellis commended the efforts of the "bright, committed and innovative and enthusiastic" students who hatched the plan. All four students — Kimberly

Humphries, Veronica Allen, Matt Wetherington and Alex Morrison — attended the announcement, along with Mercer President William D. Underwood, and their professor, Peter Brown, senior vice provost for the University.

Allen, a political science major from Riverdale; Morrison, a philosophy major from Pike County, and Wetherington, a political science major from Macon, graduated in the spring. Humphries, a senior communication major from Warner Robins, will graduate in the fall.



Macon Mayor Jack Ellis, far left, addresses the media during a news conference on April 27. From left, Alex Morrison '07, Matthew Wetherington, '07, Veronica Allen, '07, President Underwood and Kimberly Humphries, '07, gathered for the event. The four students pushed to make the commission a reality as part of a service-learning project.

Underwood praised the students for their efforts and voiced his support, noting that the University has been working to bring in new businesses to a retail area it owns near campus.

"We're excited about this project here at Mercer and proud to be a

part of it," Underwood said, "and I'm especially proud to say it was Mercer students who developed the plan."

The College Hill Corridor plan originated as a project for a senior capstone course, titled "Self & World: The Fate of the City," taught by Brown.

In class, 17 students spent the fall semester developing a plan to further Macon's economic development efforts and connect the University to the city, in order to attract and retain young, college-educated professionals. Their work was based on the ideas of Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*. The plan that the class developed inspired four of its members to continue last spring to try to implement it. Brown devised another service-learning course, "The Philosophy of Persuasion," to help the foursome develop the tools to persuade potential stakeholders in the plan to come on board.

With the successful announcement of the College Hill Corridor Commission, the students have learned the art of persuasion while succeeding in serving their community, said Brown.

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## Mercer On Mission Offers Life Changing Experiences

A new initiative offered to Mercer students this summer is allowing for “life changing” experiences while earning academic credit. The program, Mercer On Mission, has sent three teams to Kenya, Guatemala and Brazil to engage in service-learning. The five-week program, which is designed for undergraduate students on the Macon campus, includes two weeks of study on the Macon campus and three weeks abroad.

Mercer President William D. Underwood said, “Working with partner organizations, such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, American Baptist Churches USA and Buckner Orphan Care International, this program allows students to earn six hours of academic credit while helping meet the needs of people in other cultures.”

The program in Kenya is led by Professor Randy Harshbarger and Dr. Robert Hargrove. The six hours of academic credit will include “History and Culture of Modern



Mercer students were involved in life changing experiences this summer while exchanging cultures and values with residents in Kenya, Guatemala and Brazil.

Kenya” and “Women in Africa: Agents of Environmental Change.” While in Kenya, students will assist with the Change for Children Project, which meets the needs of vulnerable children, and will perform volunteer work in an Integrated Child

### MERCER ON MISSION

Crossing cultures. Changing lives.

Development Center.

The Guatemala program, led by Professor Joanna Watson and Tim Craker, will offer “Cultures of the Americas” and “Topics in the

Invention of the Americas” for academic credit. While there, students will explore Guatemalan culture and learn about Mayan civilization. Their service-learning project will be performed at Buckner Orphan Care International.

Dr. Paul Lewis and Dr. Eric Spears will head the program in Brazil, instructing students in “Special Topics: Liberation Theology in Brazil” and “Language, Culture, & Communication.” Service-learning for the Mercer students will include a project at Joao XXIII Institute, a school for urban economically disadvantaged elementary students.



Dr. Craig McMahan, university minister and dean of the chapel, is heading the Mercer On Mission project. Travel and in-country living expenses are covered by the University, while the students will be responsible for tuition and fees associated with the courses they take, as well as living expenses and meals while they are on campus for the week prior to and the week following the field experience.

## Baptist Heritage Society to Relocate to Mercer’s Atlanta Campus

By Mark Vanderboeck

The Baptist History and Heritage Society announced in February that Society offices will relocate to Mercer’s Atlanta campus this summer. The Society’s Board of Directors approved the move in a unanimous vote.

The Baptist History and Heritage Society’s move comes on the heels of the American Baptist Historical Society’s decision last September to consolidate and relocate its vast archival collections to the University’s Administration and Conference Center, located on the Atlanta Campus. Both relocations are major steps in the University’s aspiration to become a national center for Baptist scholarship.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for our organization, and we would like to thank Mercer University for its invitation,” said Society Executive Director Charles Deweese. “As an independent Baptist historical society,

we are focused on helping Baptists of all traditions to conserve and share their heritage. We concentrate on gathering, publishing, interpreting and communicating Baptist history for historians and lay people, so we rely on good libraries and good archives.”

“We are very pleased to host the Baptist History and Heritage Society on our Atlanta campus,” said Mercer University

President William D. Underwood. “The Society has a rich tradition of educating Baptists and non-Baptists on the denomination’s heritage and contributions to our country and our world. Their presence on our campus will further strengthen Mercer’s Baptist identity.”

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Founded in 1938, the Society is currently located in the Baptist Center of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, Tenn. The Society has more than 800 members throughout the United States and in 15 foreign countries. Dedicated to helping “Baptists discover, conserve, assess and share their history,” the Society focuses on publishing information on Baptist history. The organization produces a journal, newsletter, pamphlet and booklet series, books, and other resources.

The Society began as the Southern Baptist Historical Society, an auxiliary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The Society voted to become an independent Baptist history

organization when the SBC decided in 1995 to eliminate the Commission. The Society changed its name in 2001 to reflect its expanded purpose as a resource for all Baptists. The mission of the Society is to help Baptists discover, conserve, assess, and share their history.

Deweese says the prospect of working on Mercer’s Atlanta campus — already home to the University’s McAfee School of Theology, the national office of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and, soon, the American Baptist Historical Society — is very exciting.

“President Underwood is creating on Mercer’s Atlanta campus what will likely become the center for the intellectual study of Baptists in the world,” Deweese said. “In addition, the opportunity to come to Mercer and learn from the other entities that are there has extraordinary appeal to our board, our members and the staff. We are looking forward to the move.”



Physician Assistant Program to Make Debut in 2008 *By Mark Vanderboek*

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Atlanta is developing a Physician Assistant Program in conjunction with its educational partnership — Piedmont Healthcare of Atlanta. The graduate program is recruiting its inaugural class for January 2008 while working toward provisional accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

“Mercer University has a proud history of developing professional education programs to address the work force needs of Georgia, including the establishment of its medical school and engineering school,” said Brad Schwarz, MS, PA-C, the director of the College’s

Physician Assistant Program. “We are continuing that tradition by helping to develop this important program.”

“As the U.S. population ages, there will be fewer health care providers and greater patient care needs,” he explained. “This program will help meet the medical needs of our state and our nation by providing highly qualified physician assistants over the ensuing years.”

The master’s degree program is part of the College of Pharmacy and

Health Sciences, formerly known as the Southern School of Pharmacy, which is home to a nationally ranked Doctor of Pharmacy program and a growing Ph.D. program in pharmaceuticals. The new Physician Assistant Program was a catalyst to changing the name of Mercer’s 104-year-old pharmacy school on July 1, 2006.

The 28-month physician assistant program will be based on Mercer’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta and will eventually enroll up to

50 graduate candidates per year. “The initial class will be 26 students followed by a steady growth of the next four years,” said Schwarz, who joined Mercer in October 2006 following a national search. He previously served

as the associate director at the Emory University Physician Assistant Program.

The program is designed with 13 months of initial classroom instruction, followed by 15 months of professional didactics and clinical rotations. “The clinical rotations will consist of nine core and two elective five-week clinical experiences, interspersed with a series of professional didactic sessions,” Schwarz said. At the conclusion of the PA students’ clinical rotations, they

will return to the campus for a final three-week capstone experience prior to graduation.

The nine required clinical “core” rotations include: family practice, pediatrics, women’s health, emergency medicine, surgery, internal medicine-outpatient, internal medicine-inpatient, behavioral medicine and orthopedics. Students will also be allowed to take two elective clinical rotations.

“The University is moving steadily toward securing provisional

accreditation,” Schwarz said. The expected outcome of the program’s application for provisional accreditation will be announced in September.

Schwarz has hired one full-time faculty member and one staff member and recently hired a part-time Medical Director – Dr. Philip Brachman. Dr. Brachman is an internal medicine/infectious disease specialist on staff at Piedmont Hospital and is the president-elect to the medical staff. Brachman is a strong advocate of the

physician assistant profession and has employed two PAs in his clinic for more than nine years.

Patricia Kelly, the program’s second faculty member, serves as clinical assistant professor and academic coordinator. Kelly has an extensive background as an athletic trainer and was an adjunct sports medicine faculty member at Ball State University and Southeastern Missouri State University. She holds

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Applications are currently being accepted for the program and alumni are encouraged to direct prospective students who are interested in the program to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Admissions. The phone number is (678) 547-6232 and e-mail is paprogram@mercer.edu. The program Web site is <http://www.mercer.edu/pharmacy/pa.htm>.

MercerMobile Phone System Puts the University at Students’ Fingertips

This fall, freshmen on the Macon campus will have a new communications system to stay in better touch with fellow students, their friends and families, and the Mercer community. Developed and offered by Sprint and Rave Wireless, MercerMobile represents the latest in mobile communications for universities.

Designed specifically for the University, MercerMobile is expected to enrich the college experience by creating a well-connected environment in which to live and learn. Each first-year, undergraduate student will receive a MercerMobile cell phone that provides a comprehensive suite of communication tools. While all entering freshmen will be required to participate in the program, other Mercer students will be encouraged to join as well. The program is being

incorporated throughout the University as the MercerMobile system develops.

- Through MercerMobile, students can:
- Text message groups of friends and classmates
  - Access their Mercer and AOL



- e-mail accounts
- Receive vital course information from professors
- Find out what’s being served in the cafeteria
- Keep up with activities across the campus
- Find restaurants that accept the Bear Card
- Track the current whereabouts of

- Mercer shuttle buses
- Receive urgent news from Mercer administrators and emergency alerts from Mercer Police
  - Immediately notify Mercer Police in the event of an emergency
  - Other services will be added as the system develops.

While the basic unit included with the program package has many features, students will have the opportunity to upgrade to some of the very latest phones for greatly reduced prices. All plans include unlimited text messaging; free nights and weekends, starting at 7 p.m.; unlimited in-network calling, and unlimited access to MercerMobile services.

Sprint and Rave Wireless is installing additional equipment on the Macon and Atlanta campuses to ensure a strong, clear signal to the cell phones.

For more about MercerMobile, go to [www.mercer.edu/mercermobile](http://www.mercer.edu/mercermobile).

Mercer, Piedmont Healthcare Partnership Offers Atlanta’s First MFT Degree

Mercer University School of Medicine is partnering with Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta to offer its Master of Family Therapy (MFT) degree program in Atlanta, beginning this fall. Recipients of the Master of Family Therapy degree will be eligible to apply to the state of Georgia for licensure for the independent practice of family therapy.

Atlanta is one of the few major metropolitan areas without a master’s level family therapy degree accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). Concerned about this deficit, the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy made establishing such a program into the Atlanta area one

of its major goals for several years, according to Dr. Martin Dalton, Dean of the Mercer School of Medicine.

“Our partnership with Piedmont Healthcare through the Center for



Health and Learning is now enabling us to say ‘yes’ to that request,” explained the Dean.

The Mercer School of Medicine has the first master’s degree program in Georgia to receive the prestigious full accreditation of the COAMFTE. With a strong biopsychosocial emphasis, the Mercer MFT program is one of only two programs in the nation to be embedded in a medical school. Mercer recently added a post-

graduate Certificate in Medical Family Therapy program. MFT graduates enrolled in this program are trained to work as part of collaborative health care teams with families and

individuals affected by serious or chronic illness.

The Atlanta program will be an extension of the existing Macon program, with continued administrative oversight from the Macon campus.

Steve Livingston, Ph.D., is the Assistant Director for the MFT Program in Atlanta. Livingston previously served as associate professor of Marriage and Family, Mental Health Counseling, at Barry University in Orlando, Fla. He holds a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy, a master’s degree in Counseling and Human Systems and

a bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Florida State University.

Classes will begin on September 18. To be considered for admission, applicants should hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade-point average of at least 2.50 on a 4.0 system. Applicants must have completed one course each in Personality Theory and Psychopathology (Abnormal Psychology) and must have satisfactory results on either the GRE or MAT.

“We are quite proud of the uniqueness of our Marriage and Family Therapy program. We emphasize that patients have bodies, minds and families,” said Dr. Melton Strozier, Chair and Professor of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Mercer School of Medicine. “This program is rec-

ognized nationally and internationally for its unique approach. As we expand our program in the metro Atlanta area, we are proud to become associated with an organization like Piedmont Healthcare.”

“Piedmont is pleased to be part of meeting this community need by providing a training environment for students in the Marriage and Family Therapy program,” said Michele M. Molden, executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Piedmont Healthcare. “Our Center for Health and Learning partnership with Mercer University aims to further the education of students interested in pursuing healthcare-related degrees and to supplement the workforce of the future.”

For more information about the MFT program, visit [medicine.mercer.edu/Academics/Degree%20Programs/mft](http://medicine.mercer.edu/Academics/Degree%20Programs/mft).

# Business School Takes Professional MBA to Savannah

By Mark Vanderboek

The Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics expanded into Savannah in fall 2006. The program, the Professional Master of Business Administration degree, is Coastal Georgia's only executive-format MBA program, and has garnered high marks from students.

"We've received a great response to this program, and we're preparing for our second cohort now," said Dr. William Mounts, interim dean of the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. "We began this program with the idea that it would meet the needs of Savannah's rapidly growing economy. Fast growing companies must have well-trained, visionary managers and executives, and we believe this program is designed to train those leaders."

The 16-month Professional MBA is aimed at business professionals with at least four years of experience looking for a degree that will help them advance their careers. Classes are held on Friday afternoons and all-day Saturday every

other week. Periodic retreats provide for concentrated study on specific business topics, including a weeklong Best Practices Field Residency, where students meet with top executives of companies successfully operating in today's competitive market.

The program is designed with cross-functional, thematically based courses that are taught by teams of professors. Unlike the traditional MBA model, which offers separate courses in such areas as accounting, finance, management and marketing, the Professional MBA curriculum emphasizes how these areas intersect and function together in order for candidates to gain the broad perspective needed for effective

decision-making. Because all candidates are experienced professionals, the classroom becomes an interactive learning environment with the candidates contributing their experience to the dialogue with the faculty team.

MBA candidates learn through classroom discussions, presentations, team projects, research and technology-based interaction. Throughout the program, candidates interact with visiting business leaders. These executives will bring their insights and experience to the classroom as they discuss their companies and how they address the demands of competition in today's marketplace and that is making an impact with candidates.

"The program has given me the opportunity to develop the necessary business skills to advance my career in the dynamic global environment," said Robert O'Dell, EGR '04, an MBA candidate and electrical systems engineer at Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. "Working with multiple faculty at each class session

has provided added depth to discussion topics, and the multi-disciplinary classroom setting has proven to be an effective approach to graduate education."

The Professional MBA is the second program Mercer offers in the Savannah area. Since 1996, Mercer University's School of Medicine has partnered with Memorial Health University Medical Center to educate future doctors. Half of the third- and fourth-year students in the School of Medicine

complete their doctor of medicine studies at the awarding-winning medical center, with many continuing there in their residencies. The program will be expanded further to include a full Medical School campus in Savannah next fall.

The Professional MBA is also educating doctors, including several from Memorial. Medical doctors are also busi-

ness owners, points out MBA candidate Dr. Michael Osmundson, FACEP, which is often the biggest gap in physician training. Osmundson is the president and managing partner of Georgia Emergency Physician Specialists L.L.C., which contracts with Memorial.

"As a physician, my training in business matters was slim. I am now the managing partner of a 19-physician emergency medicine group and find that I have a real need for formal business training," Osmundson

said. "I chose to pursue my MBA in the hope that it would better prepare me to meet the challenges that practice management creates. I have found that Mercer's Professional MBA program has exceeded my expectations and I know that I will leave this program armed with the skills necessary to properly manage my business into the future."

*"The program has given me the opportunity to develop the necessary business skills to advance my career in the dynamic global environment."*

# Experience, Research Areas Add Flavor to SSBE Faculty

By Mark Vanderboek

The Stetson School of Business and Economics faculty continue to add layers of interest to the learning process for students across the School's locations, as current professors and the hires of 2006 continue to develop their areas of expertise and bring life to the curriculum.

In Atlanta, Dr. Penelope Prime, professor of economics, is one of the foremost experts on Chinese economics and business, as well as the director of the China Research Center, now based at Mercer.

In Macon, Dr. Cheryl Tibus, an assistant professor of business, decided to make a career change after more than 25 years in the industry as a human resources executive and moved into a teaching role at Mercer. Another Macon-based profes-

sor, Dr. Allen Lynch, associate professor of economics, spent part of March on the radio in Georgia speaking about two statistical models he created with a colleague for predicting the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament at-large bids and upsets. Lynch, along with friend and colleague Jay Coleman, professor of management at the University of North Florida, have been predicting recipients of at-large bids handed out by the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee for 13 years. The "Dance Card" has a 93.7 percent accuracy in predicting the "at-large" berths awarded by the NCAA. In the last two years, however, they have added a model to predict the results of individual tournament games once the madness begins. Lynch and Coleman's new model, dubbed "Score Card," predicts the winners of tournament games. Although predicting the winner of individual games represents a more daunting task than predicting tournament entries, Lynch and Coleman still forecast win-

ners reasonably well. The Score Card for the 2007 tournament predicted 81 percent of winners in tournament games.

Tibus comes to Mercer with a background in consulting, process management and human resources, having worked as an executive for 19 years. The constant travel of her job, combined with her love of teaching, scholarship and research, prompted her to consider a switch to academia. She had spoken at a class at Mercer before, and found it engaging. When she was offered the job, she took it. Now, she and her fiancé are fixtures at basketball games and around campus.

"The community is great, the people are great, the campus is just

so special in terms of its character and charm," Tibus said. "I could not have asked for a better experience."

Tibus holds a doctor of education in Human Resources from The George Washington University, going to school part-time while maintaining her career as a human resource and organizational effectiveness, including nearly 18 years at

the vice president level.

In Atlanta, Prime, with more than 30 years experience in the field, is one of the nation's foremost economic experts on China. In the area of international economics, Prime is an oft-cited source on Asia and China, having established the China Research Center. Prime has studied the country and studied in the

country since the 70s, before China began its rise to prominence. She led the Atlanta Executive MBA trip to China this year, and she is hoping to add even more international flavor to the School's curriculum.

