

THE

SPRING 2010

# Mercerian

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## Generating **New** Knowledge



**Macon Campus Getting  
First LEED-Certified Building**

**McAfee Creates Support  
Network for New Pastors**

**Mercerians Experience  
Life-Saving Reunion**





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# In Our Lens

## A-Sun Championship

The University Center was energized the first week of March like never before in its six years of existence as 16 men's and women's basketball teams from across the Southeast converged in Macon for the Atlantic Sun Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. More than 10,000 fans entered the UC turnstiles over the four-day tournament. The excitement for Mercer fans culminated on Saturday as the Bears, after upending higher seeds Belmont and Jacksonville, advanced to the title game against East Tennessee State. Junior Brandon Moore shoots a free throw for the Bears late in the contest. For complete tournament coverage, go to page 40 of this issue of *The Mercerian*.



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### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

#### **EDITOR**

Richard L. Cameron

#### **DESIGN EDITOR**

Steve Mosley

#### **DESIGN ASSISTANT, GIVING REPORT CREATIVE**

Matt Smith

#### **STAFF WRITERS, EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE**

Janet Crocker, CCPS '09

Billie Rampley, BUS '07

Mark Vanderhoek, BUS '08

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATION**

BankerOpticalMedia, Peggy Cozart,

Dave Cutler, Billy Howard, Roger Idenden,

James Nix, nu visions in photography,

Saldivia-Jones Photography, Rebecca Sandifer,

Les Todd, Leah Yetter

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Dave Beyer, Jamie Dickson, CLA '05,

Susan Frazier, David Hefner, Susan Long,

Bob Perkins Jr., Laura Raines, Stephen Werk

#### **EDITORIAL OFFICE**

*The Mercerian*, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon,  
Georgia 31207

**PHONE** • (478) 301-4024 **FAX** • (478) 301-2684

**WEB SITE** • [www.mercer.edu](http://www.mercer.edu)

**E-MAIL** • [mercerial@mercerial.edu](mailto:mercerial@mercerial.edu)

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**MERCER**  
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# Discovery is Central to **Mercer's Mission**

Our finest universities are not merely places where knowledge and information are passed from one generation to the next. The finest universities inspire in students a love of learning that will continue throughout their lives. They are places where students learn how to learn, how to solve problems, and how to discover — attributes that will enable them to adapt and succeed in our rapidly changing world, and to employ their God-given gifts and talents to live full and meaningful lives.

There is no better way for students to develop these attributes than to conduct cutting-edge research with talented faculty. Enriching the learning environment for our students is why our 10-year plan seeks to expand further the level of research activity at the University.

As the stories in this issue demonstrate, Mercer student and faculty are working together, seeking to discover solutions to many of our most vexing challenges. They are seeking to heal the sick by pursuing new and more effective treatments for cancer. They are seeking to make the lame walk by developing cost-effective medical devices. And they are seeking to bring water to the thirsty through sustainable water filtration and pump systems.

Discovery is central to our mission as one of the world's premier faith-based research universities. In the years ahead, Mercer will be increasingly active in pursuing discovery by drawing on our breadth of programs, our interdisciplinary approach to research, and the intellectual capital of our talented faculty and students. We hope you enjoy reading exciting news about our discovery university.



**William D. Underwood**  
President

— Bill Underwood



# Board of Trustees Approves Graduate Programs and Two New Campus Locations

**A**t its December 2009 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved several new graduate programs, including the first Ph.D. for the College of Continuing and Professional Studies. The board also approved two new locations in metro Atlanta. Beginning this year, the University will offer courses in the Forsyth-North Fulton area and in Newnan.

The Board approved two new graduate degrees for the College of Continuing and Professional Studies. Beginning in the fall, the College will offer the Education Specialist in School Counseling degree on the Atlanta campus, building on its successful Master's in School Counseling degree program and initially accommodating up to 30 Ed.S. students. Offered in cooperation with Mercer's Tift College of Education, the Ed.S. requires 36 hours beyond the master's degree, and one of the most significant features of the program's design is that students may apply credits earned toward completion of course requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Counselor Education and Supervision.

The Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision — only the second such program offered by a Georgia-based institution — will join the University's other Ph.D. programs in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, and Nursing Education.

The new Ph.D. program will prepare graduates for supervision, teaching, research and scholarship, and counseling in universities, school systems, hospitals, residential treatment centers, private practice, consulting, and training settings.

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accreditation standards have changed to require faculty members hired for counselor education programs in colleges and universities to have this Ph.D. Faculty members with degrees in allied fields will no longer be eligible to fill faculty positions in accredited counselor education programs.

The College also received approval to offer a new certificate program in leadership for medical practice work force development, which will also be offered in Atlanta. The certificate program, designed in consulta-

tion with the leadership of Piedmont Healthcare and the Center for Health and Learning, jointly operated by Piedmont and Mercer, is designed for administrators/managers of medical/healthcare practices, in particular those affiliated with major healthcare providers.

The new locations will begin in the fall as well, with the Tift College of Education offering the Master of Education in Early Childhood Education at local public school facilities in

the Forsyth-North Fulton area in August. Plans are to eventually open a full regional academic center in Forsyth-North Fulton with program offerings in the Stetson School of Business and Economics and the College of Continuing Professional Education in addition to degree programs offered by the Tift College of Education.

In Newnan, the Tift College of Education will offer bachelor's degrees and initial certification courses in Early Childhood/Special Education and Early Care and Education. The College of Continuing and Professional Studies will begin offering in the fall the Bachelor of Social Science in Public Safety and the College plans to introduce the Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Resources Administration and Development in Newnan in the fall of 2011.

## Vann Receives Service-Learning Award at Summit

Senior Hannah Vann, a women's and gender studies major from Rome earned the Gulf-South Summit Award for Outstanding Student Contributions to Service-Learning in March at the Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education in Athens. The Summit is the service-learning professional organization for the Southeast region and includes

schools such as Tulane University, Emory University and Mercer.

"The Summit brings together teachers from the Southeast who integrate service to the community into undergraduate courses so that they can share creative ideas and best practices," said Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning and chair of women's and

gender studies. "Hannah was honored because she embodies the ideals of the organization. As a student she combines original research and scholarship, service-learning and volunteerism, and a deep sense of civic responsibility to her local community and the global community."

Vann is president of Mercer's Sex Trafficking Opposition Project, or STOP, a group dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking and aiding victims in the Macon area. The Summit honored Vann for her work with STOP and on a Mercer conference on trafficking. Vann assisted in contacting Tapestry, a non-profit based in Atlanta that works with immigrant women and helped to bring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to Macon during police raids of massage parlors. As a result of those efforts, Dr. Morgan said, two trafficking victims were freed.

In the spring of 2009, Vann worked with conference co-chairs Dr. Andrew Silver, Page Hunter Associate Professor of English, and Dr. Morgan to sponsor the conference on trafficking. Vann served on the executive board for the conference, which drew more than 900 participants.

Vann hopes this recognition will inspire Mercer students to become more involved in service-learning projects. "I am very honored by the recognition and thrilled about the attention this brings to Mercer," Vann said.

Hannah Vann



LEAH YETTER PHOTO





ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

## The Grand Opera House Shines On With New Marquee

**D**owntown Macon got a little — make that a lot — brighter on Sept. 22, when The Grand Opera House, a performing arts center of Mercer University, unveiled its state-of-the-art marquee. The project was made possible by gifts from more than 80 community members, local businesses and foundations.

The unveiling of the 40-foot-long marquee, designed to bring attention to the historic landmark with its 4,400 LED lights, marked the 125th birthday of The Grand. More than 300 supporters and patrons gathered on Mulberry Street for the celebration.

President William D. Underwood, who emceed the event, said he is proud of the University's involvement with The Grand and the new marquee. "The University's commitment to this project has been instrumental in ensuring its successful completion. We are pleased to make this contribution to the citizens of Bibb County and all of Central Georgia."

Themed "Shine On," the unveiling event was complete with Cirque-like performers, lively music and a birthday cake replica of the marquee. Karen Lambert, former executive director of The Grand Opera House, said the marquee project was a three-year collaborative effort that brought together donors, architects and builders in a common cause: to shine a light on what The Grand offers Macon and Central Georgia.

"The lights of the marquee announce to all who come to our city that we embrace the arts as a central component to our sense of community," she said. After 13 years of service to The Grand Opera House, Lambert is now president and CEO of The Cherry Blossom Festival and executive director of the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission.

The Grand is no stranger to community support. A variety of individuals and businesses brought the 1,000-seat theater back to life in the '60s after years of neglect. The Grand recently underwent another renovation, and Tony Long and his company A.T. Long & Son were instrumental in the process. A long-time supporter and patron of The Grand, Long served as chair of the Marquee Committee and was most impressed with the support from local businesses.

"It would not have been possible if we didn't have the tremendous amount of support not only from those who made contributions, but also from the people who actually did the physical work on the marquee," he said. "For the most part, they did it at their cost, and some people did it at their cost and still made a contribution."

Mercer graduate Mark Stevens, who joined The Grand Opera House Board of Governors six years ago and who is current chairman of the board, considers the marquee one of the "jewels" of downtown Macon and was pleased with

the amount of community support that went into the project. "Without the strong support of the corporate citizens of Macon and the many individual contributors to its erection and installation, the marquee would have never materialized," he said. "I was unreservedly fascinated by the myriad of businesses and individuals coming together to complete the project."

