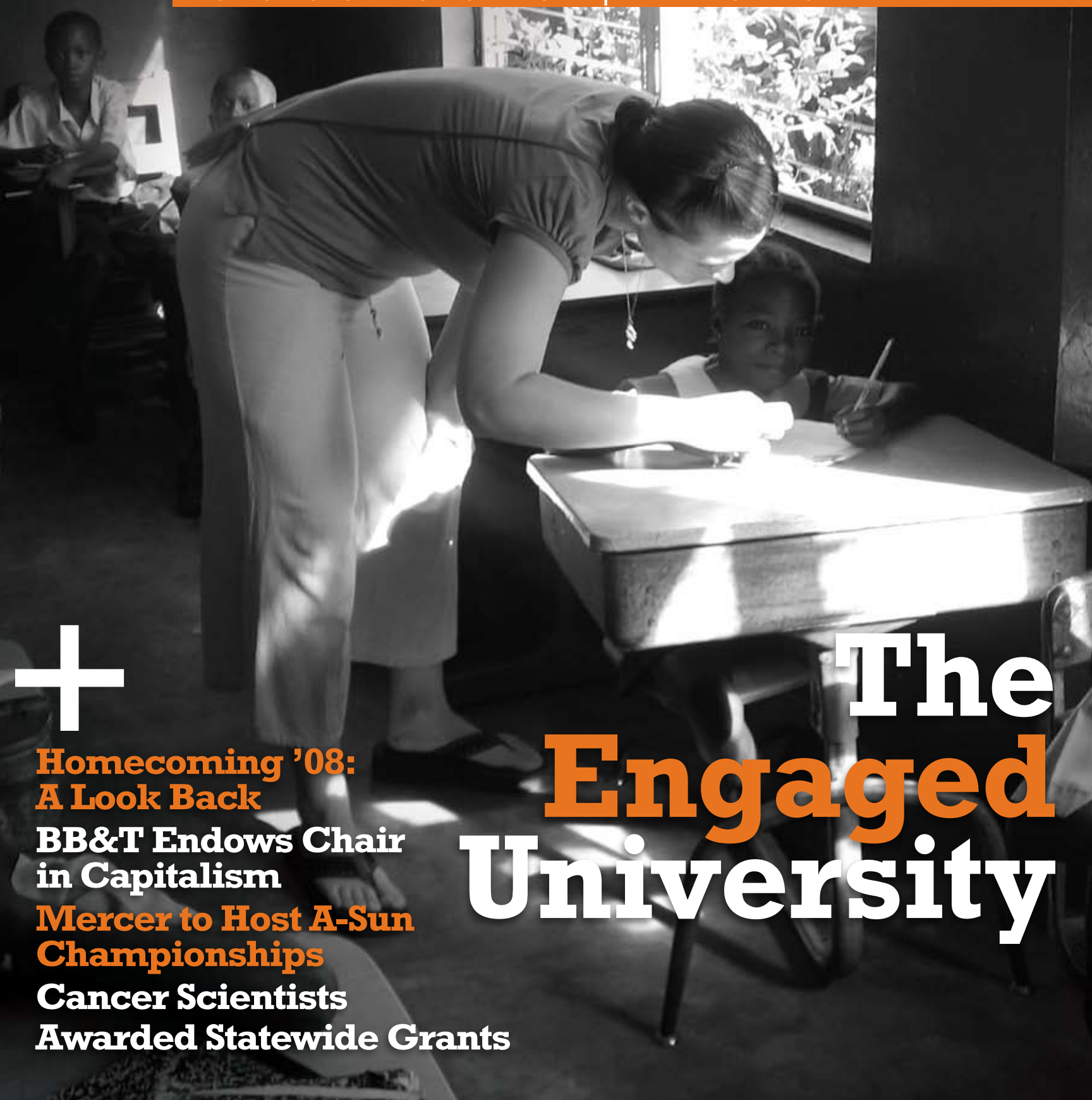


THE

SPRING 2009

# Mercerian

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**Homecoming '08:  
A Look Back**

**BB&T Endows Chair  
in Capitalism**

**Mercer to Host A-Sun  
Championships**

**Cancer Scientists  
Awarded Statewide Grants**

# The Engaged University

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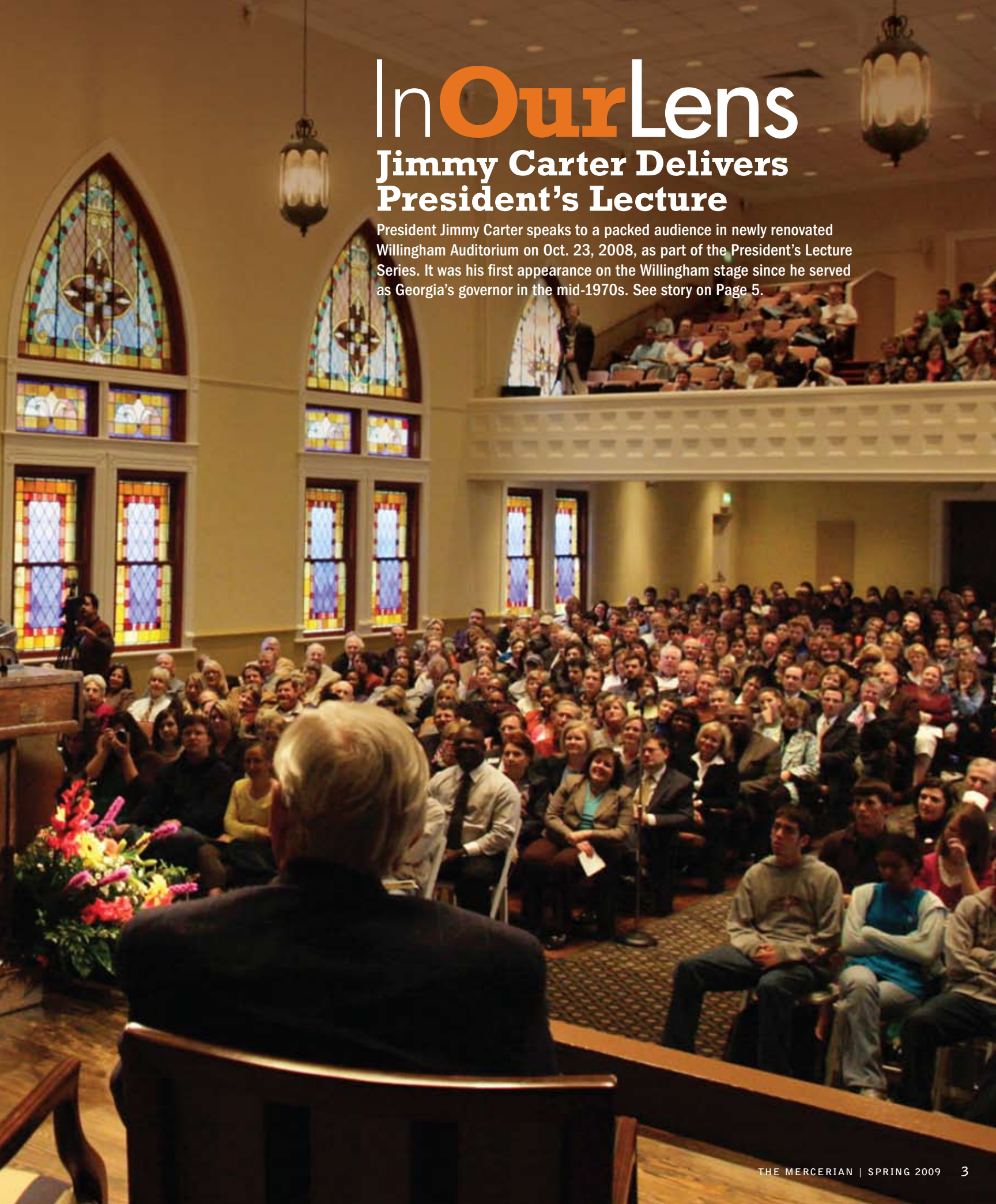
ON THE COVER: Hannah McAnespie, a graduate student in the Tift College of Education, tutors a kindergarten student at the Ricks Institute in Liberia last summer as part of a Mercer On Mission program. McAnespie will return to Liberia this summer with a Mercer On Mission team that will once again be working at the Ricks Institute, which is headed by Mercer alumnus Olu Menjay CLA '95.



# In Our Lens

## Jimmy Carter Delivers President's Lecture

President Jimmy Carter speaks to a packed audience in newly renovated Willingham Auditorium on Oct. 23, 2008, as part of the President's Lecture Series. It was his first appearance on the Willingham stage since he served as Georgia's governor in the mid-1970s. See story on Page 5.



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# Engaged Learning is **Transformational Learning**

Dr. Ha Van Vo is an assistant professor in Mercer's Biomedical Engineering Department. Through his research, Dr. Vo has designed an innovative universal socket — a technology that he and his biomedical engineering students thought could be applied to manufacture cost-effective prosthetics for amputees in developing countries.

This summer, a group of students led by Dr. Vo will begin distributing prosthetics constructed with the new universal socket technology in Vietnam — a country where more than 2,000 people are maimed each year by land mines and unexploded bombs left over from the Vietnam War. Dr. Vo's research has resulted in a new technology that his students have applied in a way that will improve the lives of people living throughout the developing world, where more than 80 percent of the planet's 18 million amputees live.

This is engaged learning. It is faculty engaged in cutting-edge research while engaging their students in that research. It is students examining a problem facing our world in the 21st century and then using what they have learned to do something about that problem. This is what it means to love God with our minds. It is faculty and students using the precious gift of the human mind to care for what God cares about most — our fellow human beings. This is transformational learning.

It is this kind of learning environment that characterizes a Mercer education — that distinguishes Mercer most in the world of higher education. Whether it is biomedical engineering students developing cost-effective prosthetics for the developing world, or First-Year Seminar students working to stop the ongoing tragedy of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, or Law and Public Service Program students advocating for the wrongly imprisoned, it is Mercer students using what they are learning to improve the world around them.

I hope you will take the time to read the series on engaged learning in this edition of *The Mercerian*. It will inspire you and give you a glimpse into the type of education that is empowering and motivating our students to make a difference in the world. It is a Mercer hallmark.

— Bill Underwood



**William D. Underwood**  
President



# Jimmy Carter Calls on New Administration to Re-emphasize Human Rights

**P**resident Jimmy Carter spoke at the second annual Mercer President's Lecture Series on Oct. 23, returning to Willingham Auditorium's stage for the first time since he served as Georgia governor more than 30 years ago.

Carter, the 39th president of the United States, spoke from the pages of his best-selling book, *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*. He chose one endangered value in particular — human rights — saying that there has been a deviation “from what Christ

taught and what our national policies have

President Jimmy Carter

become.” Recounting a question posed to him by a reporter from *The Guardian* newspaper in England, Carter said he was asked what the next president could do in his first 100 days in office to restore the standing of the United States abroad. Carter responded to the reporter that the next president could restore America's standing in just 10 minutes.

Carter said the next president should declare: “While I am president, there will never be another person tortured. The

United States will regain its position as the preeminent champion of human rights. We will abandon our policy of preemptive war. We will never attack another nation again unless our own security is threatened.

That's been our policy since George Washington — until six years ago.

“America will be at the forefront of combating global warming and will lead in meeting all challenges to the world's environment. Our tax policy will be designed to help the poor and working families, and not the few richest Americans. We will

restore our recent rejection of every nuclear arms control agree-

ment that has been negotiated since the time of Dwight Eisenhower. At this time, all those are in the waste can. And we will reduce our nuclear arsenal to zero. We will rebuild the Jeffersonian wall between church and state,” Carter said, drawing a round of applause from the crowd of nearly 1,000 gathered in Willingham Auditorium.

Pointing to his upbringing in the rural segregated South and his time as president, when he pushed human rights to the forefront of his

political agenda, Carter said that America still has a lot to do when it comes to human rights, but that the struggle has seen

setbacks both at home and abroad since 9/11.

“America didn't invent human rights, human rights invented America,” Carter said.

“These have been some extremely critical remarks, but I'm speaking as a former president of one of the world's great democracies, to show that all of us need to exert or renew our efforts to ensure that in the future we Americans will be able to celebrate and not apologize for our compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” Carter said. “Beginning in January we need to set an unblemished example for the rest of the world to follow.”

After his prepared remarks, Carter entertained questions from students, faculty and staff for more than half an hour and then signed copies of his books in Newton Chapel for another hour.

**“America didn't invent human rights, human rights invented America.”**

## Fall Enrollment Climbs to Highest Level in University History

Mercer's enrollment jumped to its highest level in the history of the University last fall. The University enrolled a total of 7,573 students through the 15th class day of the fall semester, shattering the previous record fall enrollment record of 7,308 that was set in the fall of 2007. With the second fall session at Mercer's Regional

Academic Centers added to the 15th class day figure, the overall enrollment this past fall reached a record 7,622.

Freshman enrollment in the Macon undergraduate program was also strong, with 599 entering freshmen on the Macon campus recording 25th/75th percentile SAT scores of 1080/1290,

the highest in the University's history. It also was the largest freshman class since 2005.

“This is a very significant and healthy enrollment increase for the University,” said President William D. Underwood. “It reflects the high demand that exists for the exceptional quality of education available at Mercer.”

# New CCPS, Engineering Deans Appointed

School of Medicine also announces new dean in March. See page 15.

**T**he University has filled two key deanships with veteran educators.

Mercer psychology professor Dr. Priscilla Danheiser was appointed dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies last December after serving as interim dean of the College since last July, and Dr. Wade Shaw, professor of engineering systems at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla., and editor-in-chief of *IEEE Engineering Management Review*, will become dean of Mercer's School of Engineering on July 1.

Dr. Danheiser's official appointment followed an eight-month-long national search. "The search committee, after interviewing candidates



Dr. Priscilla Danheiser

from across the country, was unanimous in its recommendation of Dr. Danheiser," said Provost Wallace L. Daniel. "Energetic, experienced, and imaginative, Dr. Danheiser has already shown exceptional ability in working with faculty

members, staff and students in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies."

Dr. Danheiser has spent her entire academic career at two Macon private institutions: Mercer and Wesleyan College. In 2001, she joined Mercer as director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and oversaw the Academic Resource Center, the Learning Technologies Center and Academic Computing. Since then, she served as interim vice president for student life and associate provost, associate dean for new program development in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies and interim dean of the College.

"It is an honor to be asked to serve the University in this new leadership role," Dr. Danheiser said. "I hope to advance the president's strategic vision for the University and to fulfill the College's mission of offering academic programs

and lifelong learning opportunities for adults who seek leadership roles in their communities and beyond, professional transition and advancement, and lives that have meaning and purpose."

She earned an undergraduate degree in English and psychology and a master's degree and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Georgia and has completed the Management Development Program at Harvard University. Dr. Danheiser has been honored as a Georgia Governor's Teaching Fellow and has received numerous awards and recognitions from various academic honor societies. She is a frequent speaker and presenter at national conferences focused on excellence and innovation in higher education.

Dr. Danheiser succeeds Dr. Thomas E. Kail, who returned to full-time teaching last year after serving as dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies since it was established in 2003.

Over his nearly 20-year career at Florida Tech, Dr. Shaw has served as associate dean of engineering, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence and program chair of engineering management and technology management. A registered professional engineer, his other professional activities include service as president of the IEEE Engineering Management Society and associate editor of *IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing*. He has been a consultant to numerous companies and military branches, including Boeing Aerospace, Rockwell International, Piper Aircraft Corp., the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.

"Dr. Shaw expresses, both in his vision for the School of Engineering and in his academic

service, a strong commitment to Mercer's mission and to the University's 10-year strategic plan. He is a dedicated scholar and teacher, who will, I am convinced, provide able leadership to a school whose importance extends much beyond our own University community," Dr. Daniel said.

"Dr. Shaw is extremely skilled at building relationships with other constituencies, within and outside the university, and he has the mind of a servant-leader and the spirit of an entrepreneur."

"I am honored to serve as dean of the School of Engineering. It has been my pleasure to meet so many dedicated educators within the Mercer community and I look forward to joining the team to help carry on and strengthen the traditions that have served the university so well," Dr. Shaw said. "The School will continue to focus on outstanding research, teaching and service to prepare our graduates for a lifetime of professional practice. I am truly excited to join a university that holds such a high, forward-looking commitment to scholarship, student engagement and community service."

He will succeed Dr. Michael Leonard, who has served as interim dean of engineering since Dr. M. Dayne Aldridge retired as dean last summer following a nine-year tenure in the position.



Dr. Wade Shaw

## Remembering the Titan

William "Bill" Yoast, '49, who was chronicled in the movie, "Remember the Titans," earned a standing ovation following his speech to more than 1,000 students, faculty and staff who gathered on Feb. 11 for the Mercer Founders' Day celebration in Willingham Auditorium.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO



# Archives Celebrate Commitment to Baptist History

**A**fter more than two years of preparations and the delivery of 17 semi-tractor trailer loads of books, periodicals and artifacts, the American Baptist Historical Society celebrated the relocation of its vast archives to Mercer's Atlanta campus at a "Dedication and Grand Re-Opening Celebration" on Sept. 27. The archives, which house the world's largest collection of Baptist historical material, fill several basketball court-sized rooms and miles of shelving.

The collection includes such notable items as an original copy of the 1644 London Confession, books printed by Benjamin Franklin and personal belongings of noted Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson.

The Society spent thousands of hours moving into the new space, located on the ground floor of Mercer's Atlanta Administration and Conference Center. The Archives Center and American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library occupy more than 25,000 square feet of space on the ground floor, with the group's administrative offices located on the fourth floor.

The space is the fifth home for the Society in its 155-year history. Prior to moving the archive, the collection was split between two locations, 350 miles apart in New York and Pennsylvania.

Mercer was established by Georgia Baptists and maintains its heritage as a faith-based university committed to the Baptist principles



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Participating in the Sept. 27 ribbon cutting for the new American Baptist Historical Society archives on Mercer's Atlanta campus were, left to right: Dr. Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven, ABHS executive director; Lester Garner, former member of the ABHS board of managers; Allen Abbott, representative of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board; Wesley Roberts, vice president of the ABHS Board of Managers; Ruth Clark, vice president of the American Baptist Board of International Ministries; Dr. Richard Swindle, Mercer's senior vice president for university advancement; Roy Medley, general secretary for American Baptist Churches USA; Trinette McCray, president of the ABHS board of managers; Aidsand Wright-Riggins, executive director, American Baptist Board of National Ministries; and Mercer President William D. Underwood.

of religious liberty, intellectual freedom and respect for religious diversity. The University, under the leadership of President William D. Underwood, has committed itself to becoming a leading center for Baptist scholarship. Housing

the largest Baptist archives in the world, and a treasure trove of U.S. and international Baptist history, was one of the first steps undertaken by the University toward that goal, announced just over two months into Underwood's presidency.

## Patterson Returns as Vice President for University Development

**J**ohn A. Patterson returned to Mercer in October as vice president for University development after a 12-year tenure as senior vice president for development at Oklahoma Baptist University. Patterson is no stranger to Mercer, having served as executive director of development until 1996, when he was named vice president at OBU, his alma mater.

Patterson reports to Dr. Richard V. Swindle, senior vice president for University advancement, and is responsible for management of the departments of development, advancement records, donor and foundation relations, development communications, and planned and estate gifts. Based in Macon, Patterson is also active in major gift fundraising and supervises The Grand Opera House, a performing arts center operated by the University.

"We are very pleased that John Patterson has returned to Mercer. He brings extensive experi-



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

John Patterson

ence as the senior development officer at an outstanding institution, and he brings a proven record of success as a fund-raiser," Dr. Swindle said. "I worked closely with John when he was previously at Mercer, and I learned that he is a person of integrity, intelligence and competence. He has a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for Mercer."

As OBU's chief advancement officer, Patterson oversaw major gifts programs, the annual fund, capital campaigns, foundation/corporation and special gifts, the Bison Athletic Association, Friends of the Arts, Shawnee Advisory Board and the National Board of Development, as well as alumni and development records, special events and development communica-

tions. Patterson was responsible for the University's \$25 million Foundation for the Future capital campaign, which concluded with more than \$31 million in gifts and pledges. In OBU's most recent fiscal year, the institution raised a record \$9.2 million.

"It is a privilege to rejoin the Mercer staff," Patterson said. "I look forward to working with President Underwood, Richard Swindle and the entire advancement staff as Mercer seeks to achieve the goals set forth in the University's recently adopted 10-year plan. The opportunity to be part of a bold venture will be both challenging and fulfilling."

Patterson is active in numerous professional organizations and was appointed by Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry as chair of the State Board on Legislative Compensation. He graduated from OBU in 1988 with a degree in journalism.

# National Summit Calls on Faithful to Help End Torture

**T**he movement to raise public awareness about the impact torture has on the nation's soul is in "all of our hands," Dr. David Gushee told attendees at the conclusion of the inaugural National Summit on Torture at Mercer's Atlanta campus in September.



Distinguished University  
Professor of Christian  
Ethics David Gushee

ber. "It comes down to us," Dr. Gushee said.

Dr. Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer, organized the two-day meeting, titled "Religious Faith, Torture, and Our National Soul." The event was co-sponsored by Evangelicals for Human Rights, Mercer and 13 other organizations represented by three major faith groups.

The two-day conference focused on ways to confront the use of torture by the United States and end it. More than 250 people from around the country came to the Cecil B. Day Campus to participate in the sessions.

The results of a poll of Southern

white evangelicals' views on torture were also released at the conference. Commissioned by Faith in Public Life and Mercer and conducted by Public Religion Research, the poll showed that while evangelicals are more likely to hold a more extreme view than the general public, the results also showed that when reminded of the teachings of Jesus, in particular the Golden Rule, their views can be changed.

Among other findings of the poll: close to six in 10 white evangelicals in the South say that torture can be often (20 percent) or sometimes (37 percent) justified in order to gain important information. This compares to roughly half (48 percent) of the general public who believe that torture can be justified, according to a recent Pew Research Center poll (February 2008).

"It really does come down to the national soul," Dr. Gushee said. "If you do not have the people who want this, it doesn't succeed. It comes down to us, who we are and who our leadership is."

## BB&T Endows Chair in Capitalism, Center for Undergraduate Research

**B**B&T Corp. has pledged \$1 million to Mercer's Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics to establish a BB&T Distinguished Professorship of Capitalism and the Center for Undergraduate Research in Public Policy and Capitalism and to continue funding the University's Executive Forum Presented by BB&T.

"The University is deeply grateful to John Allison and BB&T for this major commitment to our longstanding and highly regarded business lecture series and to this new academic center

that will involve faculty and undergraduate students in cutting-edge research exploring the moral foundations of capitalism," said President William D. Underwood. "Both of these programs will ensure that Mercer's School of Business and Economics continues to be a leader in business education."

John A. Allison, BB&T chairman, said the contribution is being made in an effort to demonstrate the relationship between morality and capitalism.

Part of the grant will be used for the new BB&T Distinguished Professorship of Capitalism. Dr. Scott Beaulier, chair of the Economics Department and assistant professor of economics, will be the first to hold this appointment. In addition to continuing his research work in free market economics, Dr. Beaulier will teach a public choice course and develop two new courses: a graduate MBA course, titled "The Economic Foundations of Capitalism,"

and an undergraduate course in The Austrian Theory of the Market Process.

Dr. Beaulier will also direct The Center for Undergraduate Research in Public Policy and Capitalism. The new Center will explore the role free societies play in promoting prosperity, including cosponsoring a speaker's series and a blog focused on those issues. The Center will also provide funding for collaborative research grants between faculty and undergraduate students seeking to write in areas related to the moral foundations of capitalism and the role of liberty in economic development, fund students to attend and present papers at academic meetings and support an annual student essay contest exploring a theme related to capitalism and contemporary society.

Now in its 29th year, Mercer's Executive Forum Presented by BB&T is a corporate and community outreach program of the Stetson School of Business and Economics and the Office of University Advancement. The Forum is a resource for working professionals in Macon and Atlanta and provides an opportunity for business and organization leaders to hear from some of the country's most sought-after speakers, while interacting with other business leaders.

## Princeton Review: Mercer Business, Law Schools Among America's Best

The Princeton Review identified Mercer's law and business programs among the nation's best last fall, featuring the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics in its 2009 edition of "Best 296 Business Schools" and the Walter F. George School of Law in its 2009 edition of "Best 174 Law Schools." The business school's Atlanta MBA program also was ranked No. 3 in the nation in the category of "Greatest Opportunity for Women."

The Princeton Review selects schools based on its high regard for their academic programs and offerings, institutional data collected from the schools, and the opinions of students attending the schools.