"My goal at Mercer is to help internationalize the curriculum and expose people to Asia and China," she said.

*"The new faculty complement our diverse and engaged faculty who are already here, making for a great educational experience for our students."*

sor, Dr. Allen Lynch, associate professor of economics, spent part of March on the radio in Georgia speaking about two statistical models he created with a colleague for predicting the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament at-large bids and upsets.

"As we have faculty turnover, we find ourselves able to add the highest quality people," said Interim Dean William Mounts. "The new faculty complement our diverse and engaged faculty who are already here, making for a great educational experience for our students."

# Tift Takes Lead in Early Care, Education

By Tiffany McIntosh, Mercer Student

Mercer is leading the way as the first university in Georgia to offer a bachelor of science in education degree in early care and education. Mercer's Tift College of Education also is the leader for the state's efforts to develop curricula to meet certification standards for birth through five programs.

"The degree program was created in response to Georgia's increasing demand for childcare professionals with four-year degrees," says Dr. Penny Elkins, associate dean and Fred L. Miles Chair of Educational Leadership. The Early Care and Education program trains graduates in child development, foundations of education and program administration. This will better equip graduates to teach children from birth to five years of age, as well as to become administrators in childcare programs.

Although current standards for education levels of childcare professionals are minimal, an effort to increase the standards is underway

nationally. "Our faculty noticed this trend and took the initiative to get the program started," says Elkins. Around the time that the faculty began advocating the creation of the new program, the Professional Standards Commission (PSC), familiar with Tift's reputation for innovation, asked the College to take the lead in the development of an early care education baccalaureate program.

PSC accompanied this request with a \$50,000 grant to help support curriculum development and access to quality programs. The College also received an initial \$200,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), to develop articulation agreements among colleges, technical colleges, and universities to provide a seamless pathway for educators of young children. DECAL also followed their initial grant with an additional \$190,000 grant the next year.

"We are proud that Mercer is the first university in the state to apply for developmental approval for the Early

Care and Education program," instructor Margaret McCall said "The more education teachers have, the better equipped they will be to increase the quality of a child's learning. Research is telling us that early education is crucial to a child's development."

Mercer's first Early Care and Education students enrolled last fall at the Henry County Regional Academic Center. The initial class size was projected around 20 students, but more than 40 enrolled. The program is flexible and allows students to complete their education while working full-time. Students can also transfer core credits from previous institutions.

Gail Griffin, an Early Care and Education student who attends classes two days a week, loves that the program allows her to continue to work full-time. She is currently an instructional lead teacher for Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Center in Atlanta. "One of the advantages of the program," says Griffin, "is that I am able to balance out my studies and incorporate what I am learning into the classroom."



# Engineering Professors Continue to Lead the Way *By Bradley Bodiford, Mercer Student*

**D**uring this academic year, three professors from the School of Engineering have raised the profile of the School and Mercer. Electrical Engineering Professor Clayton Paul won the highest teaching honor in his field, while Associate Dean Michael Leonard served as a keynote speaker for an industrial management conference in Thailand, and Associate Professor Philip McCreanor promoted the freshman engineering design project at the international Frontiers in Education Conference.

Dean M. Dayne Aldridge was pleased with the recognition bestowed on his professors. “We are honored to have faculty members who receive such recognition at international, national and regional levels,” Aldridge said. Clayton Paul received the prestigious IEEE 2007 Undergraduate Teaching Award, marking him as the world’s best electrical engineering teacher.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the largest electrical engineering society in the world, honored Paul for his “sustained excellence and creativity in the preparation of instructional material and inspirational teaching of undergraduate engineering students.”

After being nominated by Dean

Aldridge, Paul was selected to be the only recipient of the award among 350,000 other IEEE members.

Paul’s passion for teaching ignited as a graduate assistant and has now transformed into over 40 years of teaching experience.

“I thoroughly enjoy phrasing an explanation in a way that no one else can, and then watching the students faces light up when they understand, what I call the ‘aha principle,’” Paul said.

In June, Paul attended the 2007 IEEE Symposium of Electromagnetic Compatibility in Hawaii to accept his award.

“I’m real proud of the award, it recognizes my teaching, which means the most to me,” Paul said.

Paul is more excited about what the

award will do for the engineering school’s recruitment. The award highlights Mercer’s School of Engineering’s advantage as a leader among teaching oriented engineering schools.

“You can’t buy publicity like that,” Paul said.

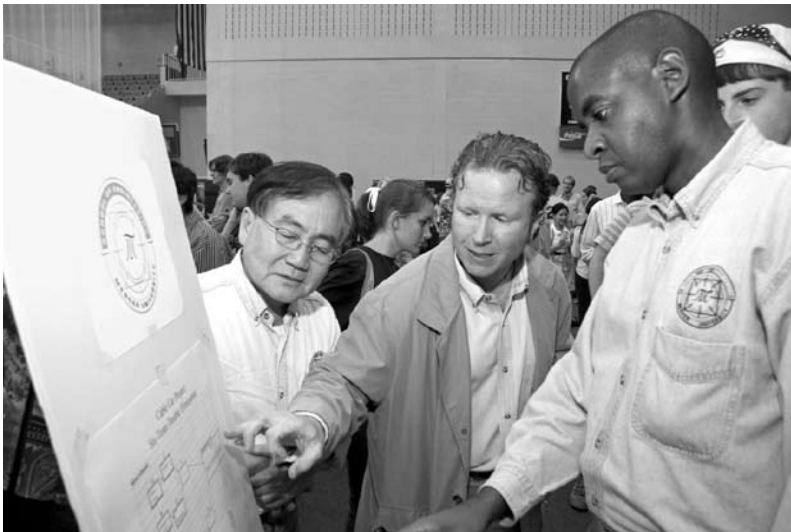
In December, Leonard traveled to Thailand to speak to more than 400 industrial management experts assembled from more than 20 countries. He was invited to be the keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering and Management System Conference held in Bangkok.

Leonard also spoke at several Thai universities, including Chang Mai University, Mahidol University, and the Asian Institute of Technology, where he emphasized the trend of engineering education to focus more on the school’s outcomes instead of the school’s process and structure.

“When judging engineering schools, we ask ourselves, what do the students know how to do when they graduate?” Leonard said.

Leonard spoke on how the most effective engineering schools focus on realistic examples and relevant experience.

Mercer has been represented



L to r: Associate Professor **Jen-Nan-Juang**, Associate Professor **Philip McCreanor** and Assistant Professor **Donald Ekong** discuss the line-up of events at the 2007 First-Year Design Competition. McCreanor traveled to San Diego, Calif., to do a workshop on Mercer’s first-year design project.

stateside as well. In October, McCreanor conducted a workshop demonstrating Mercer’s freshman design project in San Diego, Calif., at the Frontiers in Education Conference, which hosted all types of engineers from around the world.

McCreanor, the leader of Mercer’s freshman design sequence, was chosen to attend because Mercer’s program encompasses the entire engineering process and has served as an example to other schools.

“The conference allowed engineers to share intellectual knowledge, which provides the opportunity to improve and adapt through peer review, and it

validates what you’re doing as well,” McCreanor said.

Each year, first-year engineering students break into small teams to participate in a highly involved project in which they design and build a vehicle with K’Nex building kits. The groups are challenged to create a vehicle to compete in one of several categories, including amphibious and tug-of-war challenges, as well as several other categories. The sequence helps to involve first-year students in a simulated, but realistic, engineering experience and serves as a building block for their education, preparing them for the real world.

# Ph.D. Program Adds Higher Education Leadership Track *By Mark Vanderboek*

**B**uilding on the momentum of the success with its Educational Leadership programs for school leaders, the Tift College of Education will add a Higher Education Leadership track to its Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Program. The new program begins this fall, with 20 candidates, split between the Macon and Atlanta campuses.

The new higher education leadership track is the second in the college’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, with the first being a P-12 School Leadership track, launched in 2006. That program has been exceptionally successful, attracting many more applicants than spots in the first cohort in both Macon and Atlanta, said Penny Elkins, associate dean and the Fred L. Miles Chair in Educational Leadership at the College.

“We’ve developed this program in response to a growing need for college and university leadership in the state,” Elkins said. “This program is unique in that it is specifically designed for college and university leaders who wish

to use research-based leadership skills in the academic community. Candidates will experience the rigor and demands of a Ph.D. program while translating that knowledge into practical aspects of leadership in college and university settings.”

While the application deadline for both tracks of the Ph.D. program this fall was July 1, the prospects for highly qualified cohorts is already assured, Elkins noted. The Higher Education Leadership track attracted numerous applicants in both locations, with an

anticipated cohort of 10 to 12 in each location. The P-12 track will also begin its next cohort with a similar number of students. That program has done extremely well, Elkins noted, drawing many school leaders.

“One of the things I’m most proud about is that these candidates are already school leaders,” Elkins said. “The current cohort is comprised of state and regional educational leaders, school system leaders from major Georgia counties, building level principals and assistant principals,

and a number of teacher leaders. Those leaders are already taking what they are learning and putting it to use in their work, making sustained and substantial impact on education.”

Those school leaders are also proud to be a part of the Mercer program.

“The total program is awesome,” said Navella Jean Walker, executive director of Academic Achievement for Gwinnett County Schools.

“Mercer has a reputation for quality and to have the opportunity to be in the charter cohort of the Educational Leadership Ph.D. program is not only an awesome opportunity, it is also an awesome responsibility.”

The Higher Education Leadership track is a three-year, 63-semester-hour program designed to be completed in cohorts while candidates continue to work. Classes are held in the evenings and on Saturdays during the school year and include summer courses.

The program also has four support features for candidates: The Leadership Academy, a once-per-semester Saturday session to bring candidates together to meet with education experts; The Leadership Portfolio, an electronic

portfolio each candidate will maintain to showcase his or her work and experience through the program; The Online Leadership Network, which will enable candidates to communicate with other members of the cohort

*“This program is unique in that it is specifically designed for college and university leaders who wish to use research-based leadership skills in the academic community.”*

group and the faculty; and The Mentoring/ Internship Experience, which will engage all candidates in field experiences throughout the program, guided and supported by assigned mentors in leadership positions.

Elkins said the quality of the applicant pool in the Higher Education Leadership track is already very high, with many leaders from two- and four-year colleges, as well as several state agencies.

“We have excellent applicants from a myriad of areas across the state. The diversity of perspectives and experiences will greatly enhance the quality of the learning experience.” Elkins said.



Educational Leadership candidates attend a seminar during the Spring 2007 Elite Leadership Academy in Atlanta. The Educational Leadership program Ph.D. has been very successful and will add a Higher Education Leadership track this fall.



# International Rising Star Credits Mercer with Shaping His Career

By Denise Cook

**O**n May 12, music performance major Keitaro Harada received his Mercer diploma with the rest of the inaugural graduating class of Townsend School of Music. For most seniors, this day is the highlight of their year. For Harada, this was just another appearance on his busy calendar.

In addition to his accomplishments as a saxophonist, Harada is quickly developing a distinguished reputation around the world as a gifted conductor. In the first half of 2007 alone, he has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments for a professional musician, all the while being a full-time college student.

“In January, I was one of 10 conductors invited from around the world to travel to Canada for the opportunity to work with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Toronto Opera,” Harada said. He was coached by Jorma Panula and Raffi Armenian at

the Conductors Guild International Conference Jan. 17-21. Days prior, Harada took home his second consecutive win at Mercer’s annual International Conductors Workshop.

While most college students trek to the beach in March for spring break, Harada traveled to Ohio to study with Leonard Slatkin of the National Symphony Orchestra, Gustav Meier of Johns Hopkins University — Peabody

Conservatory, Emily Freeman Brown of Bowling Green State University and Samuel Adler of The Juilliard School.

“I was invited by the Conductors Guild to participate as a Tier One conductor at the workshop held at Bowling Green State University,” he explained.

In April, Harada gave two saxophone performances at Little Carnegie of the South in Macon, and, in May, he

successfully completed his first season as a conductor for the newly-created Mercer/Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra (MMSYO).

“It was a lot of fun spending last summer recruiting students from all over middle Georgia,” Harada said.

The orchestra ended its season with 40 members and performed five concerts, including a collaboration with the Mercer University Orchestra, First Presbyterian Day School Choir and the Macon Symphony Orchestra (MSO).

Along the way, Harada was promoted from an apprentice conductor to assistant conductor of the MSO. Somehow, he also found time

to go to class and graduate college. But all of that is just gravy. Harada considers the greatest highlight of his young career to be his conducting experiences in Russia.

In 2006, Harada was one of 14 conductors from 11 countries invited to participate in the International Masterclass for Orchestral Conducting under the direction of world-renowned maestro Vladimir Ponkin. Ponkin is principal conductor at the Helikon Opera Moscow and the State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Philharmonic, professor of conducting at Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, Moscow, and artistic director and principal conductor of the National Academic Folk Orchestra of Russia.

“We spent the first week with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra under the tutelage of maestro Ponkin. All of us gave a final concert at the end of the week,” said Harada, who was then chosen by Ponkin to travel to Krasnodar to conduct the Kuban Symphony Orchestra with the maestro.

“That concert was sold out, televised and broadcast on the radio,” Harada explained. “We also did magazine photo shoots.”

Additionally, the young conductor was chosen as the best participant of the master class and was invited to guest conduct during the Moscow Symphony Orchestra’s 2006-07 season.



Keitaro Harada, '07

In October, he returned to conduct the Moscow Symphony Orchestra and secured yet another engagement as a guest conductor for the 2007-08 season.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, he came to the U.S. in 2002 to attend Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. He studied orchestral conducting and majored in saxophone, graduating in 2004.

In the summer of 2004, Harada was invited to participate as a student conductor at the Spoleto Opera Festival and the Conductors Institute in South Carolina. That fall, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, pursuing a double-major in saxophone performance and music history.

In January of 2005, Harada met Maestro Adrian Gnam, artist-in-residence at Mercer and music director and conductor for the MSO, at

Mercer’s International Conductors Workshop, and they became friends immediately. Harada enjoyed Gnam’s mentorship immensely and instantly decided to move to Macon to continue studying under him at Mercer.

“Without my encounter with maestro Adrian Gnam at the 2005 International Conductors Workshop and again in St. Petersburg, Russia, that summer, none of my music accomplishments and development would have happened,” the humble artist explained. “It is such a beautiful collaboration between Mercer and the MSO that attracts conductors from around the world. Without it, I would not be at Mercer.”

The new Mercer graduate had a short break before traveling to Guangzhou, China, in July for the APEI International Music and Arts Festival and then to Massachusetts in August for the Tanglewood Music Festival.

“I enjoyed spending time with my family in Tokyo and recovering from the craziness I went through last semester finishing my bachelor’s degree and beginning my master’s degree at the same time,” he said.

Harada returned to Macon in August to conduct his second season with the MSO and the MMSYO. He will also be completing his master’s degree at Townsend School of Music.

A complete listing of Harada’s accomplishments and performances is available at [www.kharada.com](http://www.kharada.com).

# Graduate’s Internship Takes Her 3,000 Miles Away

By Mac Hill, '07

**S**ince graduating in 2005, Carla Paschke has redesigned the School of Engineering Web site, won an award for it and earned a position in a prestigious post-graduate internship program in London.

The technical communication graduate is finishing her year-long internship at UBS Investment Bank in London, England. Paschke earned her position through the Mountbatten Internship Programme, which provides American university graduates with opportunities for London work experience. Graduates from across the United States compete to win one of the 100 available placements through a rigorous application and interview process.

Working as a global education project analyst, Paschke began her internship as part of the operations staff of the Fixed Income, Foreign Exchange, and Cash and Collateral Trading division. “I have been especially proactive in Web initiatives,” Paschke said, “including the

launch of a new team intranet site three months after assuming my role.”

She recently transitioned into a global talent role in Operations Learning and Development and is now collaborating on the redesign of a second team intranet site.

By applying her engineering and technical communication education, she said she added value to both of her teams at UBS.

“The strong technical foundation I gained through my courses at Mercer allowed me to quickly become fluent in the bank’s Web-based content management system,” Paschke said.

She has succeeded by capitalizing on her strengths in instructional design, presentation and project management while working to overcome her inexperience in finance.

Paschke developed her initiative and strong work ethic

during her undergraduate study at Mercer. Marjorie Davis, former chair of the Technical Communication Department, said that Paschke always produced high-quality work.

“Carla is a dear friend, a former student, a colleague and an excellent

technical communicator,” Davis said. “We’ve had, over 14 years of graduates, exceptional students, but Carla set a new high.”

After graduation and before working at UBS, Paschke worked for her alma mater. As part of her job at the School of Engineering, Paschke redesigned print and online literature for both the undergraduate and graduate Technical Communication program. Seeing the quality of her work, Dean M. Dayne Aldridge called on her to redesign the School’s Web site.

The new site earned Paschke an Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) design award.

Of the nearly 5,000 entries in APEX 2006, 105 Grand

Award Winners were selected; 13 of the awards were in the Web and Intranet Sites category — placing Paschke among a select few.

“Superbly crafted college site displays crisp professional visuals with excellent type and photographs, clean, fast navigation and persuasive copywriting. Not much more to ask for in an education Web site,” wrote one APEX judge.

While working in London, Paschke has found time to travel around Europe, including such famous cities as Venice, Rome, Dublin, Paris, Split, Croatia, and Barcelona. She plans to visit Germany, Poland, Greece, Sweden, and the Czech Republic by the end of the summer.

“Each experience has made me better appreciate the rich histories and cultures belonging to other regions of the globe and has instilled in me a desire to do more traveling while further discovering my place in the world,” Paschke said.



Carla, '07, and Jennifer Paschke, '07, toured the canals of Venice recently. Carla was on an international internship in London.



# Singers Provide More than Entertainment on Japanese Tour

By Jacqueline Johnson, Mercer Student

The Mercer Singers traveled to Japan to perform a total of five concerts over 11 days at the end of May. The 35-member auditioned choir, founded in 1977, was invited by Seinan Jo Gaukin, Mercer’s sister school and women’s junior college in Fukuoka, Japan, to perform for the college’s 85th anniversary



Members of the Mercer Singers **Nick Reigle** (fourth from left), **Kristin Zimmerman** (sixth from left), **Billy Bishop** (fourth from right), and **Cassidy Grunninger** (far right) pause for a photo while sightseeing in Japan with students from Seinan Jo Gaukin.

Mercer Singers director Dr. Stanley Roberts, interim dean of Townsend School of Music, led the ensemble, along with accompanist Dr. Carol Goff, associate professor of Music, and voice professor Marie Roberts. According to Roberts, the trip to Japan is the Mercer Singers’ fifth tour since 2000.