The marquee rivals the signage at Atlanta's Fabulous Fox Theater and is not only used to promote events and performances at The Grand, but is also a billboard for community messages. It also serves as a way for The Grand to thank its corporate sponsors. But, most importantly, the marquee is a reminder of the importance of performing arts in Central Georgia, said Mercer University Chancellor and Grand supporter Dr. R. Kirby Godsey.

"Far beyond our lives that are consumed with commerce as well as political and social transactions, this stunning marquee beckons us to celebrate the inner life. It reminds us that the arts — dance, theatre, music, poetry — make us more human, calling us to embrace the values of civility and respect," Dr. Godsey said. "The marquee now lights our city. The elegance and power of the arts being performed within The Grand can light our souls."

For more information about The Grand Opera House, visit [www.thegrandmacon.com](http://www.thegrandmacon.com).



# Caring for Creation Calls for a Change of Heart

**T**here must be a change of heart and a new commitment to Care for Creation if we are to address humanity's global impact on the environment, speakers told Mercer's Caring for Creation conference, held Oct. 29-31 on the Macon campus. There must be comprehensive efforts to sway the evangelical Christian community in the United States, as well as individual efforts to further environmental stewardship in this country and around the world.

In his welcome to conference attendees, President William D. Underwood introduced the conference with an analogy taken from *Time* magazine, in a cover article, "God vs. Science."

"It was as though *Time* was describing a heavy-weight prize fight between two committed opponents," Underwood said. "There is equal

arrogance on both of these extremes. Implicit in this conference is the idea that faith and science need not be in conflict. On the contrary, faith and science represent two ways of knowing and understanding. They can and should work hand in hand. Thus, the title of this conference, Caring for Creation, is a scientific and theological response. What can result from this conference is a powerful call to action."

Throughout the conference, speakers focused their messages on inspiring those of faith to engage with science, and scientists to engage with the faithful — and for all people to change how they live, so that others might simply live.

Dr. Judith Curry, a prominent climate scientist at Georgia Tech, discussed the significance of climate change and the effect that humans have on climate change. "We have taken carbon dioxide to levels we haven't seen in half a million years," Dr. Curry said. Climate change is leading to rising atmospheric temperatures and rising sea levels. "The temperatures in the last 50 years are definitely warmer than anything in the last 2,000 years," Dr. Curry said.

There are some certainties and some uncertainties in regards to the effects of global warming and increase in carbon dioxide emissions, but the climate models indicate that we will definitely see a change in the extremes — extreme storms and heat waves. "The extremes get worse," Dr. Curry said.

The tragedies of these

climatic disruptions fall squarely into ethical and religious imperatives. Mercer assistant professor Dr. John Hintermaier noted that spirituality requires prayer, fasting and almsgiving, all aspects applicable to environmentalism, particularly in making wise decisions about personal consumption that might take from the poor — or disrupt their environment.

"Caring for creation is not just caring for the environment, but caring for people, too," Dr. Hintermaier said. "The conviction of the notion of the title is that we are to fulfill the job we were supposed to do here on Earth."

To encourage a change of heart among evangelical Christians in America, one of the groups most opposed to changing sentiments of caring for creation, Christians must be moved from a theology of "me" to a theology of "we," suggested prominent evangelicals Dr. David P. Gushee, Mercer's Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics, and Jonathan Merritt, a faith and culture writer and author of the forthcoming book *Green Like God*.

Merritt began his quest to do just that while still in seminary, inspired by the realization that God's Creation is a part of a general revelation, and the idea that the destruction of Creation was akin to tearing pages from God's specific revelation, the Bible, Merritt had a change of heart. He began to change his habits, and felt called to change his faith. He worked with others to draft the "Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change." The release met resistance, but also confirmed Merritt's calling, he said.

"God is on the move, God's people are on the move, transition is occurring, people are waking up to these issues," Merritt said. "We are engaging them, and in some cases now leading these conversations."



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

**Mercer students did projects throughout Macon during the Green Day of Service, including work in the Pleasant Hill Community Garden.**



**Faith and culture writer and author of the just-published book *Green Like God*, Jonathan Merritt addresses the opening session of the conference Oct. 29.**

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO



## 'The 30-Minute Seminary' Introduces Cable Audience to Theological Education

**I**n an effort to pull back the veil on theological education, the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology partnered with Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting to present "The 30-Minute Seminary," a series of 14 programs broadcast to more than one million homes in the metro-Atlanta area on AIB TV. The series is scheduled to run from January to May on the network and will later be rebroadcast on the Internet at [www.aibtv.com](http://www.aibtv.com).

Featuring professors from the McAfee School of Theology, the educational series had many goals, including giving viewers a glimpse of the school and formal, systematic theological education and providing a church resource for lay theological education.

Dr. R. Alan Culpepper, McAfee dean and a member of the board of directors of AIB TV, said network representatives initially approached him with the concept of doing some sort of educational programming.

"We brought the initial idea back to the faculty," Dr. Culpepper said. "They asked us to do 13 hours of programming, possibly filming one class. To that point, our experience working

with AIB had been filming special events and guest speakers for rebroadcast."

Dr. Culpepper said the faculty decided creating new content based on sound theological principles was the best strategy, and Dr. Brett Younger, associate professor of preaching, came up with the name: "The 30-Minute Seminary."

A student host was selected to introduce each session, Dr. Culpepper said, and in the fall, faculty members taped two episodes a week for seven weeks in front of a live audience of students. Each episode features faculty with years of classroom experience conducting lectures, but Dr. Culpepper said the series proved more challenging than they first anticipated. While he normally takes an entire semester delving into the Gospel of John with his students, Dr. Culpepper had to distill all four gospels into on 30-minute episode.

"It was very challenging," he said. "Many professors said they devoted much more time than they first anticipated preparing for their programs. In my case, the challenge was conveying what was most important from each of the four gospels and showing the distinctiveness of

each. The goal is to whet the appetite of viewers so that they will want to know more, to find out more, whether that brings them to McAfee as a student, to another seminary or school, or to just do some more reading on their own."

As the nation's largest regional interfaith cable network, AIB is celebrating its 40th anniversary, reaching homes in 19 metro-Atlanta counties. Patty Mosteller, director of marketing and communications for AIB, said she thinks "The 30-Minute Seminary" was a great opportunity to reach a wide-ranging audience.

"The goal is to provide viewers with an educational tool and a glimpse inside classes at seminary," Mosteller said. "I think it is interesting not only to prospective students, but a great resource for churches, Sunday School classes and other groups."

Dr. Culpepper said McAfee's relationship with AIB has been mutually beneficial. "Their charter is to promote religion and religious understanding in metro-Atlanta, across a diverse spectrum," he said. "For McAfee, it allows us to reach out into the community and raise our visibility among faith groups."

## University Press Establishes Three Annual Book Awards

**M**ercer University Press has established three annual book awards in honor of three individuals closely tied to the University. Each award comes with a book contract and an advance of \$500.

The Adrienne Bond Award for Poetry will be given to the best manuscript that exemplifies the poetic language and vision of the author. Dr. Bond (1933-1996) was a poet, fiction writer, scholar and mentor to many writers. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Mercer and her Ph.D. from Georgia State University. She taught English at Mercer from 1965 until her death in 1996. While living, she published *The Shape and Sound of Southern Poetry Today* (1989). She had two books published posthumously, *Time Was, She Declares:*



ADRIENNE BOND

*Selected Poems* (Mercer University Press, 1996) and *Sugarcane House and Other Stories about Mr. Fat* (1997).

The Ferrol Sams Award for Fiction will be given to an exceptional novel or short story manuscript that speaks to the human condition in a Southern context. Dr. Sams was born in 1922 in Fayetteville and earned his undergraduate degree from Mercer in 1942 and his M.D. from Emory University in 1949 after serving in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in France. A former member of the Mercer Board of Trustees, he was a physician in Fayetteville until his retirement in 2006. In 1984 Dr. Sams became widely known for his novel *Run with the Horseman*. Its sequel, *Whisper of the River*, is a fictitious account of his days at Mercer told through the eyes of his main charac-



FERROL SAMs

ter, Porter Osborne. Since then, he has published seven more novels and story collections. His most recent book, *Down Town*, was published in 2007 by Mercer University Press.

The final award is the Will D. Campbell Award for Creative Nonfiction, which will be given to an outstanding manuscript that also speaks to the human condition in a Southern context. This category includes memoir, natural history, essays and other genres of nonfiction.

All entries must be submitted by June 1 to be considered for the 2011 announcements. Each entry must request to be considered for this specific book prize and no electronic submissions will be accepted. Manuscripts should be addressed to Dr. Marc Jolley, Mercer University Press, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207.



WILL CAMPBELL



# Mercer University Press Boasts Record Attendance at 20th Annual Authors Luncheon

**M**ore than 400 book lovers gathered at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta Hotel in December to meet and greet a variety of notable writers at the 20th Annual Authors Luncheon presented by Mercer University Press. The event also marked the 30th anniversary of the Press.

A total of 12 authors were showcased. Featured authors were Mercer alumna and former Trustee Nancy Grace, former United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins, *New York Times* bestselling author Kathryn Stockett,

and popular author, priest and professor The Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor.

Mercer law alumnus and trustee Doc Schneider said hosting the Authors Luncheon was like “hosting the Oscars.” Schneider serves as chairman of the Mercer Press Board of Directors and was the luncheon’s master of ceremonies.

“The turnout was extraordinary,” he said. “The atmosphere was electric — and the event knocked everybody’s socks off. It was truly Atlanta and Mercer’s literary event of the year.”