# Education Utilizing Major Grant for Reading Program

**A** \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education is funding an initiative in the Tift College of Education to increase school readiness among pre-kindergarten children in the Atlanta area. The project, called LIGHT — Literacy Generates Hope for Tomorrow — operates under the umbrella of Smart Start, the early childhood division of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta.

Dr. Karen Michael, associate professor of education, is the project coordinator for Tift under the direction of Associate Dean Dr. Penny Elkins. Dr. Elizabeth Lilly is the director for the LIGHT project, which is one of three Early Reading First grants that United Way's Smart Start has received through the efforts of Sharen Hausmann, vice president of Early Learning, and Katrina Mitchell, senior director of Early Reading First at Smart Start. Five early literacy coaches on the Smart Start ERF team are integral to the success of the LIGHT grant.

Through this collaboration, the Tift College of Education provides ongoing professional development classes to 26 preschool teachers. In addition, the LIGHT team collaborates with Marietta City Schools to assist in the transition to kindergarten that approximately 250 children will make over the three-year grant period. The four preschools served include: Sheltering Arms Cobb Center, Sheltering Arms Mansour Center, Childcare Network No. 33 and Zion Baptist Academy, all located in Marietta.

Early Reading First's initiative ensures that low-income children have the early language and literacy skills that prepare them for continued school success. These grant funds are used to improve the use of instructional materials and teaching strategies through scientifically based reading research.

**"We want every child to be a great reader and writer."**

Research shows that children who master literacy skills before the age of five are more likely to succeed in kindergarten. Eighty-six percent of struggling readers in the fourth grade were also struggling readers when they entered school. Unfortunately, most often, that same population is still struggling to read through middle school and high school. Statistics warn that struggling readers in high school are more likely to drop out of school and commit crimes. This same population is also more likely to experiment with drugs and become teenage parents.

Dr. Michael said, "Early Reading First grants assist young children in receiving a firm knowledge of emergent literacy skills. It is our goal to be proactive and not reactive. We want every child to be a great reader and writer. Tift College of Education is dedicated to the quality of early care and education."

## Trustees Approve Two Ph.D. Programs, Elect New Board Members and Officers

Mercer Trustees, at their annual meeting in December, approved new Ph.D. programs in nursing and curriculum and instruction, welcomed 10 new board members, elected officers for 2009 and recognized an outgoing board member as a Life Trustee.

The new doctoral programs — Mercer's third and fourth — fulfill objectives in the University's recently-adopted 10-year strategic plan to expand Ph.D. offerings.

The Ph.D. in nursing is designed to address a critical shortage of nurse educators in Georgia, which is contributing to a shortage of nurses. According to a recent report issued by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, faculty shortages at nursing schools across the country are limiting student enrollment at a time when the demand for nurses is at its highest level. The program is expected to enroll its first students in fall 2009 at the University's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing in Atlanta.

The curriculum and instruction doctoral program joins an existing Ph.D. program in educational leadership (P-12 school leadership and higher education leadership tracks) — offered through Mercer's Tift College of Education — that currently enrolls more than 100 students. Communities across the nation are experiencing dramatic

shortages of highly qualified educators who have a commitment to lifelong teaching and learning. The Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction will help address this vital need by promoting the exchange of new ideas and possibilities across university, P-12, political and community settings. The first students in the program, which will be offered on both the Macon and Atlanta campuses, are expected to enroll in fall 2009.

Mercer's first Ph.D. program — in pharmaceutical sciences — was launched in 1995.

New Trustees elected to serve five-year terms include James A. Bishop, Sea Island; G. Marshall Butler, Forsyth; Dwight J. Davis, Atlanta; Judge W. Homer Drake Jr., Newnan; William A. Fickling Jr., Macon; David E. Hudson, Augusta; J. Reg Murphy, Sea Island; the Rev. Julie Pennington-Russell, Decatur; and Judge W. Louis Sands, Albany. A.V. Elliott of Macon was elected to serve the unexpired term of the late Milton Ferrell (story page 13).

Judge Drake was unanimously elected to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees for 2009. Atlanta attorney Diane Owens was elected chair of the board's Executive Committee. Other committee chairs for 2009 include: Miriam M. (Mimi) Holland, Educational Policy Committee; Roddy J.H. Clark, University Honors Committee; Cathy Callaway Adams,

Audit Committee; L. Richard Plunkett, Finance, Investment and Property Committee; Richard A. (Doc) Schneider, Development Committee; and W. Anthony (Tony) Moya, Athletics Committee.

Atlanta attorney and Mercer distinguished alumnus Robert L. Steed, whose term on the board expired in December, was unanimously elected a Life Trustee, a designation only conveyed to seven individuals in the University's 176-year history. Steed, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees, has served several terms on Mercer's governing board. He holds undergraduate and law degrees from Mercer and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University in 1979.

Other Trustees who rotated off the board in December include Malcolm S. Burgess Jr., Macon; Mary Jane Cardwell, Waycross; the Rev. James C. Elder Jr., Columbus; James H. Hall III, Virginia Beach, Va.; Robert F. Hatcher, Macon; David E. Linch, Atlanta; Howell L. Watkins II, Miami, Fla.; and H. Al Williams, Macon. Hatcher was recognized at the conclusion of the Trustees' meeting for his service over the past year as chairman of the board.



ROD REILLY PHOTO

**Robert L. Steed**

# Climate Change: A Moral Challenge For All People

**C**limate change is real, and there is mounting evidence to suggest that it is caused by human activities and that it will cause major changes to this planet, scientific presenters at a Mercer conference said. Faith leaders at the conference challenged participants to re-engage themselves, their faiths and their communities to address the moral and ethical implications of climate change. Titled “Caring for Creation: Ethical Responses to Climate Change,” the conference was held Feb. 27-28 on Mercer’s Atlanta Campus as part of a campus-wide ethics program and was presented in conjunction with Harvard Medical School’s Center for Health and the Global Environment.

At the opening session, Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns of the Church of God Theological Seminary noted that humans are feeling profound disconnect from their roots in nature, whether through urbanization, the increasing reliance on science to explain the world or the increase in the amount of technology in their lives. People who wish to confront global climate change have to get through to people who are suffering “enchantment deficit disorder,” she said. Humankind’s divorce from nature and from God’s creation — and the wonderment and enchantment from that creation — is part of the struggle for religious and moral leaders in confronting climate change, Dr. Johns said.

The two-day event included more than 200 students, faculty and staff from the Atlanta campus, as well as a contingent from the Macon campus. Dr. David Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer and one of the event’s organizers, connected the conference around his work with a group of scientists and evangelical leaders examining whether the two groups could “come to a common

mind on issues of climate change.” The Mercer event was the first full-scale event on a college campus highlighting those issues as a part of the scientist-evangelical effort, which began in 2006.

The opening session also included a presentation by Dr. Judith Curry, a professor at Georgia Tech and an expert on climate modeling and climate change, who laid out the mounting evidence of climate change and its human causes. Dr. Howard Frumkin, director of the National Center for Environmental Health, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, also presented on the need for public health planning and response as climate change continues to affect our increasingly urban populations.

The conference broke into sessions focusing on climate change, as well as ways it could be addressed, including public health, greening the campus, lifestyle changes and environmental policy.

“Climate change is an example of a moral issue, where even

paying attention to the well-being of humanity requires some address of this problem,” Dr. Gushee said. “I think we are in a time where we need to re-read sacred scriptures to see the connections, for example, between human beings and other creatures, to see the web of life that was already set up as revealed in the early chapters of Genesis. We need to reinterpret rule as stewardship and care. We need to see the way in which the Bible teaches us the covenant relationship between God and the other creatures and between us and the other creatures.”

Plans are under way to extend the partnership with Harvard Medical School’s Center for Health and the Global Environment, as well as the theme of the conference, to a similar event in Macon, said Dr. Peter Brown, senior vice provost and conference participant.

**“We need to reinterpret rule as stewardship and care.”**



Dr. Howard Frumkin, foreground center, director of the National Center for Environmental Health, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, answers a question during the opening session of Mercer’s conference “Caring for Creation: Ethical Responses to Climate Change,” on Feb. 27. Looking on are: Dr. Judith Curry, left, a professor at Georgia Tech and an expert on climate modeling and climate change, and Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns of the Church of God Theological Seminary.



# Mercer Law School Scores Moot Court Victories

**I**t started at an early age in reverse. As a child, third-year Mercer law student April Holloway was shy and reserved. The daughter of a military father, Holloway spent her formative years in Japan, attending a multiracial elementary school through the second grade.

"I was really a quiet kid," Holloway said. "I remember my fourth grade teacher telling my parents, 'April is probably a really smart kid, but she really never talks so I don't know.' I had that whisper talk going on."

Much has changed about Holloway since those early years. To a large extent, Holloway and a few of her colleagues at Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law have become the face of the Law School's nationally recognized moot court program.

In law school, moot court competitions are a critical component in training future lawyers. Teams of law students from the nation's law schools compete in dozens of moot court competitions each year, testing their mastery

of brief writing and oral advocacy before appellate judges.

In October, a Mercer Law School team of Holloway and law student Lyndsey Hurst won first place in the national Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition in Atlanta, defeating the University of San Diego Law School in the final round. In November, for the fourth consecutive year, a Mercer Law School team won the Region 5 contest of the National Moot Court Competition, defeating Emory University School of Law in the final round. In February, that team competed in the nationals, advancing as one of the top eight teams losing in the quarterfinals to eventual champion Chicago Kent College of Law.

At press time in March, the Law School's Frederick Douglass Moot Court team, which won the southern region moot court competition of the Black Law Students Association, was gearing up to compete in the BLSA moot court finals in Irvine, Calif. The southern region is home to more than 1,500

members from 44 law schools. The Mercer team defeated the University of Miami School of Law to capture the regional championship.

Holloway coaches the Frederick Douglass team with Mercer Law Professor Anthony Baldwin. Team members include second-year law student Hahnah Williams and third-year law student Janeen Williams.

For more information about Mercer Law School's nationally recognized moot court program, visit [www.law.mercer.edu](http://www.law.mercer.edu).

## Legal Writing Institute renews contract with Mercer Law School

The Walter F. George School of Law will remain the host law school for the Legal Writing Institute until at least 2016, renewing a previous five-year contract that began in 2003.

With close to 2,000 members representing all ABA-accredited law schools in the United States, the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) is a nonprofit corporation that exchanges ideas about legal writing and provides a forum for research and scholarship about legal writing and legal analysis. The Institute promotes new activities through a bi-annual newsletter, an annual scholarly journal and an annual conference.

In 2009, Mercer Law School was ranked the nation's No. 1 legal writing program among all ABA-accredited law schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Graduate Schools" issue. The seven-year contract renewal means Mercer Law School will continue to host LWI until at least 2016.

"We're delighted that the connection between the LWI and Mercer Law School will continue," said Mercer law professor Linda Berger, founder and current editor of the peer-reviewed journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors. Berger is also the law school's representative to the LWI board.

"It's an honor to support the institute's work in strengthening legal education by supporting the development of legal-writing teaching and scholarship."

In addition to Berger, legal writing faculty members at Mercer Law School include professors David Ritchie, Jennifer Sheppard, Karen Sneddon and Sue Painter-Thorne.

"This is a wonderful relationship for the Law School, and I am grateful for the collective commitment that makes it possible for the relationship to continue," said Mercer Law School Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd.

For information about Mercer Law School's legal writing program, visit [www.law.mercer.edu/academics/legal\\_writing](http://www.law.mercer.edu/academics/legal_writing).

## Four-Year Pledge to Control Student Costs

In an effort to reduce the cost of a college education for students and their families, Mercer has launched an initiative called the "Four-Year Pledge" to help more undergraduate students earn their degrees on time.

Beginning with the freshman class of 2009, students who do their work, pass their classes and follow the guidance of faculty advisers will graduate within four years. Under the program, if a student does not graduate within this time frame, the cost of whatever additional courses are required to graduate will be absorbed by the University.

Trends over the past decade indicate that college students are increasingly failing to graduate within four years. Nationally, the average time from matriculation to graduation now exceeds five years, with only 37 percent of students graduating in four years. This trend is making a college education significantly more expensive by inflating the direct costs of college — tuition, fees, room and board — as well as the indirect costs associated with delaying entry into the employment market.

"At a growing number of colleges and universities, a four-year undergraduate degree is going the way of the dinosaur," said Brian Dalton, Mercer's

senior vice president for enrollment management. "The Mercer Four-Year Pledge reflects the commitment of our faculty and staff to the success of our students. It is designed to encourage students to be intentional and responsible in successfully pursuing an undergraduate degree within four years of matriculation. And it encourages the University to be a responsible partner in working with students to achieve this desired outcome."

One of only a handful of universities in the country to offer such a guarantee, the University is backing up the pledge with major investments in technology upgrades to allow even better tracking, monitoring and advising as students and their academic advisers navigate progress toward a four-year degree. Mercer will provide written audits to students at the end of each academic year, documenting progress toward their goal of graduating in four years. The institution will also continue investing millions of dollars in institutionally funded scholarships to ensure that the University offers the affordable value that national publications have recognized.

For more information on the Four-Year Pledge, go to [www.mercer.edu/pledge](http://www.mercer.edu/pledge)



ONE OF MERCER'S  
MOST DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI

# Judge Griffin B. Bell

SUCCUMBS TO  
CANCER AT THE AGE  
OF 90

**G**RIFFIN BOYETTE BELL, one of Mercer's most distinguished graduates and the 72nd Attorney General of the United States, died Jan. 5 in Atlanta following a months-long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 90.

A graveside service was held Jan. 7 in his hometown of Americus, and a memorial service was held Jan. 9 at Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, where Judge Bell was a longtime member. Each ceremony drew several hundred family members, friends and colleagues from around the country.

A trusted counselor to U.S. presidents, members of Congress and governors of both parties, and to major corporations and jurists across the country, Judge Bell earned his law degree, cum laude, from Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law in 1948. Appointed U.S. Attorney General by fellow Georgian Jimmy Carter in 1977, Judge Bell is credited by many with restoring integrity and transparency to the U.S. Department of Justice fol-

lowing the Watergate scandal.

Throughout his distinguished career as an attorney, federal judge and attorney general, Judge Bell steadfastly supported his alma mater, offering strong leadership as a trustee and helping raise more than half a billion dollars in gifts to Mercer. He served six terms on the University's Board of Trustees, dating back to 1967, and was chair of the board from 1991 to 1995.

In his eulogy delivered at each of the services, Mercer President William D. Underwood cited Judge Bell's devotion to his alma mater as one of his distinguishing characteristics.

"Earlier this week, I was asked by a reporter for National Public Radio what it meant to have someone of Judge Bell's stature lend his name to the University," Underwood told the audiences. "That reporter obviously didn't know Judge Bell. Judge Bell didn't just lend his name to anything. That's not how he worked. When Judge Bell joined Mercer's governing board, he gave himself fully to the task of building a great university. He committed his time. He committed his talent. He committed his resources."

In 1999, the Association of Governing Boards awarded its Distinguished Service Award in Trusteeship to Judge Bell in recognition of his signifi-

cant contributions to Mercer and to higher education in general. From the \$10,000 the University was awarded in Judge Bell's honor, the Board of Trustees voted to initiate the Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service. The award recognizes a graduating student who has 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 presented to students across all 11 of Mercer's schools and colleges.

Judge Bell was elected a Life Trustee in 2007 — only the sixth person at that time to be named to the office in Mercer's 176-year history. In 1983, he was named Mercer's first Distinguished University Professor and was a frequent lecturer and panelist at Mercer's law school over the years. Friends and colleagues raised \$1 million in 1986 to establish the Griffin Boyette Bell Chair of Law at Mercer.

"Griffin Bell committed his life to service — service to his country, service to the cause of justice, service to his clients, and service to his alma mater, Mercer University. "Over the past four decades, no one has been more committed to Mercer than Judge Bell, and no one has done more to advance the University," said President Underwood. "I will miss



his friendship. I will miss his sense of humor. I will miss his wise counsel. He was truly a great man.”

Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey, who preceded Underwood as Mercer’s president and worked closely with Judge Bell for 27 years, said his presidency was guided and enriched by the former board chairman’s extraordinary leadership and by their “profound friendship.”

“For countless hours over the years, I sat with him, seeking his sage advice, learning from his wisdom, treasuring his friendship. His thinking was always clear and precise, his voice articulate, his will resolute. Judge Bell combined a high sense of integrity with a strong measure of grace,” Dr. Godsey said. “With his awe-inspiring wisdom and a rare quotient of insight, he made complex issues transparent, and he characteristically brought light and clarity amidst shadows of confusion. Griffin Bell was more than an outstanding statesman or a great American; he stood as a first citizen of the world whose voice and insights will shape human history for decades to come.”

As a Trustee, Judge Bell made the motion to establish the Mercer School of Medicine, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of preparing primary care physicians for rural and underserved areas of Georgia. In the late 1980s, he helped steer the University through financial difficulties, and over the years staunchly defended the institution when Georgia Baptists — with whom the University was affiliated for 173 years — sought to infringe upon Mercer’s academic freedom.

As the chair of two Mercer capital campaigns, Judge Bell brought prominence and visibility, engaged major donors, and helped recruit volunteers for fund-raising efforts, in addition to sharing generously from his own financial resources. The recently completed “Advancing the Vision Campaign” — which Judge Bell chaired — raised \$350 million in gifts and pledges.

At the December 2008 Board of Trustees meeting,

where a bust of Judge Bell was unveiled, he reflected on his life and his long association with Mercer.

“I’ve had a great life — great opportunities to serve. I don’t regret anything I’ve done. I’m well-satisfied that the Lord has given me a square deal. I’ve lived now to be 90 years old, and I revere all the years I’ve been associated with Mercer,” Judge Bell said. “And also, all the years of public service I’ve had. And, all the years of law practice that I’ve had. I don’t think there is any greater calling than being a lawyer and being willing to serve. There are lots of lawyers, but we don’t have too many who are willing to take these public jobs. I’ve been able to do both, and for that I am very thankful.”

A longtime senior partner at the influential, Atlanta-based King & Spalding law firm, Judge Bell on several occasions stepped away from private practice to serve his state and country.

In 1959, Judge Bell was appointed chief of staff by Gov. Ernest Vandiver and is credited with creating the General Assembly Commission on Schools, which recommended to the governor and the Georgia General Assembly that the public school system be preserved at all costs rather than close in the face of court-ordered desegregation.

In 1960, he was named cochairman of John F. Kennedy’s Georgia campaign for the presidency, and in 1961 President Kennedy appointed Judge Bell to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. While sitting as a Fifth Circuit judge, he provided steady and principled judicial leadership during the height of the American civil rights movement. After 15 years on the bench, he returned to King & Spalding in 1976. He resigned from the firm to become the 72nd Attorney General of the United States on Jan. 26, 1977. He served as attorney general until Aug. 16, 1979, when he returned to King & Spalding, serving as chair of its Policy Committee.

President Carter in 1980 asked Judge Bell to serve as head of the American delegation to the Con-

ference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Madrid. In 1981, he served as co-chairman of the Attorney General’s National Task Force on Violent Crime. In 1982, William Morrow and Company published Judge Bell’s political memoir, *Taking Care of the Law*. In 2008, Mercer University Press published a compilation of Judge Bell’s speeches, titled *Footnotes to History: A Primer on the American Political Character*, edited by John P. Cole.

His other public and professional service included serving as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1985-86; serving on the U.S. Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on South Africa from 1985-87; and serving on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Commemoration of the United States Constitution from 1986-89.

In 1988, Judge Bell became a director of the National Science Center Foundation and was a director of the American Enterprise Institute. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush appointed Judge Bell to serve as vice chairman of the President’s Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform.

Other honors include receiving the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Award for Excellence in Law in 1984; the Georgia Freedom Award from the Georgia Public Policy Foundation in 1995; and the John Marshall Medal from the John Marshall Foundation in 2008. He served on numerous corporate boards, including Martin Marietta Corp., The Hardaway Co. and Total Systems Services Inc.

Judge Bell is survived by his wife, Nancy; his son, Griffin B. Bell Jr.; daughter-in-law, Glenda Bell; and grandchildren, Griffin B. Bell III and Katherine P. Bell. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary.

*A photo gallery of Judge Bell’s life and career, a transcript of President Underwood’s eulogy, quotes from friends and colleagues, and other tributes to Judge Bell are available online at [www.mercer.edu/bell](http://www.mercer.edu/bell)*



## LOYAL ALUMNUS AND TRUSTEE **Milton Ferrell** DIES AT AGE 57

Miami attorney and Mercer Trustee Milton M. Ferrell Jr., a graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and the Walter F. George School of Law, died on Nov. 15 at the age of 57.

“Milton Ferrell was a loyal alumnus and a faithful and effective trustee for the University,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “In the three years that I knew Milton, he often talked about the positive impact that Mercer had on his life. He was a wonderful ambassador for the University in South Florida and was constantly encouraging bright young men and women to attend Mercer. We will miss him greatly.”

Once rated by *Worth* magazine as one of the top 100 lawyers in the United States and a former president of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, Ferrell served as associate vice chair of the College of Liberal Arts Advancing the Vision Campaign and was a member of the Mercer University President’s Club.

Ferrell joined his father’s Miami-based practice in 1977, shifting his focus to civil law in the 1980s and taking the company international. The firm now employs 22 lawyers and handles a wide range of legal matters.

He also worked in Democratic politics, serving as chairman of the Florida Finance Committee for U.S. Sen. John Kerry’s presidential campaign in 2004.

Ferrell served on numerous civic boards, including the American Red Cross of Greater Miami and the Keys, and he served as chairman of a grievance committee of the Florida Bar. He also had served as a board member or trustee for more than 20 corporate, charitable and cultural organizations, including Mercer.

He is survived by his wife Lori, son Milton III (Morgan), daughter Whitney, and grandson Milton IV.



## MUMC Researcher and Pharmacy Professor Earn Two of Eight Georgia Cancer Coalition Awards

**T**he Georgia Cancer Coalition awarded two of its eight research grants for 2009 to Mercer faculty. The group awarded \$50,000 each to Dr. Martin D'Souza, professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and co-director of the Center for Drug Delivery Research at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Atlanta, and Dr. Nagendra Ningaraj, a researcher in the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute of Memorial University Medical Center and associate professor with the Mercer School of Medicine in Savannah.

"The fact that both Dr. Ningaraj and Dr. D'Souza have received grants from the Georgia Cancer Coalition speaks volumes to the highly innovative and relevant research agendas that each have in place," said Dr. D. Scott Davis, senior vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies. "The work of Dr. D'Souza in our Center for Drug Delivery Research has built an international reputation in the area of effective and efficient transport of drugs, while the partnership between Memorial University Medical Center and the Mercer School of Medicine brings the talents of each organization together to further cancer research. Dr. Ningaraj, with appointments in the School of Medicine and Memorial's Anderson Cancer

Institute, continues to develop a top rate research agenda in the field of brain tumor research. It is gratifying that Drs. D'Souza and Ningaraj, two of our leading scholars, have received this recognition by the Georgia Cancer Coalition."

Fifty-one researchers submitted proposals for the 2009 awards. Reviewers included nationally-recognized scientists and clinicians from across the country. The awards are funded through a state income-tax check-off program, allowing Georgians to elect to donate \$1 of their state income tax bill to fund cancer research.

Dr. Ningaraj will use his award for research to better understand the genetic traits that cause certain breast cancer cells to proliferate and migrate. By targeting those traits, he hopes to block the spread of the disease.

"This grant award will assist my research work which focuses on accurately determining breast cancer's risk of metastasis to the brain," Dr. Ningaraj said. "Studying brain-specific genes (such as KCNMA1) involved in the metastatic process facilitates identification of patients at a higher risk of breast tumor metastasis in the brain. It is of paramount

importance to obtain the greatest therapeutic benefit while sparing those with low risk for brain metastasis from the toxic side effects of chemotherapy."

Dr. Ningaraj performed his medical training in India and earned a P.D.F. in pharmacology, toxicology and medicinal chemistry at the University of Kansas. He joined Memorial in 2006 as an associate member of the Anderson Cancer Institute. He is currently associate professor of pediatric oncology at the School of Medicine. In 2007, he earned his MBA from Mercer's Stetson School of Business and Economics.

Dr. D'Souza's award is the first such grant for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The award will be used to fund studies on the efficacy of oral vaccinations in vaccinating against breast cancer, by studying two different types of breast cancer cells. Dr. D'Souza has developed a patented coating for antigens based on nanotechnology, protecting those antigens from stomach acid and allowing them to be delivered in effective doses to the body.