While the Mercer students shared their vocal talent with the Japanese, the Japanese students also shared their culture with the Mercer Singers. The singers participated in an English camp where Seinan Jo Gaukin students taught classes about specific aspects of the Japanese culture, such as ceremonial tea and origami. In exchange, the singers performed

an entertainment show similar to “American Idol,” Roberts said.

From the road, rising sophomore and organ performance major Edward Atkinson recounted his experience with the Japanese students.

“They love us here,” Atkinson said. “Everywhere we go, they squeal and wave both their hands at us and jump up and down.”

During the trip, Atkinson said the Japanese students practiced their English with the Mercer Singers and, in exchange, the Singers learned how to say Japanese phrases.

“In the past, we have strictly done concert tours. This time, we are more interactive with the culture and the people,” Roberts said. “This trip is more of a cultural exchange.”

Mercer’s sister school, Seinan Jo Gaukin, was founded by Mercer graduates who became Baptist

missionaries. During the summer, Japanese girls from Seinan Jo Gaukin have the opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange program at Mercer.

Before the trip, students held high expectations for their personal experiences.

“I’m hoping to experience some of the culture, enjoy the food, and catch

*“In the past, we have strictly done concert tours. This time, we are more interactive with the culture and the people. This trip is more of a cultural exchange.”*

a glimpse of life in another country,” recent graduate Nicholas Reigle said. Reigle is from Harlem, Ga., and majored in vocal performance.

Sophomore business major Janay Boyer, from Dalton, Ga., was also excited about experiencing Japanese culture. “Singing is just our foot in the door,” she explained.

# Moretti Joins Mercer as Director of McDuffie Center

By Denise Cook

Internationally renowned violinist Robert McDuffie announced last fall the establishment of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University in Macon and named as director Amy Schwartz Moretti, former Concertmaster of the Oregon Symphony in Portland.

Moretti joined the University in January to prepare for the incoming fall 2007 class. In addition to her role as director of the Center, she holds the academic rank of associate professor as well as the Caroline Paul King Chair in Strings.

“The Center is incredibly fortunate to have Amy as its director and to have her in a major role in developing this elite program,” said McDuffie, who

*“This new position gives me direct involvement guiding and teaching gifted string students along with internationally renowned violinist Robert McDuffie and distinguished artists at the Center.”*

has served as Distinguished University Professor of Music at Mercer since 2004. “In addition to being one of America’s top young violinists, she is an inspiring teacher. She will change lives through her teaching. I never for one moment had anyone else in mind for this role.”

In talking about leaving her position as Concertmaster with the Oregon Symphony, Moretti said, “I wasn’t prepared to leave so soon from this community that I absolutely adore, but the uniqueness of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings and my desire to do

more chamber music and solo work has convinced me this is the right course to pursue at this time in my life. To be involved with something at the ground breaking stages is exciting and intriguing.”

As director, Moretti is responsible for the overall management of the Center, coordinating the schedule of the distinguished artists, as well as the coaching, lessons and master classes, and the recruitment of students in coordination with the faculty. In addition to organizing and coaching chamber music groups, she gives private lessons to the Center’s violin students and a handful of selected high school students preparing to enter the Center. She performs with the Center’s faculty on a regular basis.

“This new position gives me direct involvement guiding and teaching gifted string students along with internationally renowned violinist Robert McDuffie and distinguished artists at

the Center,” said Moretti. “I also have numerous opportunities to become personally involved in more solo and chamber music performances.”

“Mercer is fortunate to have Amy Schwartz Moretti working with Robert McDuffie to develop this conservatory-level center at the University,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “Their vision, along with their energy and commitment, is quickly making this center one of the University’s nationally recognized programs. The University is very grateful to Mercer Trustee Dr. Spencer King and

his family for providing the support that has helped in attracting Ms. Moretti to the McDuffie Center.”

Moretti brings to the Mercer position both immense talent and solid experience in the music world. The third generation of professional musicians in her family, Moretti began playing violin at age four, appearing with the Winston-Salem Symphony at 12 playing Kabalevsky.

In 1998, she made her Carnegie Hall solo concerto debut and, since then, has performed across the United States as a soloist and chamber musician. She joined the Oregon Symphony as its concertmaster in 2004. She helped establish and was first violinist of the Oregon Symphony String Quartet. Prior to 2004, Moretti served as concertmaster of The Florida Orchestra for five years, during which time she co-founded and continues to serve as Artistic Director of the Bay Area Music Summer Chamber Workshop for young musicians in Florida.

Winner of solo prizes in the Irving M. Klein International String Competition and the D’Angelo Young Artist Competition for Strings, Moretti holds bachelor’s and master’s of music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with founding first violinist of the Cleveland String Quartet Donald Weilerstein, graduated valedictorian, and in 2005, was honored with the Alumni Achievement Award. She was coached by some of today’s finest chamber musicians as a Fellow at the Aspen Center for Advanced



ROBERT McDUFFIE  
CENTER FOR STRINGS  
AT MERCER UNIVERSITY  
Amy Schwartz Moretti, Director

String Quartet Studies and a participant in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop in Carnegie Hall as well as the Intensive String Quartet Seminars at the Cleveland Institute. Earlier studies were with Suzuki pedagogue Joanne Bath, in Greenville, North Carolina, and with longtime Juilliard faculty member Margaret Pardee, at the Meadowmount

School. In the Preparatory Division of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she studied with former concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra Zaven Mekikian, who continues to be her mentor.

Moretti’s many recent festival invitations include Chamber Music Northwest, Olympic, Martha’s Vineyard, Seattle, Amelia Island, and Rome, Italy. She has also performed at the Aspen, Margess of Switzerland, San Miguel de Allende, Hamakua in Hawaii, Colorado, and Sarasota music festivals; and in many venues as diverse as the Dali Museum, Edinburgh Castle, and the Crystal Cathedral.

The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings is a special institute within Townsend School of Music of Mercer on the Macon campus. The focus of the Center is to provide highly talented string students the opportunity to learn with some of the nation’s renowned string musicians, who hold the title of distinguished artist at the McDuffie Center.

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## Making an Influential University Even Better

— Continued from page 1

announce the expansion of the Mercer School of Medicine at Memorial Health University Medical Center from a two-year clinical program for third- and fourth-year students to a full four-year medical program, starting in 2008. Before a gathering of press, university and hospital officials, and Mercer medical students, Underwood expressed appreciation to Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and the state legislators for their support in making the new program possible and to his predecessor Godsey, who had worked with Colvin on the project for several years.

The announcement was exciting news for Mercer, Memorial Health and the residents of Georgia, who will benefit from the additional physicians prepared through the Savannah program. Mercer now operates the only two full medical school programs in Georgia south of metro Atlanta.

## A Billion Dollar Endowment for the University

One of the principal goals that the Mercer Board of Trustees has set for the new president is to continue the momentum in building a billion-dollar endowment for the University. With the University now in the final phase of its \$350 million Advancing the Vision Campaign, Underwood has been actively engaged in meeting alumni and friends of Mercer, participating in fundraising initiatives and attracting more donors to the institution.

“A significant part of my job is raising funds for the University,” said Underwood. “Growing the endowment is a high priority.”

During 2006-2007, the University experienced another outstanding fundraising year, resulting in a \$30-million-plus increase in net assets. Mercer set an all-time record for the total number of donors — 9,469. Private gifts received, including new endowment gifts, topped \$24 million, according to Emily P. Myers, senior vice president for University Advancement and External Affairs. The new pledges, including those to the endowment, reached \$22.5 million, for a total of private gifts received and pledged of \$46.5 million.

In addition to Mercer’s fundraising efforts, the institution’s endowment performed very strongly, producing a 17 percent return. Between the gifts received and the new growth from investment, the institution’s endowment reached the \$200 million mark. With the estimated \$300 million in planned gifts committed through the Advancing the Vision Campaign and the current endowment, the University is halfway to the billion-dollar goal. The strong fiscal condition of the University enables the

institution to continue to provide students in all programs the highest quality academic experience that will serve them well throughout their life.

“In 10 years, we should have the equivalency of a billion dollars or more in endowment,” said Underwood. He also pointed out that the funding Mercer receives from the State of Georgia for the University’s two medical schools is equivalent to the revenue generated by more than a half a billion dollars in endowment.

## Service-Learning Priority

Mercer has a long tradition of tying learning to service in and out of the classroom, and Underwood has an intense interest in expanding and enhancing the University’s service-learning initiatives.

“Students we attract are very bright and very committed to using their talents to serve others,” said Underwood. “They want to find meaning in their life.”

To expand on that tradition, last summer he asked faculty and administrators to develop a program that would take the service-learning experience to a new level, with a broader scope. “Mercer on Mission” was developed to give students a learning experience in helping those in need in other cultures. In June, three teams of 11 to 16 students traveled to areas of need around the globe and worked



**President Underwood** (right), pauses for a photo with **Dr. Arthur B. Laffer** (center), a noted economist and inventor of the Laffer Curve, and **William A. Fickling Jr.**, Mercer Trustee, following Laffer’s speech to the Executive Forum in the University Center on Oct. 24.

the inaugural speaker.

“Our country has become increasingly polarized on matters of science and religion,” said Underwood. “Against this backdrop, Dr. Collins offers a much-needed voice of reason and reconciliation.”

Addressing a standing-room-only audience on the Macon campus on April 4, Dr. Collins, author of the bestseller *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* and director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National

average of 3.1. That represents what it means to be a student-athlete in the best sense of the word.”

Athletic Director Bobby Pope agrees. “The President believes, and I do as well, that you can have an excellent athletic program in a rigorous academic institution, and they can work in concert with each other.”

The increased commitment to athletics begins with more revenue generated by fundraising. In the spring, the Mercer Athletic Foundation was established, with Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame member

Jimmy Carnes serving as president.

“I am interested in giving our coaches and athletes the tools to be more successful,” Underwood said. “The founding of the fundraising foundation is a step in that direction. The funds will be used to have a full-time strengthening and conditioning coach, to provide more academic support, better facilities and the finest coaches.”

The sharpened focus on athletics has already attracted a new

women’s basketball coach with an exceptional winning record. In April, Pope announced the appointment of Janell Jones, two-time national Coach of Year. Coming to Mercer from the University of California, San Diego, Jones has won more than 90 percent of her games in seven seasons as a head coach at the NAIA and NCAA Division II levels.

## Committed to Mercer’s Baptist Heritage

Soon after being elected president by the Board of Trustees in December 2005, Underwood spoke before Trustees, pastors, alumni, faculty,

friends and students at Mercer’s Baptist Summit. He told the gathering that without tying the University to a convention or association, he wanted Mercer to become the nation’s Baptist university — where scholars and students could learn the historic roots of freedom that is the true foundation of what it means to be Baptist.

In his initial year as president, Underwood has strengthened that commitment by developing connections and relationships with Baptist entities and initiatives across the nation and Canada.

In September, the American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) accepted Mercer’s proposal to consolidate and relocate its vast archival collection to the University’s Atlanta campus in 2008. The collection is the largest catalog of Baptist historic documents, artifacts and materials in the world and draws scholars internationally.

In January, Underwood partnered with prominent Baptist Jimmy Carter to bring together the leaders of 40 Baptist organizations representing 20 million Baptists throughout North America. At the conclusion of the Carter Center meeting, the leaders announced they would hold a three-day convocation, titled “Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant,” Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2008, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Mercer has a significant role in planning and organizing the meeting, which many Baptist scholars say will be an historic event.

Underwood sees the Celebration as the first step in mobilizing 20 million Baptists to find a unified voice for addressing issues. Following the meeting, he said, “There is power in unity. We Baptists can accomplish more together than any one of us can accomplish alone.”

The momentum of Mercer’s pursuit to become the nation’s Baptist university continued into February, when the Baptist History and Heritage Society, located in Brentwood, Tenn., announced it also would relocate to Mercer’s Atlanta campus.

The independent Baptist historical society assists “Baptists of all traditions to conserve and share their heritage.” Society Executive Director Charles Deweese said, “The American Baptist Historical Society’s archives, combined with the resources of Mercer University, make our new location ideal.”

Underwood agrees. “I feel the University’s Atlanta campus has the

— Continued on next page



Athletic Director **Bobby Pope** and **President Underwood** present a plaque to new Athletic Hall of Fame inductee **Benton Wade**.

for three weeks. They distributed mosquito nets in Africa and taught sports, sewing and crafts to children at an orphanage in Guatemala and English and art to children in areas of urban poverty in Brazil.

## Bringing Leading Thinkers to Mercer

In the spring, Underwood established the President’s Lecture Series to bring leading thinkers to Mercer whose ideas and viewpoints intersect with the University’s mission as a faith-based institution of higher learning. Underwood invited renowned scientist and author Dr. Francis Collins to be

Institutes of Health, spoke on how the Human Genome Project strengthened his own faith in both God and science.

## Committed to the Student-Athlete

Athletics is an area that Underwood feels has a direct impact on the visibility of the University. During 2006-2007, he became a familiar face in the crowd at many athletic events.

“Some of Mercer’s most successful alumni were student-athletes,” said the President. “They have built on the lessons they learned as athletes on the court or field. Last year our student-athletes had a cumulative grade-point



— Continued

potential to become an intellectual center of Baptist life in the world.”

## On Being a University President

Underwood is not the first lawyer to serve as president of Mercer. Dr. Rufus Harris, the University’s 16th president, also had a legal background.

A highly successful lawyer with one of Dallas’s top law firms, Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, Underwood says he was flattered when Baylor asked him to join its law faculty. He saw the move from the courtroom to the classroom as a natural step.

“I have always thought some of the finest lawyers are training the next generation of lawyers. I saw joining the faculty as an opportunity to be a role model to the next generation,” said Underwood, who graduated second in his class at the University of Illinois College of Law in 1985.

His passion for the law and his commitment to the students were a perfect match. Though his classes were considered rigorous — some

comparing him to a drill sergeant, he stood out in the faculty and was named a master teacher at Baylor.

“Becoming president was the unusual step for me,” he admits. “I agreed to do it at Baylor, and I found the position challenging, fast moving with lots of difficult problems to solve.



President Underwood shares a laugh with Trustees Griffin B. Bell and David Hudson.

It struck me as a place that fits my interests and my skills.”

His family has been supportive of the move to Mercer. “My father, who is a Baptist pastor, is proud that his son is with a university with a strong

Baptist heritage.”

After a pause, he added, “The only person who has given me grief about my decision is my daughter, Jessica. She wants to become a lawyer and cannot imagine giving up the courtroom to sit behind a desk.”

But, Underwood seldom stays

pus news while stopping in for another cup of coffee. He has traveled the state, listening to alumni and friends at events, and has spoken about Mercer at Baptist churches across the South.

“I have met hundreds of alumni,” Underwood said. “They love Mercer. They appreciate what Mercer has done for them.

“I enjoy hearing stories about what Mercer was like and the teachers they had. Mercer has been an important part of the lives of people,” he continued. “What is common among the alumni is they have a remarkable commitment to be leaders and in service. The community leadership and service to others is a real hallmark of the Mercer experience.”

## Family Matters

The schedule of a university president often requires the involvement of the whole family. Attending events, hosting guests and meeting visitors often reduces private family time.

Yet, Underwood makes sure to carve out time for his family. With daughter Jessica in Texas last year completing her senior year of high school,

his wife, Lesli, split her time between Georgia and Texas. It left the President and their teenage son, William, to keep everything operating in Macon.

“We developed a routine that worked very well,” said the President.

One of their favorite routines is an afternoon round of one-on-one basketball in the driveway of the President’s Home.

“When I get home, he will be waiting with the ball,” said Underwood. “I’m still winning, but he is getting very good at blocking my shots.”

## In a Day’s Work

Underwood freely admits he is not much of an early morning person. He enjoys working instead into the late evening hours when the quietness allows him to answer e-mails and review paperwork uninterrupted. Staff members often come into their office the next morning with e-mails and voice messages waiting.

“I look at each day as an opportunity to make Mercer a better place,” said Underwood. “That is how I start every morning — wanting to make a difference here.”

# Virtual Science Fair Connects U.S. Colleges to Middle Schools Worldwide

By Shari Perkins, Mercer Student

Mercer assistant professor Randy Spaid has spent the last several years pioneering the concept of virtual science fairs and, as the program expands, he continues to log frequent flier miles and travels to international conferences to conduct training workshops and share research analyses.

Most recently, the Tift College of Education professor traveled to Greece to discuss the Near East and South Asia (NESA) Virtual Science Fair project, which has been gaining worldwide

popularity since its creation in 2005. Over the past few years, the program has grown to include 660 international students with 420 U.S. mentors. The students come from 59 different countries and speak 65 different languages, with English as the common language used for communication. In the United States, 12 major universities are currently participating as well.

At the schools involved in the project — American International Schools supported by the U.S. State Department — small teams of two or three middle school students participate in local science fair competitions. The students

who attend these institutions come from numerous countries and are taught under a North American model. The winners go on to contend in the first round of the virtual competition and judges review videos, photos and reports posted by each team explaining their projects. Then the five best teams compete in the championship round where the winner is chosen. The judges never see the contestants or the projects in person.

Spaid’s colleague, Dr. Stuart Fleischer, formed the idea for the initiative in an attempt to provide an authentic science fair experience for the students he teaches at the

American International School in Israel. The two had kept in touch after going through the doctoral program at Florida State University.

Spaid suggested using his college students as distance mentors for the science projects as a way to make the project more compelling and engaging for the middle school students. So two years ago, 28 middle school children in Tel Aviv, Israel, began using Blackboard interactive software to correspond with the 28 Mercer students in Spaid’s Science Education Methods course for future science teachers.

“Because they were learning to be science teachers, I thought it would be an opportunity for my students to communicate with real children doing science fair projects,” Spaid said.

The mentors from Mercer worked with the middle school students as they prepared for the competition. The middle schoolers would post pictures and videos for their mentors to review on a secure Web site. Meredith Manning, a junior education major at Mercer, participated in the project and said it gave her insight into what it will be like to work with students on a more personal level.

“I enjoyed seeing their progress and reports,” Manning said. “The students were very receptive of the information, and they actually used the help we gave them.”

Aqeela Dattoo, a senior education major, found the project to be beneficial as well. Working with the students from a distance helped her enhance her verbal communication skills. “Without eye contact and body language, you can’t gauge their reaction and whether they’re getting it or not,” she said. “So I had to find other ways to connect with them.” Spaid’s research found that Fleischer’s students became more outgoing in

class and their classroom scores in mathematics and science rose.

“Since we had some success with it, we approached the U.S. State Department about including more schools,” Spaid said. The Department was impressed by the initial results of the project and gave Spaid and Fleischer a seed grant to expand the project. The funding brings participating teachers to a central location for training and other expenses.