Collins, who has published eight collections of poetry, wowed the audience with readings of several of his poems, including “The Lanyard,” “Litany,” “Smile,” and “Forgetfulness.” “I will remember everything about Billy Collins and the day he appeared at Mercer’s Authors Luncheon,” Schneider said. “Billy was something beautiful freshly seen. His poems came years before him, introducing him little by little — so I felt like I knew him. But he exceeded his poems and he equaled them, too.”

Stockett, Grace and Taylor also spoke at the luncheon. The 2009 Authors Luncheon host committee was chaired by long-time supporter Lee Patterson Allen. For more information about Mercer University Press, visit [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org).

## Authors Luncheon MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS *Celebrating 20 Years*

TV personality Nancy Grace, CLA '81, LAW '84, was among the 12 authors showcased at the 20th annual Authors Luncheon held in December in Atlanta. The Authors Luncheon, Atlanta's annual literary event of the year, is presented by Mercer University Press.





## Governor Names Elkins to Georgia Professional Standards Commission

Gov. Sonny Perdue has named Dr. Penny L. Elkins, vice president-Atlanta and associate dean and professor in the Tift College of Education, as a teacher education faculty representative on the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, the organization that oversees all teacher certification for the state. The Commission also is responsible for the accreditation of all teacher education programs in the state. She is one of only two such representatives on the board and also serves as chair of the Commission's Educator Preparation Committee. This committee is tasked with reviewing and approving all education certification programs, as well as writing certification rules to reflect any new legislation concerning the certification and/or pay for educators in Georgia.

Dr. Elkins, who also holds the Fred L. Miles Chair of Educational Leadership, has 20 years of experience in leadership, curriculum design

and development, educational leadership, program planning, teaching and program evaluation. She earned a bachelor's degree in Christianity and early childhood education and a master's degree in early childhood education from Mercer, as well as an education specialist degree in education, administration and supervision from Georgia College and State University. Her Ph.D. is in educational leadership from Georgia State University.



Dr. Penny Elkins

## Pridgen Named to Fabian Chair of Music

Distinguished soloist and chamber musician Elizabeth Pridgen has joined the Townsend School of Music faculty as assistant professor of piano and holder of the G. Leslie Fabian Endowed Chair of Music. Pridgen has been praised for her "big piano presence" by the American Record Guide and performs regularly around the world with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Elmar Oliverira, Hilary Hahn, Robert

McDuffie and the American String Quartet.

Pridgen earned her bachelor's degree from Peabody Conservatory of Music and her master's degree from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Joseph Kalichstein.

"We feel extremely fortunate to call her our colleague," said Dr. John Dickson, dean of the Townsend School of Music. "Elizabeth brings with her a global experience of collaborative artistry with some of the world's great performers."

During this school year Pridgen served as a visiting artist with the Townsend School of Music. She says the best part of teaching is getting to work with students on a one-on-one basis.

"The McDuffie Center for Strings is a very exciting program in the School of Music and a unique opportunity for students to have private lessons, master classes, chamber music coaching session and orchestral sections all as a part of their required curriculum," Pridgen said. "I am very excited about this opportunity and being a part of the Mercer community."

For information on the McDuffie Center for Strings, Townsend School of Music or Pridgen visit [music.mercer.edu](http://music.mercer.edu).



Elizabeth Pridgen

## CCPS Students Create Literary Journal

Students from the College of Continuing and Professional Studies have published a literary journal, titled *Regeneration!: A Journal of Creative Writing*, that may be the first of its kind in the country.

"This book is a landmark publication in undergraduate adult education," said Dr. Margaret Eskew, the group's adviser and an associate professor of English in the College. "It is the first journal produced by undergraduate adult learners in the United States, and we are extremely proud of that. We're also very proud of this work because it features a diversity of voices and it has told the story of adult students who come to complete their education in a personal and unique way."



The efforts to publish the journal began with a group of 12 students who enrolled in three writing classes in Macon over the 2008-2009 academic year and grew to include writing from all of the College's locations: Macon, Eastman, Henry County, Douglas County and Atlanta. The resulting 288-page journal features the works from the College's students, faculty and staff, as well as Mercer Chancellor Dr. R. Kirby Godsey — already the author of a number of books.

"We didn't set out to create something that was completely new, but when we looked for models to follow, we just couldn't find any," Dr. Eskew said.

The experience has been transformative, say students in the group, dubbed the Regeneration Writers.

"I've never had a class that involved so much laughter and tears," said Janet Crocker, one of the original Regeneration writers.

The journal is the result of an outpouring of creativity across the College's locations and has prompted the group to establish Regeneration Writers Press, which will publish a children's book, as well as other projects and future volumes of *Regeneration!*, Dr. Eskew said.

For more on the press, visit [www.regenerationpress.com](http://www.regenerationpress.com).



# Mercer Law School Moot Court Team Sweeps National Advocacy Competition

**A** moot court team at the Walter F. George School of Law swept the Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition in February, winning the coveted team championship and both Best Respondent's Brief and Best Oralist. In the closing rounds, the team, comprised of third-year law students Falen Cox and Emily Macheski-Preston, defeated law school teams from the University of Florida (quarterfinals), DePaul University (semifinals) and Florida Coastal (finals).

The national victory was one of several notable wins this year in an advocacy competition season that extends into the end of April.

• In November, law student Michael Lyles won first place in the Seventh Annual Law Student Argument Competition. Also in November, law student Kathryn Seabolt won the "Hot Seat" Corporate Counseling Tournament sponsored by the Georgia chapter of the National Association

of Corporate Counsel. Both statewide tournaments involved representatives from all five Georgia law schools.

• In January, Mercer Law students Louise Smith and Christy Thornton won the Best Brief Award in the regional Black Law Student Association Douglas Competition.

• In February, Mercer Law students Kathryn Seabolt and Travis Meyer captured second place in the South Regional American Bar Association's Client Counseling Competition.

"This victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our student competitors and the student coaches," said Law School Associate Professor Suzianne Painter-Thorne, who coached the Charleston team. Joan McCallum and Kevin Stroberg were the student coaches.

"Our students showed amazing dedication in developing their arguments and a seriousness of purpose in presenting their arguments through-

out the competition," Painter-Thorne added.

Moot court teams from 19 law schools participated in the national competition in Charleston, including teams from Duke University, Florida State University, New York University, the University of South Carolina, and Yeshiva University.

In the championship round, when Mercer Law School squared off against Florida Coastal, the teams argued an issue concerning the scope of the Second Amendment right to bear arms. The problem is based on *McDonald v. Chicago*, which is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Testing students' mastery of brief writing and oral advocacy, moot court competitions are critical components of Mercer Law School's training of future lawyers who are uniquely prepared to practice law immediately after graduation.

Mercer's moot court program is consistently ranked among the Top 20 in the nation.

## Mercer Students, Faculty and Staff Mobilize to Provide Aid to Haiti

In the wake of the violent earthquake that hit Haiti on Jan. 12, Mercer students, faculty, staff and organizations mobilized to bring comfort to the victims through fund-raisers, both large and small, and services to pray for the victims. In addition, several groups sought ways to provide direct aid, and the University will launch a program to provide prosthetics to those who have lost limbs as a result of the quake.

Among the great tragedies of this devastating event is the loss of limbs, as doctors have performed thousands of amputations to save the lives of victims. One of Mercer's most widely known initiatives may offer those with leg amputations hope for a brighter future and help them rebuild their country. Because the cost of prosthetics is so high, many in developing nations must go without them. However, Mercer faculty and students have pioneered technology that provides low-cost leg prosthetics to amputees in developing nations and it will now bring the program to Haiti.

The prosthetic program, launched in 2009 with a Mercer On Mission trip to Vietnam, will now be expanded to Haiti this summer, said Dr. Craig McMahan, University minister and dean of the chapel. Dr. McMahan, who coordinates the Mercer On Mission program, traveled to Haiti on March 17 with a

delegation from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and American Baptist Churches USA to assess clinic sites for a Mercer-led trip in the spring to fit 20 prosthetics.

Dr. McMahan said that the initial phase of the project will occur in April, when a group of students and faculty travel to a clinic site and complete the small pilot project. Once that effort is completed, Dr. McMahan said that the next phase will begin after the already-planned Mercer On Mission trip to Vietnam, where another group will fit 100 prosthetics. Following that trip, Dr. McMahan said that the group of Mercer

engineers who build the prosthetics will return to Macon to fabricate prosthetics for a return trip to Haiti later in the summer. Dr. McMahan is working with a number of groups to secure funding to build a large number of prosthetics to fit as many amputees as possible, he said.

"This is the first venture of what I hope will be many ventures to Haiti as we work to meet this pressing need," Dr. McMahan said.

More information on Mercer's various initiatives to help the residents of Haiti is available at [www.mercer.edu](http://www.mercer.edu).





# NewsBriefs

## MBA Programs Make *Entrepreneur* 'Top 15' List

Reviews by Master of Business Administration students at the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics place the program among the top 15 in the nation in two categories of The Princeton Review's "Student Opinion Honors for Business Schools." The MBA students cited Mercer's preparation as superior in the categories of marketing and accounting, putting the University in the same company as Duke, Harvard, Indiana, Michigan and Northwestern. The list appeared in the April 2010 issue of *Entrepreneur* magazine.

"The Stetson School of Business and Economics is honored to be recognized as one of the top 15 MBA programs in the nation in two of the six areas surveyed," said Dr. David Shields, dean of the business school. "We believe that we provide our students with outstanding academic preparation for professional careers, and are pleased that the Princeton Review has recognized this. This recognition is a tribute to our faculty and also to our students who demand relevant and rigorous academic preparation in the important areas of accounting and marketing."