"With the support of this grant I will be able to test a new form of vaccine that could one day help prevent breast cancer," Dr. D'Souza said. "Because of the delivery form, we are able to include all of the cancer antigens in one dose, rather than having to synthesize large quantities of the few antigens that are currently known to cause cancer and delivering them subcutaneously, which is one of the reasons that there are so few effective cancer vaccines today. So this delivery method may not only provide a cheaper vaccine, but by using all the antigens from tumor cells, it may prove to be a more effective means of inoculating against cancers."

Dr. D'Souza, came to Mercer in 1986, after obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Thereafter, as director of graduate programs, he has supervised more than 20 Ph.D. students. He is also director of the Mercer Clinical Laboratory. Dr. D'Souza's research laboratory has focused on drug delivery technology that targets drugs to specific sites and facilitates their sustained release.



Dr. Nagendra Ningaraj

PHOTO COURTESY MEMORIAL HEALTH



Dr. Martin D'Souza



# Bina Appointed Dean of School of Medicine

**F**ollowing a nine-month national search, President William D. Underwood on March 20 appointed Dr. William F. Bina III as dean of the Mercer School of Medicine. Dr. Bina had been serving as interim dean since July 1, 2008, and had been chair of the Department of Community Medicine since 2003.

“Dr. Bina has a deep commitment to the mission of the Medical School, which reflects Mercer’s identity and purpose,” said Provost Wallace L. Daniel. “That mission sets Mercer’s School of Medicine apart as the leader in serving the state of Georgia’s medical needs in its small towns and rural areas. As the interim dean, he demonstrated strong leadership during a challenging period, including the opening of a new four-year campus in Savannah. His grasp of the complex issues facing the medical school along with his skills and understanding of the School’s programs, students, faculty, staff, strengths and challenges will ensure the School’s continued success.”

Dr. Bina has spent much of his career at the Mercer School of Medicine. He first joined the University in 1991 as a professor and practicing physician in the Department of Family Medicine and Mercer Health Systems. In 2003, he was named chair of the Department of Community Medicine and director of the Master of Public Health program. He was named executive associate dean at the Medical School in 2007 before being named interim dean in 2008.

He earned an undergraduate degree in nuclear science from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Nebraska and the Master of Public Health degree in International Health from Johns Hopkins University.

He completed post-graduate medical training

at the Family Practice Regency, Naval Regional Medical Center, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., from 1975-1978, and his general preventive medicine residency at Johns Hopkins University from 1982-1984. Navy duties included assignments in Hawaii, California, Southern Maryland, Nigeria, Italy, and finally in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bina has provided significant professional leadership in the community. Since 2002, he has served as the project and medical director for the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, a Regional Program of Excellence. From 2004-2007, he served on the steering committee to establish a primary health care center in Macon and Bibb County. He served as president and chair of the board of directors of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians from 1998-2000. Since 1996, he has served as chair of the board of directors of Secure Health Plans of Georgia, a 23-county regional network. He also served as a member of the board of directors for the Central Georgia Health Network from 1996-1999 and director of the Family Practice Residence Program at the Medical Center of Central Georgia from 1992-97.

“I am honored to have been chosen to serve as dean of Mercer University School of Medicine,” Dr. Bina said. “In the past 25 years, our school has successfully prepared physicians and health care professionals to meet the health care needs of all Georgians. I eagerly look forward to continuing that success by working with an outstanding team of faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders to ensure that our students receive top-quality training to launch their careers into 21st Century medicine.”

Dr. Bina and his wife, Gayle, have four children: Elizabeth Heather, William Frank IV, Robert Wagner and Jonathan Park.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

**Dr. William F. Bina III**

## Mercer Pharmacy Students Earn National Recognition

Four students in Mercer’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences have earned national recognition for leadership.

Third-year student Bobby Price is president-elect of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, which has chapters in more than 60 pharmacy schools across the nation. Price will be the second Mercer pharmacy student to serve as SNPhA president in the last three years.

Fourth-year pharmacy student Whitney Deal has been elected National Student Council chair for

the Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International. Now in its second year, 40 college campuses participated in the inaugural year of the National Student Council. Another pharmacy student, Cimeon Koebel, is also working with the National Student Council, creating student-affiliated regional support networks. His work is centered on planning regional social gatherings and encouraging project collaboration.

Second-year student Lauren Riley received the 2008-2009 ASHP Student Leadership Award from

the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Pharmacy Student Forum and the ASHP Research and Education Foundation. The award recognizes the accomplishments of pharmacy students nationwide who have demonstrated leadership ability and interest in health-system pharmacy careers. It includes an ASHP drug information reference library and a \$2,500 cash award from the ASHP Research and Education Foundation through the Walter Jones Memorial Pharmacy Student Financial Aid Fund.



# Gunby Retires as Dean of College of Nursing

**S**usan S. Gunby, R.N., Ph.D., dean of Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing for more than 20 years, will retire from the post effective July 1. Dr. Gunby holds a professorship in the College and will return to full-time teaching upon her retirement as dean.

"One of the things I'm most proud of when I look back over the 40-plus years I've been here is that we've been able to continue our heritage of educational excellence, first as a School, then as a College and as a part of the University," Dr. Gunby said. "That heritage is important to us, it's important to our alumni and it's certainly important to the people who hire our alumni, that we've maintained that tradition of excellence. I'm also very proud of our students and our graduates. Everywhere I go, without exception, I run into some of our more than 6,500 graduates, and it makes me proud to know of all the lives they have touched through the years."

Dr. Gunby earned her diploma of nursing from Georgia Baptist School of Nursing in 1968, and became an instructor in the School. Her roles expanded along with the institution and, in 1986, she was named director of the School and dean in 1987. Dr. Gunby led the school's transition to a free-standing college in 1989 — the first independent college of nursing accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1991, she was named president and dean of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and served as president of the College from 1998 to 2000. In addition to guiding the College through the transitions in nursing education, she also led the College through its merger with Mercer, which was completed in 2001. Most recently, she oversaw the College's development of a Ph.D. in nursing degree program, which will launch in Fall 2009 and help meet the growing need for nurse educators in the state.

"Over the course of her long and effective tenure, Susan Gunby has established the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing as a leader in nursing education," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Most recently, she has

led bold initiatives to address the critical need for more nurses in our state by helping forge an educational partnership with Piedmont Health care and by leading our nursing faculty to design and launch a new Ph.D. in nursing. I am very grateful for her many contributions to Mercer University and the nursing profession."

"Dean Susan Gunby for more than 20 years has provided extremely strong leader-

**"One of the things I'm most proud of ... is that we've been able to continue our heritage of educational excellence, first as a School, then as a College and as a part of the University."**

ship for the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing. As a leader, she is innovative, forward-looking, solicitous of faculty and staff, and committed to service," said Mercer Provost Wallace L. Daniel. "While she has been the guiding voice behind the College of Nursing, she has throughout these years seen her primary task as the development of students, and she has had a profound

influence on so many of them, an influence that goes much beyond the boundaries of the university."

Dr. Gunby is also a leader in the nursing field. She is a member of several prominent committees and nursing organizations, including: the American Nurses Association Task Force on the Scope and Standards of Practice for Nursing Development, the planning committee of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Executive Development Series and the Georgia Board of Nursing's Education Committee.

In addition to her own research and publications, she serves as a member of the editorial review board for the *International Journal for Human Caring* and past member of the board of directors and chair of publications for the American Association for the History of Nursing. She is a charter member of the Georgia Baptist School/College Hall of Honor and in 2006 she received the "Leader of Leaders Award" from the National Student Nurses Association.

Currently, she is a member of the board of directors for the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education and serves on two international committees for the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

After earning her diploma from Georgia Bap-



**Dr. Susan Gunby**

tist, Dr. Gunby went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgia State University, a Master of Nursing from Emory University and a Ph.D. in nursing education from Georgia State.

The national search for a new dean will begin immediately, Dr. Daniel said, and the University has appointed a search committee, led by Dr. Linda A. Streit, a professor and associate dean of the College's graduate program. Other committee members include: Dr. Shirley R. Rawlins, professor emeriti, former associate dean of the College and current president-elect of the Alumni Association board; Dr. Dare R. Domico, a professor in the College and an alumna; Elaine Grier, assistant professor in the College and chair of the faculty for 2009-2010; Dr. H.W. "Ted" Matthews, dean of Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and vice president for health sciences; Dr. Priscilla R. Danheiser, professor of psychology and dean of Mercer's College of Continuing and Professional Studies; Jenny McCurdy, director of development for the College; and Dr. James S. Netherton, executive vice president for finance and administration, who will serve as an ex-officio member.



## **New Ph.D. Program to Address Critical Nursing Shortage in Georgia**

**R**ESPONDING TO a critical shortage of nurses in the state, Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing will launch a Ph.D. program this fall to prepare more nurse educators for Georgia and the nation.

Combining the flexibility of online and onsite instruction, the rigorous program will prepare nurses at the Ph.D. level to educate the next generation of nurses and assume leadership positions in administrative, research, clinical and entrepreneurial settings. Students will be able to tailor their coursework and individualize their research to focus on one of three areas of concentration: ethics, clinical scholarship or education.

A recent report issued by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing concludes that faculty shortages at nursing schools across the country are limiting student enrollment at a time when the demand for nurses is at its highest level.

The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing in 2002 initiated a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a concentration in nursing education to help address the nursing shortage. According to Dean Susan Gunby, R.N., Ph.D., the addition of a Ph.D. to the curriculum is the logical next step for the College of Nursing.

"The faculty is further committed to graduate education that prepares scholars and leaders who advance knowledge through research, education and practice," she said. "This new Ph.D. program will build on and reflect the College's longstanding reputation for high-quality, student-focused nursing education."

## **Nursing Student Organization Chosen Chapter of the Year**

**T**he Association of Nursing Students at Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing was named Chapter of the Year at the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) Convention in Columbus

last October. Also, several Mercer nursing students were elected to the 2008-2009 GANS Board of Delegates: Kerri Kneece, first vice president; Diana Carbone, legislative director; Kanika Stanford, treasurer; Karlee Baumann, director of EKG; Mackenzie Schoolmaster, public relations director; Tracey Cooksey, alternate board member; and Kathleen Kebe, assistant to the directors.

At the fall convention, the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing had the highest number of seated delegates with 55. The next highest was Emory University with 22 seated delegates.

## **Mercer Medicine Family Practice Physicians Relocate to Family Health Center**

**T**he Family Medicine Practice of Mercer Medicine has relocated to the Family Health Center, which is a service of The Medical Center of Central Georgia, located at 3780 Eisenhower Parkway, near Macon Mall. Mercer Medicine is the family practice plan for clinical faculty of the School of Medicine.

According to Dr. Fred Girton, chief of family medicine for Mercer and The Medical Center, "This move will allow us to provide expanded health care offerings for our patients, including full-service lab, x-ray and other procedures such as stress testing and vasectomies. With the convenience, added services and warm, friendly staff, we expect our patients to be very pleased with The Family Health Center."

Family medicine services include general medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, immunizations, hearing/vision screenings, EKGs, sports physicals, minor skin surgeries, exercise stress testing, vasectomies, noninvasive vascular studies, colonoscopy, cancer screenings, psychological/family/couples therapy and laboratory/x-ray.

The family medicine physicians were formerly located on campus in the School of Medicine, where they practiced under the former Mercer Health Systems. The

relocated physicians include Dr. William F. Bina III, Dean; Dr. David E. Burtner; Dr. Sabry A. Gabriel; Dr. Fred S. Girton; Dr. Warren S. Hutchings; Dr. Alice House; Dr. Dipesh R. Patel; and Dr. William Patrick Roche.

Medical Center CEO Don Faulk said, "We are very excited about welcoming these physicians and patients into our family. With the addition of new exam rooms, expanded lab space, and convenient kiosk registration system, we believe this is a win for everyone."

The new office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and visits can be scheduled by calling (478) 633-5500.

## **Doctors Dalton and Green Receive Awards from the Georgia Medical Association**

**D**r. Martin L. Dalton Jr., dean emeritus of the Mercer School of Medicine and Professor of Surgery Emeritus, received the Hardman Cup for 2008 for excellence in the field of medical education from the Medical Association of Georgia.

Dr. Dalton retired after serving almost three years as dean of the Medical School and 17 years as head of surgical residency programs at Mercer and The Medical Center of Central Georgia.

Dr. Michael E. Greene, MED '90, received the Dr. Joseph P. Bailey Jr. Physician Distinguished Service Award from the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG). Dr. Greene, a Macon-based family physician, is chair of MAG's Council on Legislation. He was

president of MAG from 2003-2004 and has held a number of leadership positions with the Bibb County Medical Society.



**Dr. Martin Dalton**



**Dr. Michael Greene**

# THE Engaged University

By Wallace L. Daniel, Ph.D., Provost

**A**lfred North Whitehead, in his famous essay “The Aims of Education” (1929), warns “So far as the mere imparting of information is concerned, no university has had any justification for existence since the popularization of printing in the 15th century.... The justification for a university is that it preserves the connection between knowledge and the zest of life, by uniting the young and the old in the imaginative consideration of learning.” Whitehead’s statement is provocative, and it calls us to account, by raising the question of what kind of university we will be in the 21st century. How will students who come to Mercer be educated?

At Mercer we aspire to build a “community of learners.” Such a community aims to do much more than transfer knowledge from faculty to students. In the learning paradigm, as defined by educators Robert Barr and John Tagg more than a decade ago, the purpose of this community is to create an environment in which students become learners — part of a community that makes discoveries and solves problems — in which the quality of student learning is placed at the center of attention.

In this environment, what we might do best for our students is teach them “how to learn.” Several models of learning communities exist for the 21st century. The following is one of them, whose attributes relate to the foundation on which Mercer is already built and give this university the opportunity to be a leading voice:

- Having students read primary texts, rather than relying on standardized textbooks;
- Engaging in open-ended conversations about large questions raised by these primary sources;
- Developing written and oral communication skills;
- Emphasizing the ethical aspects and considerations involved in all of the key issues we face in our society;
- Connecting the classroom to the world, theory to practice, and the university to the community and to the global environment.

When I graduated from the University of North Carolina many years ago, I looked to two model professors. Both were powerful teachers, whose love of their subjects and knowledge in the classroom impressed me deeply. Yet they shared little else.

The first primarily conveyed information, and he did so brilliantly and passionately. I could hardly wait for his lectures, knowing that my own door into a world larger than my own would be opened wider than before.



Dr. Wallace Daniel

**“The justification for a university is that it preserves the connection between knowledge and the zest of life.”**

and instead read the original writings of the great theologians — Karl Barth, Rudolph Bultmann, Reinhold and Richard Niebuhr, Martin Buber and Paul Tillich. Dr. Hill began each class with a brief review of the reading, then guided the discussion, exploring the ideas the readings presented. The result was a lively, often contentious, many-sided conversation that led to some tentative conclusion. Dr. Hill, too, struggled with the materials and the questions; he told us that, and he was clearly deeply engaged. In turn, he engaged the 40 students in the class thoroughly, and I must say, in my own case, unforgettably.

Looking back over the many years since then, both professors remain firmly etched in my mind. I can picture their mannerisms and their joy in teaching young students. Yet in considering what I learned and what has stayed with me, there is no doubt which approach of these two professors proved more effective and long-lasting. I can still recall much of the readings in Dr. Hill’s class, still struggle with the issues of life and meaning we addressed, and continue to read and think about the open-ended problems we explored.

To the university of the 21st century Dr. Hill’s approach speaks compellingly. A community of learners is built around exploration and conversation. In such a community, each person — whether faculty, staff or student — is a participant and is actively involved.

The learning community is very consistent with Mercer’s mission — a mission that sees the world as ever-changing, as open to discovery that never ends, as constantly requiring creative minds. “The historic principles of religious and intellectual freedom ... ,” which the mission statement underscores, are essential to such a vision. Discovery is a process that begins early in one’s undergraduate life. Every year, at Mercer, we see the learning community at first hand and in multiple ways, in the students’ testimonies, in their emphasis on working with professors, on participation in research, on the whole process of discovery and in the adventure of the mind. These features should become “hallmarks” of a Mercer University education.

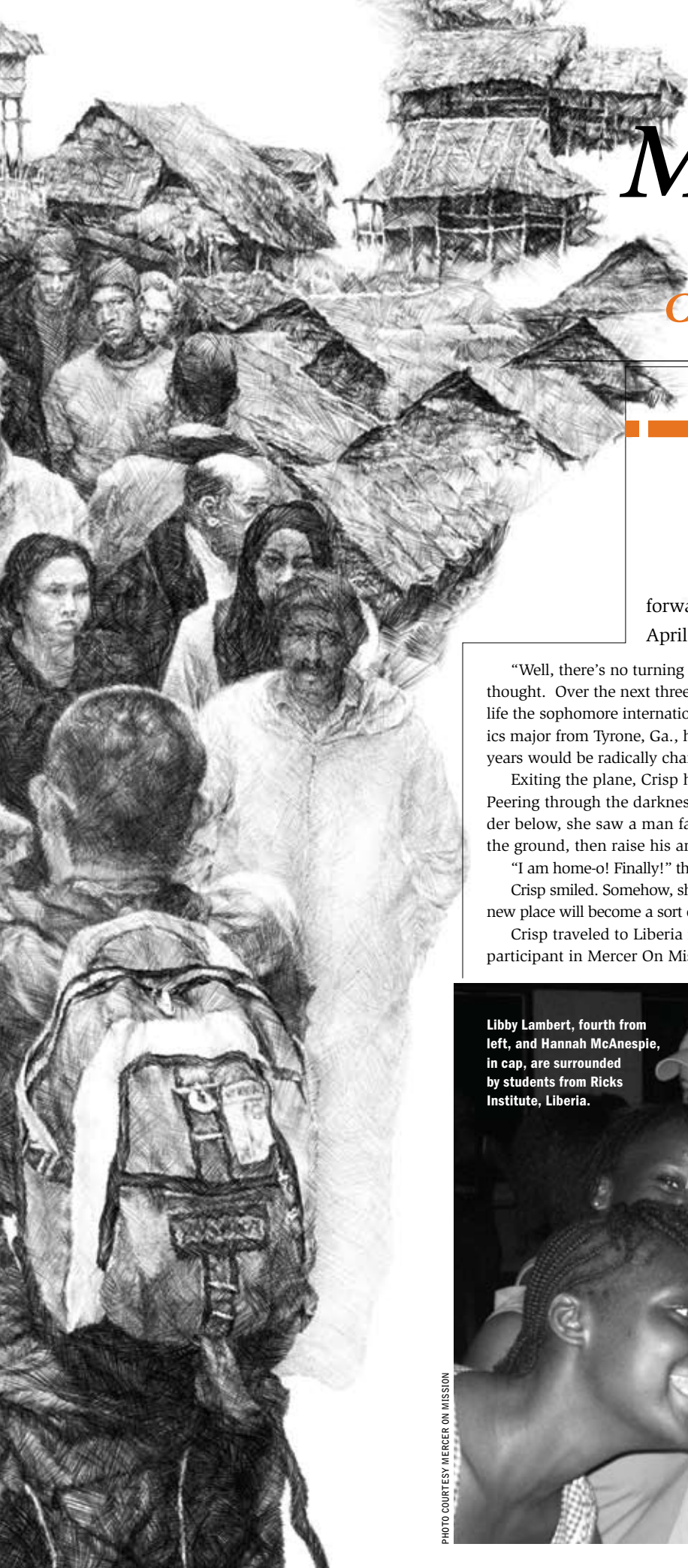
Students and faculty working together, seeing

The second model professor had a much different approach. Dr. Samuel Hill was a professor of religious studies, and I enrolled in his class on “Twentieth-Century Theology.” He also was a compelling lecturer, although he exercised this skill rarely. Neither did we use a textbook in his class,



the world as unfinished, sets students on a path that does not end with graduation, but continues long after the degree is awarded. As *The Mercerian* stories that follow illustrate, students who become fully engaged in this endeavor cannot but see learning as a lifetime activity, a process rather than a task to be completed, a creative enterprise in which nothing is fixed forever, an adventure that calls one constantly to view the world anew.





# MERCER ON MISSION

*Crossing cultures. Changing lives.*

By Nancy Godson | ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MOSLEY

**T**he airplane continued its steady descent over Liberia as it advanced toward the runway lights of the Monrovia airport. Flashes of lightening pierced the ink-black sky, offering brief glimpses of the dense West African tropics outside the passenger windows. Abruptly the plane's wheels touched pavement and the passengers were pulled forward in their seats as the aircraft tugged to a stop. Mercer sophomore April Crisp felt her belly tighten in anticipation.

"Well, there's no turning back now," she thought. Over the next three weeks, the comfortable life the sophomore international affairs and economics major from Tyrone, Ga., had lived for the past 19 years would be radically changed.

Exiting the plane, Crisp heard a sudden yell. Peering through the darkness to the foot of the ladder below, she saw a man fall to his knees and kiss the ground, then raise his arms to the sky.

"I am home-o! Finally!" the man shouted joyously.

Crisp smiled. Somehow, she thought, this strange, new place will become a sort of home to me, too.

Crisp traveled to Liberia in June 2008 as a participant in Mercer On Mission, a program that

unites cultural and academic study with community-specific service. She was one of 60 students and faculty who traveled last summer to China, Costa Rica, Liberia, Senegal and South Africa as part of the service-learning initiative.

Dr. Craig McMahan, university minister and dean of the chapel, coordinates the program, now in its third year.

"Mercer On Mission is more than a traditional study abroad experience because it integrates academic study with meaningful service and spiritual reflection," Dr. McMahan said. "It's intentional learning that promotes the ideal that we're all connected, that what you choose to do with your life

Libby Lambert, fourth from left, and Hannah McAnespie, in cap, are surrounded by students from Ricks Institute, Liberia.



PHOTO COURTESY MERCER ON MISSION

# Mercer On Mission Receives Clinton Initiative Award

The Clinton Global Initiative University — a program of the William J. Clinton Foundation — recognized Mercer's efforts to help amputees in Vietnam and other developing nations "as an exemplary approach to addressing a specific global challenge" during the organization's annual conference in Austin, Texas, on Feb. 13. The University's Mercer On Mission project was one of only three "commitments" by universities around the country to be recognized by President Bill Clinton during the conference's opening plenary session.

The CGI U program partners with universities and students who make specific "commitments" to engaging the world and taking on global challenges. President Clinton described the Mercer project at the meeting and presented University Minister and Dean of the Chapel Dr. Craig McMahan with a certificate acknowledging the University's commitment.

"It is an incredible honor for this Mercer On Mission project to be chosen as one of just a handful to be specially recognized from among more than 700 commitments in this year's CGI University," said Dr. McMahan, who is also an associate professor of Christianity and coordinates Mercer On Mission. "That the Mercer On Mission project in Vietnam stood out among the commitments from some of the most elite and engaged universities in the country reflects well on the direction set by Mercer President William D. Underwood, focusing the University on engagement and service."

The Mercer On Mission project will help to address a worldwide problem, which is particularly acute in Vietnam, where the project will launch this summer. More than 2,000 Vietnamese are injured each year by land mines and unexploded bombs left during the Vietnam War, Clinton said. An estimated 100,000 amputees live in Vietnam today and there are more than 18 million amputees around the world, with more than 80 percent of those living in developing countries, he said.

"This is a big deal personally to me, because when I was president we normalized relations with Vietnam ... and I have visited clinics where children who are losing their legs to this 40-year-old unexploded ordnance are treated," Clinton said. "You cannot imagine the difference this makes in their lives.... This is a very good thing that Mercer has done."

Mercer's commitment to the amputees is just one of eight projects in this year's Mercer On Mission program. The project is part of a three-year initiative by Mercer to



**President Bill Clinton presented University Minister and Dean of the Chapel Dr. Craig McMahan with a certificate acknowledging Mercer's commitment to engaging the world.**

COURTESY WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION

provide amputees with low-cost prosthetics that can be fitted without having to be fully customized. Because amputees in developing countries cannot afford expensive customized prosthetics, they often must go without them. Mercer has developed a new form of inexpensive prosthetics, which do not require full customization. Designed by Mercer School of Engineering students, the prosthetics use a universal socket technology developed by Dr. Ha Van Vo, assistant professor of biomedical engineering.

This summer, a Mercer On Mission group led by Dr. Vo and fellow engineering professor Dr. Ramachandran Radharamanan will begin the distribution of the prosthetics in Vo's native Vietnam. The group will also train local medical personnel to adapt the prosthetics to fit individual amputees. Eventually, Mercer plans to expand the program to Thailand and India.

The Mercer On Mission program's accolades were just one of the highlights from the conference for Mercer. Dr. McMahan and Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning, served as facilitators for a workshop on peace and justice issues, and two Mercer Service Scholars, Patricia Hardesty and Jon Smith, were selected to be among the conference's 1,000 student attendees from an application pool of more than 3,500 students nationwide.