The project has the potential to continue spreading to subjects beyond the field of science. “All of a sudden, it’s more than science. It’s communication at a very high level,” Spaid said. “The power of distance mentoring crosses disciplines, including math, science, language arts and culture.”

“Mercer has become a leader in distance communication and tele-mentoring in the sciences,” said Spaid. “It all began with Mercer students.”

# Baptist Leaders Announce Plan for 2008 Celebration in Atlanta

By Lance Wallace, CBF

Leaders of 40 Baptist organizations representing 20 million Baptists have announced plans for a Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant to be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2008. Joining in a meeting at The Carter Center in Atlanta in January to make the announcement were former U.S. Presidents and prominent Baptists Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton and Mercer University President William D. Underwood.

“This has been what may turn out to be one of the most historic events, at least in the history of Baptists in

this country, and perhaps Christianity,” Carter said. “We believe it will bear fruits.”

Plans for the historic celebration, which is expected to draw more than 20,000 Baptist participants, grew out of the North American Baptist Covenant, a document that was signed by Baptist leaders following a meeting at The Carter Center last April.

The covenant — endorsed by a racially, geographically and theologically



diverse assembly of Baptists — underscores the group’s desire to speak and

— Continued on page 13



## Community Service Earns Botchford Prestigious Bell Award

**S**teuart H. Botchford is one of two students to receive the highest honor Mercer University bestows on a graduating student: the Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service. He was presented a crystal Steuben sculpture and a framed certificate during the May 12 commencement of the Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, where he received a bachelor of arts degree.

Named in honor of Mercer alumnus and former United States Attorney General Griffin B. Bell, the award recognizes students who have exemplified the true meaning of community service during their studies, improving the lives of others through their dedication and commitment. The Bell Award is the only University honor that may be presented to students across all 11 of Mercer's schools and colleges. The other 2007 award recipient is Chpryelle Carr, a doctor of medicine graduate of the Mercer University

School of Medicine.

Botchford, a Fort Myers resident, is the son of Hawley Botchford and Mason Maulsby. He is a 2003 graduate of Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts.

Throughout his four years at Mercer, Botchford was a campus leader. The 2006-2007 president of the Student Government Association for the Macon campus, he participated in several aspects of student government, serving as parliamentarian his junior year. Representing the student body



Steuart Botchford

on the Macon campus with strong leadership and vision, he successfully increased student participation in

key policy-making decisions. He was tapped for membership by the national leadership honor society of Omicron Delta Kappa.

He volunteered with a number of service organizations on campus and in the community. He was a member of the Mercer Ambassadors, a select group of students who assist with University events and functions, and a volunteer with the ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Society, the Macon City Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity. A member of the Mercer Orchestra and the Mercer Singers,

he tutored students with the Macon Youth Orchestra. He received the Thelma "T-Lady" Ross Spirit of Mercer Award in recognition of his commitment to the University.

Despite his busy schedule, he took a challenging academic path. A Presidential Scholar, he completed majors in philosophy and economics.

Active in Greek life, he is a brother of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He has served as president, vice president and chaplain/historian, and as a representative on the Interfraternity Council.

Though he received offers from several top-tier law schools, Botchford has instead joined Teach for America, a highly-selective program that recruits the best of recent college graduates and trains them to be teachers in school systems in underprivileged areas of the nation.

The Griffin B. Bell Award is named for Judge Griffin B. Bell, who served

as the United States Attorney General in the Administration of President Jimmy Carter. He is a renowned statesman not only in this country, but also around the world. Since graduating from the Mercer Law School some 59 years ago, Judge Bell has given generously of his time and effort in many ways to Mercer University. One of his most valuable contributions to the institution has been as a Mercer Trustee. He is currently serving his fifth term as a Trustee. In 1999, the Association of Governing Boards and Universities presented him with the Distinguished Service Award in Trusteeship. Judge Bell was one of two national honorees selected from the 50,000 members who volunteer their time to higher education. From the \$10,000 the University was awarded in Judge Bell's honor, the Board of Trustees of Mercer University voted to initiate the Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service.

## Harwell Receives Sullivan, Duvall Awards at 2007 Commencement

By Anna Sandison

**S**tacey I. Harwell of Valdosta, Ga., took home two top honors when she graduated from Mercer University last May. She is the 2007 recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award and the Wallace Odell DuVall Excellence in Leadership Award.

She is the daughter of Lance and Kim Harwell and the sister of Kelli Harwell of Valdosta and the granddaughter of John and Leona Graham and Mark and Irene Harwell, all of Hendersonville, N.C.

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community and commitment to spiritual values. The DuVall Excellence in Leadership Award, which included a check for \$5,000, is given annually to a student who has been accepted into an accredited graduate program and has demonstrated the abilities to motivate and inspire the confidence and trust of others, while possessing vision, intelligence and integrity.

The Presidential Scholar earned the bachelor of arts degree, with majors in journalism and Christianity and a minor in photography, summa cum laude from the College of Liberal Arts of Mercer University. She completed the College's rigorous Great Books program and Honors program while maintaining a near-perfect grade-point average. She received the Sherwood Outstanding Senior Award from the Department of Christianity.

Honored for her exceptional leadership, scholarship and service, Harwell excelled in all dimensions



Stacey Harwell

what it meant to be a student. She was a campus leader in many ways and locales, from informal social situations to formal roles

in organizations. Many of her activities also reflected her commitment to spiritual values.

On campus, Harwell held leadership roles with *The Cluster*, the student newspaper, and MERCER99, the student-run campus cable channel. She assisted in organizing BandFest 2005, a fund-raising event for Tsunami Relief, and was the student leader for M.A.K.E. A Difference (Mercer Aiding Katrina Evacuees).

She was also active in community service. She was a team leader for the Wesley Foundation of Macon, the campus ministry of the United Methodist Church, as well as the Wesley Foundation representative for Koinonia, the collective body of the various campus religious ministries. An active participant in Centenary United Methodist Church in Macon, she sang in the choir, volunteered at the Food Bank and served on the Care Core Committee.

Her commitment to academic excellence was recognized by a number of honor societies. She was tapped for membership by Theta Alpha Kappa, the Christianity honor society, of which she served as president; Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honor society; Phi Kappa Phi, the national upper-classmen honor society, and Omicron

Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

Several universities offered her scholarships for graduate studies. Next year, she will enter Candler School of Theology of Emory University on full scholarship to begin studies for the master of divinity degree. Upon completion of her degree, she plans to work in social justice ministry.

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented to the graduating

student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community, and commitment to spiritual values. This award was established by The New York Southern Society in 1925, and at Mercer University in 1926, in memory of Mr. Sullivan, a great humanitarian and philanthropist.

The Wallace Odell DuVall Excellence in Leadership Award at Mercer University recognizes the out-

standing leadership of a graduating senior from one of the University's undergraduate schools and colleges who has been accepted into an accredited graduate program. Candidates must have demonstrated the abilities to motivate and inspire the confidence and trust of others, while possessing vision, intelligence, integrity and common sense, and having a good academic record. The selected recipient receives a financial award.

## Webb Honored with Louie D. Newton Award

**C**hristy A. Webb of Waynesboro, Ga., took home more than a bachelor of arts degree from the May 12 commencement at Mercer University in Macon. She received the top honor presented to an undergraduate of the University: the Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal.

The prestigious medal is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies scholastic achievement, personal integrity and character, service to the campus community and a commitment to spiritual values. The award is named in honor of Dr. Newton, who was a Mercer alumnus and professor, Christian journalist, distinguished pastor and renowned denominational leader.

Webb is the daughter of Terri Alley of Waynesboro and the granddaughter of Jean and Cecil Davis of Sparta, Ga. She is a 2003 graduate of Burke County High School.

In nominating Webb, one of her professors said, "I am hard pressed



Christy Webb

to believe that another member of her class so admirably exemplifies the ideals of intellect, service and character that this award memorializes."

Graduating *summa cum laude*, Webb compiled a 3.929 grade-point average while at Mercer. According to her professors, this high academic average tells only part of the story of her college work. In letters of nomination, they wrote that she performed "brilliantly," meeting all course requirements punctually and presenting written work that "combined an elegance of style with an intellectual acuity rarely achieved by undergraduate students." The History Department presented her the Phi Alpha Theta Outstanding History Major award.

Webb gave generously of her time

and talent to the Mercer community during her four years of studies. Actively involved with five different honor societies, she was an officer on several occasions. She served the University as a Mercer Ambassador for special events and functions, as a mentor to her fellow students, as a tutor in the Academic Resource Center for the last three years, as a preceptor in five sections of First Year Seminar for freshmen, and as a peer advisor for two sections of University 101.

Beyond the University community, Webb served in after-school tutoring programs, was the community outreach coordinator for Baptist Student Union, and twice held the office of philanthropy chair for Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society for freshmen.

With offers of fellowships and lectureships from three universities, she will begin her fellowship studies next fall at the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill, where she will pursue master's and doctoral degrees in English.





Have you registered in Mercer's Alumni Online Directory? If not, here's a good reason to sign up now!

# Free iPhone Drawing!

The Office of Alumni Services is giving away five iPhones to alumni who are registered in the Alumni Online Directory. Alumni\* registered in the online directory by Oct. 10 will be eligible for the drawing. So register online today, and you may be connecting with your fellow Mercerians this fall on one of the hottest phones on the market.

The iPhones feature an 8GB flash drive, 3.5-inch widescreen multi-touch display, Wi-Fi, camera, video, rechargeable lithium ion battery — a \$599.00 value! (Activation with AT&T will not be included. Winners can choose an optional prize of a \$500 gift card from Best Buy.)

## In the Mercer Alumni Online Directory you can ...

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

Access the Mercer online community at [www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/MEE](http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/MEE)

\* Alumni who are employed by Mercer are not eligible for the drawing. Winners will be notified at their e-mail addresses listed in the Online Directory. If a winner cannot be contacted at the address, another winner will be selected. Be sure to check that your e-mail address is listed correctly.

## Recent Graduate Wetherington on Road Trip of a Lifetime *By Mark Vanderhoek*

Matthew Wetherington, a 2007 Mercer University graduate, knows he wants to make a difference in the world. How? He's not sure yet, but he's taking a road trip to sort things out. Wetherington set off on his journey as part of the PBS documentary series, "Roadtrip Nation."

Together with friends Katherine Li, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Nick Newins, of Macon, Wetherington will be asking some famous, and some not-so-famous, people around the country about their career choices and how they found their vocation in life. Confirmed interviews include the Naked Cowboy in New York City; Weird Al Yankovic; Jamie Hyneman of the Discovery Channel's "Myth Busters;" Dr. Francis Collins, author and former director of

the Human Genome Project, Dr. Larry Brilliant, executive director of Google.org, and Karen Mathis, president of the American Bar Association, as well as a number of workers and founders of nonprofit agencies.

"For me, the question has never been: 'What do I want do with my life,'" Wetherington said. "For me the question is: 'What's the right thing to do?' I want to make a difference, and I'll be spending this trip trying to figure how to make that difference."

Wetherington has already made a difference at Mercer, starting several student organizations, including Leadership MU, and working with the city of Macon and Mercer to create the College Hill Corridor Commission, among other projects. He's also been working full-time as a staff member to United States

Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Macon. He's set to enroll this fall in Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law.

The Climax, Ga., native, along with his two friends, had to arrange their own interviews, then plot their trip in a 35-foot Roadtrip Nation RV, and share the story of their journey. They had set up 25 interviews a week into their month-long, 6,000-mile journey across America.

The trip began in Cambridge, Mass., and will wind its way down the Atlantic coast, cut across the South, then through the Midwest, and end in California.

"We have an amazing itinerary of people lined up," Wetherington said, "whom we hope will be able to



Matthew Wetherington, second from right, spent his summer traveling the country interviewing people about how they chose their careers as part of a PBS series Road Trip Nation. Wetherington was joined in this post-interview photo by, from left to right: Katherine Yi, producer-cameraman Mat Maude, Nick Newins, Weird Al Yankovic, and cameraman Jon Hugstad.

provide some much-needed enlightenment to our search for vocation."

Roadtrip Nation will post some of Wetherington's trip online at [www.roadtripnation.com](http://www.roadtripnation.com), and the full series will air around the nation next fall on PBS.

The son of Quinn Wetherington, of Moultrie, and the late Carol Wetherington, Matthew Wetherington graduated from Bainbridge High School in 2003 Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

## FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNED AND ESTATE GIFTS —

## Congress Allows a New Option for Charitable Giving *By Claude D. Smith Jr.*

Never before has Congress allowed an individual to withdraw funds from their IRA without paying income tax on the amount withdrawn. In 2007, that has changed. Since many of us have our largest asset in our retirement plan, we would like to use those funds to contribute to charity. So now, for 2007, donors ages 70 1/2 or older have the option of making a charitable gift from their IRA without creating additional taxable



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

income. Until this new IRA rollover law was passed, the only way to make a charitable gift from their IRA was to withdraw from the fund, pay income tax and then take a tax deduction for the gift. In many cases, the deduction would not fully offset the taxes due. Also, the withdrawal would increase the income for social security tax withholding. Under this new federal law, it would be worth considering making a gift from your IRA.



**Richard Spivey,** CLU '94, SSBE '03, associate vice president for estate gifts and development

### The Benefits

Each donor can authorize the transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to Mercer or any other qualified charity. The transferred amount is applied toward the required minimum distribution for the year, but does not count as income for taxable or social security purposes.

### The Restrictions

The IRA rollover must be a direct gift to the qualified charity. It may not be used to fund a split interest gift such as a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Also, it is necessary to check with the laws of your state to determine if your state will allow charitable contribution deduction.

**Example:** John, age 72, has an adjusted gross income of \$50,000. He wants to make a \$100,000 gift to Mercer from his IRA to fund an endowed scholarship.

**Option 1:** Take a \$100,000 distribution from his IRA directly, and contribute the funds himself. The tax result would be:

- Increase his Adjusted Gross Income by \$100,000
  - Pay income tax on \$150,000 of the Adjusted Gross Income
  - Have a limited tax deduction
- This, of course, is not the better option.

**Option 2:** Contribute the \$100,000 directly from the IRA to

Mercer using the IRA exclusion:

- Keep the Adjusted Gross Income at \$50,000
  - Avoid taxable required minimum distributions
  - Greatly reduces taxes
- This is a much better option.

As of now, this provision ends as of Dec. 31, 2007. There is pending legislation in Congress that would not only extend the present law, but expand to allow the funds to be used for charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts which would provide lifetime income to the donors.

If you would like to learn more about gifts of an IRA, please visit our Web site at [Mercer.edu/GiftPlanning](http://Mercer.edu/GiftPlanning).



## Two Senior Administrators Named; Search for Provost Continues

**M**ercer has added one new senior administrator this academic year, will welcome another in a few months and is awaiting the selection of a third in the near future. In January, Terry E. Whittum joined Mercer as senior vice president for enrollment management. Former Carson-Newman College President James S. Netherton will become the University's new executive vice president for administration and finance in October. And the search is under way for a new provost to succeed Dr. Horace Fleming, who has requested to return to the classroom.

### Whittum Heading Enrollment Efforts

Terry E. Whittum joined the Mercer staff on Jan. 2 to lead a new division that consolidates responsibility for undergraduate admissions on the Macon campus and undergraduate and graduate admissions at the University's Regional Academic Centers. He also is responsible for financial aid operations on the Macon and Atlanta campuses and at the Regional Academic Centers, and will oversee Mercer's student retention initiatives.



Terry Whittum

He came to Mercer from Stetson University in Deland, Fla., where he served as associate vice president and dean of admissions.

Over the past five years, Whittum successfully led Stetson's efforts to sustain consistent new student growth, including the two largest first-year

classes in the university's history. Applications for admission doubled while the acceptance rate dropped significantly. The academic profile increased, the percentage of minority students enrolling more than doubled, and first- to second-year retention went up. Under Whittum's direction, Stetson utilized a data-driven enrollment management model that is relationship-based and goal-driven.

### Netherton to Join Mercer in October

Dr. James S. Netherton will become executive vice president for administration and finance, effective Oct. 1. He succeeds Dr. Thomas G. Estes Jr., who will retire as the University's senior vice president for finance and administration on Sept. 30.

"Jim Netherton is an exceptionally talented individual. His intelligence and integrity, as well as his depth and breadth of experience in higher education, make him uniquely qualified for this key leadership

position. Rarely do you find an individual who has served as a teacher and scholar, a chief operating officer, a provost and a college president," President Underwood said. "He brings an extraordinary understanding of, and commitment to, higher education, as well as a lengthy track record of managing finances and operations in a university setting. I am pleased that Jim has accepted the challenge of joining us at Mercer at this exciting time in the University's history."



James Netherton

Netherton was named Carson-Newman's 21st president on Feb. 1, 2000, following a four-year tenure at Samford University, where he was provost. During his tenure at Samford, the university implemented a new interdisciplinary core curriculum, received a \$1 million grant from the Pew Foundation for work in problem-based learning, dramatically expanded its undergraduate research programs, implemented a new faculty governance system, opened an innovative new early childhood development center, renovated the campus library, planned a new sciences complex and expanded and obtained accreditation for the interior design program.

As Carson-Newman's president, Netherton led the Tennessee Baptist institution to expand and renovate the residence hall system, construct a new

building for family and consumer science and a new football stadium, begin construction of a new academic facility for business, restructure its leadership team, develop a campus master plan, and acquire key real estate adjacent to the campus for future expansion. He also implemented several new curricular programs complete with specialized accreditation, implemented a strategic planning initiative, restructured admissions and recruiting to achieve an 80 percent increase in applications and launched a \$55 million capital campaign that produced four consecutive years of record giving and surpassed its goal one year ahead of schedule. The two new academic buildings are Carson-Newman's first in over a quarter century.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to join President Underwood and Mercer University. Mercer has a great heritage, an excellent faculty and staff, and an important mission," Netherton said.

As executive vice president for administration and finance, Netherton will oversee the treasurer's office, compensation and benefits, human resources, budget and analysis, information technology, physical plant, auxiliary services, the Mercer Engineering Research Center, Mercer Health Systems, health, safety and compliance, intercollegiate athletics, and the Mercer Police Department.

In 1981, Netherton was appointed executive assistant to the president at Baylor University and joined its faculty, teaching in mathematics and computer science. He subsequently served as vice president for information systems and vice president for executive affairs. The Baylor Board of Regents named him senior vice president and chief operating officer in January 1988. Netherton also taught in Baylor's honors program for 11 years and was a tenured professor.

### Search Under Way for Provost

President Underwood has appointed a 15-member search committee, chaired by Daisy Floyd, dean of Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law, to assist with a national search for a provost to succeed Dr. Horace Fleming. He will return to the faculty full-time upon the appointment of a new chief academic officer, or no later than January 2008.