"This recognition places the Mercer MBA programs squarely within the ranks of the top MBA programs in the nation," he said. "Our MBA programs continue to provide the highest quality academic preparation for our students at a reasonable tuition level."

Created and compiled by The Princeton Review, the "Student Opinion Honors for Business Schools" lists are reported in six categories: accounting, finance, general management, global management, marketing and operations. Each list names the 15 graduate schools of business that were most highly rated by their students evaluating their MBA program's preparation in specific categories. The business schools appear in alphabetical order on the lists and were not ranked one to 15.

Mercer was the only Georgia-based MBA program to be placed on two lists, and among other Georgia schools, only Georgia Tech's MBA program was recognized in the operations category.

The Princeton Review compiled the lists from data in its national survey of MBA

students used for its book, *Best 301 Business Schools: 2010 Edition*. In that edition, Mercer's MBA program also was ranked No. 3 in the nation in the category of "Greatest Opportunity for Women," an honor that the book bestowed upon the MBA program in the 2009 edition as well.

Using its 80-question survey, the Princeton Review asked students to report on classroom and campus experiences at their schools and rate their MBA programs in several areas. It tallied the honors lists based on students' assessments of how well they felt their business school courses had prepared them to succeed in each of the six areas.

## Magazine Names Malone 'The New King of Torts'

Mercer Trustee Thomas Malone, a 1966 graduate of Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law, is featured on the cover of the 2010 *Georgia Super Lawyers* magazine under the heading, "The New King of Torts." He was joined on the elite list by fellow Mercer trustees and law alumni Dwight J. Davis, LAW '82, and Richard A. "Doc" Schneider, LAW '81, both senior partners with Atlanta's King & Spalding law firm, and M. Diane Owens, CLA '77, LAW '80, partner with Atlanta's Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers. Current Mercer trustee and former board chair David E. Hudson, who earned his undergraduate degree from Mercer in 1968 and his law degree from Harvard, also was included in the 2010 edition of the publication. He is a partner with the Augusta law firm of Hull Barrett, PC.

Another 135 Mercer Law School graduates joined Malone, Davis, Owens and Schneider in the 2010 edition of *Georgia Super Lawyers*, including 47 "Rising Stars." They practice law all over the state: Atlanta, Augusta, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumming, Dalton, Decatur, Griffin, Hinesville, Lawrenceville, Macon, Marietta, Milledgeville, Perry, Savannah,



Statesboro, Thomasville, Valdosta, Vidalia and Woodstock.

A full list of the Mercer Law School graduates who made the *Georgia Super Lawyers* is available for download at [www.law.mercer.edu/news/GASL10MercerAlumni.pdf](http://www.law.mercer.edu/news/GASL10MercerAlumni.pdf). The Mercer "Rising Stars" list is available at [www.law.mercer.edu/news/GARS10MercerAlumni.pdf](http://www.law.mercer.edu/news/GARS10MercerAlumni.pdf).

## Professor Receives Grants to Expand Prosthetics Program

A Mercer On Mission project that provides low-cost prosthetics to amputees in developing countries has received a boost from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Alliance awarded Dr. Ha Van Vo, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, with a Sustainable Vision Grant of \$37,275 to help him perfect his design and set up a prosthetic lab and clinic in Vietnam. CBF awarded the program a \$50,000 grant to replicate the Vietnam program in Haiti, where the 2010 earthquake left tens of thousands of Haitians without limbs.

Dr. Vo invented a low-cost prosthetic that can be fitted without full customization — which makes it an affordable alternative to those in developing nations who must often go without. Last summer, Dr. Vo and Dr. Ramachandran Radharamanan, a professor in the School of Engineering, led a Mercer On Mission team to work with Vietnamese amputees living in and around Ho Chi Minh City. In all, the team fitted 35 prosthetics and cast 27 people for later fittings.

The Vietnam program is slated for three years and Dr. Vo hopes to expand the program to India and Thailand in later years. The grant will help those efforts and will be used for working on the design of other parts of the prostheses, including the knee, pylon, ankle and foot.

Because the project is addressing a worldwide problem, it has garnered national and international attention, including praise from the Clinton Global Initiative. The problem of amputees who must go without prosthetics is particularly acute in Vietnam. More than 2,000 Vietnamese are injured each year by land mines and unexploded bombs left during the Vietnam War. An estimated 100,000





Engineering student Bo Broadwater of Phenix City, Ala., works on a prosthetic during a Mercer On Mission trip last year to Vietnam.

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.

## ■ Mercer Earns 'A' Grade for Transportation on its Green Report Card

**M**ercer received an "A" grade in the 2010 Sustainability Report Card's transportation category and was one of just 12 schools featured in the Transportation Leaders section of the Green Report Card's Web site. The list of Transportation Leaders is composed of 105 schools that earned "A" grades in this category.

Mercer earned the grade for its trolley services between the Macon campus and downtown and its partnerships to revitalize the areas around the campus to make them more attractive to faculty and staff — giving them the freedom to walk or bike to work. Additionally, the University's Bear Bikes program, a bike sharing program for students, faculty and staff on the Macon campus, recently received a \$40,000 grant to expand its

program, with an emphasis on biking in the College Hill Corridor and downtown Macon.

The grade was an affirmation for Dr. John Hintermaier, assistant professor of history and chair of Mercer's sustainability committee.

"This really shows one of Mercer's distinctives — that we are willing to partner with community groups and local government to work on projects that benefit a lot of people, not just ourselves," Dr. Hintermaier said. "By creating a walkable, bikeable community where people want to live, you're creating a healthier environment, for yourself and the planet, right at the beginning. It also undercuts the myth that environmental things have to be luxury items, because your actual investment is small, relative to the benefits we accrue from them."

The University improved its overall grade to a C from a D+ on last year's report card, and Dr. Hintermaier believes the University will further improve that score next year and into the future. Mercer will soon begin construction on its first LEED-certified building on the Macon campus — a renovation and expan-

sion of an existing home that will serve as the University's new Admissions and Welcome Center. Other initiatives that should positively impact the University's score are the relocation of The Bike Store into Mercer Village and construction of The Lofts At Mercer Village, which will provide more opportunities for upperclassmen and graduate students to live on campus. In addition, the College Hill Corridor project will continue to enhance the quality of life in the areas surrounding the Macon campus.

## ■ Student Newspaper Wins Georgia College Press Association Awards

**M**ercer's student newspaper, *The Cluster*, recently won several awards at the Georgia College Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, including first place awards in the categories "Best Campus Community Service — Sports" and "Improvement." The awards were announced at the association's Better Newspaper Conference, which was held Feb. 5-6 in Athens.

*The Cluster* competed in Division A, the category for four-year colleges and universities with more than 8,000 students, and the competition included such publications as Georgia Tech's *Technique* and Georgia Southern University's *George-Anne Daily*. In addition to the two first place awards, *The Cluster* placed second in "Best Campus Community Service — Features" and "Layout and Design," and third in "General Excellence."







3 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms



4 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms



Living Room Example



3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom Corner



Living Room Example

the Lofts at Mercer Village  
WYOMING AVENUE





# CHANGES COMING TO West Side OF Macon Campus

A new bookstore, admissions and welcome center and loft apartments highlight the newest upgrades coming to the west side of the Macon campus. The area has become the gateway in the vastly popular College Hill Corridor, which already features Ingleside Pizza, Francar's Wings, Jittery Joe's and The Bike Store.

By Mark Vanderhoek

More changes are on the way for the northwest side of the Macon campus, which has enjoyed a renaissance over the last three years.

In addition to the creation of a lively retail district in Mercer Village — which formerly was home to abandoned but historically significant buildings — the campus will undergo major changes in the adjacent areas by early 2011. Following the December Board of Trustees meeting, the University announced plans to create a \$10 million mixed-use development on the campus side of Mercer Village along Montpelier Avenue. The University also plans to remodel and expand an historic home a block away from Mercer Village to house a new University Admissions and Welcome Center.

The Admissions and Welcome Center will be named in honor of longtime Senior Vice President Emily P. Myers, who retired from the University in 2008. The Center will be the University's first LEED-certified green building. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building, and is an internationally recognized rating system that encourages and rewards environmentally sustainable construction projects for such factors as energy efficiency and sustainability of building materials used in construction. Using a points system, LEED certifications can range from bronze to platinum, based on the construction project. The center is in the planning stages, and construction will begin in the spring with the expectation of earning at least a silver certification, said Don Hicks, Mercer's director of facilities.

Plans call for remodeling the historic portion of the home, approximately 2,700 square feet, and demolishing a small, non-historic addition on the back of the home, then adding 3,000 square feet of new sustainable construction. The project will also provide a learning experience for Hicks and Russell Vullo, associate vice president of physical plant, who are working with a LEED consultant on >>



the construction. Hicks and Vullo will be able to apply for, and test to become, LEED project managers. The designation will mean they can lead future projects for the University, as well as find new ways to make current buildings more sustainable.

The new center will become the front door to the campus, housing the Office of University Admissions, which will relocate from its current space in the Connell Student Center and in the current Admissions House on Elm Street.

Mercer is partnering with Sierra Development and Piedmont Construction on The Lofts at Mercer Village, President William D. Underwood announced at a news conference following the December board meeting. The deal with Macon-based Sierra Development and Piedmont Construction Group LLC calls for development of loft-style apartments and retail space for a Barnes and Noble Bookstore and other businesses that cater to the Mercer community and residents in the College Hill Corridor.