**Dr. Ha Vo, left, discusses the Universal Socket Prosthetic with his students Chris Mershon, center, and Jake Lunday.**



BRUCE RADCLIFFE PHOTO

impacts another's life, as well as the environment that sustains us all."

Each Mercer On Mission team spends a week on campus in rigorous study prior to leaving for another country on a three-week service and outreach project. The students, who earn six hours of academic credit, spend another week on campus at the end of the five-week term to reflect on what they have learned.

"We aren't in that country as tourists, although we manage to see quite a bit of its culture," Dr. McMahan said. "We're there to live, learn and work side-by-side with the local people and ultimately contribute in some measurable way to that community."

Crisp's team at the Ricks Institute campus in Liberia helped build concrete power poles that would stabilize electricity at the campus. They also tutored students in the K-12 school.

"There were things about Africa that I never imagined I would love, and there were things about life there that drove me to tears," Crisp said.

"I never understood that a place could exist with so many contradictions."

She remembers a teacher at the Institute who sewed a dress for her as a farewell gift, hand-stitched with a depiction of the African continent, banana trees and children playing soccer.

"We sat on the steps of the school and I listened for more than an hour while she talked about her time in Tanzania, and how her husband escaped the war," recalls Crisp. "I realized, while holding my beautiful gift and listening as she threaded together pieces of her life for me, how earnestly she wanted me to understand her life. As different as our lives were, there was a connection. We were connected."

The charm of the local children is what senior John Buckner most remembers from his trip to Kenya in 2007 with Mercer On Mission.

"On our last day the children at the school walked up to us and took our

hands," he recalls. "Speaking no Swahili, there was obviously no verbal communication, but you can hear a lot looking into someone's eyes."

Buckner, a political science major from Junction City and current student body president, traveled again with Mercer On Mission last summer,



PHOTO COURTESY MERCER ON MISSION

**Alice Crisp works with Ricks Institute staff constructing concrete light poles.**



going this time to Senegal to study Senegalese literature and experience the economic and developmental challenges of the region. His team's service mission was two-fold: Buckner's group focused on increasing food production through improved agricultural practices, while another team of students helped create a business plan for a local store to generate increased revenue.

There were no comfortable hotels or trendy restaurants to look forward to at the end of a long day.

"I never thought that I could go an entire three weeks without taking a real shower, or would eat out of the same bowl as an entire African family," Buckner said. "But if you're living in a rural village that relies on hand-dug wells, and using make-shift tools to grow crops on hillsides, you realize that people can do almost anything."

Nursing student Deanna Johnson first experienced Mercer On Mission in 2008 when she traveled to China with a team of 15 nursing, science, public health and pre-med students. As part of their study of global health issues and policy, her team was to provide hands-on medical care at various hospitals in Beijing, Chongqing, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. A week before their departure, however, they awoke to the news that the country had suffered a devastating earthquake.

"We still toured area hospitals and orphanages and learned about the Chinese health system through presentations, but our original service plans necessarily had to change," Johnson said. "We decided it would be more helpful and less intrusive to put together personal hygiene bags for the earthquake victims."

The students and faculty pooled their money and then spent three hours at the local Wal-Mart gathering shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and paste, tissues, pads, pencils and crayons with the help of interpreters.

"Distributing the bags and being with the Chinese during that time of tragedy and loss was the most meaningful part of the trip for me," said Johnson, a senior from Snellville. "The people were so grateful over simple toiletry items. They would grab our hands, give us hugs and always greet us with big smiles on their faces."

"Despite having lost everything, in spite of being wrapped in bandages and hooked to IVs, they would smile," she said.

In contrast to the Sichuan province earthquake, Johnson said, Beijing was stunningly beautiful in preparation for the Summer Olympic games. Flowers blossomed everywhere and there was great excitement and anticipation in the air.

"China is a perfect example that in the best and worst of times, the human spirit perseveres and that, as humans sharing this planet, we're all connected," Dr. McMahan said.

Personal reflection on what was seen, heard and done during the trip is the third, integral

**"... It's intentional learning that promotes the ideal that we're all connected, that what you choose to do with your life impacts another's life, as well as the environment that sustains us all."**

component of the service-learning program.

"Each student is required to journal throughout their trip to record their experience and reflect on what it reveals about themselves," Dr. McMahan said. "They are to ask themselves: 'How does what I saw today change my perception of myself and of the world? What does it say about my place in the world?'"

Mercer On Mission strengthens the University's commitment to service-learning by expanding on the success of the previous year. Three countries were visited in the program's first year in 2007, followed by five in 2008. Approximately 80 students and 20 faculty from Mercer's 11 schools and colleges will travel to eight locations in 2009: Brazil, Greece, Kenya, Guatemala, Liberia, Southeast Asia, Thailand and Vietnam.

"I'm especially excited that this year we're including research-based, patentable service opportunities," Dr. McMahan said.

Dr. Ha Van Vo, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering, and his team will fit Vietnamese land mine victims with prosthetic limbs. Meanwhile, in Southeast Asia, water filtration systems will be installed along a polluted river to make it serviceable to the community.

Dr. McMahan sees Mercer On Mission growing by 25 percent each year, eventually reaching the 250 annual participants that Mercer President

PHOTO COURTESY MERCER ON MISSION



Deborah Carley, third from right, and Jessica Underwood, second from right, pass out bread in a township in Cape Town, South Africa.



Steve Peano entertains a young child at the New Day Foster Home in Chongqing township of Beijing, China.

MARJORIE HOWARD PHOTO

William D. Underwood — who envisioned the program — established as a goal. The program will also be opened soon to Mercer alumni.

"Our overriding goal is the transformation of our students, which we feel we're attaining," he said. Dr. McMahan is especially proud that Mercer On Mission has been designated a Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) partner (story on page 20).

Mercer On Mission challenges the campus community to go beyond being mere passersby in this life by providing opportunities to wholly invest oneself," Dr. McMahan said. "Only by doing so is it possible to transform our own life, connect with the lives of others and make the world better."

Two-time Mercer On Mission participant John Buckner puts it another way.

"I could simply read a book or watch a PBS special to learn about the people and culture of any particular place, or I can learn by doing," he said. "I chose the real-world interaction that Mercer On Mission offers because it demonstrates the best form of mission work. It's life-changing."

# MERCER STUDENTS STARTED A MODERN ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT AND SAID **S.T.O.P.** TO SEX TRAFFICKING IN MACON

**A**ndrew Silver wasn't looking to join a particular cause last spring. The 2003 Georgia Professor of the Year is more often credited with making a difference in the lives of his students, not the other way around. Yet while teaching the freshman seminar "Engaging the World," a casual observation by Dr. Silver inspired a grassroots activism in his students that not only awakened a community's eyes to an evil occurring in its own city, but helped close the doors on five illegal spas and may have freed a 17-year-old sex slave.

"We were having a class discussion about ethics, justice and business practices," said Dr. Silver, the Hunter Associate Professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts. "I mentioned to the students that I'd noticed you couldn't drive I-75 without being overwhelmed by

the number of billboards advertising massage spas in Macon."

He mentioned how such facilities are often fronts for prostitution, staffed by women regularly trafficked in from other countries under false pretenses to work as sex slaves.

Dr. Silver's students were alarmed at the possibility that human trafficking could be occurring in their own city and decided to research the subject as a class project. They learned that nearly 20,000 impoverished women and children are secreted into the United States illegally every year, sold by their families or enticed themselves by promises of good jobs and a better life. Instead, they are thrown into a lurid world of sex slavery as victims of criminal greed. Further investigation revealed that human trafficking has become a \$32 billion illegal industry worldwide, second only to drug trafficking and illegal arms dealing.

Determined to learn more, 10 students elected to travel with

By Nancy Godson | ILLUSTRATION BY BETH HYDE





# STEMMING THE SHADOW OF ABUSE

Macon native JULIE A. STEELE, EGR '94, was completing an application for law school in 2004 when she accepted a seven-month interim position as executive director for Crisis Line and Safe House of Central Georgia. Four years later, Steele is still on the job and the law school application has yet to be mailed.

After earning a technical communication degree from the School of Engineering, Steele set her sights on a corporate career in New York City. While working in New York as a technical trainer for the insurance industry and despite constant travel, Steele made time to volunteer, most often with the city's Rape Crisis Line and the Salvation Army.

Steele grew up in a household that encouraged volunteerism. Her mother was active with the Macon Rescue Mission and helped establish Macon's first battered women's shelter.

"In fact, my senior project at Mercer was developing a newsletter for the shelter," Steele said. She says community engagement was a frequent topic in the classroom.

"There was a lot of discussion about individual responsibility beyond college, apart from one's career," she said. "I remember a professor once asked us, 'If you're making a good profit off of the

community, what are you willing to give back to the community? Who can be empowered by what you have to give?'"

The question still resonates with Steele, whose personal and professional life centers around empowering women in trauma. As an advocate, her role is to put the right people together in community partnerships, identify available resources and train volunteers.

While Steele never anticipated that sex trafficking would be an issue in Macon, neither was she surprised when she was contacted by S.T.O.P. with their concerns.

"We like to believe we're insulated from such things in Macon," she said. "But as human trafficking gets pushed out of cities like Atlanta, where are they going to go?"

Instead of questioning how trafficking can happen here, she says, Macon can benefit from Atlanta's experience to solve the problem in our community.

"The people of Macon always come together to help people in trauma," Steele said. "We're better educated about sex trafficking now, available resources are in place and an advocacy network is established. There's no going back into the shadows."



Julie Steele

LEAH YETTER PHOTO

Dr. Silver to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill last April to attend a conference on sex trafficking. There, they heard from experts like Kika Cerpa, a sex trafficking survivor who spoke about her experience of being trafficked from Venezuela into a New York City brothel.

Captors convince their victims that they can return home when their travel and living expenses have been repaid. The women notice, however, that their debt only increases each day. Stripped of friends and without resources, they are watched constantly and beaten if caught communicating with outsiders. Unable to speak English, ignorant of American laws and taught to fear local police, victims usually won't seek help. Alone and trapped, they suffer 16- to 20-hour days of psychological, physical and sexual debasement.

The students left the conference moved by what they'd heard and motivated to take action. They published essays, distributed pamphlets, wrote public service announcements and flooded the Internet with blogs — all designed to raise awareness about sex trafficking and the probability that it was taking place in Macon. Their outcry garnered important campus and community support and, within a matter of weeks, developed into an official coalition: the Sex Trafficking Opposition Project, or S.T.O.P.

"S.T.O.P. is a synergistic effort established by First Year Seminar students that quickly grew to include feminist advocates, faith-based organizations and average citizens — men and women outraged that human trafficking is not only a thriving national industry, but one taking root in their own backyard," said Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning and director of women's and gender studies at Mercer. Public outcry led the Macon Police in June to conduct their first raid on local massage spas. The workers were arrested and prosecuted as prostitutes, then released, usually back into the hands of their employers.

Hannah Vann, a junior majoring in women's and gender studies, joined S.T.O.P. after that first spa raid, when she learned that the question of sex trafficking was never considered by Macon Police, who did not conduct interviews to determine if human rights were being violated.

"I was horrified that these women were seen as prostitutes, rather than potential victims of sex trafficking," she said. "When it became evident that the police depart-

ment wasn't aware that sex trafficking was potentially occurring here in Macon, I knew I had to become involved."

Dr. Morgan says that it's not unusual for police departments in smaller towns to consider human trafficking to be a 'big city problem.' In fact, traffickers count on it.

"Human trafficking is a relatively new phenomenon in the United States, so traffickers count on local police not immediately suspecting that it may be occurring," said Dr. Morgan. She explained that this is just one of several characteristics traffickers seek when targeting potential towns to set up shop. They look for cities and towns situated off of a popular, well traveled freeways, preferably with a military base located nearby.

S.T.O.P. has been vigilant about keeping the issue of sex trafficking at the front of conversation among Maconites, ably supported in this endeavor by Baptist Collegiate Ministries; local journalist Chris

Mercer students are challenged early to make a difference in the world. HANNAH VANN, president of the campus anti-trafficking movement S.T.O.P., joins a select sorority of Mercer alumnae providing an empowering voice to those unable to shout for help. Their ongoing work is testimony that no victim is ever truly alone.



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

# WEAVING A TAPESTRI OF HELP, DIGNITY AND HOPE

ALIA EL-SAWI, CLA '05, has accomplished much in the three short years since graduating with degrees in international affairs and French. The Atlanta native is fluent in four languages and is currently learning a fifth, Portuguese. She has gained national recognition as an expert on anti-human trafficking, and is a frequent speaker at conferences throughout the country. This spring she will speak to the Department of Justice at a conference on human rights issues.

El-Sawi serves as anti-human trafficking program coordinator for Tapestri Inc., an Atlanta-based, non-profit organization dedicated to ending violence and oppression in refugee and immigrant communities.

El-Sawi meets daily with individuals who have endured unimaginable trauma and abuse. She serves as a liaison between victims and federal law enforcement, and offers a lifeline of hope to rescued women and children by connecting them to services offering immigration relief, safe shelter, medical care, language lessons and job training. She restores their dignity by treating them as persons of value.

As difficult as her days can often be, El-Sawi finds the ability to cope through the inherent strength of her

clients and, ultimately, their success stories.

"I attend a lot of weddings and baptisms," she says with a laugh. "I even have a former client who makes more money than I do now. That's awesome to me!"

El-Sawi's future began to take shape after reading Kevin Bales' *Disposable People* as a freshman at Mercer.

"That book opened my eyes to modern slavery and human rights violations," she said. "I knew then how to pool my interests in political science, languages and human rights into a career that would be significant and fulfilling to me."

After the initial police raid on several Macon massage parlors, Dr. Andrew Silver, associate professor of English and faculty adviser to S.T.O.P., called El-Sawi.

"Soon after, Chief [Mike] Burns contacted me about providing anti-human trafficking training and ongoing educational classes to Macon police officers," she said. "Tapestri is also available to work with Crisis Line in assisting rescued victims."

"S.T.O.P. brought Macon's attention to an ugly epidemic often ignored in other communities, and Macon responded," El-Sawi said. "Everyone should be proud of that."

Horne; trauma advocates Julie Steele and Dottie Stafford, executive director and sexual assault director, respectively, for Crisis Line and Safe House of Central Georgia; and Alia El-Sawi, anti-human trafficking coordinator for Tapestri, Inc., an Atlanta-based social service agency.

Collectively they began speaking up, and loudly, putting a name to a problem that few understood or knew existed. Interviews ran on Macon's four major television stations, and Dr. Silver was interviewed on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Several newspaper outlets ran articles questioning potential sex trafficking in Macon. When members of S.T.O.P. appeared before the Macon City Council and called for tightened regulations for massage parlors, they gained important allies in Macon Mayor Robert Reichert, City Councilman Erick Erickson and Macon Police Chief Mike Burns.



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

More than 800 people from throughout the Southeast registered for the March 19-20 S.T.O.P. Conference.

Chief Burns contacted S.T.O.P. prior to its second spa raid last July, requesting training in anti-trafficking protocol. As a result, the raid revealed a suspected underaged sex trafficking victim among the 12 interviewed.

S.T.O.P. has no intention of slowing down, according to Vann. She is especially excited

about the regional conference, "S.T.O.P. Sex Trafficking: A Call to end 21st Century Slavery," which was held on Mercer's campus on March 19-20. Drs. Silver and Morgan cochaired the event.

Dr. Silver said that raising general awareness is the best hope

for solving the problem of human trafficking.

"We can end sex trafficking in Macon, but the traffickers will simply move their operation down the road, to another town," he said. "We want to stop trafficking in Georgia, period."

The conference featured a panel of nationally recognized human rights advocates, civic representatives and legal activists. Special



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

guests included Patricia McCormick, award-winning author of the critically acclaimed novel *SOLD*, and sex trafficking survivors Kika Cerpa and Joana Santos.

The *SOLD* Project, a short documentary profiling child prostitution in Thailand, is also a call to action for 20- and 30-something-year-olds. Representatives of the project call this particular generation "hungry for social justice and full of the passion and resources to create change."

"Our eventual goal is to create a shelter for women, children and men freed from sex slavery," Dr. Morgan said.

Dr. Silver may have been dragged into a cause last spring by his students, but it reminded him of his connectedness to other people.

"Their grassroots activism shook me out of a sense of fatalism and powerlessness," he said. "Think about it: 10 freshmen took on an ugly issue and, in less than a year, changed the way things are done in Macon."

More information about S.T.O.P., including a roundup story from the March 19-20 conference, is available online at [www.mercer.edu/STOP](http://www.mercer.edu/STOP)



# MERCER UNDERGRADUATES GAIN INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE WITH **Summer Research Program**

By Nancy Godson

**T**here was a worrisome trend occurring at Mercer not too long ago that Senior Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies D. Scott Davis and discerning faculty were determined to change.

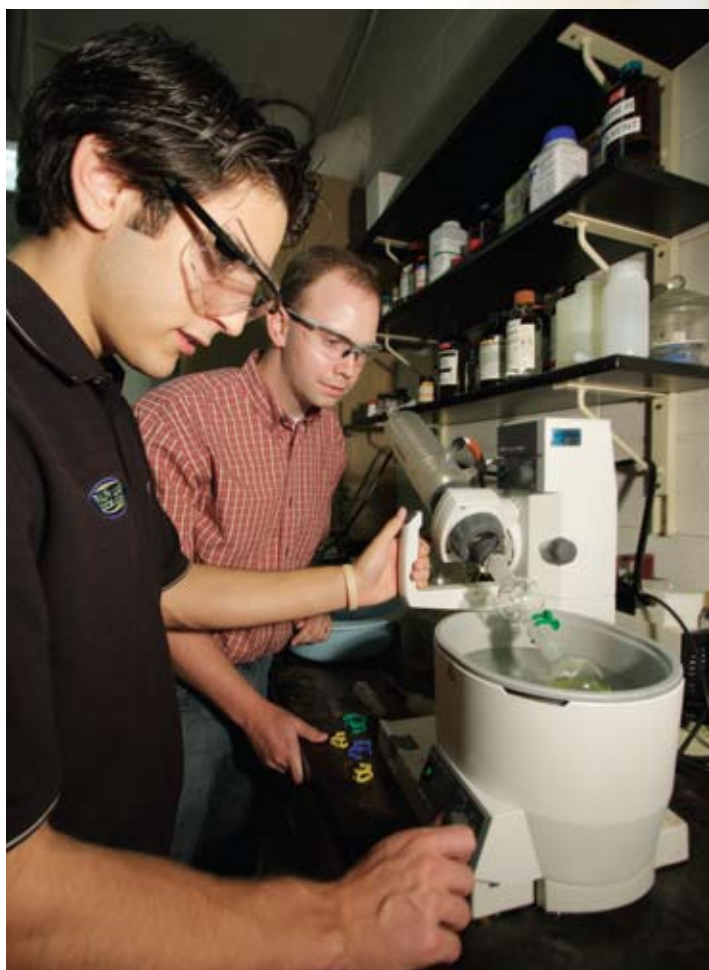
“We noticed that many of our best and brightest undergraduates were enrolling in other institutions to conduct research during the summer break,” he said. “Mercer was losing an important opportunity.”

Dr. Davis, who also is a tenured professor in the Chemistry Department, has worked with more than 40 undergraduates on various research projects during his career as an organic chemist. He knows firsthand that his most ambitious students prefer to be similarly engaged during the summer months.

Working with Mercer faculty, Dr. Davis began in 2007 to develop undergraduate research initiatives that would stand out among programs available at other institutions. He drew upon Mercer’s key strengths: student talent; a collaborative spirit between the University’s 11 schools and colleges; the faculty’s active learning method; and Mercer’s four professional schools.

“The lone researcher working feverishly behind a closed door is a thing of the past,” Dr. Davis said. “Modern research is collaborative and multidisciplinary, in which seemingly diverse scholarly agendas are examined under the umbrella of the same project.”

A unique component of Mercer’s undergraduate research program is how each year’s research projects are selected. Student applicants are matched to projects of mutual interest to both professor and student. Mercer launched its undergraduate research agenda in the summer of 2008 with an undergraduate biomedical research program. Nine students from the College of Liberal Arts teamed



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

Adel Mustafa and Dr. David Goode work with a rotary evaporator to remove solvent from a reaction prior to purification of the product.



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

**Dr. Scott Davis**



Biology major Hawley Kunz and faculty research partner and mentor Dr. Craig Byron conduct a research project investigating how exercising within the terminal branch arboreal niche influences mouse skeletal growth.

**“These students are not ‘go-fors’ of the team. They work elbow-to-elbow with faculty conducting cutting-edge research.”**

with CLA professors and faculty at Mercer’s School of Medicine and College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to explore potential advancements in the treatment of diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer’s and various cancers.

“These students are not ‘go-fors’ of the team,” Dr. Davis said. “They work elbow-to-elbow with faculty conducting cutting-edge research.”

Sophomore Brittney Francis gained first-hand knowledge of how tumors originate and grow while researching drug interactions on tumorigenic cells with Dr. Diane Matesic last summer at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

“I worked beside a pharmacy student, Allison Bell, who walked me through running gels and gave me great advice about the field of pharmacy,” said Francis, a biology major.

“I may have lacked the textbook knowledge the others had, but I felt valued by the team and we were all doing the same things — growing our own cultures, running assays, using the hemocytometer and converting data to charts,” she said.

Emilianne McCranie planned to major in biology on her way to becoming a physician, but switched over to biochemistry and molecular biology this year after conducting research with Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, assistant professor of chemistry. Dr. Bucholtz led his team on synthesizing potential drug candidates with the potential to one day effectively treat diabetes, heart disease and colon cancer.

Participating in research early in her academic year enabled McCranie to understand science on a deeper level. It also opened the door to an exciting career path that the then-sophomore never before considered.

“Participating in research helped me discover my purpose in life,” she said. “I know I can help more people by designing life-saving drugs, or discovering a new medical treatment, than on a patient-by-patient basis.”

McCranie will pursue a career in biomedical research after earning a medical degree.

“That way I’ll fulfill my dream of medical school, and also satisfy my passion for research,” she said. “My academic path has changed, but I feel more confident about my future plans.”

As well as engaging in advanced-level research, students attend seminars and research talks during the course of the summer program. At the completion of their project, each student is required to give a 20-minute presentation detailing their research process and subsequent results.

“This experience could very well lead to their presenting a paper at a regional, national, or international conference,” Dr. Davis said.

Hawley Kunz, a biology major scheduled to graduate in 2010, is looking forward to that opportunity with her faculty research partner and mentor, Dr. Craig Byron, assistant professor of biology in the College of Liberal Arts. Their primary research determined the effects of exercise and environment on the muscles and bones of the limbs of mice. Kunz continued to work with Dr. Byron throughout the year, assisting him



Dr. Vanthida Huang, left, assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, conducts a research experiment while being observed by Corinne Gilmer, student in the Mercer Undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Research Program.





Sophomore Brittney Francis gains first-hand knowledge about tumor cells studying under Dr. Kevin Bucholtz.

in the histological analysis of mice specimens. Ongoing research should provide insight into the factors of primate evolution.

"As we continue to compile and collect data from our research, Dr. Byron and I will have the opportunity to present our paper at upcoming conferences, giving me the chance to meet with researchers from many institutions and disciplines," Kunz said.

Students chosen to participate in Mercer's undergraduate research program receive a \$3,500 stipend, plus \$750 for supplies. Mercer will underwrite eight participants in 2009, and the National Institutes of Health also offers undergraduate research funding. Additional funding is available to Mercer through the National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes

Medical Institute. Dr. Davis is confident that 40 students will be enrolled in the program by 2012, the majority supported by external funding.

Undergraduate research projects have so far been predominantly science and medicine related, but last summer's success has attracted interest from a wider range of academic disciplines, all of which leads to exciting research possibilities.

"We've been approached by the Math Department about an interesting project," Dr. Davis said. "And History Professor Eric Klingelhofer's

**"Participating in research helped me discover my purpose in life. I know I can help more people by designing life-saving drugs, or discovering a new medical treatment..."**

archeological digs are legendary at Mercer."

Dr. Klingelhofer, an archaeologist, specializes in medieval English history and has traveled with students to England, Ireland, Virginia, Puerto Rico and Trinidad to locate and research the earliest English colonial settlements. Geophysical technology plays an essential role in his expeditions, generating expanded research opportunities and a wider scope of academic interests.



His student and faculty team will travel to Roanoke Island, N.C., in 2009 to further research the possible location of Sir Walter Raleigh's famed "Lost Colony." Students of computer science, engineering, environmental science, anthropology, history and physics will pool their academic expertise to contribute as a team on various research initiatives and technology, including radar tomography, data collec-

tion techniques, environmental preservation and cultural exploration.