"Horace for several months has been expressing his desire to return to full-time teaching. He has remained in his administrative post at my request in order to help ensure a smooth transi-

tion in University leadership," said Underwood. "I am very grateful that Horace has continued to serve as provost. He is well respected on campus and off and has provided steady and effective leadership under two Mercer presidents. I have frequently relied on him for wise and timely counsel during my first six months as president."

Fleming, whose academic field is political science, has twice served as a senior officer of the University. From 1992 to 1997, he was executive vice president and provost at Mercer, before being elected president of the University of Southern Mississippi. He returned to the Mercer administration in 2002 as executive vice president and provost, and has served as provost since July 1, 2006.

"After 25 years in academic administration, it is time for me to return to teaching and research. It has always been my plan to spend the latter part of my academic career in the classroom and with my research interests. And now is the time to make this move," Fleming said. "I am excited about Mercer's future and the opportunity I will have as a faculty member and colleague to continue to work with President Underwood. He is a dedicated, visionary, and energetic leader, and I appreciate his understanding and support of this career decision on my part."

Other members of the Provost Search Advisory Committee include: Dr. Dayne Aldridge, dean of the School of Engineering; Steuart Botchford, Naples, Fla., '07 graduate and former president of the student body; Susan Broome, associate director for technical services in Tarver Library and chair of the Faculty House of Delegates; Dr. Lynn Clemons, assistant professor of organization leadership in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies; Dr. Alan Culpepper, dean of the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology; Dr. Penny Elkins, assistant dean of the Tift College of Education; Dr. Susan Gunby, dean of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing; Beth Hammond, dean of university libraries; Dr. David McIntyre, assistant professor of accounting; Dr. H.W. "Ted" Matthews, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, professor of English and director of Women's and Gender Studies; Dr. Richard Reinhart, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in the School of Medicine; Dr. Stanley Roberts, interim dean of Townsend School of Music; and Dr. Walter B. Shurden, director of the Center for Baptist Studies. Larry D. Brumley, senior vice president and chief of staff, is coordinating the work of the committee.

## Service-Learning Project

— Continued from page 1

"I told them if they could persuade people to do this, I'd give them an 'A,'" Brown said prior to the press conference. "They've earned an 'A.'"

These two classes offer an excellent example of Mercer's vision of service-learning, in which community service is brought into the coursework to enhance the educational experience and develop students' real world skills, Brown said.

As the students worked to refine their persuasive skills, they also refined the College Hill Corridor plan, which proposes to link the two areas through branding, beautification and a series of "retail nodes" along the corridor, which encompasses the neighborhoods around Tattnell Square Park and much of the historic Beall's Hill Neighborhood, leading to downtown Macon.

The students continued to line up

support from developers working in the area as well as community groups and foundations. The culminating event occurred April 23, when the class met with a number of city department heads, Mayor Ellis and President Underwood. The group proposed that the Mayor set up a task force to work on the issue. However, Brown said, Ellis decided to set up a commission instead, because the commission would remain in place after he left office and would also be empowered to raise money and do more to implement the plan.

The commission will be co-chaired by representatives from Mercer and the city of Macon. President Underwood has appointed Sarah Gerwig-Moore, a professor at the Walter F. George School of Law, to be Mercer's representative on the commission.

In addition to the transformation this project will have on the landscape of Macon, Brown noted that the students participating in the project also

have been transformed. He cited a portion of Alex Morrison's final reflection paper on the project:

"... the project worked its way into me in a subtle way before it became something that has on many occasions consumed my all... It has forced me to use my talents, or those things that already exist within me that are better when brought together and applied. And while this project will take all of Macon, this project has taken all of me. This is why it is special; I put myself into it like I never have before."

Morrison has been accepted at the University of Georgia to study for his Ph.D. in philosophy, but the project has caused him to consider a delay in his studies in order to pursue his new community development interest.

Said Brown, "This project is a great example of the transformative power these projects hold for students as they discover what they can really do, what they really like and where they can really make a difference."



Tift College of Education Honors Memory of Graduate *By Mark Vanderboek*

**T**he Tift College of Education honored two educational leaders on March 2 during a dedication ceremony following the first ever meeting of its newly-established Board of Visitors.

The College honored the family of Fred L. Miles Sr., CLA '29, including Miles' late sons Fred Jr., M.Ed. '94, and James Miles, CLA '59, and James' wife, Pauline, who was in attendance, by renaming one of its primary classrooms the Fred L. Miles Sr. Classroom. The classroom showcases memorabilia from Fred Miles Sr.'s career as an educator and public servant.

"We are pleased to gather today to honor Fred L. Miles Sr., a committed educator and loyal Mercerian," said Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey during the dedication. "We also appreciate having this opportunity to thank Pauline Miles and her late husband, James, for their generous support of Tift College of Education and its mission to prepare generations of men and women to be educators."

The Miles family has given more than \$750,000 to endow scholarships and a chair for the College of Education. The ceremony also included the presentation of the first Fred L. Miles Chair in Educational Leadership, which Jim and Pauline Miles endowed. Dean Carl Martray presented the award to Dr. Penny L. Elkins, B.S.Ed. '90, M.Ed. '92, associate dean of the College.

Elkins was touched by the award, and said she was inspired to be a part of the ceremony, because it honored the memory of an outstanding educator who had a position of educational leadership very early in life.

"Mr. Miles' story really resonated with me because clearly he was passionate about educating the youth in his community," said Elkins.

"Receiving this honor encourages me to continue the work that I have begun not only to benefit children and the educational community but also to pay tribute to the wonderful legacy of the Miles family."

Fred Miles graduated from Mercer in 1929 and returned to his hometown of Metter, Georgia, to begin his life's work in public service as a teacher, coach and principal in the Candler and Bulloch county school systems. In 1932 he was elected to be superintendent of Candler County Schools, where he served for 24 years. In 1956, he accepted a position with the State Department of Education to run the School Food Distribution System, which he held until his retirement in 1969. His wife, Alexa Steward Miles, a native of Bulloch County also served as a teacher in Candler County, and later as a member of the School Board.

Fred Miles Sr. was prominent in the Candler County community. He served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist of Metter for more than 30 years, as a president of the Kiwanis Club of Metter and received a medal in recognition of his service

to the American Heart Association. After his retirement from education, he became a member of the Candler County Hospital Authority board. He passed away in 1985.

Fred L. Miles Jr. and James Miles graduated from Mercer, with James graduating in 1959 from the College of Liberal Arts, and Fred Miles Jr. completing his master's degree in education just before his death in 1994.

James Miles established a scholarship in 1999 to honor his mother, father, brother and wife, called the Fred L. Miles Sr. Family Endowed Scholarship, to provide annual scholarships to residents of Candler and Bulloch counties who attend the Tift College of Education. Also in 1999, the couple established the James E. and Pauline F. Miles Endowed Scholarship



*Penny Elkins, center, husband, Jason, and Pauline Miles celebrate the dedication of the Fred L. Miles Sr. Classroom on March 2. Elkins was named the Fred L. Miles Chair in Educational Leadership at the ceremony.*

Fund to provide annual scholarships to students from Candler County enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts.

James Miles, who passed away in 2006, served as an executive with Sears Co., where he retired after 33 years with the company at various locations, including Macon. He and Pauline retired in Macon. James was active in the Boy Scouts of America Councils, an active Baptist leader, a

member of Gideons, a life member of the National Eagle Scouts Association, as well as a member of various forestry associations. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Mercer and on the Board of the Grand Opera House and the Greek Village Campaign. Pauline is an active member of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, the Gideons Auxiliary and Barrington Country Garden Club.

Law Institute and Judge Drake Establish Endowed Chair

**T**he Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute Inc. (SBLI) and Judge Homer Drake have pledged a gift to establish the SBLI/W. Homer Drake Jr. Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy Law at Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law.

The establishment of the endowed chair, formally announced Feb. 22 at a recognition dinner in Atlanta, honors Mercer alumnus, Trustee and United States Bankruptcy Judge Walter Homer Drake Jr., A.B. '54, LL.B. '56, of Newnan.

"We are thrilled that the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute has chosen to establish the SBLI/Homer Drake Endowed Chair at Mercer," said Law School Dean Daisy Floyd. "Judge Drake has been for many years a national force in the area of bankruptcy law, and the endowed chair in his honor will greatly supplement our

teaching resources in this increasingly important area of the law."

A United States bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Drake served as chief judge from 1968 to 1976. He is a former partner in the Atlanta law firm of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers. He is a founder of, and adviser to, the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, a former member of the Judicial Conference of the United States' Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and is a past president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

A loyal alumnus, Judge Drake is a past president of the Mercer Law School alumni association and past chairman of the Law School Board of Visitors. He currently serves on the Mercer Board of

Trustees. The University honored him in 2002 with the Monroe F. Swilley Award for Christian Statesmanship and in 2003 with the Mercer Law School Outstanding Alumnus Award.

He has served as an adjunct professor of law at Emory University School of Law and the University of Georgia

School of Law. The author of two books and numerous articles, he was recipient of the first David W. Pollard Achievement Award presented in 1994 by the Atlanta Bar Association for contributions to bankruptcy law and practice.

Professor Michael Sabbath, a Law School faculty member of



*Judge Griffin B. Bell congratulates Judge Homer Drake on the announcement of his endowed chair.*

more than 28 years who has held the SBLI/Homer Drake Endowed Professorship, will be the holder of the endowed chair. Sabbath earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and holds the J.D. and LL.M. degrees from Emory University and Columbia University, respectively.

2008 Celebration in Atlanta

— Continued from page 9

work together to create an authentic and genuine prophetic Baptist voice in North America. It goes on to reaffirm traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality. The group has specifically committed themselves to their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote

peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

The celebration will begin on the evening of Jan. 30 with a keynote address by President Carter. The three-day program will feature speakers and presenters who will address these historic Baptist commitments and explore other opportunities to work together as Christian partners.

Tentative themes for the four plenary sessions are: "Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant," "Unity in Bringing Good News to the Poor," "Unity in Respecting Religious Diversity," "Unity in Seeking Peace with Justice," and "Unity in Welcoming the Stranger and Healing the Broken-Hearted." Keynote speakers confirmed to date include President Carter, Bill Moyers and Marian Wright Edelman.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the convocation will feature special-

interest sessions dealing with topics such as racism, religious liberty, poverty, the AIDS pandemic, faith in public policy, stewardship of the earth, evangelism, financial stewardship, and prophetic preaching.

"The meeting held in January was a historic gathering of Baptists from the north and south, black, white and brown, theologically conservative, moderate and progressive," Underwood said. "All are committed to traditional Baptist values and all committed to our

obligations as Christians to address poverty, health care, and religious liberty. I believe the convocation in January 2008 will be an important first step in mobilizing 20 million Baptists to find a unified voice in addressing these critical issues. I am greatly encouraged by the spirit and commitment of the Baptist leaders who gathered at The Carter Center."

For more information about the New Baptist Covenant, go to [www.newbaptistcovenant.org](http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org).



Add New Books by Ferrol Sams, Terry Kay to Your ‘Must Read’ List

By Marc A. Jolley, Director, Mercer University Press

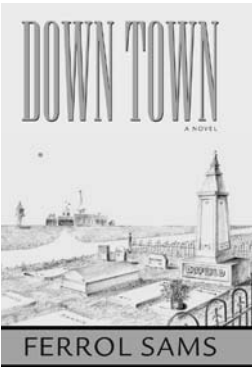
When I was a seminary student in Louisville, Ky., I worked at the campus bookstore. One day while stocking textbooks, Judith Anne King, a colleague, walked up to me and said, “Here, you have to read this book.” Judith Anne was a great reader and was not easy to please, but this book had really made an impression. The book was *Run with the Horsemen*, by Ferrol Sams.

If you have ever read *Run with the Horsemen*, then you know that it is a wonderful, hilarious and poignant story of a boy named

Porter Osborne Jr. The sequel, *The Whisper of the River*, is set at the mythical Willingham University, where Porter attends college. Of course, readers of this publication will know that Willingham University is Mercer

University, and the stories therein are amazing. This book is still suggested reading for incoming freshmen at Mercer. The trilogy was completed with *When All the World Was Young*, Porter’s life during war time.

When Judith Anne introduced me to *Run with the Horsemen*, she said the writer was an elderly physician in



Georgia. That was 1985.

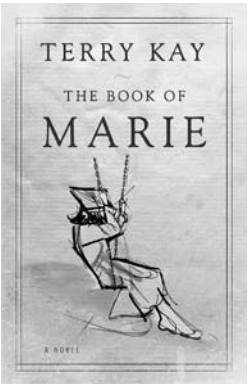
Now, 22 years later, that same “elderly” physician is still at it. Many people have told me that they thought Sams was dead. One would expect to hear Sams say that he should quote Mark Twain in that his death is greatly exaggerated. Not only is Ferrol Sams alive, but he has written a new novel, *Down Town*. More than that, Mercer University Press is his new publisher. Twenty-two years ago I read *Run with the Horsemen* in a few days — I could not stop reading it. He has not lost his touch. *Down Town* is a romp. The story is told in the form of a journal written by the town’s lawyer James Aloysius Holcombe Jr. Why he writes this journal is not clear until the final chapter. It is vintage Sams. The book was released on June 1.

Another treasure of the South is the

writer Terry Kay. Ever since *To Dance with the White Dog*, Kay has been recognized as a master storyteller. My personal favorites are *The Valley of Light* and *The Runaway*. I am sure you have your favorites. The thing that astonishes

me about Terry Kay is that his writing is like a smooth flowing river. His writing is mesmerizing.

When I first saw the Hallmark production of *To Dance with the White Dog* I had no idea it was based on a book until the film was over. My wife and I bought the book and, of course, realized how superior the book was to the film. A few years ago, Terry Kay appeared at the Mercer University Authors Luncheon and the crowd was awestruck by his words. Since that



time, I have had the great fortune to talk with him on several occasions. Nonetheless, I was floored when he called wanting to know if Mercer University Press would be interested in publishing his next novel. He asked, humbly, if I would mind reviewing it for publication.

So, in September of 2007, Mercer University Press will publish Terry Kay’s new novel *The Book of Marie*. This is my new favorite Kay novel.

If, as Flannery O’Connor said, every good story is about redemption, then both of these novels are great books.

You can order these books online at [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org). *Down Town*, now available, is \$25 and *The Book of Marie*, available in September, is \$23. VISA and MasterCard are accepted, in addition to cash and checks.

Mercer Press to Produce New Hymnal

Mercer University Press has announced a new hymnal for Baptists and other Christian fellowships, slated for release in 2009. Heading up the editorial team are Dr. John Simons and Dr. Stanley Roberts, both of Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Studies in Church Music, and Dr. Milburn Price, dean of the School of Performing Arts at Samford University. Baptist layman J. Thomas McAfee III, chairman and president of Hallmark Systems Inc., will serve as chairman of the project.

“By developing this new hymnal,

McAfee, Simons, Roberts and Price completed their first series of meetings in mid-2006 to create the organizational structure, production timeline and worship resource elements of the new hymnal for Baptists.

More than 40 leading church musicians, collegiate scholars, pastors and lay church leaders are participating in the development of this congregational hymnal and worship resource. The committees and their respective chairs working with the editorial committee are:

text and tunes (David Music, Baylor University, Waco, Texas); format and organization (Paul Richardson, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.); non-musical worship materials (Alicia Walker, Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta); supplemental music resources (Mark Edwards, First Baptist Church, Nashville,

Tenn.); and production and promotion (J. Thomas McAfee).

The full team of church musicians, collegiate scholars, pastors, and lay leaders met in Atlanta in February for the first series of official committee meetings. A preview of the hymnal will be presented to select groups later this year, and the completed hymnal will be published in 2009.

According to Simons, the hymnal will include great hymns of faith, new hymns, spiritual songs, worship music from other cultures, service music, worship readings, creative worship medleys and worship planning tools. As a worship resource, the hymnal will include online updates, CD-ROM database information, production downloads, orchestrations and instrumental charts. It will be church-friendly and available in both hardback and digital collections.

“By developing this new hymnal, we are embracing our heritage and creating a church music resource for congregations to use for worship and ministry.”



we are embracing our heritage and creating a church music resource for congregations to use for worship and ministry,” McAfee said.

Library of Late Trustee Tom Watson Brown Gifted to MUP

The late Tom Watson Brown, Atlanta attorney and Mercer Life Trustee, gifted his 10,000-volume personal library to Mercer University Press (MUP) prior to his death on Jan. 13. The Press will house the eclectic collection at the Jack Tarver Library on Mercer’s Macon campus. His



TOM WATSON BROWN



library has an extensive focus on the Civil War and Southern history.

The avid historian and scholar, who was chairman of the Board of Directors of MUP for more than 25 years, was honored at the 17th Annual Mercer University Authors Luncheon on Nov. 11, 2006, for his years of generous support and leadership to MUP. During the

event, the University unveiled a new logo recognizing the contributions of Tom Watson Brown and the Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc. The new logo will be printed in all future books published by MUP.

Since its establishment in 1979, MUP has published more than 1,150 volumes, with another 34 new titles scheduled to be released this year.

Public Safety Leadership Institute Graduates Fourth Cohort

By Anna Sandison

On Jan. 25, representatives from five Atlanta-area police and sheriff’s departments graduated from Mercer University’s Public Safety Leadership Institute. Nine officers received leadership certificates during the ceremony, which featured as the speaker, Stacey W. Cotton, retired Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court.

Cotton received his B.A. from

Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts in 1960 and his LL.B. from the School of Law in 1962. His son, Stacey L. Cotton, is chief of police in Covington, co-coordinator of the Public Safety Leadership Institute and a 1999 Mercer graduate.

The Institute is designed to examine current leadership models and practices and to create an awareness of the knowledge, skills and attributes of a successful leader

in the public safety environment. The unique PSLI curriculum emphasizes collaboration. Unlike other public safety leadership programs that are geared toward law enforcement officers, Mercer’s PSLI is applicable to people in all areas of public safety — from police chiefs to parole officers to fire fighters to paramedics.

The 16-month program originated in January 2002 and graduated an inaugural class of 13 the next year.

Approximately 70 public safety leaders have completed the program and at least 10 have gone on to complete Mercer’s degree program in criminal justice.

Sgt. Chris Cain of the Covington Police Department, an original graduate of the PSLI program, was one such student. “The PSLI program was really the catalyst I needed to finish my degree,” he said, “and the training that I received certainly has served me

well.” After completing the program in 2003, Cain enrolled in Mercer’s criminal justice program and graduated last fall with a bachelor of science in social science degree.

“We are lucky to have a chief that understands the value of higher education,” Cain continues. “The city of Covington also offers educational incentives for its police officers, so we not only have the support of Chief Cotton, but also the city as a whole.”