The University's arrangement with the developers is similar to the one Mercer made with developers of the Hilton Garden Inn on the opposite side of campus four years ago. The University is providing the land and the developers are putting up the structure and will lease the apartment units and retail space, provide facility maintenance and manage the residential operations. The Lofts will cater to Mercer's graduate and professional students, as well as upperclass undergraduate students who do not live in University-operated campus housing.



The Lofts at Mercer Village will be located on Montpelier Avenue across from Ingleside Village Pizza and Jittery Joe's Coffee. The first floor will have approximately 13,750 square feet of retail space and the top three floors will house up to 117 students in three- and four-bedroom, loft-style apartments that reflect a sleek, urban design. The building will have an all-brick façade that reflects the traditional architectural elements of the Mercer campus. It has been designed to create a vibrant streetscape, enhancing the recent retail development in Mercer Village, which in addition to Ingleside Village Pizza and Jittery Joe's Coffee, houses Francar's Buffalo Wings, Georgia Public Broadcasting studios, The Bike Store and offices for the College Hill Alliance.

"The University is grateful to the principals at Sierra Development and Piedmont Construction Group for bringing to us such a compelling proposal for this mixed-use development," Underwood said. "This is the kind of private, residential-retail

project envisioned in the College Hill Corridor Master Plan, and it supports one of the goals in Mercer's 10-year strategic plan to create a more residential campus. Jim Daws, David Thompson, Scott Thompson and their associates and partners have shown exceptional creativity in their concept and a tremendous commitment to this project. It's a win-win for the developers, the University, the College Hill Corridor and the City of Macon."

The Mercer Bookstore, operated by Barnes and Noble, will move from its current location in Penfield Hall on the interior of campus and will take up approximately half of the retail space in The Lofts at Mercer Village. Each bedroom in the loft apartments will have its own bathroom, and the units will feature nine- to 10-foot ceilings, acid-stained concrete floors, accent brick walls and exposed ductwork with large windows in common living areas. The kitchens and bathrooms will have upgraded features such as granite countertops, and each apartment will have its own washer and dryer.

Construction on The Lofts at Mercer Village is under way with the bookstore scheduled to move into its space prior to the start of the spring 2011 semester. The first apartment units should also be ready for occupancy in early 2011, with full occupancy anticipated in fall 2011.

Video of the news conference announcing The Lofts at Mercer Village is available at [www.youtube.com/merceruniversity](http://www.youtube.com/merceruniversity).







# McAFEE CREATES Center FOR Teaching Churches

By Bob Perkins Jr.

**Dr. Dock Hollingsworth, who helped create the post-graduate residency program, discusses professional opportunities with Jonathan Barlow, a 2008 graduate of McAfee, who is in his second year of residency at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, made available as part of the Lilly Making Connections Grant.**

In most professions, young workers have a period of apprenticeship to help them adjust to real-world challenges. Lawyers serve as associates for a period before becoming a partner in a law firm.

Physicians serve a residency period. This is not always the case for new pastors.

“In theology, a person can be a student one day and pastor of a church the next,” said Dr. R. Alan Culpepper, dean of Mercer’s James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology. “We wanted to create some kind of program to give them support.”

With the awarding of a five-year, \$1 million Lilly Endowment Inc. grant, McAfee is creating the Center for Teaching Churches. Building upon a similar grant >>





awarded in 2004 which funded a pilot Transition-into-Ministry project, the new center is aimed at creating a support network for new pastors that heavily relies on the involvement of laity from local churches.

Before applying for and receiving the first grant, McAfee leaders reviewed post-graduate pastorates and found a troubling trend.

“Students who held church staff positions — such as associate pastor or youth minister — had a much higher success rate than students who went directly into the pastorate immediately following graduation,” Dean Culpepper said. “Theological education doesn’t take place in a vacuum.”

Dean Culpepper said the incidents of difficulty were frequent enough that the school developed plans to address issues facing young pastors. After being awarded the school’s first five-year, \$2 million Lilly grant in 2004, leaders were able to implement several initiatives designed to improve the likelihood of success.

Dr. James Neil (Dock) Hollingsworth Jr., assistant dean and assistant professor of supervised ministry at McAfee, helped create the post-graduate residency program. Pastors were placed in local churches, and half of their salary and benefits were underwritten by the grant money.

Dr. Hollingsworth, who will serve as executive director of the Center, said the program was similar to ones established by other faith traditions, but unique to Baptists.

“While there were some seminaries in other denominations doing programs like this, we were the first and only in the free church tradition,” Dr. Hollingsworth said. “Free church tradition” churches are those that are self-governing with no hierarchical structure.

While many of the same elements of the residency program will be continued at the Center for Teaching Churches, Dean Culpepper said, the Center will be driven by student placement. “We want to come in and support the first two years of that ministry,” he said. “The Center’s involvement will be driven by our graduates. When a graduate speaks to a church about a pastorate, they will discuss the commitment of the Center to undergird them during the first few years of their ministry.”

The main components include a minister support committee composed of church members. While a church’s personnel committee is tasked with finding and hiring staff, its primary focus is on the needs of the church. The

focus of the minister support committee will be the new staff member.

“This committee works in the best interest of the minister,” Dean Culpepper said. “It’s a safe place of reflection and deeper care of the minister. It’s a place where committee members can come and say, ‘let me provide you with some feedback about this’ or ‘let’s celebrate an achievement in the pastor’s ministry.’ It’s also a place where the pastor can go for counsel or to share concerns.”

And the types of creative solutions generated by the church committees have been true blessings. One young pastor had difficulty remembering the names of people he met, so his support committee recommended a “tea and lemonade ministry” where he would refill glasses during fellowship meals and visit with each member. Another was put in charge of collecting money at meals to better learn members’ names.

The second component is assigning a senior pastor to mentor the new pastor.

“This is a model we borrowed from the business world, also called the career coach,” Dean Culpepper said. “We partnered with the Pastoral Institute of Columbus for coaching training, so senior pastors and others could serve as mentors for these new ministers.”

Dean Culpepper said getting feedback and affirmation from a coach — someone who has walked the same path and faced many of the same issues — is invaluable.

A third pillar of the Center will be involvement with a peer group. Organizers credited their partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for helping with this process.

“In some areas, CBF had well-established peer groups, and in others, they helped us identify people who we could bring together as Baptists with a common goal of support and care for each other.”

The rural church has been problematic for some graduates, especially those who grew up in metropolitan areas. Ron Grizzle, the newly appointed director for the Center for Teaching Churches, said he personally relates to these challenges.

“I was pastor of a small-town church in Missouri and one weekend, friends from Dallas drove up to visit my family. I was going to introduce them from the pulpit during the service on Sunday, but not long after I walked in the door of the church, one of the members came up to me and said, ‘So pastor, I see you



**Dr. Dock Hollingsworth serves as assistant dean and assistant professor of supervised ministry at McAfee.**

have visitors from Dallas at your house.’”

Grizzle’s advice is: “A new pastor has to be prepared for the fishbowl that comes in a small town.”

Dr. Jim King, senior pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Duluth, had a similar experience in a small-town South Carolina church after he completed seminary. Although there was no formal residency program at that time, he said he was blessed with understanding members, including the retired pastor, a retired college professor and another member involved in the state Baptist organization.

“Had they not been there, I would not have lasted two years,” Dr. King said. A proponent of and participant in the McAfee program, Dr. King’s church has hosted two Lilly grant-sponsored ministers in five years.

“You learn things I don’t think they can teach you in seminary — nuanced things,” Dr. King said. “You learn how to build consensus among people with differing opinions, you learn how to sell a capital improvement program or how to bring people on board a spiritual renewal initiative. You will learn to be a better minister if you have had that type of close, intentional supervision.”

Dr. Hollingsworth said the ultimate goal is to engage local church laity in becoming invested not just in their church, but in the lives of the people whom they call to lead them.

“More and more the church is becoming a full partner in theological education,” he said. “It’s not just the school’s responsibility to turn out good pastors, but the schools and the churches working together.”

SAL DIVYA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



# Generating New Knowledge at Mercer

By Scott Davis, Ph.D., *Senior Vice Provost for Research  
and Dean of Graduate Studies*

Three fundamental responsibilities of higher education are to deliver content to students, develop their critical thinking skills, and, as importantly, generate new knowledge. Most people are familiar with the delivery of content and critical thinking development as participants in the classroom setting and through capstone projects and independent study. But it is also incumbent upon an institution of higher learning to generate knowledge through research and scholarship by its faculty and students. The enterprise of research and scholarship not only attempts to solve important problems to meet the needs of society, but also serves as a platform to prepare the next generation of great scholars, artists, and scientists.

The common image of a practitioner of science is that of an individual working in a laboratory while performing research in an esoteric subject that may or may not ultimately have an effect on the human experience. >>





This type of research may be considered as the “scholarship of discovery,” or the generation of knowledge for the sake of generating knowledge. Over the last 25 years, the University has initiated research programs in biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, nursing, engineering and a number of other natural, physical and social sciences. This richness of expertise and the collaborative spirit and diversity of our programs have allowed us to undertake research agendas that many other institutions cannot accomplish. This approach to research at Mercer is that of the “model of integration.” It is the basis for achieving Mercer’s aspiration to make contributions on the frontiers of knowledge through distinctive research agendas, which is called for in the University’s 10-year strategic plan.