Dr. Davis acknowledges that the marrying of cross-disciplinary research with undergraduate enthusiasm and talent strengthens each school and college, and ultimately leads to important exposure for Mercer.

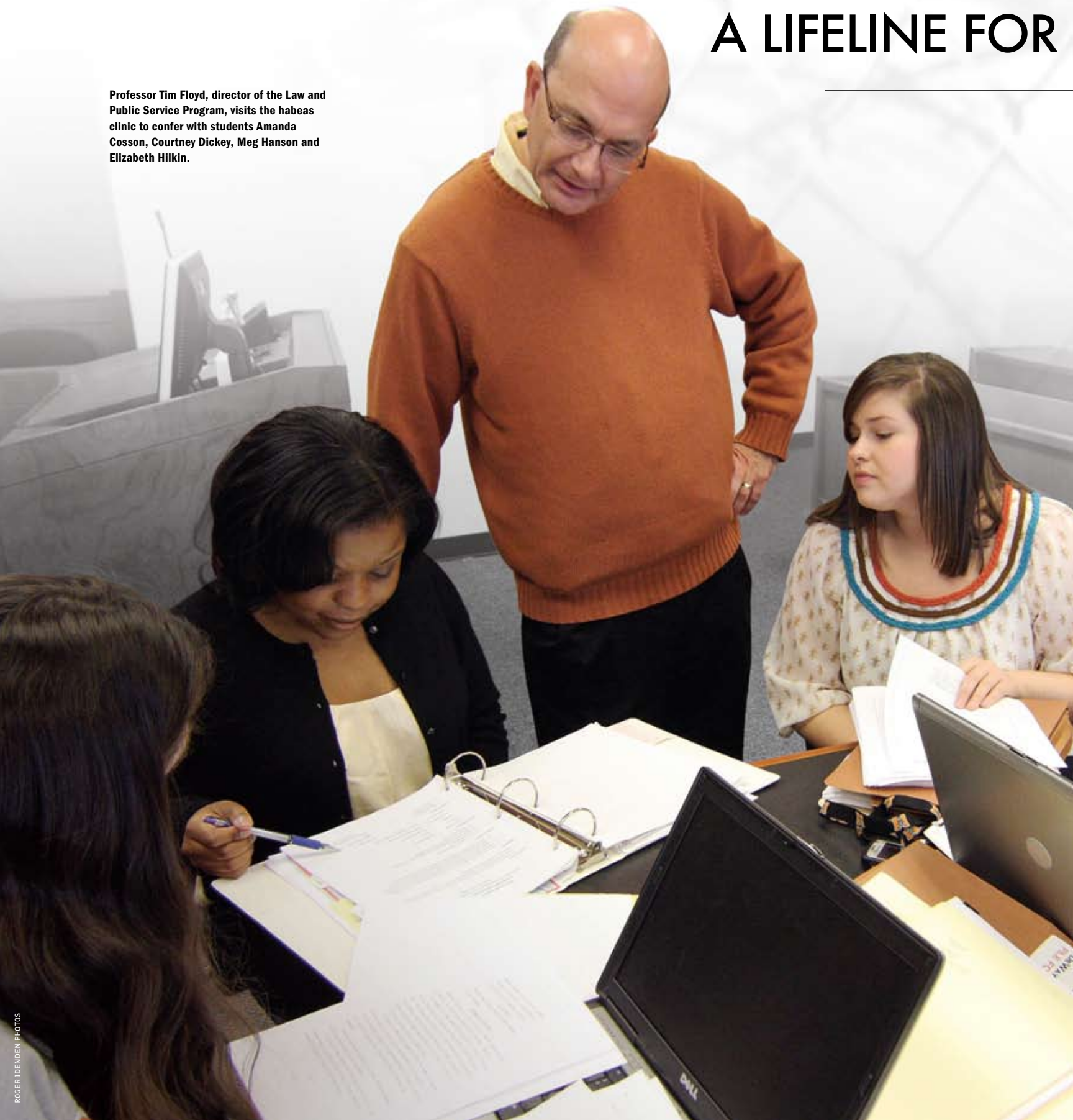
"Mercer has always been known as a superior teaching institution," Dr. Davis said. "Engaging undergraduates in cutting-edge, highly relevant, transinstitutional research tells the world that we are equally intentional about discovery."

# Mercer's

## A LIFELINE FOR

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**Professor Tim Floyd, director of the Law and Public Service Program, visits the habeas clinic to confer with students Amanda Cosson, Courtney Dickey, Meg Hanson and Elizabeth Hilkin.**





# Habeas Project

## THE WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED

By Nancy Godson

**T**he decision on June 30, 2008, was unanimous, which is somewhat rare for the Georgia Supreme Court. Yet when representatives of Mercer's Habeas Project appealed the malice murder conviction of Tavaris Smith, all seven justices agreed that the trial judge had construed his defense as an insanity plea. Such a plea implies intent, and Smith's lawyers had insisted that their client was asleep when he shot his wife in 2003 and couldn't know what he was doing. Smith was granted a new trial and the State of Georgia gained a new legal precedent: "The Sleepwalker Defense."

Sarah Gerwig-Moore, assistant professor at Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law and adviser to the Habeas Project, remembers telling Smith the good news.

"It was a beautiful moment," she said. "I said, 'Tavaris, we won! We won! It was unanimous!' We both cried."

*Smith v. The State* was one of several recent cases handled through Mercer's Law and Public Service Program, a University-wide initiative in which undergraduates from any of Mercer's schools and colleges can serve as interns and work with law students and faculty on actual cases for academic credit.

Professor Tim Floyd, program director, and Gerwig-Moore steer the program, which includes a public defender clinic, classes in poverty law, a public interest practicum, summer and judicial externships, and the Habeas Project.

Habeas corpus, which in Latin means 'you have the body,' is a legal petition filed with the court that challenges the right of a prison or court to hold a person. Habeas Corpus petitions are usually presented on the grounds that a prisoner's constitutional rights were compromised.

The Habeas Project distinguishes Mercer as the first and, so far, only program in Georgia to handle non-capital, post-conviction cases on a strictly *pro bono* basis. To people who are wrongfully imprisoned, it represents a legal lifeline that could lead to a new trial.

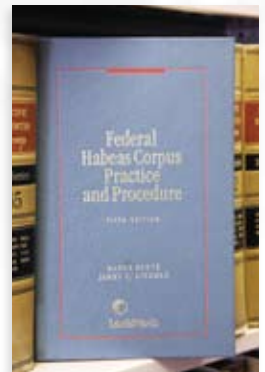
In Georgia, those who are found guilty at trial are guaranteed a public defender to present a direct appeal on their behalf, but if they lose at court, they also lose their right to counsel on subsequent appeals. It is at this point that Mercer's Habeas Project steps in.

"Persons serving prison sentences often lack the knowledge and resources to push their cases further without legal assistance," Gerwig-Moore said. "The Habeas Project bridges a legal gap and serves as a resource to prisoners whose legal rights are going unmet."

As one can imagine, the project receives crushing amounts of mail from Georgia prisoners begging for legal help.

To make the project manageable, Professor Gerwig-Moore closely monitors the Supreme Court docket, filtering cases through her understanding of trends in statewide and national law before choosing those to present to Mercer students for consideration.

"I always try to select cases that I think we have a strong chance of winning," she said. "I also look for compelling facts in a



case, or a very compelling client.”

Tavaris Smith’s sleepwalking defense was just such a case. So, too, is Kayla Wright, a 23-year-old Cordele mother convicted in 2006 of murdering her newborn. The jury deliberated just two hours before judging Wright guilty on four counts, including malice murder and concealment of a death. Although medical evidence suggests that her baby was stillborn, Wright’s request for a new trial was denied.

Enter Mercer’s Habeas Project team, which in February entered a direct appeal and argued before the Georgia Supreme Court that the jury heard improper and prejudicial evidence from an expert witness during Wright’s trial. The team, led by Gerwig-Moore, also argued that Wright’s constitutional rights were at issue since much of the trial was based on an involuntary confession that was unreliable. A Supreme Court decision will be handed down this spring.

“We don’t win every case, but we win most of them,” Gerwig-Moore said. The Habeas Project has handled 22 cases in nearly three years, has so far won 10 of them, and eight are ongoing.

Another distinction of the Habeas Project is that Mercer undergraduates participate as interns and work alongside second- and third-year law students on real-life cases. According to Gerwig-Moore, no other law class offers such an opportunity to university underclassmen.

“Law practice is collaborative,” she said. “With so many resources available within Mercer’s schools and colleges, it makes sense for us to work together and learn from one another.”

Prior to joining the Habeas Project as an intern, junior sociology major Cari Hipp was convinced that anyone sitting in prison probably had good reason for being there.

“Then I learned about the inconsistencies in Kayla’s case and how everyone rushed to call her a killer, and I began to understand that she was a client who needed help, not a dangerous murderer,” she said.

Hipp especially enjoyed participating in the brainstorming sessions with Gerwig-Moore and the law students.

“Every detail is examined and discussed, because it could be the life-changing point that convinces the court to accept a habeas corpus petition,” she said.

Hipp applied to the Habeas Project to satisfy the internship requirements for her criminal justice minor, but she’s now considering a law career.

Nadia Osman, a senior sociology major and future epidemiologist, wasn’t sure what the benefit would be to participating in the Habeas Project, but is happy that she followed the recommendation of her adviser, Dr. Leona Kanter, associate professor and chair of sociology.

“I was intimidated at first, but I ended up feeling like I’d participated in something important and pretty amazing,” Osman said.

“We throw a lot of work at the interns, but they’re bright and handle it really well,” Gerwig-Moore said. “They’re a real asset to the program.”

Undergraduates contribute to the team by conducting legal research, writing sample briefs and editing legal documents. They also make great sounding boards.

“Our law students enjoy practicing their oral arguments with the interns because they aren’t familiar with the legal system and offer a fresh perspective and good advice,” Gerwig-Moore said. “It’s great training for the courtroom.”

Third-year law student Emily Griffin says that working with the Habeas Project has opened her eyes to the important role she’ll soon take on as a lawyer. The “I can do it myself” law school mentality has no place in the courtroom, she says.

“Kayla’s case taught me that if I have the slightest doubt about something, then I need to seek advice from someone with more experience so that my actions don’t detrimentally affect the public, or the life of an innocent person,” Griffin said.

“At the end of the day, I get to go home,” she said. “Whether or not my client gets to do the same depends on my advocacy.”

It takes three years or more for post-conviction cases to process through the legal system, so a single case will cycle through several Habeas Corpus teams of students. Rarely, if ever, will a student work a case from opening appeal to final decision. Nadia Osman likens it to a jigsaw puzzle.

“I know I’ll never see the fruits of my labor,” she said. “Still, I added a piece to the puzzle, and the next person after me will add his piece, until one day the picture will be complete.”

“That’s what’s great about the Habeas Project,” Osman said. “No one person can take full credit for winning a case, because no one worked alone. We each played a part.”

**“Every detail is examined and discussed, because it could be the life-changing point that convinces the court to accept a habeas corpus petition.”**



ROGER IDENBOM PHOTO

Clinic director and law professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore, third from left, with students, from left, Arthur York, David Curcio, Amanda Cosson, Courtney Dickey, Meg Hanson, Elizabeth Hilkin, Justin Kennedy and David Bikoff.



# MERCER MEDICAL STUDENTS **Serve** AND **Learn**

by Roban Johnson

**“It’s a win-win situation for everyone.  
Our patients are so grateful to receive health care,  
and our students need to learn.”**

In the past, Macon resident Shirley Robinson had no problem finding health care. She was covered under a health insurance policy and was able to see a doctor whenever she needed. That changed about five years ago. No longer married, the self-employed beautician soon realized that she would need other resources to pay for health care. “It was really hard,” she said. “Although I worked, I didn’t have health insurance. It was expensive to buy it on my own, so whenever I went to the doctor, I had to use money out of my pocket that I really didn’t have.”

Already diagnosed with glaucoma, Robinson knew how important it was to receive regular check-ups and care. Without insurance, she went to different places for a few months, but then heard about the Macon Volunteer Clinic, which provides free health care for Bibb County’s working poor.

The clinic is staffed by volunteers, including Mercer pre-med and Medical School students and retired and practicing physicians, dentists, and nurses.

“If it weren’t for the Macon Volunteer Clinic, I would be totally lost,” she said. “I work, but I don’t have enough money to pay for my health coverage. I don’t have to pay at the clinic because of all of the volunteers





Lynn Denney, director of the Volunteer Clinic, treats a patient at the facility.

SALVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

**“The students that volunteer at the clinic already understand the importance of giving back to society.”**

who offer their services.”

Retired physician Chapin Henley spearheaded efforts to start a clinic in Macon after reading about one in Hilton Head, S.C. “I knew Macon had retired doctors, a residency program, and a medical school, so I thought there had to be a way to hook all that together,” Dr. Henley said. Located on Rogers Avenue, the Macon Volunteer Clinic opened its doors in February 2003.

To meet the needs of more than 700 patients, which resulted in close to 3,000 office visits last year, the clinic depends heavily on volunteers. That model worked out perfectly at Mercer, where service-learning is an integral part of the University’s mission.

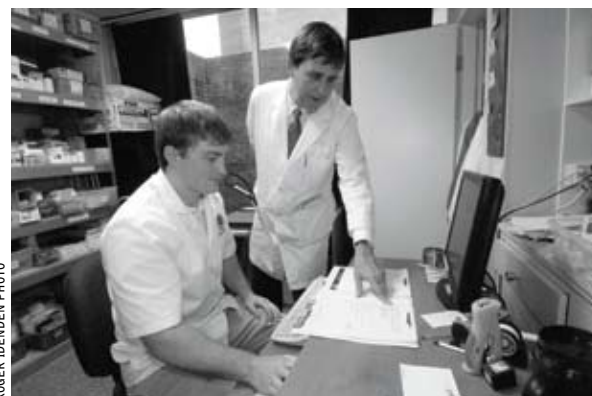
“We are lucky to be able to work at the clinic,” said Helen King, a second-year student at the Medical School. As a coordinator, she recruits other first- and second-year medical

students to give up their Saturdays to work in the clinic. They also help Dr. Patrick Roche, associate professor in Mercer’s Department of Family Medicine, recruit physicians to work with them. “Spending time at the clinic gives us clinical experience that is valuable to our training to become physicians,” she added. “We also are learning the importance of helping people who are truly in need.”

While there, the students are practicing the skills they are being taught on campus, said Dr. Roche, who often volunteers on Saturdays to work with the students. “They learn how

to talk to a patient about sensitive information or how to listen to a heart with a stethoscope. And the patients recognize they are playing a role in the training of new doctors, so they are patient and gentle with the learners.”

During the week, students organize medications in the pharmacy, help in the x-ray area and even answer phones. They also have opportunities to interact with patients by drawing



Dr. Patrick Roche analyzes patient information with a Medical School student at the Volunteer Clinic.

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO



**“They are learning about the pleasure of donating, of going against the grain,  
of enhancing the reputation of the medical profession.”**

blood, taking blood pressure and conducting patient histories — all in an atmosphere of care and compassion.

“When I walked into that office for the first time last fall, a young lady gave me such a warm welcome it was unbelievable,” said patient Jacqueline Moore, who with her husband run a small home improvement business while they raise two grandchildren. “Everybody is so loving and so caring my heart goes out to them.”

Moore already knew she had high blood pressure, but she couldn’t afford medication. She had not received regular care in some time and knew her family had a history of heart disease and diabetes. “I couldn’t even afford to find out if I had diabetes,” she said.

That changed when she discovered the Macon Volunteer Clinic. “I’ve never seen a doctor so thorough and who will take so much time with you,” she said. “When they performed an EKG on me, I started crying. I had always wanted to have that test to know if I had heart problems, too.”

Both Robinson and Moore praise the student volunteers who have helped them. “I will never forget one time when the doctor had to use a long, skinny needle to remove fluid from my breast,” said Robinson, who suffers from fibrocystic tumors. “The student held my hand really tight like she had known me for a long time. I found it really comforting for her to be there with me.”

Medical Director Dr. Lynn Denny, MED ’97, says Mercer may be one of only 14 medical schools in the nation that has a student-run health clinic. During the week, Dr. Denny directs the clinic, but on Saturdays, students take over. “Our role is voluntary,” King said. “All first- and second-year students have the opportunity to work in the clinic on Saturdays. Since the first two years of medical school are primarily book work, working at the clinic is a great opportunity for students to get clinical experience early on in their education.” She also believes the clinic gives students a chance to reach out to the community. “It’s a good feeling to know that we have something to do with providing this service to the people who need it. We are lucky to be a small part of it.”

As part of the Saturday clinics, the coordinators give students a tour of the clinic and

the lab. Then first- and second-year students are paired together and allowed to take basic histories and perform preliminary examinations. The students then present the patient to the assigned physician, and they examine the patient together.

“It’s a win-win situation for everyone,” Dr. Denny said. “Our patients are so grateful to receive health care, and our students need to learn. Students have to first listen to a lot of normal heart beats and lungs before they can know what’s abnormal. Any experience they receive will make them better doctors on down the line.”

“Learning the value of volunteer service is an important part of any professional’s involvement in the community,” added Dr. John Boltri, a professor in the Department of Family Medicine and a volunteer at the clinic. “The students that volunteer at the clinic already understand the importance of giving back to society.”

These students are giving away some of the services that at some point will earn them money, Dr. Roche said. “They are learning about the pleasure of donating, of going against the grain, of enhancing the reputation of the medical profession. They learn that by working in the clinic, they will expose

themselves to the best of others.”

With approximately 1.7 million Georgians uninsured, Dr. Denny remains concerned that approximately 18,000 Americans die every year due to a lack of health care. “Taking care of these folks is our passion,” she said. “The students and other volunteers just want them to get the care they need and deserve.”



Dr. Patrick Roche observes second-year Medical student Charles R. Bosshardt treat a patient.

SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

# MERCER BEARS ROUNDUP

## Mercer to Host 2010, 2011 Atlantic Sun Conference Basketball Championships

**T**he Atlantic Sun announced at a March 17 news conference in the University Center that Mercer will host the 2010 and 2011 Men's and Women's Basketball Championships at the University Center. Mercer, the conference's remaining charter member, will host for the first time in school history.

"We are very excited to bring our premier event to Macon, and we look forward to Mercer University serving as host for the General Shale Brick A-Sun Basketball Championships for the next two years," Atlantic Sun Commissioner Ted Gumbart said. "Mercer has an outstanding facility, provides a central location for A-Sun fans, and the Mercer community will do an outstanding job as hosts. On behalf of the membership, we extend our thanks to Mercer University President Bill Underwood for his sincere interest in bringing the event to the University Center, and we look forward to continuing a tradition of excellence and growth by having our championships here in 2010 and 2011."

Lipscomb University's Allen Arena hosted the last two championships in Nashville, the first two years in which men and women held their respective championships on the same floor. The 2010 and 2011 events will follow the same format. After one season with seven teams in the field, the Championship will return to eight-team brackets as the University of North Florida and Kennesaw State gain eligibility after completing four-year transition periods to NCAA Division I.

The men's championship game will be nationally televised live on ESPN2 while Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night, women's and men's games will be televised on Comcast Sports, the same network that carries the A-Sun Game of the Week during the regular season. All tournament games are also streamed live on A-Sun TV via the World Wide Web.

"We are very pleased to be selected to host the



**Diane Owens**, CLA '77, LAW '80 (at podium), president of the Mercer Athletic Foundation and chair of the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, joined a host of university, Atlantic Sun Conference, city and county officials participating in the March 17 announcement of the A-Sun Championships coming to Mercer in 2010 and 2011.

A-Sun basketball tournament in 2010 and 2011," said Bobby Pope, Mercer's director of athletics. "The University Center and Macon's central location within the conference make us the ideal choice. As the only charter member remaining in the A-Sun, it is only fitting that we are now able to host the tournament for the first time in conference history."

Opening for basketball in 2004, the \$40 million University Center features a 3,200-seat arena. The 2010 and 2011 Basketball Championships will not be the first A-Sun

Championships held in the University Center. The facility hosted the 2007 and 2008 Volleyball Championships. Over the last two seasons,

Mercer's men's basketball team hosted non-conference opponents Alabama and Georgia Tech in front of sold-out crowds. Mercer basketball

attendance has increased by more than 50 percent since the arrival of new head coaches Bob Hoffman and Janell Jones.

The event will continue its Wednesday-Saturday schedule. The 2010 Championship will run from March 3-6 and the 2011 Championship will start on March 2.

The Atlantic Sun Conference is an 11-member league committed to "Building Winners for Life." The A-Sun stands for achievement with integrity in both the academic and athletic arenas, with a focus on the balance between the two for our student-athletes. Headquartered in Macon, the A-Sun boasts six of the top eight media markets in the Southeast. The A-Sun includes a blend of the most prestigious and dynamic private and public institutions in the region: Belmont University, Campbell University, East Tennessee State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Jacksonville University, Kennesaw State University, Lipscomb University, Mercer University, University of North Florida, University of South Carolina Upstate and Stetson University.





# Women's Soccer Earns Conference Championship; Grant Serafy Named Coach of the Year

**A**fter hauling in a host of postseason awards for their performance on the field last fall, Mercer continued to gain recognition for its ability off the pitch as well. The Bears earned a NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) Team Academic Award for their work in the classroom, as the Bears posted a 3.54 team GPA for the 2007-08 academic year.

Amazingly, this marks the seventh consecutive year, and the eighth time in the last nine years, that the Bears have earned the NSCAA national academic award. Mercer also put 23 players on the Atlantic Sun Academic All-Conference Team last season.

"I am very proud of our student-athletes," said Mercer head coach Grant Serafy. "They have continued our very successful streak of being recognized with this academic award. It is a reflection of how hard they work off the field and in the classroom. Academic success is certainly a priority here at Mercer, and I couldn't be happier that we continue to win this award."

This season proved to be a landmark year for the Bears program, as the team went 11-5-4 on the season, tying the team record for wins in a season and winning its first-ever Atlantic Sun regular season championship with a 7-2-1 mark in conference play. The 2008 season also saw Serafy become the program's all-time winningest coach, surpassing

Ian Hayley's nine-year-old record of 38 wins.

Five Bears earned Atlantic Sun All-Conference postseason honors, tying a program record. In addition, Mercer's Heather Manting received the Atlantic Sun Defensive Player of the Year Award, while freshman midfielder Olivia Tucker earned Freshman of the Year honors and Serafy was chosen as the Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

Grabbing Atlantic Sun First Team honors for the Bears were goalkeeper Jean Worts, defenders Heather Manting and Kacie Hudson, and midfielder Meghan Castaldo, while Tucker grabbed second-team All-Conference honors.

With four players earning first-team spots, the Bears not only are the most represented school in the A-Sun's top 11, but they also tie a program record for most first-teamers in a single season.



Women's soccer head coach **Grant Serafy** led his squad to the conference championship and he was named Coach of the Year.

In addition to her all-conference nod, Manting became the first Mercer player to earn the Atlantic Sun Defensive Player of the Year Award after anchoring the conference's best defense to a school-record 10 shutouts and the nation's 11th-best goals against average (0.54).



Coach Noelle Rooke

## Rooke Named Volleyball Coach of the Year

**A**fter tallying the program's highest win total in 12 seasons, the volleyball team accumulated three Atlantic Sun All-Conference selections in addition to head coach Noelle Rooke earning A-Sun Coach of the Year honors.

Seniors Karen Dorris and Claire Tucker landed spots on the All-Conference second team after leading the Bears to an 18-10 (13-7 A-Sun) record in regular season play. Freshman outside hitter Amiee Frutche garnered an All-Freshman team selection.

The 2008 Mercer squad tied the 1995 team with the most number of players earning post-season honors. Rooke became the first Conference Coach of the Year in program history.

"I'm very humbled by this recognition from my peers; however, I am only as good as the people I'm surrounded by," Rooke

said. "I am so thankful for the staff that I've had with me all season long."

This year, Rooke enjoyed her most successful season as she became the winningest coach in program history on Oct. 5 against University of South Carolina-Upstate, and has now posted 61 wins as head coach of the Bears.

## Nation's Best Golfers Coming to Brickyard

**P**artnering for the third straight year with the Brickyard at Riverside, Mercer will host the third annual Brickyard Collegiate Golf Championship Oct. 9-12. Fifteen teams will compete in the three-day, 54-hole event, held on the par-72, 7,128-yard course.

In addition to host Mercer, this year's Brickyard Collegiate field includes two-time winners and defending champion Georgia, Georgia Tech, Augusta State, Chattanooga, Charlotte, Clemson, Florida

State, LSU, Michigan, Mississippi, UNF, Penn State, Virginia Commonwealth and Virginia Tech.