# More Undergraduate Programs Coming to the Atlanta Campus

By Lea Nichols, Mercer Student

**M**ercer's Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta will soon offer more learning opportunities for adult learners. The College of Continuing and Professional Studies will bring three of its programs to the campus this fall.

Beginning in August, Atlanta students can work toward a bachelor of science degree in information systems, a bachelor of social science degree in criminal justice and a bachelor of applied science degree in organization leadership. The degrees will be geared toward working adults, with classes held in the evenings and Saturdays in eight-week sessions. All three will be degree completion programs requiring applicants to have some prior college work. Students will need to attend classes only once a week, which allows them flex-

ibility to meet family and work needs and still pursue their education. The Atlanta campus focuses primarily on graduate and professional studies and currently has only two undergraduate degree programs: the College of Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing degree and the Stetson School of Business and Economics offers a bachelor's degree in business administration. Thomas Kail, dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, said the addition of the degree programs is a part of Mercer's long com-

mitment to adult learners. "We've been serving them for nearly two decades at the Regional Academic Centers," said Kail. "Now we are bringing those programs to the Atlanta campus." Kail believes the programs will be beneficial for adult students seeking career advancement. "Many of the people in the labor market need more education," he said. "Most of the jobs available today are knowledge-based, so workers need a higher level of education to be competitive." Law enforcement agencies are now expecting their officers to have at least a bachelor's degree and higher positions require more advanced degrees. "Training isn't enough," Kail says. "Officers need to develop critical-thinking skills, and they also need to

have an understanding of psychology and sociology." Billy Slaton, associate professor of counseling and human science, thinks the criminal justice program is a logical choice for the Atlanta campus. "There are a lot of police agencies around Atlanta," he said. Mercer also operates the Public Safety Leadership Institute that has graduated more than 70 public safety leaders from the Atlanta-metro area. Slaton also hopes the availability of the programs in Atlanta will

increase enrollment and that more undergraduate degrees will be offered at the campus in the future. Dr. Kenneth Revels, assistant professor and chair of the Information Systems Program, said offering the information systems degree in Atlanta is a good choice given the current demand for workers with computer skills. The Information Systems Program will focus on the theory and design of computers and computer systems as well as programming techniques. Students will also learn about the practical applications of these systems. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organization Leadership program is a 16-month degree completion program targeted at working adults who have completed at least two years of college and hold leadership positions within their companies.

*"Many of the people in the labor market need more education. Most of the jobs available today are knowledge-based, so workers need a higher level of education to be competitive."*

# Future Educators Applaud Use of Video Technology By Anna Sandison

**F**or spring semester, Tift College of Education implemented a new video conferencing system in the Macon and Eastman Regional Academic Centers. The system allows students at each location to enroll in the same class, meet at the same time and learn from the same professor, despite the 60-mile distance. The video system set-up is simple. Utilizing classrooms already equipped with projection screens, the College needed only to purchase laptops outfitted with cameras, microphones and speakers. Although the technical support staff is always on call, the students have no trouble operating the system themselves. Currently, only the Early Childhood/Special Education undergraduate program employs the video conferencing

system. Previously independent study tracks, "the combination of these two programs — Special Education and Early Childhood — is still relatively new," according to Dr. Margaret Morris, chair of Teacher Education for the Macon and Eastman Centers. "We thought the video system was a unique way to deliver the courses and attract students to the program." The video link between the Centers also ensures that more courses will be available to students at the smaller Eastman location. Six Macon students



Students in Macon and Eastman gather in front of the video camera to participate in EDUC 403: Connecting Home, School and Community.

and five Eastman students were enrolled in EDUC 403: not enough to hold a class at each center, but an ideal number for a combination class. The new system also reduces the need for adjunct professors. "The

professors rotate weekly between the two Centers, ensuring that all students receive what they call 'in the flesh time,'" says Morris. The decrease in travel time also means that more full-time professors are willing to teach the evening classes. The low-cost, low-tech video conferencing system has not only allowed the college to expand the Early Childhood/Special Education program, but has generated enthusiasm among students. "The technology is wonderful," says senior Ellen Goguen, of Gray. "It is like

we are sitting in the classroom together. In fact, sometimes you even forget that the technology is there." Students find the interaction with people from a different locale appealing. Senior Jackie Gladin, of Macon, cites meeting the students from the other Center as one of her favorite experiences. After attending the same class via the computer camera for eight weeks last session, the two groups met for dinner and shared their experiences. Morris hopes that the Early Childhood/Special Education program's success with the video conferencing system will pave the way for an eventual distance-learning program. The program not only could expand to the Centers in Douglas and Henry Counties, but also could grow to incorporate other education degree tracks.

# Mercer Educates Addiction Counselors to Assist in Combating Meth Epidemic By Anna Sandison

**T**he College of Continuing and Professional Studies joined forces with the Georgia Department of Corrections to address the need for certified addiction counselors. Under the new Georgia Addictions Counselors Association guidelines for Addiction Counseling certification, counselors must undergo classroom instruction, clinical supervision and program delivery, as well as both oral and written examinations. "We're facing an explosive meth epidemic across the state, and there is a huge shortage of certified addiction counselors in Georgia and nationwide," Corrections Commissioner

James E. Donald stated in a news release. "This joint effort helps us equip our staff with specialized skills and ensures we have access to well-trained professionals who can address an increasing population of offenders with substance abuse problems." This cooperative program is intended to benefit the Department of Corrections' Day Reporting Centers. These centers are low cost and offer offenders a daytime alternative to prison. Offenders report to the centers daily to receive drug treatment while brushing up on their job skills. The inaugural group of 25 counselors completed the first phase of the Addiction Counseling certification

program in January with a graduation ceremony held on Mercer's Atlanta Campus. Dr. Billy Slaton, associate professor of counseling and human services and program coordinator for criminal justice at CCPS, taught in the seven classroom components of the program. "The program was so successful, the Department of Corrections has now enrolled 38 more individuals involved with corrections and probation," says Slaton. Classes are presently underway. The program is currently under the direction of Dr. David Lane and Dr. Brenda Callahan of the community counseling master's degree program.



**Inaugural President's Lecture** — Scientist and author **Dr. Francis Collins** presented the inaugural lecture of the President's Series on April 4. The President's Lecture Series brings leading thinkers to Mercer whose ideas and viewpoints intersect with the University's mission as a faith-based institution of higher learning. Collins, author of the best-seller *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, spoke to a crowd of nearly 2,000 about his faith in God and in science. Collins is director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.



# Four Athletes Inducted into Prestigious Athletic Hall of Fame

Four new members were inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 16 in a ceremony at the University Center. The new inductees included: baseball player Jack Pool, basketball player Benton Wade, women’s basketball coach Peggy Collins and the late trackster David Rowe. Bruce Gordy, a 1972 Mercer graduate and a 1988 inductee into the Hall of Fame, was moderator for the 29th induction ceremony. Prior to the 2007 reception, Mercer had inducted 133 athletes into the prestigious group.

Pool was the Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 1983, leading the Bears to their third conference championship in five years. He earned All-Conference recognition in 1982 and 1983 and was named to the Conference All-

Tournament Team in 1983. He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants. Wade was Conference Player of the Year in 1981 after leading the Bears to the TAAC Championship and Mercer’s first ever appearance in the NCAA Division I Tournament. Wade

scored 880 points in his two-year career at Mercer, averaging 15.1 points as a junior and 15.3 as a senior. His rebounding average was 8.7 per game as a junior and 9.0 as a senior. He earned team MVP both seasons and led Mercer in most every statistical category. Wade was an All-Conference selection both years at Mercer after transferring from Brevard Junior College. As a senior, he led the Conference in field goal percentage, rebounds and rebound average. He earned Player of the Week awards twice during his career.

Collins was coach of the women’s team from 1970 to 1977 and was the founding coach of the “Teddy Bears.” During her seven years at Mercer, she posted a 133-33 record for a winning percentage of .801. Her win totals and percentage are still school records. She took a team of walk-ons from a 3-5 record in her first year as coach to the Southern Women’s Athletic Conference championship the following season. Highlights of the 1971-72 season include a 21-1 record and a still-standing 19-game winning streak. In 1973-74, the team was unbeaten in 19 regular season games and finished second in the Southern Regional. In 1974-75, the team finished fourth in the National Women’s Invitational Tournament. The 1975-76 team won the Georgia Association for

Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) crown for the first time in school history and, in her final season, the team went 19-9 and was ranked in the nation’s top 20. Rowe, who died in January 1986 in Glenrock, Wyo., was one of the best athletes to ever play at Mercer. He was an outstanding track and field star for the Bears. He was named Outstanding Athlete at the Florida Relays in 1947 after winning the high jump with a leap of 6’ 3 7/8” and was second in Chapel Hill, N.C., with a jump of 6’ 1 1/3”. He finished sixth in the National

Decathlon in Bloomfield, N.J. During his Mercer days, he set records in the 100-yard dash, the high jump, the broad jump, and the javelin throw. He scored 21 points versus Georgia winning the 100, 220, high jump, and broad jump along with a 4th place finish in low hurdles. Against Sewanee, he had 25 points with first place finishes in all five events. He had 22 points versus Howard with first in high jump, broad jump, and javelin, second in the 100, and third in the 220. He had 25 points versus Davidson College and Emory University with first places in every event.

## Former National Coach of the Year Named New Women’s Coach

Mercer Director of Athletics Bobby Pope introduced two-time national Coach of the Year Janell Jones as the head women’s basketball coach in a news conference April 9 in Heritage Hall at the University Center. Jones comes to Mercer from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).



Janell Jones

Jones succeeds Mercer Associate Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator Sybil Blalock, who served as interim coach for the 2006-07 season. Blalock took over in August 2006 when Brenda Welch-Nichols departed for the head coaching position at Sam Houston State University.

Jones comes to Mercer having won more than 90 percent of her games in seven seasons as a head coach. Her record at UCSD and Oklahoma City University, where she won two NAIA national championships and was national runner-up three times, is 225-24.

After taking over at UCSD in 2005, Jones compiled a 50-10 record and led the Tritons to the NCAA Division II Tournament in successive years. She led the team to the Final Four in March, where UCSD lost to eventual national champion Southern Connecticut. For her efforts during the 2006-07 campaign, Jones was named California Collegiate Athletic Association Coach of the Year.

“We are extremely pleased that Janell has accepted our head women’s basketball coaching position,” said Pope. “She has been very successful at both UCSD and Oklahoma City, and we

are confident she will bring that same success to Mercer. She not only produces championship teams, but she has recruited and coached a number of academic All-Americans, and she graduates her student-athletes, which is a great combination.”

Prior to her arrival at UCSD, Jones distinguished herself as the winningest coach in OCU history. Her squads never finished a season with fewer than 32 victories.

“Mercer is fortunate to have attracted a proven winner to lead our women’s basketball program,” President William D. Underwood said. “She has a phenomenal record as a head coach and comes to us from one of the top academic institutions in the country, so she understands the true meaning of student-athlete. Under the leadership of Janell Jones, we believe women’s basketball at Mercer will be in great hands.”

“I am extremely thrilled to be joining the Mercer University family and the Macon community,” said Jones. “Becoming a part of the women’s basketball program at Mercer is a great opportunity. I look forward to immediately working with the players, administration and community toward building a successful program here.”

A native of Midwest City, Okla., Jones earned a bachelor’s degree in science education, *summa cum laude*, from Oklahoma Christian University, where she was a member of the women’s basketball team. She completed a master’s degree in educational leadership, *summa cum laude*, from Southern Nazarene University.

Jones has a son, Kyle Jones, who graduated this spring from the University of Oklahoma and will attend graduate school at Mercer.



### Freshman Point Guard Garner Several Honors for First-Year Accomplishments

Men’s basketball freshman point guard **James Florence**, among his many accolades his first year at Mercer, was named to the 2007 Mid-Major Freshman All-America Team as released by CollegeInsider.com. Florence, who started 28 games for the Bears this past season, garnered multiple postseason conference honors, being named Atlantic Sun Freshman of the Year, First Team All-Conference and was also placed on the A-Sun All-Freshman Team. He led the A-Sun in scoring by averaging 19.3 points per game and was one of only three freshmen to lead their respective conferences in scoring at the end of the regular season. Florence notched the top two scoring performances in the Atlantic Sun and seven of the top nine overall scoring games in the A-Sun last season and was the only freshman to garner conference Player of the Week honors twice.

## Sam Mitchell Named 2007 NBA Coach of the Year

Former Mercer men’s basketball standout Sam Mitchell was named the 2007 NBA Coach of the Year after leading the Toronto Raptors to a franchise-record-tying 47 victories and their first-ever Atlantic Division title.

Mitchell won the Red Auerbach Trophy over Utah head coach Jerry Sloan. He garnered 49 first-place votes for a total of 394 points in balloting by basketball writers and broadcasters.

The sixth coach in the history of the Raptors’ franchise, Mitchell led Toronto to an NBA-best 20-game improvement over last season and became the first coach in Raptors’ history to receive the honor.

Quite possibly the best player to ever wear a Bears’ uniform, Mitchell starred at Mercer from 1981 to 1985 and left as the school’s all-time leading scorer with 1,986 points. During his Mercer career, the Columbus, Ga., native was named All-Conference three times and was named MVP of the league his senior season. He capped his collegiate career by leading the Bears to the conference tournament title in 1985, which earned Mercer its second trip to the NCAA tournament.

Mitchell went on to get drafted in the third round (54th overall) of the 1985 NBA Draft by the Houston Rockets. However, before the Mercer alum ventured into the NBA, he played three seasons in the Continental Basketball Association and two seasons in France’s top professional league.

In 1989, Mitchell joined the expansion Minnesota Timberwolves as a free agent to begin what would be an excellent NBA career. He played three seasons in Minnesota before being acquired by the Indiana Pacers in September 1992. He returned to Minnesota as a free agent in 1995, where he played an instrumental role in the on-and off-court development of 18-year-old rookie Kevin Garnett. Mitchell split his playing career between the Minnesota Timberwolves and Indiana Pacers. He appeared



Athletic Director **Bobby Pope** with **Sam Mitchell** when he visited campus to address Mercer athletes in 2002.

in 994 regular season games and 59 postseason contests, missing just 40 games to injury or illness throughout his career. He posted averages of 8.7 points, 3.7 rebounds and 1.1 assists. He ranks first all-time in Timberwolves’ history in games played with 757 and second with 7,161 points, along with 1,773 free throws made, 2,664 field goals, 3,030 rebounds and 449 steals.

He played for 13 years, followed by two seasons as an assistant. Mitchell was hired as the Raptors’ coach in June 2004.



# CLASSNOTES

MERCER ALUMNI NEWS

## ACHIEVEMENTS

1945

**Dr. Henry A. Buchanan**, BA, of Murray, Ky., published his 18th book, *Terror! Terror! & Tom Walker Two*. The book contains a day-by-day chronicle of America's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as moral, religious and political debates.

1951

**Rear Admiral Joseph H. Miller Jr.**, BA, of Apollo Beach, Fla., authored *Mysteries of the Southern Baptist Beliefs Revealed*. The book was published by Author House.

1955

**Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter**, BA, of McLean, Va., was appointed to the office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense by President George W. Bush. He formerly served as the director of the Iraq-Afghanistan Transition Planning Group.

1959

**The Rev. Lamar L. Moore Jr.**, BA, of Lexington, N.C., was featured in an article in the *Winston-Salem Journal*. He is noted for contributing to the 1974 founding of the Council on Aging, currently known as the Davidson County Department of Senior Services. He is now a speaker for the N.C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature.

1961

**H. Taylor Butler III**, BA, of Farmville, Va., retired from Emory University Department of Neurology. He also closed his private practice with Lenox Pointe Psychiatric Associates in Atlanta and moved to Virginia to be closer to his family.

**Rudolph N. Patterson**, BA, JD '63, was re-elected president of the Georgia Bar Foundation. Patterson is a partner with Westmoreland, Patterson, Moseley & Hinson in Macon.

1962

**Dr. Charles D. Williams**, BA, of Tallahassee, Fla., was elected vice president of the American College of Radiology during the 83rd annual meeting and Chapter Fellowship Conference in Washington, D.C., 2006.

1964

**Barbara Lowery Abell**, BA, of Conyers, was recently named the Georgia Virtual School Teacher of the Year for 2006 for the World Languages Department. She has taught French for Georgia Virtual School since her retirement from classroom teaching and is currently co-developing courses in Spanish, German, Japanese and Chinese.

**Dr. Sarah Beck Hawthorne**, BA, of Jeffersonville, is the director of Alpha Skills, a tutoring and literacy program. The "Read With Sarah" program encourages reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

1966

**Dr. Carol Ann Holcomb**, BA, of Manhattan, Kan., received the Myers-Alford Teaching Award during the 2006 spring commencement at Kansas State University. A professor of nutrition, Holcomb was recognized for outstanding contributions to teaching and mentoring students in the College of Human Ecology. She is also honored through the Carol Ann Holcomb Scholarship in Gerontology, which she hopes will allow Kansas State students to continue her work to promote healthy aging.

1968

**Maurine Wilcox Bennett**, BA, MFS '94, of Macon, was elected moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia for 2006-2007.

**David E. Hudson**, BA, of Augusta, was selected as one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers

of 2006. He is the chairman of the Mercer Board of Trustees and an attorney with Hull Towill Norman Barrett & Salley of Augusta.

1969

**Dennis C. Sanders**, BA, JD '72, of Thomson, was named District Attorney of the Year for 2006.

1972

**Charles L. Pritchard**, BA, of Springfield, Va., is the president of Korea Economic Institute in Washington, D.C. Previously, he worked for the Brookings Institute.

1975

**Beth LaPenna**, BA, of Houston, Texas, was elected 2006-2007 president of the Rotary Club of Willowbrook in Houston.

1977

**Falinda Y. Crawford Farley**, BA, of Charlotte, N.C., recently joined the Speaker's Bureau for Lois' Lodge in Charlotte. Lois' Lodge is a maternity home that assists women in crisis pregnancies.

**The Hon. M. Yvette Miller**, BA, JD '80, participated in the Sir Richard May Seminar on International Law and International Courts in The Hague, Netherlands, Sept. 24-29, 2006.

1978

**J. Dale Brown**, BS, of Winston-Salem, N.C., was named the James A. Harrill Professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology (Division of Surgical Sciences) at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, N.C.

1979

**Ben Sandifer**, BA, of Macon, produced a special radio program, "A Tribute to Phil Walden," in cooperation with the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Walden was a Mercer graduate noted for founding Capricorn Records, a Macon-based recording company. Several Georgia radio stations aired the program, including Mercer's own Internet station, <http://radio.mercer.edu>. A copy of this one-hour program is now in the archives at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Tarver Library at Mercer's Macon Campus.