The model of integration centers on the approach that the lone researcher is not the most productive model to tackle issues that will have a major impact on society. In fact, the National Institutes of Health has stated that a priority for funding of research will be a “translational” approach — how do we get discoveries from the bench to the bedside in the

most practical and expeditious fashion as possible to provide effective therapies?

This mode of operation critically depends on an interdisciplinary approach and there are numerous research programs across our university where trans-institutional collaboration is fundamental to success. For example, diverse teams of faculty and students from engineering, medicine, liberal arts, and nursing are developing low-cost prosthetics to meet a critical need in developing and war-ravaged countries. Another group from business, engineering, and medicine is undertaking a study to increase efficiency of healthcare delivery in local and regional hospitals. A third project centers on teams from medicine, pharmacy, liberal arts, public health and nursing to understand the molecular basis of cancer and to develop prevention strategies. By no means is this an exhaustive list of interdisciplinary research across the University; rather, it is merely representative of the unique and important problems we are attempting to solve.

Not only does our approach to research allow us to confront very interesting problems, it also provides a transformational experience for our students. Both undergraduates and graduate students are exposed to numerous opportunities that are unique to the Mercer experience. They have the opportunity to begin research as freshmen with our undergraduate faculty, as well as study with faculty in our pharmacy and medical schools. In addition, our graduate students have opportunities to work on projects that have very practical applications. Our Center for Drug Delivery Research in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences allows graduate students to perform research in an area that has direct application — how can we get drugs to specific targets in the body to decrease side effects of these medicinal agents? Our students participate in translational research projects with our faculty in the School of Medicine and scientists and clinicians in the Anderson Cancer Institute at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah. Once again, Mercer students are able to participate in the integration model of science, ultimately preparing them to become better research scientists and clinicians who can understand the broader impact of their research.

In the pages that follow, you will read about four research programs at the University with agendas that embrace the idea of the scholarship of integration — tackling important issues that affect society while at the same time offering our students opportunities that cannot be replicated at other institutions. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the exciting projects that are taking place at Mercer and the people who make it happen.

**Dr. Scott Davis**



LEAHYETTER PHOTO





# Generating **New** Knowledge at Mercer through Undergraduate Research

By Susan Long

**E**milianne McCranie flew into Jittery Joe's in Mercer Village straight from the lab with her safety glasses pushed back on her head. She has just received word that the Georgia Institute of Technology had accepted her into graduate school and she was almost out of breath from the excitement.

The 21-year-old Mercer University senior biochemistry and molecular biology major in the College of Liberal Arts also has been accepted to

Vanderbilt and is awaiting decisions from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke. And, she is interviewing this spring for admission at Johns Hopkins University.

If her undergraduate success is any indication, McCranie will have her pick.

"Her experiences at Mercer have positioned her well for graduate studies at the most prestigious universities in America," said Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, assistant professor of chemistry at Mercer. "Academically, Emilianne is very gifted," he said.

"She's very enthusiastic about doing work in the lab and examining problems at a deep level."

Dr. Bucholtz first had Emilianne as a student in an organic chemistry class during her sophomore year and realized then that she was not only a very good student, but also very interested in science — particularly chemistry.

McCranie said her interest in science began at age six when she received a chemistry set for Christmas.

I collected samples in the yard," recalled >>



Emilianne McCranie has received valuable research guidance under the direction of Mercer professors such as Dr. Kevin Bucholtz that has afforded her opportunities at an array of top graduate schools.



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

McCranie, who was raised on a small farm 30 minutes outside of Eastman. “I had cups of dirt and leaves that I was testing around the house. My parents thought I was pretty weird,” she said with a laugh.

In high school, McCranie thought about becoming a doctor and decided to major in biology in college. She chose Mercer because she wanted to stay close to home and her family is Baptist. Once she enrolled, she discovered that Mercer offered other advantages.

“I love the professors. It has been a good fit. I have had a lot of opportunities and a lot of good professors to work with. I would not be where I am without Dr. Bucholtz and a lot of other Mercer professors helping me.”

She credits Dr. Bucholtz with changing her major to combine her love of both biology and chemistry.

McCranie was approached by Dr. Bucholtz during the second semester of her sophomore year to work with him on research. She spent three to six hours a week in the lab working on a research project Dr. Bucholtz had under way and on developing basic research techniques. She continued the research her entire junior year, and

during her senior year her research time was increased to six to 10 hours a week.

Specifically, McCranie has been synthesizing a library of small molecules to see if they will target a special receptor in the cell. If the targeted receptor interacts with the molecules, it may help to better understand the mechanisms of Type 2 diabetes and other types of metabolic disorders. McCranie helped design an assay for testing and measuring the activity of each compound.

“Each student has a component of the research project,” Dr. Bucholtz said. “It could take 10 to 15 years to come to the final answer, but each student plays an integral role in working on specific parts.”

Mercer’s small size allows students to get hands-on experience working with faculty member in the lab on problems, said Dr. Bucholtz — an experience he noted is only available to graduate students and post-doctoral students at larger schools. Dr. Bucholtz also praised the Mercer administration for promoting a greater emphasis on research across the board.

“Undergraduates can answer interesting and meaningful questions here.”

Dr. Bucholtz also said having a medical

school at Mercer brings a unique perspective to bio-chemical research. It allows interdisciplinary thinking, which he feels is important.

“What you find through doing research is the interface between medicine and science. We are using chemistry to help better understand biological processes and ultimately contribute knowledge to complex medically relevant questions.”

McCranie also has taken advantage of other research opportunities while an undergraduate at Mercer. In the summer of 2008, she was part of the Mercer Biomedical Scholar Training Initiative, an intensive 12-week program designed to provide qualified undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research early in their academic careers.

Students pursue modern biomedical research by working directly in the lab with faculty mentors. McCranie worked with Dr. Nader Moniri, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Studies in the Mercer College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, on the Atlanta campus, on a project dealing with reactive oxygen species.

“We’re starting to identify receptor-linked pathways the body can use to make reactive oxygen species (free radicals that contain the oxygen atom),” Dr. Moniri said. “These species are critical for functionality of heart or lung cells.”

Dr. Moniri has applied for a National Institutes of Health grant to take the research to the next level. “We want to narrow down pathways and focus on what happens when receptors act and why they are creating reactive oxygen species,” he said.

Dr. Moniri said the research McCranie conducted is a critical piece of the grant submission. “The genes Emilianne found are where we started.

“She was an excellent researcher. She really wanted to know why — the background behind our research. A lot of students just come in and follow directions, but Emilianne wanted to understand each step involved. She was also very independent.”

McCranie worked at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., during summer 2009 on research involving colorectal screening. She helped design a compound, currently being tested in mice at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., which would make the bacteria in the colon visible via a CT scan to see if polyps exist and thus avoid the more invasive colonoscopy procedure.

And, in January 2009, McCranie was one of 21 students nationwide invited to participate in the



After a busy day in the lab, Emilianne McCranie relaxes at Jittery Joe's in the College Hill Corridor.

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO



## Work Against Sex Trafficking Leads to Presentation at National Conference on Undergraduate Research

By Sarah Tarr, CLA '10

Efforts to end sex trafficking in Middle Georgia by Mercer service-learning classes has resulted in an invitation to the courses' professors and students to speak at a national conference on undergraduate research this summer. Dr. Andrew Silver, Hunter Associate Professor of English, and Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning, professor of English and chair of women's and gender studies, taught the courses and will lead a plenary session during the Council on Undergraduate Research's 13th Annual National Conference in Ogden, Utah, June 19-22.

Dr. Silver and Dr. Morgan will be joined in their presentation by two students who helped to lead the efforts against sex trafficking – Hannah Vann, a senior women's and gender studies major, and Sarah Hedgis, CLA '09, and a student at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. The four will give a presentation titled "Research as Activism: The University and Anti-Trafficking Community Movement-Building."

"It's really a departure for the council – the other plenaries are by professors – but they wanted to hear from our students," Dr. Morgan said.

Mercer's Sex Trafficking Opposition Project began in Dr. Silver's first-year seminar class. While writing research essays on contemporary ethics and justice, students started asking questions about the many spas and spa billboards dotting Macon's landscape. They soon joined ranks with members of Baptist Collegiate Ministries and Dr. Morgan's women's and gender studies class. The students formed Middle Georgia's first anti-trafficking group to raise awareness about sex trafficking. In the spring of 2009, STOP organized a conference for the region held on Mercer's Macon campus that was attended by more than 900 people. The students' research helped spur their activism and made it more effective, a fact that did not go unnoticed by the council, Dr. Morgan said.

The efforts and the STOP conference have garnered significant attention for Mercer, and for the students who organized it, including Vann and Hedgis, who was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award at the 2009 commencement, in part for her efforts with the conference. On March 4, Vann was honored for outstanding student contributions to service-learning during the annual Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education at the University of Georgia.

"When the Director of the Council on Undergraduate Research first approached us about presenting a plenary session on STOP's research and activism around

sex trafficking, she said the council wanted to highlight the relevance of undergraduate research to meeting community needs, whether community was defined locally or globally," Dr. Morgan said.

The Council on Undergraduate Research is a national organization of individual and institutional members representing more than 900 colleges and universities that support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship. This year's national conference, titled "Undergraduate Research as Transformative Practice: Developing Leaders and Solutions for a Better Society," is themed around activism and will bring together faculty, administrators, policy makers, representatives of funding agencies and other stakeholders with an interest in doing and promoting undergraduate research.