In a tightly-contested final round last season, Georgia retained its tournament crown after posting a team score of 282 (six-under) in the tournament's final round.

Likewise, the individual title came down to the wire as well, as Georgia Tech's Cameron Tringale bested Virginia Tech's Drew Weaver by just a single stroke.

The 2009 edition promises to be every bit as competitive, as every participating school currently ranks in the nation's top 100 teams. This year's Brickyard Collegiate will feature no fewer than two of the NCAA's top five teams and six of the country's top 25 teams, as Georgia (No. 1), Clemson (No. 4), Georgia Tech (No. 12), LSU (No. 18), Ole Miss (21), and Florida State (No. 25) all currently rank among the nation's finest programs. For more information, visit [www.brickyardcollegiate.org](http://www.brickyardcollegiate.org).

## Basketball Teams Post Winning Records in Reenergizing Campus and Community Support

**“R**aising the Bar” was an accomplishment for both the men’s and women’s basketball programs during the 2008-09 season. Both teams completed winning seasons, while facing challenging schedules, and let their fellow members in the Atlantic Sun Conference know to beware of the Bears in upcoming seasons.

The men’s squad, under the direction of first-year head coach Bob Hoffman, finished the season 17-15 overall with November upsets of Alabama and Auburn on the road, only three days apart, and then forcing Georgia Tech to rally from 18 points behind in the Mercer Homecoming game later that week. In subsequent days, the Bears traveled to several well-respected national programs — Oklahoma State, UCLA, Loyola Marymount and Iowa State — in non-conference play.

In addition to the capacity crowd that filled the University Center against Georgia Tech, more than 3,100 people attended a late-season conference game against Lipscomb and the average attendance escalated to more than 1,800 per home outing, a 50 percent increase.

Mercer entered the Atlantic Sun Championships at Lipscomb as the No. 6 seed after Campbell received the No. 5 position in a tie-breaker. The Bears battled Belmont, the three-time defending conference champion, after splitting decisions with the Bruins in the regular season. After James Florence scored to give Mercer a one-point lead with nine seconds to go, it took a miracle put-back of a blocked shot by Belmont freshman Mick Hedgepeth, with two-tenths of a second to go, to

defeat the Bears 65-64 and end Mercer’s season.

The Bears wrapped up the 2008-09 campaign with its first winning season since the 2004-05 team finished 16-12 and notched just their third winning season in the last 15 years.

Looking ahead to the 2009-10 season, the Bears lose only one senior, Calvin Henry. Five juniors will return for their senior seasons: Daniel Emerson, Bejay Corley, Brendan Walker, E.J. Kusnyer and James Florence, who needs 250 points to pass Sam Mitchell and become Mercer’s all-time leading scorer. Michael Ellis, who was already eligible to earn his degree, opted not to return for his senior season.

The Mercer women, under second-year head coach Janell Jones, completed the season with a 16-14 mark, earned their first winning season since the 2001-02 season, and owned the biggest RPI turnaround in the country. The Bears saw their RPI rise to 162, after completing the previous season at 315. The improvement of 153 positions was the biggest leap of any NCAA Division I team, besting second-place Central Florida by five spots.

With a 12-8 conference mark, Mercer entered the A-Sun Conference Championships as the No. 4 seed. In the first round, the Bears eliminated No. 5 Stetson, 84-51. In the second round, they battled East Tennessee State University, the eventual conference champion. Even though the Bears had defeated the Lady Bucs twice during the regular season, they dropped an 82-60 decision that sent ETSU to the championship game.

The Bears lose six seniors: Natasha Doh, TaShera Lewis, Cristin Seymour, Dominique Chism, Megan Lewis and Nicole Leonard, but will return eight letter-winners who gathered valuable playing

time this season.

The announcement of Mercer hosting the men’s and women’s Atlantic Sun Conference Championships next season in the University Center can only heighten the degree of off-season conditioning in anticipation of even better seasons in 2009-10.



**Courtney Ford**, who was a major contributor for the women’s team this season, will be looked upon for even greater contribution in 2009-2010

### Baseball Wants to Peak at Championship

The 2008 season capped off a successful three-year run for the Mercer baseball team, in which the Bears won more regular season conference games than any school in the Atlantic Sun Conference. Despite the wave of prosperity, there is one goal the Bears have yet to reach.

Mercer earned the No. 2 seed in the A-Sun Championship for the third consecutive season in 2008. And, for the third season in a row, the Bears were left out of the title picture.

The Bears compiled a 3-5 postseason record in the three-year span, including an 0-2 performance at the 2008 championship. Sixth-year head coach Craig Gibson

wants no more than to buck this trend in 2009.

“Any time you are in conference play, you want to be playing your best baseball in the last one-third of your season,” Gibson said. “I don’t think we did that last year.”

To turn things around in 2009, the Bears must do so with a relatively inexperienced squad after fielding a senior-laden lineup a year ago. In addition to a new look on the field, the dugout underwent a change as well, as Brent Shade joined the coaching staff as Mercer’s pitching coach after a five-year stint in the same position at Furman.

“There is a lot of newness this season with a new staff member and a lot of new arms joining the team,” Gibson said. “We will also have some new starters who haven’t had an opportunity to start before, but it is

their time now. We had a great fall segment and made strides in certain areas. We have a great group of guys that get better every day, but we don’t have a lot of past numbers on which to draw.”

Lost in the graduating class of 2008 were four position players who started 50 or more games last season, including shortstop Billy Shaughnessy, first baseman Mike Armstrong, right fielder John Dortch and center fielder Matt Crawford. The Bears also lost 36-game starter Tyler Brown along with starting pitchers David Harden, Justin Boyette and Boone Webster.

“Last year we had nine great seniors we relied upon very heavily,” Gibson said. “It is always difficult to replace quality players like that, but I think some newness is good. Our energy should be better this season.”

With a younger team and a smaller senior class (four in 2009), Gibson believes a fresh approach will translate into more success in May.

“I have taken a different approach for this club, and I’m not putting the onus of success on our smaller senior class,” Gibson said. “Hopefully, with a renewed focus, and some new guys in the lineup, that will help when the conference tournament rolls around.”

Mercer’s schedule includes games against four 2008 NCAA Championship qualifiers, including in-state rival Georgia Tech, SEC opponent Ole Miss, MEAC powerhouse Bethune-Cookman and fellow A-Sun foe, Lipscomb.

“We have another tough non-conference schedule in 2009,” Gibson said. “Georgia



## Three New Members Inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

**A**mong the many activities held Homecoming Weekend at Mercer Nov. 21-23 was the induction of three new members into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame. Former men's basketball player James Dartez Talbott, women's basketball player Laura Shamp and baseball player Mark A. Steinbeck joined the 137 members of the Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony was held in the Presidents Dining Room at the University Center and the inductees were also recognized at halftime of the Mercer-Georgia Tech basketball game.

### James Dartez Talbott, CLA '81

Talbott is a member of the 1,000-point-club at Mercer, finishing with 1,021 during his three-year career after transferring from Southwestern Junior College in Oklahoma City. He was an All-Conference performer his junior and senior seasons and was team captain both years. Averaging 9.1 points as a sophomore, 14.7 as a junior and 13.5 as a senior,

Talbott was an exceptional free throw shooter, hitting 34 in a row during the 1980-81 season, and finishing his career making 79 percent.

Talbott's play helped vault the Bears to the Atlantic Sun Conference championship in 1981 and to the NCAA Tournament, where they lost to Arkansas in the Midwest Regionals. Talbott scored 22 points against the Razorbacks.

Talbott has had a successful high school coaching career, serving 20 years on the coaching staff at Washington County High School, where he won a state championship, then two years at Mary Persons, and now is a special education teacher and former head boys' coach at Northeast High School in Macon.

### Laura Shamp, CLA '85

Shamp is a member of the Mercer 1,000-point club and also pulled down 686 rebounds during her outstanding career from 1981-85. She ranks No. 5 all-time at Mercer in field goal percentage at 51 percent. Averaging 11.6 rebounds as a senior, she led the Bears to a Final Four berth in Division II. She was named South Region Tournament MVP after averaging 19 points and 17 rebounds.

Shamp came to Mercer on an academic scholarship and then earned a basketball scholarship. At Mercer, she graduated with a 3.93 grade-point-average before earning a law degree at Harvard. Her law office, Laura M. Shamp LLC, is in Atlanta.

### The Honorable Mark A. Steinbeck, CLA '70, Law '76

The crafty left-hander from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., compiled a 25-13 record during his four-year career at Mercer. In those four seasons, Mercer had an overall record of 65-33. Steinbeck accounted for 38 percent of the wins. As a freshman, he compiled a 6-4 record and pitched eight scoreless innings against SEC champion Auburn. As a sophomore, his record was 6-3 with a one-hitter pitched against Grace College, and he threw another one-hitter his junior season against Malone College while earning a 6-2 record. He recorded 53 strikeouts that season while appearing in 11 games. In his senior season, Steinbeck compiled a 7-4 record, pitching 63 innings, allowing 58 hits and 23 runs with only 12 of those earned. He finished the season with an earned run average of 1.71, had 48 strikeouts and 26 walks.

Today, Steinbeck is a circuit court judge in Fort Myers, Fla.

*(Nominations for the 2009 inductees are being accepted at [www.mercer.edu/homecoming](http://www.mercer.edu/homecoming).)*



Talbott, Steinbeck, Shamp and President William D. Underwood at Hall of Fame Banquet.

Tech and Ole Miss are top-10 caliber teams and you can pencil in Bethune-Cookman for the postseason nearly every year. Those are the types of teams you have to play if you reach the postseason, so it is good to face such high-quality opponents."

### Softballers Seek First Conference Title

One year removed from the program's first 30-win season since 2004, the 2009 Mercer Bears softball team enters the year with the goal of qualifying for a fourth-straight Atlantic Sun Conference tournament and capturing the first conference title in program history. Head Coach Mike Raynor trusts his squad has the right mix of players to challenge for

the 2009 A-Sun crown.

"We had a great fall practice period," Raynor said. "Our team talent is improved overall, and along with players who have valuable Division I experience, some of our talented freshmen will see extensive playing time from the very first pitch. Our team attitude is very positive, and if we stay healthy and have a little luck on our side, good things could happen."

This year's Bears feature 14 returning letter-winners along with the addition of 10 newcomers. The biggest challenges for Raynor and his coaches will be replacing first-team All-Atlantic Sun star Jamie Madrugá (who graduated last spring) and finding a way to mesh experienced players with incoming talent.

### Basketball Great Sam Mitchell Honored

Sam Mitchell, the 2006-2007 National Basketball Association Coach of the Year, a 13-year NBA veteran player and Mercer's all-time leading scorer, was honored at halftime of

the Bears' Jan. 16 game against Florida Gulf Coast University. Mitchell is a member of the Mercer Board of Trustees and President's Club. He was presented the Spires of Higher Education portrait by President William D. Underwood and Athletic Director Bobby Pope on behalf of the University.

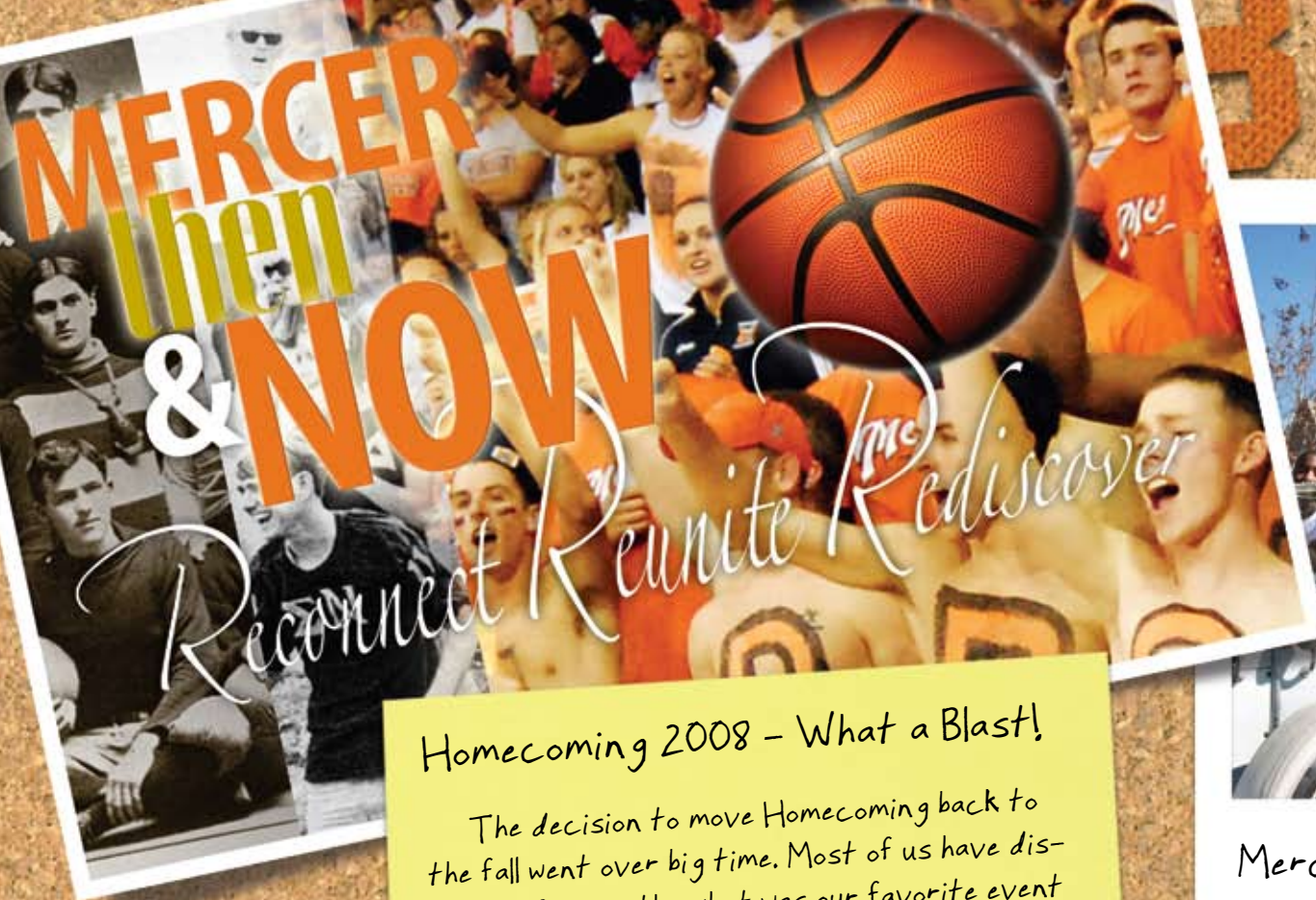


### Braves' Star Featured at First Pitch Classic

More than 500 people attended the inaugural First Pitch Classic, sponsored by the Mercer baseball team. Atlanta Braves outfielder **Jeff Francouer** was a "big hit" among those who attended, as he signed

autographs at a pre-event reception at the Hilton Garden Inn and then delivered an inspirational address at a dinner held in the University Center Arena.





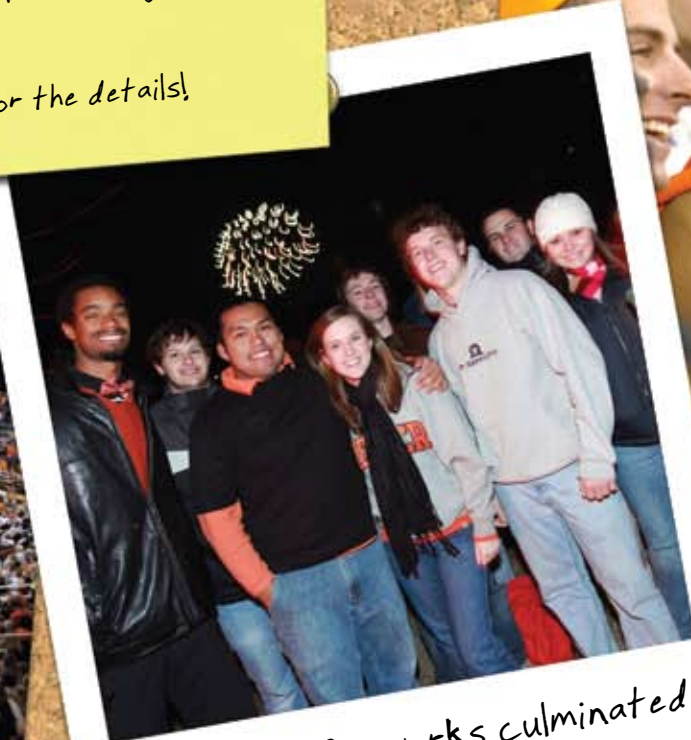
## Homecoming 2008 - What a Blast!

The decision to move Homecoming back to the fall went over big time. Most of us have discussed for months what was our favorite event - the overtime basketball game against Georgia Tech, bon fire and pep rally, fireworks, tailgating, skits, the dance, or just reminiscing with old friends at class reunions. All were well attended and, as they say, "A Good Time Was Had by All." The great thing is, if you missed out on Homecoming this past fall, Homecoming 2009 will be even bigger and better.

Check out the back cover for the details!



Mercer students have the antique car, "The Glass".



Gigantic fireworks culminated activities on Friday







their own  
classic"



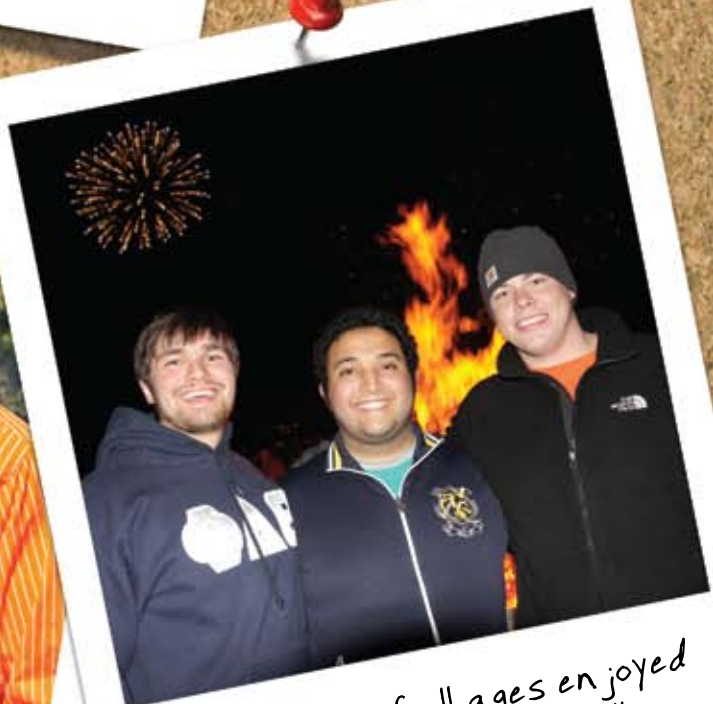
The dance was a hit  
on Saturday night



Toby kept the Homecoming  
crowd fired up



Life-long relationships often  
begin at a Mercer Homecoming



Mercerians of all ages enjoyed  
the bonfire and pep rally



## Achievements

### 1950s

**Norma C. Banks**, CLA '58, ran several 5K, 10K and 1/2 marathon road races and biathlons and collected T-shirts and trophies. At age 50, she celebrated with a bike ride across America, including six weeks to travel 3,450 miles (Seattle to Atlantic City), with her youngest daughter.

### 1960s

**Charles W. Brown**, CLA '61, recently won three track and field medals in the East Tennessee Senior Olympics held in Gatlinburg, Tenn., which comprised 14 counties.

**Lawrence C. Collins**, LAW '69, was re-elected to his fourth term as mayor of the City of Byron. His terms include the years: 1976-1984 and 2004-2012.

**H. Terrell Griffin**, CLA '66 and LAW '68, authored the book, *Blood Island*, published by Oceanview Printing and released in December.

**Johnny L. McGill**, PHA '69, retired May 2, 2007, after 28 years with Clover Fork Clinic Pharmacy. McGill and his wife, Patricia, reside in Evarts, Ky.

**The Rev. Patricia A. Otwell**, CLA '68, announces the publication of her book, *Guide to Ministering to Alzheimer's Patients and Their Families*, by Taylor & Francis under its Routledge imprint. Otwell resides in Ormond Beach, Fla.

**Brenda B. Payne**, CLA '68, retired from the state of Georgia, where she had a career as a social

worker and adoption placement worker.

**Dr. Mary Sue Thompson Polleys**, CLA '66, was appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue to serve on the State Board of Education as the representative from the Third Congressional District. Polleys received her Ph.D. from Auburn University in 2000 and served as the chair of the Muscogee County School Board for the past seven years.

**Dr. Gwen D. Sherwood**, NUR '66, was elected to vice president of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing.

**Toni V. Sweeney**, CLA '65, signed a contract with BelleBooks for a three-book series, which will be launched at DragonCon in Atlanta in September.

### 1970s

**Dr. Brett R. Bolhofner**, CLA '77, was elected president of Florida Orthopedic Society for 2008-2009.

**Dewey N. Hayes Jr.**, LAW '79, is serving as district governor, Lions of Georgia, covering 43 counties of Southeast Georgia.

**Amy L. Hutto**, CLA '79, was recognized at South Coast Repertory Theatre's Annual Dinner for her 10 years of service as the costume shop manager for the prestigious regional theatre.

**James. R. Lindsay**, CLA '76, and **Marie Wilson-Lindsay**, LAW '79, authored a book, *Get in Line and Win! A Comprehensive Manual on Raising Funds from All Sources of Revenue*, published in February by Amazon.com. In 2008, James

R. Lindsay also became an adjunct professor at the Northern Virginia Community College teaching sociology.

**LTC (Ret.) Terry J. Mularkey**, CLA '78, was named the associate executive director of The Citadel Foundation.

### 1980s

**Dr. Daniel E. Buffington**, PHA '87, received two national awards from two national pharmacy organizations: American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Award of Excellence and the American Pharmacists Association Pinnacle Award.

**Dwight J. Davis**, LAW '82, a senior partner with the firm of King & Spalding, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers in March 2008.

**Julia C. Dudley**, LAW '85, became acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia on May 17, 2008.

**Michael G. Fields**, CLA '88, recently completed serving his third term as the mayor of the city of Cartersville. He and his wife, Susan, CLA '89, have two daughters.

**Barbara W. Gauthier**, CLA '80, was selected as co-anchor for the 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts for WTVN in Ohio.

**Joe F. Grammer III**, LAW '81, was elected Bay County (Panama City, Fla.) judge on Aug. 26, 2008, after 27 years as a prosecutor.

**T. Mitchell Holbrook**, CLA '82, was appointed

by the governor of Kentucky to the Certification Board of Fee-Based Pastoral Counselors for the state of Kentucky.

**Budge S. Huskey**, BUS '81, will be managing a swath of the parent of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate.

**Michael T. Hurd**, LAW '89, took office as Commonwealth's attorney in January 2008, serving as president of Middle Peninsula Bar Association 2006-2008.

**The Honorable Curtis S. Jenkins**, LAW '82, was elected to the board of directors of the National Rifle Association, previously serving 16 years as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives (chairman-Special Judiciary Committee and member- Georgia Code Revision Commission, 1999-2005).

**Christine E. Lamia**, LAW '87, was appointed chair of the Litigation Practice Group at Bryant, Miller & Olive.

**Neal E. Logue**, CLA '81, was named a health insurance specialist with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services San Francisco Regional Office, Division of Financial Management and Fee for Service Operations.

**Johann R. "Chip" Manning Jr.**, LAW '85, joined Central Parking System in Nashville, Tenn., as senior vice president and general counsel.

**W. Dwight Payne**, LAW '83, recently returned from a mission trip traveling Canada's ice roads. An article about this trip was published in an issue of *The Baptist Horizon*, the official magazine of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

**Carolyn H. Pfude**, CLA '87, was named vice president and transition planning/management business unit director at Gilbane Building Company.

**Kathryn M. Schrader**, LAW '87, was appointed by Gov. Perdue to the Governor's Office for Children and Families Advisory Board. Schrader has her own practice and is cofounder of a mediation and arbitration firm, Resolution Matters.

**Darcee S. Siegel**, LAW '85, was recognized by the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section with the Kirsten Christophe Memorial Award for Excellence in Tort Trial and Insurance Law for demonstrating expertise in the areas of insurance law or trial practice.

**Ray S. Smith III**, LAW '87, was appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

**Lt. Col. Fred P. Taylor**, LAW '86, was selected as one of four Army lawyers to attend U.S. Army War College during the 2008-2009 academic year.

**Jill P. Tolbert**, CLA '88, was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**James T. Vaughn**, EDU '89, was presented the "Optimist of the Year" award by the Georgia District of Optimist International at the 61st Annual District Conference in Jekyll Island.