1981

**John Renfrow**, BA, of Alpharetta, was promoted to associate director of operations for the Southeast Region of Bristol Myers Squibb. Renfrow, his wife, Charlotte, and their children, Beth and David, have relocated to the Atlanta area.

1982

**Angela Spear Dillon**, BA, M.Ed. '88, of Forsyth, was chosen Georgia's National Distinguished Principal for 2006. Dillon is principal of Samuel E. Hubbard Elementary School in Monroe County.

1983

**Perry L. Wiggins**, BA, of Fairfax, Va., was selected for promotion to Brigadier General in the United States Army.

1984

**Samuel T. King**, BA, of Stone Mountain, is the superintendent of Rockdale County Public Schools. The district was one of only two Georgia school systems with over 10,000 students to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The AYP designation is used to measure student and system performance under the No Child Left Behind Act.

1985

**Lori Lynne Miller Brundick**, BBA, of Pope Valley, Calif., accepted the office of president at Intervine Inc., a global wine import and wholesale company headquartered in Napa, Calif. Prior to this appointment, she led the Premium Wine Group and served as the CFO of

Alliant Partners, a Silicon Valley-based Mergers & Acquisitions investment banking boutique.

1986

**Nancy Addleton White**, MLS, of Macon, was elected to the Macon City Council in the July 18, 2006, special election to fill a vacated seat. She is running for the next full-term seat for Ward 5 (2007-2010).

1988

**Melodie Beck Fleming**, BS, of McAllen, Texas, co-wrote *The Dance of Restoration: Rebuilding Marriage After Infidelity* with Abel Ortega. The book was published in April 2005 by AMG Publishers.

**Marian L. Savage**, BA, of Baltimore, Md., received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from Maryland Institute College of Art. She received the award for her service as administrative assistant to the fiber, sculpture, general sculptural studies and ceramics department, but she has also served as a teaching assistant and assistant director of Exhibitions.

1989

**Jan Horton Spence**, BBA, of Jacksonville, Fla., with her husband, Mitch, was awarded the Franchisee of the Year at the International Franchise Association Conference in Palm Springs, Calif., February 2006. The Spences own a FilttaFry franchise in Jacksonville.

1990

**Mark L. Lewandowski**, BSE, of West Chester, Ohio, relocated to Cincinnati with Procter & Gamble as the Machine Controls Technology Leader for Cooperate Engineering.

1992

**Leon Harrison**, MSHA, of Tucker, joined Metrobrokers/GMAC Real Estate.

**Robyn Wellenhofer Miller**, BA, of New Port Richey, Fla., is the facilities manager for Prudential Tropical Realty, managing 12 residential sales offices and two commercial offices in the Tampa Bay area. She also works as a property manager for Prudential CRES Commercial Real Estate.

1995

**Regina N. Holmes**, BSE, of Memphis, Tenn., was selected as one of the Top 40 Under 40 for the city of Memphis. She is a project planning manager with Smith & Nephew PLC.

**Crystal Rodgers Martin**, BBA, of Palmetto, was promoted to regional assistant controller for the Eastern and Southern Regions of Bowne of Atlanta.

**Jody Massey**, BS, of Atlanta, was promoted to Architectural Project Manager/Engineer at EMG of Hunt Valley, Md. He conducts engineering reports on property worldwide.

**Amanda Marshall Napolitano**, BS, of Neptune Beach, Fla., was appointed managing director for the Jacksonville office of Idea Integration, the IT consulting and systems integration unit of MPS Group, Inc.

**Joseph M. Scott**, BBA, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., was promoted to senior vice president/chief credit officer with Cygnet Private Bank.

1996

**Sebastian Muah**, BA, MBA '05, of Stone Mountain, is a country response information systems manager with United Nations AIDS in his native county of Liberia. He was also accepted into Carnegie Mellon's Heinz School of Public Policy multidisciplinary Master of Science in Information Technology program.

1997

**Matthew R. Lauck**, BS, of Acworth, was promoted to director of marketing for the Retail Solutions group at Emerson Climate Technologies.

**Rebecca Ewing LaVallee**, BA, of Kathleen, earned a Master of Science degree in psychology at Walden University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in educational psychology.

**Dana Nichols**, BA, of Lawrenceville, received a Ph.D. in English from Georgia State University. She is an assistant professor of English and Spanish at Gainesville State College.

**James H. Rish Jr.**, BS, of Macon, is the president of TorcUp of Georgia. He is a distributor and factory rep for Georgia and South Carolina.

1998

**David Scott Lane**, BA, of Opelika, Ala., is a coordinator of Institutional Studies for Auburn University's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

**Julia Hall Magda**, BBA, JD '01, of Macon, was named partner at Sell & Melton, LLP, where she has practiced law since 2001. She also was named as one of the 2006 "Five Under Forty" community leaders by *Macon Magazine* and a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers and *Atlanta Magazine*.

**Carmen Trammell Skaggs**, BA, of Gainesville, earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia in August 2006.

1999

**Kemba Khari Anderson**, BS, of Dale City, Va., earned an MBA in finance from Capella University in August 2006. Anderson is employed as a land law examiner/economist by the Department of Interior, Springfield, Va.

**Keta J. Barnes**, BA, of Smyrna, Tenn., was elected to the Smyrna Municipal Court. Her election made history as the town's first African-American elected official and one of the first African-American judges in Rutherford County.

**Peter "Zen" Garcia**, BA, of Winder, won the silver medal at the 2006 U.S. Nationals for wheelchair fencing. In 2004, he won two bronze medals at the World Cup for wheelchair fencing.

**Brad Lofton**, BBA, of Guyton, was selected to serve as the executive director of the Valdosta Lowndes County Industrial Authority. Prior to this appointment, he served as president and CEO of the Effingham County Industrial Development Authority and as the executive director of the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.

**Dr. Charles W. Smitherman**, BA, of Dalton, earned a Ph.D. in international law from the University of Oxford, Oxford, England, in May 2006. He founded the legal research firm, Smitherman Legal Consulting, PC.

**Thomas "T.J." Van Auken**, BBA, of Houston, Texas, was promoted to vice president of sales and leasing at Worley Commercial Brokerage Services, Inc.

2001

**Garth Z. Peters**, BAS, of Atlanta, was named community development director for the Buckhead Coalition and will oversee new area programs and foster community relations. Peters was also the founding president of the Buckhead-area Memorial Park Civic Association and served as vice chair of Atlanta's official Neighborhood Planning Unit "C."

2002

**Annmarie A. Burnette**, BAS, of Dallas, Ga., earned a Master of Science in Human Resource Management degree from Troy University, Troy, Ala.

**Richard P. Corthell**, BSIS, of Bellbrook, Ohio, was named an associate at Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP. He practices in the litigation department. He earned his JD from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2006.

**Alexandria James**, BSE, of Jacksonville, Fla., was promoted from engineer I to engineer II with the St. Johns River Water Management District.

## FSU Residence Hall Named for Tift Alumna

On Nov. 3, 2006, Florida State University paid a fitting tribute to a former director of University Housing and top administrator in FSU's Student Affairs division when it named one of its newest residence halls in honor of Tift College alumna Sherrill Ragans.

Ragans dedicated more than four decades to higher education administration. After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Tift College in 1958 and a master of arts degree in counseling and student personnel from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1959, she joined the staff at Florida State University as a residence hall counselor. She rose to the position of director of University Housing in 1970.

In 1982, she became assistant vice president for Student Affairs and was promoted to associate vice president in 1988. A strong advocate for fostering smaller communities within the growing university, Ragans worked diligently to create nurturing social and learning spaces where students could flourish.

Ragans retired in 2003 as associate vice president for Student Affairs after more than 42 years at FSU. The residence hall, which was completed in 2003 as the first student housing facility FSU had built in more than 20 years, had been known simply as "New Hall." The four-building complex houses more than 550 students in apartment-style accommodations.

The Jacksonville, Ga., native has

remained involved with her alma mater. She was the Tift Alumnae Association President from 1976 to 1978 and received the 1981 Distinguished Alumna Award from the College. She also served on the Tift College Alumnae Board of Directors and the Tift College Board of Trustees. After the college merged with Mercer in 1986, she became active with the University, serving on the Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2001. She is currently a member of the Tift College of Education Board of Visitors.

She delivered the commencement address at the Tift College of Education commencement on the Mercer campus in Atlanta on May 19 and received the honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from the University.



2006

**Kathryn A. Rosentreter**, BBA, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, participated in the Canada Cup as a pitcher for the Canada Elite softball team.

**Kaung Set**, BS, of Augusta, is attending the Medical College of Georgia.

MARRIAGES,  
BIRTHS &  
ANNIVERSARIES

**David L. Horwitz** and his wife, Garnell McAfee Horwitz, of Macon, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 12, 2006.

1988

**Debra Hawk Gourley**, BS, and her husband, **Bruce**, BA, of Warner Robins, announce the birth and adoption of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, on June 29, 2006, their 15th anniversary.

1990

**Chandra Carter Tutt**, BA, and her husband, **Charlie**, BA, of Atlanta, announce the birth of their third child, Sarell Christine, on July 27, 2006. Chandra is employed by BellSouth, and Charlie works for American Airlines.

1991

**Patrick Nichols**, BA, and his wife, Angie, of Durham, N.C., announce the birth of their son, Garrison Hart, on Feb. 10, 2006. Patrick works in the Emergency Department at Duke University Medical Center. He also won the Excellence in Nursing Practice Award.

**Mike Randolph**, BA, JD '94, and his wife, **Holly**, BA, of Macon, announce the birth of their son, Joshua Patrick, on July 8, 2006.

**Angel F. Segura**, MBA, and his wife, Christal, of Naples, Fla., announce the birth of their son, Joshua Gregory, on June 5, 2006. Angel is a wholesale sales manager with Times/Warner Retail Sales and Marketing.

1993

**Dana Payne Fairman**, BA, and her husband, Michael, of Brunswick, announce the birth of their son, Philip Michael, on April 20, 2006.

**James W. Thomas Jr.**, BA, and his wife, Meghan, of Arlington, Va., announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie Lorene, on July 5, 2006. James is an associate with Arnold & Porter, LLP.

1994

**Mandy Horne Eley**, BA, and her husband, Kendall, of Milledgeville, announce the birth of their son, Davis Kendall, on March 1, 2006.

**Daniel P. Hornickel**, BA, of Bordertown, N.J., married Jessie B. Choi on Oct. 8, 2006.

1995

**Chris Misamore**, BA, and his wife, Birgit, of Columbus, announce the birth of their son, Landon Christopher Torbett Misamore, on July 7, 2006.

**Bryan D. Scott**, BA, JD '98, and his wife, **Julie**, BA '96, of Macon, announce the birth of their second daughter, Brynn Elise, on April 12, 2006. Bryan has his own law practice in Macon.

1996

**Sammy Kraft Bonfim**, BA, and his wife, **Cindy**, BA '98, of Macon, announce the birth of their daughter, Lucia (Lucy) Grace, on June 7, 2006. Sammy is a physical therapist and clinic director at Physiotherapy Associates.

**Matthew R. Hall**, BA, JD '00, and his wife, **Aimee**, BA '99, JD '02, of Macon, announce the birth of their daughter, Mary Parker Hall, on May 13, 2006. Aimee is an attorney at Sell & Melton, LLP, and Matt is an attorney with James, Bates, Pope & Spivey.

**Julie Daniel Scott**, BA, see 1995.  
**Amy Tharp Taylor**, BBA, married Todd A. Taylor on Dec. 23, 2006. The couple resides in Fitzgerald, where Amy is a controller with Southern Veneer Products.

1997

**Karin Willis Benado**, BBA, and her husband, Joe, of Devens, Mass., announce the birth of their son, Nicolas, on Feb. 17, 2006. Karin is employed by Bank of America.

**Rebecca Porter Bronnum**, BA, and her husband, Peter, of Lawrenceville, announce the birth of their daughter, Margaret (Maggie) Ruth on March 3, 2006. Rebecca is a teacher at Parkview High School in Lilburn.

**Cara Williamson Lenz**, BBA, of Warner Robins, announces the birth of her son, Joshua Andrew, on Aug. 12, 2006. Lenz is the director of Grants and Contracts at Mercer University.

**Suzette Belote Reeves**, BA, and her husband **Matthew**, BA '99, of Duluth, announce the birth of their second child, Susannah Hart, on Oct. 10, 2006. Matt practices law at Anderson, Tate & Carr, P.C. in Lawrenceville.

1998

**Jackie Smith Baxley**, BSE, and her husband, Russell, of Greenville, S.C., announce the birth of their son, Francis (Frank) Ratigan, on July 15, 2006. Jackie is an advanced environmental engineer with HRP Associates, Greenville, S.C.

**Cindy Branch Bonfim**, BA, see 1996.  
**Emory Dunn**, BBA, married Mary Charles Moseley on May 20, 2006, at First Presbyterian Church in Macon. The couple resides in Macon, where Emory is employed by Mercer University.

**Kristi Boughner Latzak**, BA, and her husband, **Jay**, BA, of Stockbridge, announce the birth of their son, John Luke, on March 28, 2006. Jay is an attorney with Smith, Welch & Brittain of McDonough. Kristi is a senior analyst with Georgia-Pacific in Atlanta.

**DeAnne Gary Miller**, BA, and her husband, Scott, of Bexley, Ohio, announce the birth of their first child, MacKenna Leigh, on Nov. 21, 2006.

1999

**Aimee Jackson Hall**, BA, JD '02, (see 1996).

**Nancy Hodgins Hayes**, BSE, and her husband, Steve, of Lynchburg, Va., announce the birth of a child, Kyra, on May 15, 2006. Nancy is an engineer with Hurt and Proffitt, Inc.

**R. Matthew Reeves**, BA, see 1997.  
**Courtney Brevette Thompson**, BBA, married Nathan Thompson on June 17, 2006, in Newnan. The couple resides in Atlanta, where Courtney is an attorney with Kilpatrick Stockton LLP.

2000

**Lori Steward Bell**, BA, and her husband, **John**, BA, of Suwanee, announce the birth of their son, Chason Albert, on May 2, 2006.

**Susan Stagg Cooper**, BA, married Keith Cooper in May 2006. The couple resides in Atlanta, where Susan is a project manager with Radio Outhouse.

**Beckha Alderman Drake**, BA, and her husband, **Brian**, BA, of Bowie, Md., announce the birth of their son, Bennett James, on May 31, 2006. Brian is a consultant with Toffler Associates, and Beckha is a counselor for the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center.

**Natalie Baker Preston**, BBA, and her husband, Dru, of Macon, announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace, on Feb. 9, 2006.

2001

**Julia Hall Magda**, JD, BBA '98, and her husband, Martin, of Macon, announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Anneliese, on Jan. 2, 2006.

**Dien Nguyen**, BSE, married Lan Le on June 24, 2006. The couple resides in Colorado Springs, Colo., where Dien is a research engineer at NAVSYS Corporation.

2003

**Jennifer O'Neal Tribble**, BSE, and her husband, David, announce the birth of their daughter, Reagan Meredith, on June 29, 2006.

2004

**Megan Amelia Rice Pierce**, BS, married Blake Pierce at Quail's Landing in Ashburn on April 1, 2006. The couple resides in Augusta.

**Jonathan A. Strunk**, BSE, married Melissa Newton on April 8, 2006, in St. Marys. The couple resides in Bonaire. Jonathan is a mechanical engineer at MERC and Melissa is a student at Mercer.

2005

**Amanda Rose Sloan Young**, BA, married **Nathan Scott Young**, BSE, on May 6, 2006. The couple resides in Stockbridge. Amanda is an eighth grade teacher at Luella Middle School in Locust Grove, and Nathan is an engineer at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins.

IN SYMPATHY

**Tom Watson Brown Sr.**, 73, of Marietta, died Jan. 13, 2007. An attorney, scholar and writer, he was a Life Trustee at Mercer, as well as longtime chair and benefactor of the Mercer University Press Board of Directors.

**Robert F. Bryan**, 102, of Atlanta, friend of the University and member of the President's Council, died Dec. 16, 2006.

**The Rev. Arvin L. Croy**, 81, of Newton, who attended Mercer, died March 15, 2007.

**Margina G. Dunlap**, 90, of Macon, friend of the University, died June 23, 2006.

**W. Elliott Dunwody III**, of Macon, died May 27, 2006. He was a member of Dunwody/Beeland, Architects, Inc. and supervised the construction of several buildings on the Macon Campus, including the Tarver Library.

**Raymond K. Fiege**, 101, of Atlanta, friend of the University, died June 14, 2006.

**Dorothy C. Griffin**, 82, of Macon, who retired from the Tarver Library after 25 years of service, died Dec. 15, 2006.

**Frank W. Holas**, 77, of Sea Island, died Dec. 7, 2006. He served a term on the Stetson School of Business and Economics Board of Visitors.

**Kitty Holladay**, of Macon, died May 27, 2006. She was a member of The President's Club.

**Leland Jackson Sr.**, 93, of Macon, friend of the University, died Jan. 27, 2007.

**Dr. Franklin W. James**, 83, of Macon, Emeritus Callaway Professor of Chemistry, died June 18, 2006.

**Dr. John Paul Jones**, 91, of Macon, died June 30, 2007. Jones served as a Mercer University Trustee and as a preceptor for the School of Medicine.

**Dr. Daniel E. Nathan**, 90, of Macon, former faculty member and Fort Valley physician, died Feb. 17, 2007.

**Charles M. Reeves Jr.**, 83, of West Point, Ga., friend of the University, died Nov. 18, 2006.

**Walter W. Sessoms**, 72, of Atlanta, friend of the University and National Engineering Advisory Board fellow, died July 2, 2006.