Mercer students' activism required a tremendous amount of research across a broad spectrum of disciplines, and that research strengthened the students' activism, Dr. Morgan said. In addition to conducting research, students also learned how "to translate their findings into compelling public presentations and raise awareness about international and domestic trafficking," she said. Now, Dr. Silver and Dr. Morgan hope to share their students' experiences with other universities to help their students to effect change in their communities.

"These students' research activities range from calculating per capita numbers of spas in Macon compared to other cities in the nation to qualitative research concerning racial differences in attitudes about trafficking," Dr. Morgan said. "We hope to share our experience that good research helps make good activism, and that their students will go on to change their communities as ours have."



Dr. Mary Alice Morgan

Cullen Trusts for Higher Education Symposium on Translational Research at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. The four-day symposium is designed to expose visiting undergraduates to cutting-edge translation research — research designed to improve human health by translating scientific discoveries at "the bench" into practical applications at the patient "bedside."

This semester, McCranie is flying to San Francisco with Dr. Bucholtz and another undergraduate student to make a presentation at one of two annual national meetings of the American Chemical Society, one of the most respected scientific organizations in the world. McCranie will report on the progress she has made in her diabetes and metabolic research, which Dr. Bucholtz said is

substantial enough to issue a preliminary report.

"Emilianne was provided an opportunity and she ran with it," said Dr. Bucholtz. "She has blossomed into an amazing young scientist. The amount of work she has accomplished is incredible."

"The classwork at Mercer has been challenging and I have had plenty of hands-on research experience," said the honors student and Tift Scholar. "You get a lot in classes at Mercer. Upper-level independent research projects are available in every science class and the faculty makes plenty of time for students here."

Although she no longer plans to be a doctor, McCranie still wants to help people. She said her mother pointed out that through her research McCranie may help far more people than she

could as a doctor.

McCranie has applied for a National Science Foundation fellowship for graduate school, where she wants to focus on research in the production of natural antibiotics and anti-cancer agents.

"There are a lot of sources out there that haven't been harnessed yet," McCranie said. "This field will be a good mix of biology and chemistry for me. There is such a big push now with multi-drug resistance problems. There is a real need for new and novel antibiotics."

McCranie hopes to eventually teach at a small university like Mercer, or perhaps even Mercer itself. "I've had such a great experience here and I want to give back like my professors here. I am really thankful for them. I probably would be on a different path otherwise."



# Generating **New** Knowledge at Mercer through Pharmaceutical Research

By Laura Raines

**U**nderstanding pharmaceutical research is not for the faint-hearted. Iontophoresis — a drug-delivery method using electrical current to propel drug molecules through the skin and into the bloodstream — is hardly a household word. Faculty and students in Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences frequently publish articles and give scientific presentations filled with such words. They matter, because ultimately that research translates into new medicines, technologies or devices that affect words we know all too well — words like cancer, diabetes,

arthritis, vaccines and migraine.

"We don't just do research for the sake of academic entertainment," said Dr. Martin D'Souza, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of graduate programs and the clinical lab on Mercer's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta. "We only take on projects with some potential for clinical application. Some of our research leaves here ready for a Phase I clinical trial." His most recent work is in developing vaccines to prevent cancer, and he holds three patents and has one pending patent application.

When Dr. D'Souza came to Mercer 24 years


ago, there was no graduate program and little research in pharmacy. "I got lucky with my first grant in 1986 from the American Diabetes Association. Grants gave us the critical funding to begin taking Ph.D. students in 1988," he said. More than 50 students have graduated with Ph.D.s from the program since then, and they are sought after by leading pharmaceutical companies and universities.

"Because our students work on research that is relevant and applies directly to needs in the industry, they graduate with a great deal of practical knowledge and lab experience. It's easy for them to find jobs," said Dr. Ajay K. Banga, professor and chair of the

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

With 15 faculty members and 38 Ph.D. students, Mercer has one of the largest pharmaceuticals programs in the country, and one of the most highly respected. Last year, faculty and students published 28 articles in scholarly journals and gave 59 scientific presentations. The department attracted 27 new grants, and Dr. D'Souza expects that to double this year, as they add another research professor.

"We're very fortunate to be working with Emory University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on anti-cancer vaccines funded partially by grants through the Georgia Research Alliance and the Georgia Cancer



Dr. Ajay Banga oversees the pharmaceutical research performed by students Rebecca Neal and Delaram Moshkelani.



Coalition. Vaccines are poised to become a \$10 billion market in the next year. In the beginning we had to go to other universities and organizations and ask to work with them. Now they're coming to us," Dr. D'Souza said.

He believes that not dividing pharmaceutical sciences into disciplines as do other universities has made a key difference at Mercer. "We're all in it together, so there is greater potential for our multi-talented people to interact and inspire each other," he said.

About four years ago, the department established the Center for Drug Delivery Research to enhance the collaboration and effectiveness of the six professors working in that area of research.

"Having a more formal foundation for research attracts a wider range of grants, and more funding allows us to take more graduate students and to involve them in research projects from day one. That's a benefit to them," said Dr. Banga.

He has 10 Ph.D. students working in his transdermal drug delivery lab. An international expert on the delivery of drugs through skin patches, Dr. Banga was named a Fellow by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in 2007 for his outstanding contributions to pharmaceutical sciences. Transdermal drug delivery is a relatively new and narrow field, but one with wide-ranging implications.

Currently, only small, oil-soluble drug molecules that move through the skin easily can be delivered through skin patches. Dr. Banga and his colleagues are finding ways to expand the number and type of drugs that can be delivered through the skin to include small water-soluble molecules and large molecules, such as therapeutic proteins. Patches have the advantage of delivering precise and effective drug dosages, while eliminating the pain of hypodermic needles and the gastrointestinal complications of some oral medications.

"We're experimenting with microneedles (multiple needles so small they cause no pain), as well as iontophoresis to make skin delivery methods more effective," Dr. Banga said. "Things are changing rapidly and it's exciting. Being able to share what's happening in the real world is very motivating for my students." Dr. Banga credits Mercer and College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Dean H.W. (Ted) Matthews with creating a well-equipped lab and a positive atmosphere for independent research. "It's very collegial and respectful. Everyone works together as scholars and that percolates down to the students as well," he said. Accepted graduate students are paired with advisers before they come, and are involved in research immediately.



**The 192 medical grade steel needles in a Derma Roller open up pores in the skin, generating more collagen and elastin into the affected area.**

Third-year Ph.D. student Vishal Sachdeva knew of Dr. Banga's reputation from his undergraduate pharmacy studies and was excited to take part in cutting-edge research. "Transdermal delivery is expected to be a \$2 billion market and microneedle technology is moving quickly to commercial reality," Sachdeva said. His research involves using iontophoresis to enhance drug delivery with microneedle patches, and he already has publications.

Fascinated by transdermal drug delivery, Haripriya Kalluri was thrilled to come to Mercer to work with Dr. Banga. "I started assisting senior students in the lab, and by my second year, I knew what I wanted to do," she said. "Here you're given time and encouragement to do your work. In other universities, you may wait two years before you even get much lab time."

Kalluri received best podium presentation at the 2009 Graduate Research Association of Students of Pharmacy meeting for her work on microneedle channels. "How long the channels stay open is important. They have to be open long enough to deliver the medicine, and then close quickly to prevent irritation and infection," Kalluri said. Her experiments produced a 72-hour window, which is promising for future drug delivery.

Faculty members take their students to national and regional meetings regularly. Last year 25 Mercer students delivered 19 poster presentations at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists conference in Los Angeles, which was attended by more than 7,500 scientists.

National recognition for Mercer's graduate students is growing in other ways. Last year, Delaram Moshkelani and Rebecca L. Neal — both of whom are enrolled in Mercer's joint Doctor of Pharmacy/Ph.D. program — were awarded predoctoral Fellowships from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. Moshkelani subsequently was awarded one of four predoctoral fellowships from the American Association



**Reflecting over some of their day's work in the lab are Delaram Moshkelani, Dr. John Bauer, Dr. Ajay Banga and Rebecca Neal.**

of Pharmaceutical Scientists. David Turner was one of six awardees in the 2008-09 United States Pharmacopeia Fellowship Program, receiving \$25,000 to support his research. Karen Cotta won Best Poster Award at the Georgia Life Sciences Conference in 2008 for her work in probiotics.

In 2004, John Bauer's scientific paper presentation on non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory agents with potential use against cancer and arthritis took first place at the 25th Annual Southeastern Pharmacology Society conference. He graduated in 2007, and today is the department's newest assistant professor.

As a student, Dr. Bauer's advisers let him follow his interest in finding new drugs from natural sources. "I collected fungi and soil samples on a trip to Alaska and tested them. All I did was rediscover things already found," Dr. Bauer said. "But it got me thinking. If most of our antibiotics came from the one percent of microorganisms that can be cultured in the lab, what could be found in the other 99 percent?" he said. Today Dr. Bauer uses the latest metagenomic (the study of DNA in microorganisms) techniques to evaluate uncultured microorganisms. High throughput screening lets him study the genomics of thousands of bacteria simultaneously to more quickly identify those that show promise. "We're casting a bigger net," said Dr. Bauer, which improves the chances of finding new drugs.

"Mercer has always focused on real-world research and collaboration, which is the best way for discoveries to occur. What characterizes this department is the can-do attitude of its faculty and students," Dr. Bauer said.



# Generating **New** Knowledge at Mercer through Medical Research

By Betty Darby

**D**r. Ed Perkins stalks triple negative breast cancer cells with deadly intent. He's got a secondary target, too — Glut1 haploinsufficiency, a rare and crippling genetic defect that literally starves the brains of its young victims. Dr. Perkins' weapons? Artificial mammalian chromosomes he equips with targeted gene packages. And his research battlefield? Mercer University School of Medicine's new four-year medical school campus in Savannah.