**Brian T. Wilson**, LAW '87, was elected to serve a second one-year term as chairman of the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. Wilson is a partner in the law firm of Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna and Ruffier.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEUART BOTCHFORD

**Botchford's Teach for America Experience is Back-Bending** — Stuart Botchford, CLA '07, is discovering Teach for America can be a back-bending opportunity. The former student body president is in his second year in the program, shown with students in his first-grade music class at Leland School Park in Leland, Miss. Botchford, after completing his Teach for America experience, plans to earn an MS/MBA from the University of Michigan's Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, which combines an MBA from the Ross School of Business and an Master of Science from the School of Natural Resources. Botchford is just one of 14 recent Mercer graduates who are currently serving in the highly selective Teach For America program, whose mission is to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting the nation's most promising future leaders in the effort.



## 1990s

**David H. Abney**, CLA '98, founded the law firm, Abney & Magruder, which focuses on health care law. Abney was also elected to the board of governors for the Kentucky Justice Association, formerly the Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys.

**Kimberly G. Angle**, CLA '90, graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Ph.D. in educational psychology and research. Angle directs a Title III, strengthening institutions grant, at Mars Hill College near Asheville, N.C.

**Dr. Nana A. Ankoma**, PHA '98, completed an anticoagulation certification program with Floyd Medical Center in Rome.

**Thomas L. Barron IV**, CLA '98, planted a church in Virginia Beach called Poema Community Church. Barron graduated in 2004 with a Master of Divinity degree from Regent University.

**Veronica Brinson**, CLA '95, LAW '99, was selected by the State Bar of Georgia-Women & Minorities in the Profession Committee to receive the Commitment to Equality Award on Jan. 7 at the State Bar of Georgia's headquarters in Atlanta. She was formerly municipal court judge with the city of Macon and now owns her own practice.

**Raoul P. Calimlim**, EGR '98, was promoted to senior industrial hygienist in April 2007 at Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.

**Dr. Armando R. Castillo Jr.**, CLA '94, joined the Longstreet Clinic P.C. practice in Gainesville.

**Bradley M. Griffin**, BUS '98, joined the Ocala Regional Medical Center/West Community Hospital as chief operating officer.

**John E. Hodges Jr.**, EGR '94, was named a product development team leader for the Gulfstream G650 by Gulfstream Aerospace.

**Thomas W. Huyck**, LAW '99, was made a partner in the law firm of James, Bates, Pope & Spivey, LLP in Macon.

**Byron Lee Kemp**, CLA '99, was promoted to major with the Chemical Corps. He is currently assigned to the Inspector General's Office, 3rd Sustainment Command, Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

**Sharon Whorton Kurek**, BUS '98, was named director of internal audit at Virginia Tech.

**Olu Q. Menja**, CLA '95, principal of the Ricks Institute, Monrovia, Liberia, earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Czech Republic.

**Dr. Stacia D. Moore**, CLA '98, graduated from The Medical College of Georgia in 2003 and completed her psychiatry residency at Medical University of South Carolina in 2007 and her Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship in June 2008.

**Jay D. Murdock**, BUS '94, was named the director of member services at Georgia Farm Bureau, where he has been employed since 1987.

**Joseph R. Neal Jr.**, LAW '93, passed the South Carolina Bar Examination in July 2008 and was admitted to practice before the South Carolina Supreme Court on Nov. 17, 2008. Neal is the principal and founder of Neal Law Office.

**John T. Newman**, BUS '99, was promoted to major. Newman is with the infantry and is currently assigned as executive support officer to the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

## Passion for Education, Business and Travel Equals Success for Mercer Alumna

If someone had told Ash Robinson, CLA '03, as a freshman on the golf course, that she would soon be the CEO of a growing global brand, she might have laughed, but that is exactly what the 28-year-old is doing today.

While at Mercer, the Tift College Scholar played for the women's NCAA Division I golf team, served as an orientation assistant (now called peer advisors) and studied abroad in Oxford, England, and Havana, Cuba.

Robinson was one of the first to graduate from the College of Liberal Arts' International Affairs track. "I started out as an international business major but realized I was looking for more of an in-depth global perspective. I took Intro to International Relations with Dr. (Eimad) Houry, and I loved the material and class discussions. I learned and advanced my perspective every day, which I thought would be valuable, given the interconnectedness of our world today," she said. That foresight would prove to be extremely valuable in the near future.

"After Mercer, I planned to take a year or two off to gain some 'real world' experience before going back to graduate school, but that isn't what happened," Robinson said. "I was presented with a great business opportunity in San Diego and realized that I could achieve some of my goals."

Robinson started out as an outside consultant working part-time for the founders of a company called JW Tumbles. The first location opened in Solana Beach, Calif., in 1985 and, by 2004, the founders had opened five additional locations and launched a franchise program. "I quickly realized what an amazing concept we had," she said. "I eventually became an employee, earned an equity, and in 2007 purchased the company as a majority owner, along with some great investors."

With Robinson at the helm, JW Tumbles is set to expand from about 46 franchises to more than 100 around the world in the next few years. The company will introduce new locations in major U.S. markets including Atlanta, Chicago and Washington, D.C., and will open its first location in China.

"We already have five locations in Asia, and we look to build on our success throughout Asia and India," Robinson said. "Since our company has just merged with another great brand, New York City-based Kidville, we are really excited about the growth momentum we have right now. We believe, with our innovative programs for children and business systems for franchise partners, we can be the global market leader of our niche of serving families and children."

The concept is greater than a basic children's gym or playground, and its unique programs build both social and developmental skills. "We call JW Tumbles 'a learning playground,' because it is a wonderfully supportive educational environment for kids under age nine. Tumblers practice physical skills, motor skills, spatial awareness, coordination, balance, agility, flexibility and sports preparation, combined with music, art and enrichment programs. We accomplish this in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere that allows each child to grow in his or her own way," Robinson said. "It is truly a magical experience to see the smiling faces each day, to see each child learning new skills in our gyms."

In addition to providing opportunities to children, Robinson helps entrepreneurs around the world establish their own small business through JW Tumbles franchises. "I'm very passionate about early childhood education and also about small business ownership and entrepreneurship. We are supporting families and communities with our classes and programs, and we are helping entrepreneurs start small businesses in their own communities," she said.

As CEO, Robinson works with all kinds of people related to the brand. "I connect daily with employees, partners, suppliers and advisers to integrate all of the moving parts and keep us moving forward. The great thing about my position is interacting with these folks across a wide range of geographies. I travel to our locations as much as possible," she said.

Robinson credits her Mercer experience with helping her determine the right direction for herself and the company. "Due to my international affairs major and my study abroad opportunities, I had an interest in growing our business in international markets, which have great demand for our products. Being able to successfully communicate to a wide range of people, from mom-and-pop franchise owners to multi-unit developers, or our team in Asia, is probably my biggest contribution to the company. I think I learned a lot from my mentors, friends and teachers at Mercer," she said.

Robinson continues to be surprised and embraces new challenges and experiences with the company. "I'm deeply passionate about what we do, and I feel extremely fortunate to work with our incredible employees, franchise partners and customers around the world," she said.

For more information, visit [www.jwtumbles.com](http://www.jwtumbles.com) or [www.kidville.com](http://www.kidville.com).



PHOTO COURTESY ASH ROBINSON

Ash Robinson

**Maria Mateo Odom**, LAW '97, was awarded the Georgia Hispanic Business Woman of the Year by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

**Adam S. Poppell III**, LAW '91, was appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue to the Governor's Office for Children and Families Advisory Board.

**Mark E. Powell**, LAW '96, was named among the nation's top estate planning attorneys by *Worth* magazine.

**Matthew P. Stables**, CLA '98, is a PGA golf professional based near London, England.

**Jeffrey M. Rutledge**, CLA '93, joined the law firm of Martin Snow LLP.

**Robert A. Sauerberg Jr.**, BUS '90, was named group president for Conde Nast Consumer Marketing on Jan. 15, 2008.

**Dr. Ty Wheeler**, PHA '94, employed at CVS Pharmacy in Roswell, authored a book, published by Brentwood Press, titled *Evil Men and Imposters*.

**Alicia M. White**, BUS '98, is pursuing her Ph.D. in organizational learning. White completed her MBA in project management in 2004 at the Keller Graduate School of Management.

## 2000s

**Pauline Anders**, CLA '03, obtained a master's in professional consulting from The Psychological Studies Institute, Atlanta, in May 2007 and is licensed in Georgia at the associate level.

**Akeem Anderson**, CLA '08, joined Teach for America and will teach in the underserved school in New Orleans, La., as part of a national movement to end educational inequity.

**Brady K. Banks**, CLA '01, is one of the recipients of the 2009 Faithful Democrats Fellowship for Emerging Leaders, given annually to top emerging leaders in America's progressive faith community. Banks is director of Mayor Karl Dean's Office of Neighborhoods in Nashville, Tenn.

**Bradley Graham Bodiford**, BUS '07, was chosen one of 11 of Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's Gubernatorial Fellows.

**Hanie A. Bukannan**, BUS '03, returned from serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Jessica, reside in Roswell.

**Amanda Crager**, CLA '07, is teaching fourth grade at Abramson Science and Technology in New Orleans, La., through the teachNOLA program.

**Charles A. Dorminy**, LAW '04, received an LLM in health law from University of Houston in May 2007.

**Darren M. Draper**, EGR '05, rejoined the firm of Newcomb & Boyd in Atlanta as a commissioning engineer.

**Erick W. Erickson**, LAW '00, was elected to the Macon City Council in November 2007 for a four-year term. Erickson was designated editor of RedState.com and listed as the 69th most influential conservative in America by the *London Telegraph*. He was profiled in the Nov. 24, 2008, edition of *Newsweek* magazine as one of the new voices among American conservatives.

**Debra Williams Evans**, of Marietta, BUS '03, is a newly-elected Alumni Board member of the Stetson School of Business and Economics on the Atlanta campus.

**Trevor Frederick Ezzell**, NUR '03, has joined Orthopedics & Sports Medicine as a family nurse practitioner. He resides in Dacula.

**The Rev. Sonny Gallman**, DIV '03, was named senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., on June 22, 2008.

**Leigh Ann Halverson**, DIV '08, is the associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Mo., and was ordained Sept. 9, 2007.

**Amy Haywood Hughes**, BUS '07, was honored at a fundraising event, "A Working Woman in Need, Inc.," an organization that helps women gain professional development skills and meaningful employment. Hughes resides in Savannah.

**Molly Kesmodel**, BUS '01, was promoted to senior director of retail for Honey Baked Ham Co. of Georgia.

**Carmelia C. Lowman**, CLA '03, finished her master's in psychology and is working on her doctorate.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

**Officers of The President's Club** — Members of The President's Club gathered during the weekend of Oct. 24-25 for their annual reception/dinner and Saturday morning brunch and business meeting. Among the officers who began service during the weekend at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre included: Tom McAfee, president; Kathy Lynn, president-elect; Tony Moye, past president; and Shirley Plunkett, officer-at-large.

## National Alumni Association Board of Directors

### Officers:

E. Michele Deriso, DIV '99, Sugarhill, President

G. Faye Dumke, BUS '92, Duluth, Immediate Past President

### Board Members:

#### College of Liberal Arts Representatives

Mike Crook, CLA '69, Stuart, Fla., President

Tony Calloway, CLA '82, Columbus, President-Elect

#### Walter F. George School of Law Representatives

Dennis C. Sanders, CLA '69, LAW '72, Thompson, President

William B. Shearer III, LAW '67, Atlanta, President-Elect

#### College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Representatives

Herbert W. Hatton, PHA '67, Carrollton, President

Sharon F. Clackum, PHA '80, '81, Atlanta, President-Elect

#### Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics Representatives

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Carrie Sagel Burns, BUS '96, '99, Atlanta, President-Elect

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Dr. C. Martin Christian, MED '92, Dublin, President-Elect

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Josh Brookshire, EGR '00, Hoschton, President

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#### College of Arts and Sciences

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John C. Branan, CAS '86, Decatur, President-Elect

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Carey Allmon Russell, Tift '65, Forsyth, President

Julie Lee Love, Tift '75, Thomaston, President-Elect

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Mary Teel Mantiply, CLA '67, EDU '73, Warner Robins, President

#### McAfee School of Theology Representatives

R. Scott Ford, DIV '01, Macon, President

Brian Wright, DIV '03, Decatur, President-Elect

#### Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Representatives

Jo Scott-Petty, NUR '71, '76, Conyers, President

Shirley Rogers Rawlins, NUR '69, '73, '77, '89, Douglasville, President-Elect

#### Townsend School of Music Representatives

Janet Jarriel, CLA '89, Macon, President

Ann-Marie Spalinger, CLA '89, Duluth, President-Elect

#### College of Continuing and Professional Studies Representatives

Nancy R. Bache, CCPS '06, Norcross, President

David W. Van Asselberg, CCPS '02, Roswell, President-Elect

#### Thailand Alumni Association Representatives

Sarayud Tinakorn, BUS '96, Bangkok, Thailand, President

Masant "May" Nakornsri, BUS '96, Bangkok, Thailand, President-Elect

## Alumnae Leila Denmark Turns 111, Now 57th Oldest Person in the World

**D**r. Leila Denmark, TIFT '22, who turned 111 on Feb. 1, is now the 57th oldest living person in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Born in 1898 in Bulloch County, she became a doctor when few women did so and did not retire until 2001 at the age of 103.

Dr. Denmark received honorary doctorates from Tift in 1972, Mercer in 1991 and Emory University in 2000. In 1998, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* awarded her the Health care Heroes Award; in 2000, the Georgia Legislature named the Georgia 400 highway interchange in Forsyth County in her honor; and, in that same year, Emory honored her with the prestigious "Heroes, Saints, and Legends Award."

In 2004, Dr. Denmark moved to Athens to be close to her daughter.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATESBORO HERALD

Dr. Leila Denmark



**Courtney Maxey**, EGR '08, was named a 2008 Award of Excellence Recipient from Phi Kappa Phi. She is now attending the Duke Medical School.

**Jesse David McMillan**, CLA '00, was named the boys' head basketball coach at Norcross High School.

**Angela Villanueva Miller**, LAW '03, joined Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, the largest law firm in central Florida.

**Marisa Miller**, CLA '03, graduated from the University of Florida on Aug. 9, 2008, with a PhD in social psychology.

**Dr. Joe "Tripp" H. Morgan**, MED '01, opened Albany Vascular Specialist Center as a solo practice in Albany.

**Kenneth Lane Mullinax**, BUS '05, completed his MBA in finance specialization from Walden University in February 2008.

**Michael W. Paalz**, CLA '03, earned his master's degree in international relations.

**Robert Chad Reese**, BUS '01, was promoted from senior accountant to manager.

**Toni Marie Sampson**, EDU '03, owns a tutoring service called TAGS. The service offers remediation as well as advancement in math and science for grades 2-12 and college.

## Marriages, Births & Anniversaries

### 1980s

**Michael T. Hurd**, LAW '89, and his wife, Beth, announce the birth of their son, Carter Hurd, in December 2007.

**Vickie G. Lawton**, BUS '81, married her college sweetheart, **Raymond J. Lawton**, CLA '80, on June 7, 2008. The couple resides in Macon.

### 1990s

**Dr. Andrew J. Braunstein**, CLA '93, and his wife, **Mary Bower Braunstein**, EGR '94, announce the birth of their third child, Amelia Rose Braunstein, Dec. 4, 2007.

**Holly G. Chitwood**, CLA '98, and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of their daughter, Autumn Faith Chitwood, on Aug. 15, 2007.

**Sara L. Doyle**, LAW '94, and her husband, **James Russell Doyle**, LAW '94, announce the birth of their daughter, Mary Donovan, on May 31, 2007.

**Sara S. Hertzler**, EGR '98, and her husband, **Justin Scott Hertzler**, EGR '98, announce the birth of their third daughter, Melanie, in January 2008.

**Laura P. Hightower**, EDU '95, and her husband, Nathan, announce the birth of their second daughter, Madeline Elizabeth, born May 17, 2006.

**Amy M. Hollis**, CLA '97, and her husband, **Lance Hollis**, CLA '00, announce the birth of their son, Kort Gibson Hollis.

**Mandi D. Johnson**, EGR '98, and her husband, **Jerimah Johnson**, EGR '97, announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Catherine Johnson, on March 3, 2008.

**Amy C. Johnston**, CLA '98, and her husband, **Dr. Lester Thomas Johnston**, CLA '97, celebrated 10 years of marriage in August 2008.

**Ruth D. Kleinpeter**, CLA '98, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their second son, Bennett Samuel Kleinpeter, on June 19, 2008.

## Mercer Alumna Makes Met Opera Debut

**M**ercer alumna Leah Partridge is quickly making a name for herself on the world opera stage. The Lincolnton native graduated from Mercer in 1997 and, after a stop at Indiana University for a graduate fellowship, soon found herself traveling the world and landing lead roles with some of the major opera companies in the U.S. and abroad. Then, in early 2008, Partridge traveled to New York to make her Metropolitan Opera debut singing the First Niece in a new production of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, making it official that Partridge was indeed an opera star.

"Working at the Met is every singer's dream. It was amazing.

We were so well rehearsed and prepared that, by opening night, there were no nerves, just excitement. Getting to be a part of something so well done has inspired me to work that hard every time I prepare a role," Partridge said. "I remember after I sang my first lines as the First Niece, which are 'good morning,' I thought to myself, 'I just made my Met debut!'"

Partridge returned to the Met during the 2008-2009 season as La Charmeuse in *Thaïs*. In addition to the Met, she has appeared at Florida Grand Opera, Deutsch Oper Berlin, Washington Concert Opera, Atlanta Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Chicago Opera Theatre, Teatro Carol Felice di Genova, and Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires.

Up next for Partridge is a CD project and a return to Atlanta and New York. "As of now, I have a project in the works for a possible art song CD. I hope to work on it more this summer. My schedule next season takes me to the Atlanta Opera for my first Adina in *Elisir d'amore* followed by some time at the Met covering Rosina and Natalie Dessay in the new production of *Hamlet*. I end next season at the Opera Company of Philadelphia as Violetta in *La Traviata*."

Partridge's interest in music began at an early age, but it was during her time at Mercer that opera stole her heart. "I had been singing since I was eight years old, and it



KRISTIN HOEBERMANN PHOTO

Leah Partridge

came time for me to go to college. I needed to get a music scholarship so my teacher at the time had me learn some Italian songs for my audition. This was my first experience with classical music and it was interesting to me," Partridge said. "Country and gospel music had always been my focus, and it had become easy. I loved the challenge of classical music and enjoyed learning to train my voice to do difficult things. I was introduced to opera in college and soon fell in love with the combination of acting and singing. I was told I could sing opera, and I remember thinking that was a funny idea. I had no idea what that world was, but the more I learned the more hooked I became!"

Partridge said it takes a combination of luck, the right teacher, talent and willpower to successfully break into the opera scene. "It's important that you are ready for your luck. You can be handed the role of a lifetime and not be ready and then you find yourself not moving anywhere. I was lucky that everything happened at the right time. I took some big risks, and they turned out well. Willpower and perseverance are key factors as well. The traveling life of a singer is hard at times, and you have to remind yourself daily of how lucky you are to make music and share it with the public," she said.

**Lynne Moore Nelson**, LAW '94, announces her marriage to James Eric Nelson on Oct. 3, 2008.

**Janet Stacy Newman**, CLA '98, married Alan Newman in Dunwoody on Feb. 17, 2007. Newman works as a political fundraiser and event planner in Atlanta.

**Erica Esterson Nicholson**, CLA '94, and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of their son, Quinn Eric, on July 28, 2008.

**Shelia Reeves-Webb**, EDU '98, and her husband, Gregg, announce the birth of their daughter, Alexia Webb.

**Tamrya Foster Shade**, BUS '98, and her husband, Joe, announce the birth of their twins, Aidric Edison and Alden Trinity Shade, on June 18, 2006.

**Amy Woo Weber**, LAW '99, and husband, Mike, announce the birth of their second daughter, Ella Jeanne, Jan. 11, 2008.

**Elizabeth M. Wheeler**, LAW '97, and her husband, Bobby, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Samuel Wheeler, on April 3, 2008.

### 2000s

**Heather Gehring Blair**, EGR '03, and her husband, **Christopher Jason Blair**, EGR '03, announce the birth of their son, Parker Reed Blair, on July 19, 2007.

**Nick Bowman**, BUS '03, was recently engaged to Meme Thai. The couple resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Benjamin T. Brackett**, EGR '03, and his wife, Annie, announce the birth of their daughter, Ellyn Brackett, born Feb. 7, 2008.

**Meredith Cobb Crowe**, BUS '03, and her husband, **James E. Crowe**, LAW '03, announce the birth of their son, William Edward, on Dec. 15, 2006. The family resides in Sylvester.

**Tera A. Edwards**, LAW '06, and her husband, John **Daniel Edwards**, EGR '03, announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Ophelia Edwards, on Dec. 27, 2007. The family resides in Macon.

**Jessica Okon Fette**, LAW '00, and her husband, Daniel Fette, announce the birth of their daughter, Emilia Marie Fette, on June 18, 2008. The family resides in Benton Harbor, Mich.

**Lance Hollis**, CLA '00, and his wife, **Amy M. Hollis**, CLA '97, announce the birth of their son, Kort Gibson Hollis.

**Morgan Lane Hughes**, CLA '03, married Christopher Struder, in Indianapolis, Ind., on Oct. 4, 2008.

**Dr. Ashley S. Hutchins**, MED '06, and her husband, R. Adam Hutchins, announce the birth of their son, David W. Hutchins, on March 13, 2008.

**Jody Varnadore La**, LAW '01, and her husband Kirk La, adopted a son, Payton Spencer La, in

December 2007.

**Jillian Little**, BUS '00, is engaged. Little resides in Macon.

**Jonathan Manz**, CLA '02, married Lyndsy Manz on June 7, 2008. Both are employed at the University of Arkansas in student affairs.

**Rebecca Shedd Maxted**, CLA '03, married Andrew Maxted on May 26, 2007. The couple resides in Kennesaw.

**Melissa Z. McNinch**, EDU '01, and her husband, Jaye, announce the birth of their son, James

Patrick McNinch, on April 5, 2008. They reside in Mount Juliet, Tenn.

**William D. Palmer IV**, BUS '00, married Meredith A. Palmer on April 4, 2008.

**Michael E. Paolantonio**, CLA '03, and his wife, Tara, announce the birth of their daughter, Mika Janelle Paolantonio, on Sept. 14, 2008. Paolantonio is employed with Keiser University as an admissions counselor.

**Matthew Eric Purcell**, LAW '05, and **Jennifer Erin Wright**, CLA '06, were married on Oct. 3,

2008 at Wolf Mountain Vineyards in Dahlonega. The couple resides in Cartersville.

**Trent Evan Rhoads**, BUS '03, married Sarah Rhoads in August 2007.

**Kathryn Elmore Thomson**, LAW '07, and **Russell Ryan Thomson**, LAW '05, were married June 14, 2008, at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Salisbury, Md.

**Amanda R. Young**, CLA '05, and her husband, **Nathan S. Young**, EGR '05, announce the birth of their first child, Tucker Owen Young, on June 18, 2008.