**Roy L. Smith**, 91, of Brunswick, friend of the University, died Aug. 16, 2006.

**Albert J. "Duck" Swann Jr.**, of Spartanburg, S.C., friend of the University, died Jan. 28, 2007.

**Christine L. Tift**, 89, of Macon, friend of the University, died Jan. 18, 2007.

1928

**Linton B. Renfroe**, AB, 99, of Naugatuck, Conn., died Nov. 15, 2006.

1930

**Brigadier Gen. Robert L. Scott Jr.**, 97, of Warner Robins, died Feb. 27, 2006.

1932

**Eva Dell White**, 93, of Pearson, died March 10, 2006.

1934

**John T. Pellew**, 94, of Macon, died Dec. 26, 2006.

1937

**The Hon. John Sammons Bell**, BA, 92, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., died Dec. 8, 2006.

**Kenneth R. Harris**, BA, 93, of Inverness, Fla., died Feb. 5, 2007.

**Louise Wilson Marsh**, AB, 91, of Plymouth, N.C., died Feb. 9, 2007.

2006 President's  
Club Sponsors

Mark and Cathy Adams, Kennesaw; Randy and Anne Aderhold, Macon; Dayne and Nancy Aldridge, Macon; Jon and Virginia Appleton, Athens; Alan and Diane Baca, Lizella; Allen and Gail Baldree, Vero Beach, Fla.; Russ and Carolyn Barber, Macon; Chip and Margaret Barron, Newnan; Don and Janet Beaty, Macon; Griffin and Nancy Bell, Americus; Everett and Teresa Bennett, Suwanee; George and Jeannine Berry, Forsyth; Warren and Nancy Berry, Atlanta; Mary Arnold Binns, Atlanta; Thomas and Darla Bishop, Cartersville; Tom and Doris Black, Columbus; John and Linda Blanchard, Fayetteville; Tommy and Beth Ann Boland; Alpharetta; Fred and Aileen Borrish, Douglasville; Pougie and Lois Bowen, Macon; Emmett and Sarah Bowers, Albany; Larry and Gini Braden, Powder Springs; Tom Watson Brown (deceased), Marietta; Jim and Ann Bruner, Macon; Judy Burge, Atlanta; Lee Burge, Atlanta; Marshall and Jane Butler, Forsyth; Jim and Debbie Calhoun, Macon; Mary Jane Cardwell and Eddie Wheeler, Waycross; Barbara Carlton, Wachula, Fla.; Carlton Carter, Tampa, Fla.; Truett and Jeannette Cathy, Hampton; Tom and LuLu Cauthorn, Marietta; John Cole and Mary Donovan, Macon; John and Lynn Collier, Macon; Donald and Nancy Brown Cornett, Macon; Wilma Cospier, Cullowhee, N.C.; Jim and Linda Cowart,

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and Pam Simpson, Macon; Carl and Regina Joiner, Macon; David and Debbie Jones, Jonesboro; Frank and Annie Jones, Macon; Cheryl Kasper, Norcross; Charley and Arlene Keaton, Marietta; Spencer and Gail King, Atlanta; Melvin Kruger, Macon; David Linch and Nancy Grace, Atlanta; Bob Lipman, Atlanta; John and Nancy Luther, Vero Beach, Fla.; Tommy and Debbie Malone, Atlanta; Raleigh and Gail Mann, Macon; Carl and Donna Martray, Macon; Charles and Carolyn Massey, Tifton; Ted and Marlene Matthews, Fayetteville; Carolyn McAfee, Seabrook Island, S.C.; Tom and Julie McAfee, Seabrook Island, S.C.; Virgle and Miriam McEver, Bonaire; Whitney McMath, Macon; Pauline Miles, Macon; Richard and Cathy Mooney, Thomasville; Eli and Phyllis Morgan, Forsyth; Cindy Morris and Chris Patterson, Dalton; Tony and Nancy Moye, McDonough; Emily P. Myers, Macon; Bill and Kitty Neace, Lizella; Ralph and Harriet Newton, Macon; C.B. Harman Nicholson, Atlanta; Mufid and Aida Othman, Macon; Allan and Debbie Pitchford, Macon; Dick Plunkett, Carrollton; Shirley Plunkett, Bowdon; Bobby and Carol Pope, Macon; Warren and Carol Power, McDonough; Jimmy and Sherrill Ragans, Tallahassee, Fla.; Charles and Frances Reeves, West Point; Albert and Chunk Reichert, Macon; Charles and Frances Roberts, Los Gatos, Calif.; Bill and Judy Roberts, Fayetteville; Bob Rush and Peggy DuBose, Macon; Ferrol and Helen Sams, Fayetteville; James and Deen Day Sanders, Duluth; Harold and Evelyn Sangster, Vienna; Dicky and Kay Saunders, Columbus; Sandy and Pam Saunders,



Among the officers of The President's Club for 2006-2007 are: officers-at-large **Kathy C. Lynn**, M.D., '90; **J. Thomas McAfee III**, '00; **William A. Moye**, '73; and President **Stephanie Godsey Shepherd**, '02. Officers not pictured are officers-at-large Teresa Bennett and M. Diane Owens, '77.

Stone Mountain; George and Stephanie Shepherd, Huntington Beach, Calif.; Chris Sheridan, Macon; John and Sharon Sherrer, Marietta; Bill and Bess Shirley, Macon; Betty Sweet Simmons, Macon; Suthern and Mary Sims, Macon; Doug and Jane Skelton, Savannah; Chuck and Sheryl Sloane, Atlanta; Martha Small, Baton Rouge, La.; Claude and Linda Smith, Blowing Rock, N.C.; Roy\* and Eugenia Smith, Brunswick; Bill and Ruth Solomon, Macon; Bob and Lu Steed, Atlanta; Bill and Monika Stripling, Norcross; Richard and Dorothy Swindle,

Lilburn; Billy and Anne Thomas, Griffin; Charles and Helen Tuck, Dalton; J. T. and Shirley Turner, Savannah; Jack and Wyleen Turner, Dalton; Wesley and Jane Turton, Cordele; Bill and Lesli Underwood, Macon; Jerry Vanderhoef, Tuscumbia, Ala.; Angel and Elaine Vazquez, Macon; Carroll and Marianna Walker, Macon; Howell and Valerie Watkins, Miami, Fla.; Preston and Sara Williams, Montezuma; Sidney and Nancy Williams, Houston, Texas; Sarah Withers, McDonough; Bruce and Dot Yandle, Clemson, S.C.; Charlie and Mary Jean Yates, Macon.



**Jack A. Morris**, 90, of Hilton Head, S.C., died Nov. 13, 2006.

**1938**

**Elizabeth Dean Drinkard**, BA, 89, of Woodstock, died July 4, 2006.

**Lillian Kirtland Isaacs**, AB, 88, of Tallahassee, Fla., died March 2, 2007.

**Emily Head Nutting**, 89, of Boynton Beach, Fla., died Aug. 31, 2006.

**Harriet Pittman**, of Atlanta, died Jan. 22, 2007.

**Mary McKee Shelton**, AB, 88, of Mt. Airy, N.C., died Aug. 24, 2006.

**William F. Walker Jr.**, 91, of Perry, died March 5, 2006.

**1939**

**Dr. David L. Hearin**, AB, 88, of Alpharetta, died July 19, 2006.

**George W. Stovall**, 90, of Douglas, died Jan. 26, 2007.

**1940**

**Dr. Maurice F. Arnold**, AB, 89, of Hawkinsville, died Oct. 16, 2006.

**Galata Hartley**, 87, of Macon, died July 16, 2006.

**T. Kenyon Sellers**, 91, of Albany, died Jan. 17, 2007.

**1941**

**Dr. I. B. Hall**, AB, 86, of Roswell, died May 22, 2006.

**1942**

**Lt. Col. Rodney H. Blaylock Sr.**, AB, 85, of Albany, died Sept. 20, 2006.

**Dr. Helen Johnson Castelli**, AB, of Harrisburg, Pa., died Jan. 22, 2007.

**Dr. Marvin L. Davis**, BS, 84, of Atlanta, died June 30, 2006.

**Samuel C. Jordan Sr.**, AB, 85, of Louisville, Ky., died March 30, 2006.

**Dorothy Williams Leven**, AB, 86, of Macon, died Nov. 24, 2006.

**Henry Warnock**, AB, of Macon, died July 8. Warnock taught history at Mercer for some 40 years. He also served as chair of the History Department.

**Frank C. Wary**, 90, of Brookfield, Ohio, died March 17, 2006.

**1943**

**The Rev. Robert W. Greene**, AB, 85, of Redlands, Calif., died Aug. 11, 2006.

**Dr. Betty Caldwell Hamil**, AB, of Palmetto, died Aug. 22, 2006.

**Dr. Peter O. Holliday Jr.**, 85, of Macon, died Jan. 20, 2007.

**1944**

**Betty Jo Smith Booth Franklin**, AB, of Madison, died Aug. 5, 2006.

**Dr. Charles E. Mixon Jr.**, AB, 81, of Thomaston, died Jan. 5, 2006.

**1945**

**Janice Sams Cole**, 82, of Newnan, died March 31, 2006.

**Dr. Clyde Smith**, BS, 81, of Kailua, Hawaii, died Jan. 8, 2006.

**Arthur D. Woody**, AB, 81, of Suches, died Feb. 28, 2007.

**1946**

**Dr. Larry A. Schwartz**, BS, 81, of Macon, died Dec. 1, 2006.

**1947**

**Fred Beverly**, AB, M.Ed. '50, 84, of Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 18, 2006.

**Alice Justice Patterson**, BS, 87, of Macon, died Aug. 28, 2006.

**The Rev. Robert P. Thompson**, AB, 83, of Daleville, Va., died March 7, 2007.

**1948**

**David D. Johnson**, AB, 86, of Tallahassee, Fla., died July 16, 2006.

**Celeste Champion Massey**, AB, 79, of Chamblee, died Dec. 15, 2006.

**The Rev. Woodrow W. Richardson Sr.**, AB, 93, of Orangeburg, S.C., died Jan. 1, 2007.

**David W. Thornton**, AB, 84, of Macon, died Nov. 8, 2006.

**Justus T. Trimble Jr.**, AB, 82, of Macon, died Sept. 24, 2006.

**1949**

**Ernestine P. Floyd**, AB, 77, of Danielsville, died Feb. 26, 2006.

**Dr. Charles F. Pearson**, 94, of Nashville, Tenn., died Oct. 1, 2006.

**The Rev. Emmett N. Swinney Jr.**, AB, 81, of Macon, died July 21, 2006.

**Thomas F. Worsham**, M.Ed., 84, of Jeffersonville, died Feb. 11, 2007.

**1950**

**Charles Drill Jr.**, AB, 80, of Phenix City, Ala., died Sept. 27, 2006.

**Berry L. Griffin Jr.**, 80, of Augusta, died June 14, 2006.

**Dr. H. Finn Groover**, AB, 79, of Tallahassee, Fla., died Feb. 25, 2007.

**Dr. Neal H. Newson**, AB, 76, of Atlanta, died Aug. 27, 2006.

**1951**

**Phil H. Crawford**, M.Ed., 91, of Due West, S.C., died Nov. 7, 2006.

**John J. McCreary Jr.**, AB, 78, of Macon, died Oct. 32, 2006.

**Sara Carstarphen Sutherland**, AB, M.Ed. '52, 75, of Macon, died Dec. 6, 2006.

**1952**

**Ruth Garrett Coffey**, AB, 76, of Franklin, Tenn., died Jan. 5, 2007.

**Robert M. Jones**, AB, 77, of Macon, died June 7, 2006.

**The Rev. Joseph J. Morrow**, 89, of Cordele, died June 30, 2006.

**Gordon L. Parks**, AB, 85, of Reynolds, died Dec. 14, 2006.

**The Rev. Harold R. Rickert**, AB, 82, of Sylvania, died April 3, 2006.

**1953**

**Jack H. Mitchell**, AB, of Yatesville, died May 8, 2006.

**Virgil “Wink” Harris**, 76, of Winder, died May 2. He was married to 1944 Tift graduate, **Mary Jane Williams**, who preceded him in death. His longtime support of Tift College earned him the designation of “Mr. Tift.”

**1954**

**John A. Buchanan**, AB, 76, of Macon, died July 17, 2006.

**Patricia Woodward Nason**, AB, 73, of Wesley Chapel, Fla., died March 24, 2006.

**Belle Smith Pettigrew**, BS, 92, of Jackson, died Aug. 1, 2006.

**1955**

**Dr. Nell Powers Braswell**, AB, 73, of Rock Hill, S.C., died Nov. 6, 2006.

**Elaine Davis Hughes**, AB, 73, of Anderson, S.C. died Dec. 18, 2006.

**The Rev. William E. Nash**, AB, 73, of Athens, died June 4, 2006.

**1956**

**Daniel R. Cline**, AB, 73, of Atlanta, died Oct. 9, 2006.

**Russell R. Hanson**, AB, 71, of Macon, died Aug. 1, 2006.

**Carlyle A. Irby Jr.**, AB, M.Ed. '60, 75, of Valdosta, died June 16, 2006.

**Elizabeth Drinnon Lewis**, M.Ed., 84, of Jonesboro, died Dec. 27, 2006.

**The Rev. Robert D. Moseley**, AB, of Hephzibah, died May 29, 2006.

**The Rev. J. Neal Tolson**, AB, 71, of Fort Worth, Texas, died July 27, 2006.

**1957**

**C. Johnson Comer Jr.**, AB, 72, of Macon, died Dec. 5, 2006.

**Morris C. Johnson**, M.Ed., 73, of Griffin, died Jan. 12, 2006.

**Noel Doster Moore**, AB, of Rocky Mount, N.C., died Dec. 28, 2006.

**The Rev. Daniel M. Munn**, of Augusta, died June 29, 2006.

**1958**

**Algy Carbonell Edwards**, AB, 71, of Macon died Nov. 12, 2006.

**Barbara Cox Hammonds**, 69, of Concord, N.C., died March 8, 2006.

**George F. Thomson Jr.**, AB, 74, of Dawsonville, died Oct. 6, 2006.

**1959**

**Dr. Mikell B. Karsten**, AB, 73, of Tryon, N.C., died Nov. 13, 2006.

**1960**

**Johnnie Ruth Greene Hedden**, AB, 68, of Decatur, died Oct. 16, 2006.

**1961**

**Burma Lasseter Lockridge**, AB, 80, of Roswell, died Jan. 20, 2007.

**1962**

**Sandra Jeane Burnett**, AB, 65, of Clarkesville, died Aug. 31, 2006.

**L. Preston Gilmore**, 65, of Savannah, died Aug. 8, 2006.

**Frances Dugger Johnson**, AB, 64, of Baxley, died June 1, 2006.

**1963**

**Benjamin F. Sikes**, M.Ed., 74, of Cobbtown, died Nov. 14, 2006.

**1964**

**Virginia Saunders Dougherty**, AB, M.Ed., 71, of Macon, died Feb. 11, 2007.

**1966**

**Dr. Albert L. Cardwell**, 82, of Macon, died Oct. 7, 2006.

**1968**

**Nell Bridges Gillespie**, BSEE, 93, of Macon, died Oct. 24, 2006.

**Fred D. White**, BA, 62, of Douglasville, died Dec. 3, 2006.

**1970**

**Robert W. Ford**, BA, 58, of Bixby, Okla., died Dec. 11, 2006.

**1971**

**Marvin E. Reed**, 98, of Bainbridge, died Dec. 12, 2006.

**Johnnie Graham Stern**, BA, 84, of Dallas, Ga., died Dec. 7, 2006.

**1972**

**John M. Newberry**, BA, of Lizella, died Sept. 8, 2006.

**Marion H. Poythress**, BS, 68, of Macon, died Sept. 14, 2006.

**1973**

**Deborah Sandison Gaulding**, BA, 54, of Macon, died Oct. 10, 2006.

**1974**

**Dr. Michael T. Rainwater**, BS, 54, of Peachtree City, died Dec. 23, 2006.

**1977**

**Dr. David G. Hooker**, BS, 50, of Evans, died June 26, 2006.

**Caswell Scott Turner**, BA, 52, of Jacksonville, Fla., died Jan. 31, 2007.

**1978**

**Sara Jane Frazier**, BA, of Atlanta, died May 29, 2006.

**Sarah McLeroy Harrison**, BS, 51, of Doraville, died July 6, 2006.

**1979**

**Susan Jackson Moore**, BA, 49, of Byron, died Nov. 25, 2006.

**1980**

**Frankie Lee Barrow**, BBA, 52, of Macon, died Oct. 8, 2006.

**James W. Dominy Jr.**, BA, 48, of Macon died July 23, 2006.

**1981**

**Jewell Hall Ray Penland**, MLS, of Macon, died Feb. 9, 2007.

**Donald E. Woodin Jr.**, MLS, 66, of Belmont, N.C., died Jan. 21, 2006.

**1982**

**Edwina Johnston Bush**, BA, MLS '87, 89, of Macon, died Jan. 21, 2007.

**1987**

**P. Davis Robbins Jr.**, BA, 50, of Ocoee, Fla., died May 31, 2006.

**1992**

**Thomas R. Speir**, BS, 64, of Atlanta, died April 24, 2006.

**2000**

**Jason D. Dugger**, M.Div., BA '95, 33, of Centerville, died July 7, 2006.

**2002**

**Kari K. Cofield**, BSSS, 29, of Macon, died Feb. 6, 2007.

**2003**

**Sarah Elizabeth Lambert**, MSHA, 29, of Palmetto, died Aug. 14, 2006.

**2006**

**Matthew B. Reddy**, BS, 22, of Macon, died March 9, 2007.

## Physician Assistant Program

— Continued from page 3

a master of education degree from Northern Illinois University, a master of physiology degree from Ball State University and a master of medical science degree from Emory University.

Laura Baumgarten, LPN, is the program specialist. Baumgarten most recently worked for the North Georgia United Methodist Foundation in its marketing department and financial department and was an LPN with Pru Care.

A clinical coordinator faculty

member joined the PA faculty in June.

In addition to the graduate program, the University will have a bachelor's degree pre-physician assistant program on the Macon campus, home to Mercer's traditional undergraduate schools and colleges. Undergraduate students successfully completing a minimum of 90 hours of pre-requisite coursework in the program, including all College of Liberal Arts general education requirements and the designated number of hours of direct patient care experience, will be considered for admission into the highly-competitive master's program in Atlanta.

## Plaza Named for Longtime Benefactors of Engineering School —

*Pausing for a photograph in the newly dedicated LaTorre Family Plaza on April 25 were, l to r, President **William D. Underwood**, Dean **M. Dayne Aldridge**, **Donald LaTorre**, former National Engineering Advisory Board Chair, and **Dan Nale**, his successor as chair. The plaza connects the School of Engineering building with the recently completed Science and Engineering Building, which houses high-tech classrooms, research laboratories and offices for engineering and physics.*

*LaTorre, the longest-serving chairman of NEAB, led the board for 12 years and has been a major financial supporter of the School and its mission to educate engineers.*

*LaTorre and his wife, Gloria, who are Life Members of The President's Club, established the LaTorre Family Endowed Scholarship for students in the School of Engineering in 2000. They made a gift in 2006 in support of the new Science and Engineering Building, which resulted in the naming of the LaTorre Family Plaza. LaTorre retired as president and chief operating officer for Engelhard Corp., a multi-billion dollar specialty catalyst and materials company, before becoming president of L&G Management Consultants, Inc., in Holmes Beach, Fla.*





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President's initiative among new  
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Story on page 2.