## In Sympathy

### Friends of the University

**Dr. John D. Blanchard**, of Fayetteville, died Sept. 9, 2008.

**Dr. Kristina M. Detmer**, of Macon, died Jan. 17, 2009.

**Dr. William H. Geren**, of Roswell, died Oct. 20, 2008.

**Max Ginsberg**, of Dunwoody, died Nov. 3, 2008.

**Dr. Frank M. Houser**, of Macon, died July 28, 2008.

**Dr. Leonard A. King**, of Suches, died May 15, 2008.

**William A. Lane**, of Macon, died Nov. 30, 2008.

**Michael A. McElwaney**, of Fayetteville, died March 28, 2008.

**Helen V. Otto**, of Macon, died Dec. 15, 2008.

**The Rev. Thomas R. Roberson Sr.**, of Sparta, died Dec. 9, 2008.

**Pauline R. Ross**, of Louin, Miss., died Aug. 25, 2008.

**Tommie S. Schlamp**, of Jackson, Tenn., died May 8, 2008.

**Dr. Herman E. Spivey Jr.**, of Summerville, died June 9, 2008.

**Mary Stribling**, of Atlanta, died July 12, 2008.

**Martha S. Swilley**, of Atlanta, died Aug. 16, 2008.

**Jack Turner**, of Athens, died Feb. 4, 2008.

**Dr. E. Jerome Zeller**, of Decatur, died July 4, 2008.

### 1920s

**Dr. J. Aubrey Estes**, CLA 1928, CLA 1929, of Macon, died Oct. 14, 2008.

### 1930s

**Dr. William J. Barrett**, CLA 1936, CLA 1937, of Birmingham, Ala., died Jan. 25, 2009.

**Sara Page G. Brunson**, TIFT 1936, of Statesboro, died Sept. 3, 2008.

**Benjamin F. Dover**, PHA 1935, of Memphis, Tenn., died June 9, 2008.

**Mary B. Drew**, TIFT 1933, of Big Canoe, died Jan. 13, 2008.

**Elizabeth B. Eckles**, TIFT 1934, of Bogart, died Aug. 5, 2008.

**The Rev. Charles R. Edens**, CLA 1936, of Shannon, died July 9, 2008.

**Edna S. Graham**, CLA 1938, of Macon, died Jan. 15, 2008.

**Frances S. McCowen**, CLA 1936, of Macon, died Jan. 12, 2008.

**Sara B. McMullan**, TIFT 1934, of Hartwell, died Jan. 7, 2009.

**Lily N. Owen**, CLA 1937, of Mount Airy, died May 2, 2008.

**Dr. James Z. Rabun**, CLA 1936, of Atlanta, died June 20, 2008.

**Neal L. Wilson**, TIFT 1932, of Atlanta, died April 22, 2008.

### 1940s

**Virginia H. Atnip**, TIFT 1949, of Houston, Texas, died Jan. 19, 2008.

**William Y. Axson**, EDU 1949, of Citra, Fla., died May 19, 2008.

**Vonnie B. Bacon**, CLA 1949, of Perry, died Jan. 27, 2009.

**Bernie R. Blanton**, CLA 1947, of Conyers, died Nov. 1, 2008.

**Dr. I. W. Bowen III**, CLA 1946, of Forsyth, died Oct. 5, 2008.

**The Rev. Clarence P. Cox**, EDU 1947, of Warner Robins, died Aug. 26, 2008.

**Wilma S. Cravey**, CLA 1942, of Atlanta, died Aug. 13, 2008.

**Olga G. Daniel**, CLA 1947, of LaGrange, died June 20, 2008.

**L. Tai Day**, CLA 1949, of Vidalia, died Feb. 14, 2009.

**William A. Dodd**, CLA 1944, of Ft. Valley, died Aug. 20, 2008.

**Dorothea K. Eden**, CLA 1942, of Lawrenceville, died June 25, 2008.

**Henry S. Fountain Jr.**, CLA 1948, of Culloden, died Jan. 27, 2009.

**Thomas A. Gibson Jr.**, CLA 1949, of Chiefland, Fla., died June 16, 2008.

**The Rev. Hugh G. Hayes**, CLA 1944, of Marysville, Calif., died March 18, 2008.

**Sibyl B. Hodnett**, NUR 1942, of White Plains, died Oct. 22, 2008.

**Dr. J.T. Hogan Jr.**, CLA 1944, of Macon, died July 19, 2008.

**Georgia S. Kuhl**, TIFT 1946, of Columbus, died Feb. 11, 2009.

**Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II**, CLA 1948, of Wichita Falls, Texas, died Sept. 26, 2008.

**Robert E. Lehman**, CLA 1948, of Charlottesville, Va., died Aug. 20, 2008.

**The Rev. J. Broadus Marlow**, CLA 1944, of Villa Rica, died Sept. 13, 2008.

**Anne M. McKinney**, CLA 1945, of Perry, died Jan. 8, 2009.

**William F. Mount**, PHA 1948, of Groveland, Fla., died Sept. 30, 2008.

**Paul Hughes Palmer**, CLA 1947, of Ellaville, died Oct. 6, 2008.

**Sarah Spruell**, NUR 1948, of Bowdon, died April 30, 2008.

**James A. Tamplin**, PHA 1941, of Carrollton, died Aug. 4, 2008.

**Virginia Underwood**, NUR 1942, of Decatur, died Nov. 21, 2008.

**Irene H. Walters**, TIFT 1945, of Brunswick, died Feb. 14, 2008.

**Eola D. Weeks**, NUR 1944, of Lawrenceville, died Sept. 27, 2008.

**L.R. Whiddon**, CLA 1947, of Columbus, died Oct. 1, 2008.

**Carolyn W. Williams**, TIFT 1946, of Tucker, died Sept. 26, 2008.

**Imogene B. Wilson**, CLA 1945, of Pelham, died March 11, 2008.

**Dr. Margaret Wong**, CLA 1944, of Laurel, Md., died Dec. 27, 2008.

### 1950s

**S.A. Aaron**, CLA 1954, of Lyons, died Feb. 12, 2009.

**Betty J. Atwater**, EDU 1955, of Macon, died Dec. 17, 2008.

**William E. Bacon**, PHA 1954, of Fayetteville, died July 7, 2008.

**Dr. Robert B. Barnes**, CLA 1951, of Sumter, S.C., died May 16, 2008.

**The Rev. Bob A. Baxter**, CLA 1955, of Mableton, died Oct. 26, 2008.

**The Rev. John H. Beach**, CLA 1958, of Waycross, died March 24, 2008.

**Bobby D. Bonner**, CLA 1953, of Conyers, died Nov. 4, 2008.

**Lamar E. Brooks**, CLA 1959, of Driftwood, Texas, died July 28, 2008.

**Jason B. Brown**, PHA 1951, of Hickory, N.C., died Oct. 2, 2008.

**Bobby E. Brown**, CLA 1957, of Macon, died Aug. 7, 2008.

**J. Thomas Brown**, CLA 1959, of Macon, died Aug. 24, 2008.

**Robert W. Burke II**, CLA 1956, of Cumming, died Sept. 18, 2008.

**Joseph Cannella**, PHA 1955, of Atlanta, died Aug. 26, 2008.

**Dan B. Cannon**, CLA 1950, of Jacksonville, Fla., died June 16, 2008.

**Catherine D. Cody**, TIFT 1955, of Tampa, Fla., died Sept. 17, 2008.

**Norma J. Graham**, TIFT 1954, of Unadilla, died Sept. 15, 2008.

**Dan B. Cannon**, CLA 1950, of Jacksonville, Fla., died June 16, 2008.

**Elaine Denson**, CLA 1952, of Macon, died Dec. 13, 2008.

**The Rev. Hugh D. Formby**, CLA 1954, CLA 1959, of Rome, died Jan. 8, 2009.

**Malcolm W. Forte Jr.**, PHA 1959, of Columbus, died July 4, 2008.

**Norma J. Graham**, TIFT 1954, of Unadilla, died Sept. 15, 2008.

**Dr. Malcolm R. Hodges**, CLA 1950, of Macon, died Dec. 13, 2008.

**Robert J. Hoffman**, PHA 1957, of Anderson, S.C., died July 18, 2008.

**L. Millard Hunt**, CLA 1950, of Sanford, Fla., died Sept. 5, 2008.

**Dr. John R. Lindsey**, EDU 1953, of Maitland, Fla., died Jan. 12, 2008.

**The Rev. William H. Lowe**, CLA 1958, of Dublin, died Feb. 2, 2009.

**Florine T. Lipsey**, CLA 1952, of Nashville, Tenn., died Oct. 26, 2008.

**Adrian G. Lynn**, PHA 1951, of Wellford, S.C., died Oct. 2, 2008.

**Betty H. Mahoney**, NUR 1955, of Albany, died Oct. 19, 2008.

**Mary Agnew Marsden**, CLA 1959 BA, New Port Richey, Fla., died Feb. 4, 2009.

**The Rev. Howard B. Merritt**, CLA 1957, of Blue Ridge, died July 14, 2008.

**Rachel C. McDougal**, CLA 1956, of Flower Branch, died Aug. 26, 2008.

**Jessie M. McGraw**, TIFT 1950, of Dayton, Ohio, died Jan. 17, 2008.

**The Rev. Paul S. Moody**, CLA 1950, of Snellville, died June 28, 2008.

**Paula H. Motes**, CLA 1950, of Murrayville, died Jan. 22, 2009.

**James C. Moughon Jr.**, CLA 1952, of Gray, died Feb. 1, 2009.

**Grady E. Oxford**, CLA 1954, of Las Cruces, N.M., died Dec. 12, 2008.

**Virginia Carolyn Petty**, EDU 1958, of Irwinton, died July 16, 2008.

**Jo K. Protz**, CLA 1956, of Galveston,

## Medicine Faculty Member Dies in Interstate Accident

**Dr. Kristina Detmer** was one of two people who were fatally injured Jan. 17 in an emergency lane accident on Interstate-75 in Monroe County. She was an associate professor of biochemistry at the School of Medicine.

Dr. Detmer had been with MUSM since 1995 in the Division of Basic Sciences although during 2004 she served as visiting scientist with the Terry Fox Laboratories at the British Columbia Cancer Research Center in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"She was a valuable and much-loved member of our MUSM family and community," according to Dr. William F. Bina, dean of the School of Medicine. "Her devotion to her students and their training was unparalleled. She will be sorely missed."



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

Dr. Kristina Detmer



Texas, died June 10, 2008.  
**Grady G. Reese**, CLA 1953, of Warner Robins, died Aug. 11, 2008.  
**Barbara S. Reed**, CLA 1951, of Rome, died June 21, 2008.  
**Dr. Beverly B. Sanders Jr.**, CLA 1957, of Macon, died Dec. 5, 2008.  
**Eddie L. Smith**, CLA 1955, of Nashville, Tenn., died Aug. 25, 2008.  
**Mary Jane Stewart**, TIFT 1955, of Atlanta, died Dec. 1, 2008.  
**Charles Q. Tanner**, CLA 1958, of Claxton, died Sept. 11, 2008.  
**Leo C. Teague**, PHA 1950, of Gray, died June 22, 2008.  
**Spencer A. Teal**, EDU 1954, of Bowdon, died April 21, 2008.  
**Kenneth A. Trimble**, CLA 1950, of Macon, died Jan. 11, 2009.  
**John P. Ward Jr.**, CLA 1950, of Macon, died March 15, 2008.  
**Dr. William O. Williams Jr.**, CLA 1950, of Macon, died June 26, 2008.  
**Catherine G. Ward**, TIFT 1952, of McDonough, died Jan. 8, 2008.  
**Betty J. Welch**, CLA 1952, of Eatonton, died Jan. 4, 2008.  
**Betty Jean F. Wildes**, TIFT 1953, of Valdosta, died June 13, 2008.

## 1960s

**A. Karl Benson**, CLA 1962, of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., died Dec. 5, 2008.  
**William R. Benson**, PHA 1962, of Jacksonville, Fla., died April 12, 2008.  
**Marie A. Buchanan**, CLA 1963, of Shiloh, died Dec. 2, 2008.  
**Cheryl Fallin Burton**, NUR 1968, of Loganville, died April 23, 2008.  
**Mervyn B. Dasher**, EDU 1963, of Macon, died Sept. 3, 2008.  
**B. Wayne Dickson Jr.**, PHA 1967, of Canton, died Jan. 9, 2008.  
**Linda Foster**, NUR 1963, of Tiger, died July 19, 2008.  
**Dorothy F. Kendrick**, TIFT 1969, of Dalton, died Dec. 11, 2008.  
**Frances B. King**, CLA 1966, of McAllen, Texas, died May 28, 2008.  
**S. Davis Laney**, CLA 1967, LAW 1970, of Columbus, died Sept. 11, 2008.  
**Ruth S. Lockhart**, EDU 1963, of Birmingham, Ala., died Oct. 18, 2008.  
**T. Hugh Morris**, CLA 1962, of Dunwoody, died July 31, 2008.  
**Kenneth L. Owen**, CLA 1961, of Macon, died Aug. 24, 2008.  
**Thomas C. Sanders**, LAW 1968, of Dallas, Ga., died Oct. 26, 2008.  
**Robert E. Schell**, CLA 1960, of West Columbia, S.C., died Jan. 9, 2008.  
**Dr. William E. Taylor**, CLA 1963, of Tennesse, died June 29, 2008.  
**Dr. William D. Wehunt**, CLA 1968, of Rockville, Md., died June 10, 2008.  
**R. Newton Wilcox**, CLA 1960, of Evans, died Dec. 15, 2008.

**John A. Young**, CLA 1963, of Forsyth, died May 24, 2008.

## 1970s

**Evelyn C. Allison**, EDU 1976, of Watkinsville, died Feb. 1, 2008.  
**Dr. Joel K. Autry**, PHA 1974, of Milledgeville, died Nov. 12, 2008.  
**Dr. W. Lee Burge**, LAW 1978, of Atlanta, died Sept. 2, 2008.  
**Michael E. Burkill**, CLA 1974, of Durham, N.C., died May 24, 2008.  
**Byron E. Dodd**, PHA 1971, of Missoula, Mont., died Nov. 30, 2008.  
**Milton M. Ferrell Jr.**, CLA 1973, LAW 1975, of Miami, Fla., died Nov. 15, 2008.  
**Steven D. Flanigan**, CLA 1971, of Columbus, died July 8, 2008.  
**Dr. G. Van Greene**, CLA 1972, LLD 1972, of Stone Mountain, died Oct. 16, 2008.  
**Henry M. Kellum**, LAW 1971, of Atlanta, died Aug. 16, 2008.  
**John D. Kicklighter**, CLA 1975, of Glennville, died Oct. 2, 2008.  
**S. Davis Laney**, LAW 1970, CLA 1967, of Columbus, died Sept. 11, 2008.  
**Shara B. Overstreet**, CLA 1971, of Augusta, died Oct. 16, 2008.  
**Macie Z. Perdue**, EDU 1972, of Macon, died Aug. 7, 2008.  
**Joann R. Salter**, EDU 1974, of Thomaston, died Oct. 27, 2008.  
**Dr. Wallace R. Simmone**, CLA 1972, of Hapeville, died Jan. 29, 2008.  
**Sally G. Stokes**, EDU 1972, of Macon, died Oct. 5, 2008.

## 1980s

**Diane R. Davis**, NUR 1988, of Decatur, died Sept. 30, 2008.  
**Stella M. Davis**, EDU 1988, of Macon, died Feb. 6, 2009.  
**Thomas A. Ellis**, LAW 1982, of McDonough, died Sept. 22, 2008.  
**Jeanette C. Garner**, CLA 1986, of Roanoke, Va., died July 5, 2008.  
**J. David Herring**, BUS 1985, of Cumming, died July 13, 2008.  
**Dr. Constance A. McKenzie**, PHA 1986, of Buies Creek, N.C., died June 26, 2008.  
**Delmas S. Reddy**, BUS 1984, of Tucker, died July 8, 2008.  
**Dr. Judy F. Rork**, PHA 1987, of Acworth, died Jan. 29, 2009.  
**Gregory P. Sizemore**, CAS 1981, of Cumming, died Aug. 28, 2008.  
**Suzanne S. Slocum-Chestnut**, CLA 1988, of Commerce, died Aug. 9, 2008.  
**Jeffrey M. Stivler**, CLA 1984, of Wesley Chapel, Fla., died Feb. 29, 2008.  
**Charles P. Taylor**, CLA 1980, LAW 1983, of Warner Robins, died June 11, 2008.

## Mercer alumna makes Georgia history

In the state chamber of the House of Representatives — amid a sea of state dignitaries, family, friends and media — Mercer undergraduate and Law School alumna M. Yvette Miller was sworn in on Jan. 5 as the state's first African-American woman chief judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals.

As chief judge of one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States, Miller is responsible for the administration on the court and is head of the court for ceremonial purposes and for all communications. She will serve a two-year term.

In accepting the oath as chief judge, Miller said she will focus her efforts on three areas: strengthening relationships among the three branches of state government and within the appellate court itself; maintaining the functional viability of the court amid tough economic times; and establishing an electronic filing system for the state Court of Appeals.

The state Court of Appeals has statewide appellate jurisdiction of all cases except those involving constitutional questions, land title disputes, the construction of wills, murder, election contests, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies, divorce and alimony, and cases where original appellate jurisdiction lies with the superior courts. Miller was born and raised in Macon. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from Mercer in 1977 and her law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law in 1980. Miller also earned an LL.M. degree in litigation from Emory University School of Law and an LL.M. degree in judicial process from the University of Virginia School of Law.



Judge Miller, center, visits with friends and family at a March 8 reception in the Presidents Dining Room. The event was sponsored by Mercer and the City of Macon.

## 1990s

**Virginia A. Booth**, CLA 1991, of Bonneau, S.C., died March 16, 2008.  
**Dr. Millard D. Fuller**, CLA 1990, 1990 HDHM, of Americus, died Feb. 3, 2009.  
**Kevin M. Haythe**, CLA 1994, of Boulder, Colo., died July 3, 2008.  
**Dr. Judith C. Inman**, CLA 1991, of Tallahassee, Fla., died Oct. 27, 2008.  
**Jerry A. Loveless**, BUS 1992, BUSA 1994, of Nolensville, Tenn., died May 9, 2008.  
**Martha F. Miller**, BUS 1994, of Charlotte, N.C., died Sept. 3, 2008.  
**Edmund H. Rowe**, EGR 1999, of Bonaire, died Sept. 22, 2008.  
**Eddie L. Sanford**, CLA 1991, of Saint Petersburg, Fla., died July 15, 2008.  
**Karen M. Tanner**, LAW 1998, of Atlanta, died April 28, 2008.  
**Beverly M. Williams**, CLA 1990, of Hephzibah, died Sept. 27, 2008.  
**Dr. Sheila A. Williams**, BUS 1999, of Griffin, died Sept. 3, 2008.

## 2000s

**Martha Johnson**, EDU 2007, of McDonough, died Jan. 26, 2009.  
**Myra Bowman Morris Lee**, NUR 2000, of Milton, Fla., died June 23, 2008.  
**Angela T. Tinker**, EDU 2002, of Zebulon, died Jan. 4, 2009.

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To order a commemorative tag, complete this form and return to Mercer University Marketing Communications, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207, along with a \$25 check made payable to "Mercer University Commemorative Tag." Mercer will mail you a release form to take to your county tag office.

Additional information is available at [www.mercer.edu](http://www.mercer.edu).

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia county in which vehicle is registered \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Law School Class of 1974 Gives Back in Big Way

**T**hirty years ago, several members of the Law School's class of 1974 gathered around a table at the Green Jacket restaurant in downtown Macon and came up with an idea that would affect the lives of generations of law students. The alumni were brainstorming ways to give back to the Law School and came up with the Class of 1974 Scholarship — an endowed fund with an annual award of \$2,500.

The class of 1974 has a strong bond, said class member and Bibb County Superior Court Judge Lamar Sizemore. He is a scholarship cofounder, and he attributes that bond, in part, to the many reunions that have been organized since the class graduated. "If you make certain that there is an occasion where you can all get together and visit and catch up with each other, you can maintain those friendships," Sizemore said.

The class was the first to establish an annual scholarship to help students at Mercer's Law School. It offsets the cost of a second-year student's legal education, and more than \$59,000 in scholarships have been awarded since the fund's founding in 1980. The scholarship was fully endowed in 1994, and since the first scholarship was given a total of 30 have been awarded to law students.

The scholarships are awarded based on a student's participation in Law School activities as well as his or her academic success and financial need. The Law School's Student Affairs Office selects five potential awardees, and the Class Scholarship Committee interviews the candidates

and selects the final recipient.

Randy Aderhold, chief of the civil division of the United States Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Georgia, organizes the Class Scholarship Committee. Aderhold is pleased with the success of the initiative. "I find it satisfying that our class can make the gesture to support somebody who is chosen by Mercer, the faculty and the Scholarship Committee," he said. "It is satisfying to think that there is a unity of interest in the class, and that there is still an interest to go forward."

Garna Miller, a commercial real estate attorney at Coleman Tally LLP in Valdosta, received the scholarship in 2000. She said the Class of 1974 made the award special. "Once I got to meet the people who were responsible for the scholarship,

it became that much more special," the 2001 Law School graduate said. "It was an exceptional group of people and they were so kind. It was an honor to be given that award and to be recognized by them."

The scholarship has more than \$116,000 in its corpus and the class is working to increase the endowment to \$150,000 to honor the 35th anniversary of its graduation. The class would also like to achieve 100 percent class participation.

For more information on how to make a gift to the Law School's Class of 1974 scholarship, contact Gloria Marshall at (478) 301-2173 or e-mail her at [marshall\\_go@mercer.edu](mailto:marshall_go@mercer.edu). For more information on how to establish a scholarship at Mercer, contact Shawna Dooley at (478) 301-2720 or e-mail her at [dooley\\_sr@mercer.edu](mailto:dooley_sr@mercer.edu).



Reunion Law Class of '74 with 2009 scholarship recipient Falen Cox, center left, and Dean Daisy Floyd, center right

## Mercer Trustee Brings Medicine and Music Together in Savannah

Medicine and music may not have an obvious connection, but Mercer Trustee Gus Bell III saw the potential for putting the two together in Savannah. Bell wanted to spotlight Mercer's new Medical School campus, as well as other Mercer programs in Savannah, by partnering with the University to be a sponsor of the 2009 Savannah Music Festival.

In December of 2008, Bell talked with University President William D. Underwood about how Mercer could bring attention to new programs that are being offered in Savannah. Bell suggested Mercer become a sponsor of the Savannah Music Festival, which is a three-week event held annually in March and April. Bell offered to match whatever Mercer contributed to sponsor the event, and by January the University was a Gold Sponsor of the Festival.

The Festival features a variety of concerts and events. Genres include jazz, bluegrass, swing and the music of Johnny Mercer to name only a few. Mercer chose to sponsor the Resplendent Recitals series, which showcased an array of classical musicians, including such world-renowned artists as pianist Garrick Ohlssen and guitarist Manuel Barrueco.

In addition to sponsoring the series, Mercer hosted several receptions in conjunction with the festival. These gatherings were planned to



Mercer's ad appeared prominently in the Savannah Music Festival program.

showcase the University's new presence in Savannah to Mercer friends and supporters living in the area.

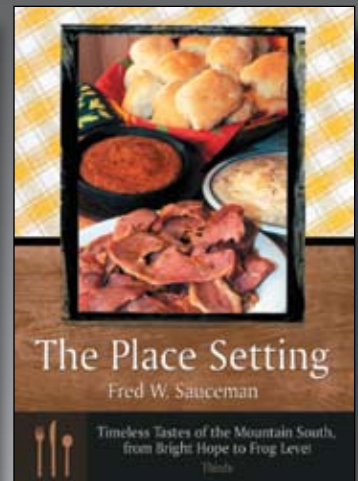
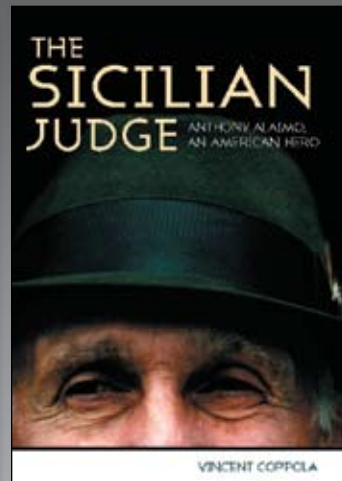
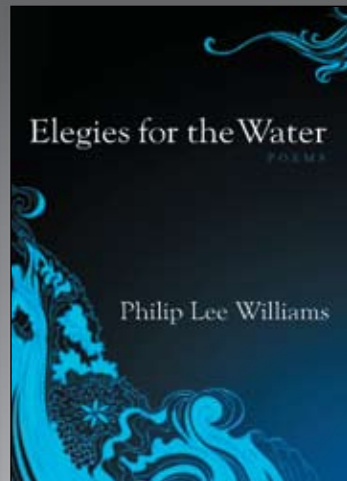
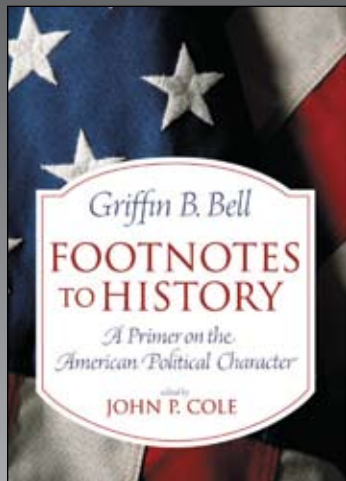
In addition to the new four-year M.D. program, Mercer offers other graduate programs in Savannah, including an Educational Specialist degree in educational leadership and a Professional Master of Business Administration.

Bell has deep ties with the University, Mercer's School of Medicine and Savannah's Memorial University Medical Center, and said he contributed to the sponsorship to "create a connection between the medical center, the Medical School and the community." Bell's son, Holmes, is a 2001 graduate of Mercer's School of Engineering.

The Savannah Music Festival was held March 19 to April 5.



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- And much more...