Dr. Perkins came to the Savannah campus just over a year ago from the faculty of the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, bringing with him the designation of Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar and the \$250,000 in research funding that accompanies that title. His research also gets financial backing from the National Institutes of Health. He represents a small, but growing faculty of researchers/teachers who have earned Mercer's Savannah venture a seat at the table with some of the nation's leading research institutions, despite the Savannah campus's youth.

Calling Mercer's presence in Savannah "new" is a bit of stretch. The University has a long-standing relationship with Memorial University Medical Center as a base for clinical rotations for third- and fourth-year medical students. But transforming that relationship into a full-fledged four-year medical school campus is a more recent development. The Medical School admitted its inaugural Savannah first-year class only two years ago.

The Savannah campus was born of collaboration — the only way a medical school could be created so quickly. Thanks to the 15-year relationship with Memorial, the clinical faculty was already in place. Memorial allocated the buildings that are the core of the campus (although new, more mission-specific buildings are somewhere in the school's future.) The State of Georgia partnered on funding, driven by physician shortages. The pieces fell into place, but a key component was yet to be recruited — the faculty that would

ground first- and second-year medical students in the science of what they would experience in the clinical years of their medical education. That recruiting task fell to Dr. Wayne Glasgow, whose titles with Mercer include associate dean for research, professor and chair of biomedical sciences for the Savannah campus and interim senior associate dean for the Savannah campus.

His group knew right away what they wanted, Dr. Glasgow said: "Active, productive published researchers with a cancer research focus." To that list, add effective teaching skills and a successful funding history.

Sounds like a tall order, but Dr. Glasgow had things to offer in return — among them, a rare opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new medical school campus, and a classroom teaching philosophy that replaced the mind-numbing mega-lecture with Mercer's small-group discussion and personal interaction.

Why is it important that a medical school's faculty engage in original research?

"I think it is an integral part of what we do, and without that the faculty isn't really involved," Dr. Glasgow said. "If you are going to teach in a medical school, you have to go to school all the time yourself, because new information comes in all the time. Research keeps you up on that."

Dr. Perkins likens his research to bioengineering a cancer patient's bone marrow stem cells into a "Trojan Horse" that behaves as a cancer cell "recruit" but actually battles cancer growth at its origins.

"We design and make artificial chromosomes that can go into our cells. Now, the question is why would anyone want to do that? Chromosomes store the blueprint of how we're going to turn out, how we're going to look. Our system allows you to maybe put in a good copy of a gene that might be defective in a patient," he said. "It allows us to engineer a cell without affecting the rest of the chromosomes."

He, his local research partner Dr. Amy Greene (who is also his wife and a member of the Mercer

faculty) and his collaborators at the University of Minnesota have targeted a specific breast cancer type in their research — triple negative breast cancer, a form that doesn't respond well to the latest, less-toxic treatments and one that is more common in the African-American population.

What Dr. Perkins and his partners hope is that their gene-based approach may be the new treatment route needed to bolster the traditional cancer treatment trio of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. "We've been fighting cancer for the same way for 30 years — it's let's take a big sledgehammer, a very toxic drug, and attack cancer. The side effects can be devastating."

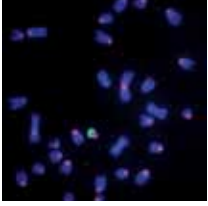
Dr. Perkins, Dr. Greene and their artificial chromosomes are working with a different set of collaborators from the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic on another project, one tackling a rare but dire genetic malfunction, Glut1 haploinsufficiency. Children born with this disease begin to suffer seizures in infancy and face slow brain growth and developmental delays because glucose isn't transported across the blood-brain barrier to nourish the brain. The disorder is so unusual it is classified as an "orphan disease."

"The idea is, we can put our artificial chromosome in with a good copy of the Glut1 gene and get them to recruit more cells," Dr. Perkins said — essentially rebuilding the blood-brain barrier into a working model in these patients.

But if the disease is so rare, why invest time, talent and money in finding a treatment? The blood-brain barrier is a safety screen for the brain, protecting it from toxins. But that natural safety device works against patients with brain tumors, for example, by screening out chemotherapy that could otherwise treat brain cancers. If Dr. Perkins and his team can manipulate the cells that make up that barrier to work better in this tiny patient population, that opens the door to additional developments involving that barrier.

Some of the Savannah-based research faculty members work out of Memorial's William and Iffath Hoskins Center for Biomedical Research,





“We design and make artificial chromosomes that can go into our cells. ... It allows us to engineer a cell without affecting the rest of the chromosomes.”

a modern facility near Mercer’s other facilities on the Memorial campus. But most share far humbler quarters — at least as judged from the outside.

To meet the demands of the School’s quick start time, modular units were pressed into use to house research facilities. From the outside, they’re singularly unimpressive, just windowless, boxy trailers. Nothing external indicates that this is one of the few places in the world where artificial chromosomes are engineered. Step inside, however, and you’re in a different world.

In Dr. Perkins’ lab sector, refrigerators store Petri dishes of dark pink sludge — the living mouse cells into which the “loaded” artificial chromosomes are inserted. The star attraction of the lab is its FACS machine — the scientists clearly have fun with its name, an acronym for fluorescence-activated cell sorter. With this machine, Dr. Perkins can distinguish which cells have successfully taken up his artificial chromosome.

Dr. Perkins’ work, on either front, still has a long way to go before it reaches the bedside of a human patient. Right now, the research team is working with mice in Minnesota, using chromosomes engineered in Savannah. Predicting a timeline on when clinical trials involving humans might begin runs contrary to the scientific mind — there are just too many variables. When pressed, however, Dr. Perkins ventured that the blood-brain project could conceivably be within 10 years of such trials.

His assignment with Mercer has given Dr. Perkins a chance to continue work he is clearly passionate about — and a rare opportunity for a two-career family to work together. He even jokes that his lab is a “mom and pop shop.”

“We have lots of friends who are dual-career couples, and they’re living in different cities, even on different continents. Back when I was with private industry on the West Coast and Amy was in North Carolina, I had memorized all the flight schedules for the red-eye flights,” he said. “This is definitely better.”



Ashley Shearman, a second-year medical student on the Savannah campus, worked in Dr. Ed Perkins’ lab as a MUSM Summer Scholar participant. She was responsible for engineering cells to produce particular anti-cancer factors.

BANKEROPTICAL MEDIA



# Generating **New** Knowledge at Mercer through Engineering Research

By Susan Long

**H**alf a dozen Mercer University graduate engineering students are tackling challenging research projects that could have a significant impact on electronic combat technology in the

U.S. Air Force (USAF).

They are participating in NEWSTARS, a collaborative education program with the Air Force that supports advances in electronic warfare technology through direct funding of graduate-level research projects.

"What we are doing might make the difference between a pilot living or dying or completing a mission," said Mercer software engineering program director and associate professor Dr. Paul MacNeil, who works with NEWSTARS graduate students.

"This program promotes close interaction on serious stuff between professors and students," Dr. MacNeil said. "Students get to be involved in real, actual research. They have the opportunity to come up with answers to questions you can't find in a book or find a computer program to answer."

NEWSTARS is tackling areas of interest to the electronic combat community such as radar and missile warning receivers, jammers, radars and communication systems, said Dr. Dave Barwick, executive director of the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) in Warner Robins, which coordinates the program.

An operating unit of the University, MERC employs almost 200 engineers, scientists and support staff who conduct approximately \$20 million a year in engineering research and development for governmental, industrial and commercial markets throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center is MERC's largest customer. MERC handles research for other branches of the military as well and most major U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) suppliers in the country.

Begun in 1992 by MERC and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in Dayton, Ohio, to accomplish research for less cost and to educate future researchers and employees, NEWS-

TARS was originally known as RAPCEval, the acronym for Receiver and Processing Concepts Evaluation Program.

"Members of Congress (who must approve the annual budget for the program) had a hard time remembering that name," Robins Air Force Base engineer Arthur Crowell said with a laugh. Crowell, who has served as a liaison between the base and the NEWSTARS program for the past 14 years, is credited with coming up with the newer, catchier name.

Mercer engineering faculty, in close collaboration with MERC engineers and scientists involved with NEWSTARS, initiate research proposals, which must then be approved by a NEWSTARS steering committee. For the past four years, Dr. MacNeil and Dr. Scott Schultz, an industrial engineering associate professor at Mercer, have led a joint research team with NEWSTARS students to resolve scheduling problems for aircraft radar warning receivers.

The receivers are like fancy fuzz busters, said Dr. Schultz, an expert in the broad area of scheduling. "They determine whether incoming radar signals are from a good guy or a bad guy."

Dr. MacNeil said it's like having a TV with 500 cable channels. Different kinds of threats are on different channels. You can look at one channel constantly, but not know what is on the other channels or you can constantly change channels and hope that might work. But the Mercer team is looking at better ways to minimize the time to detect threats.

Master's degree students who are accepted into NEWSTARS work with professors in their research areas and receive tuition payments from the Air Force for six credit hours of courses.

To participate in the program, students first must make a formal presentation to the NEWSTARS Steering Committee about the particular slice of the research topic they have chosen. Committee members want to know how long the research may last, what a student hopes to find out, how the research will ultimately be used and why

the project should be of interest to the electronic combat community, said Dr. Barwick, who serves on the committee.

The committee is composed of 20 scientists and engineers from MERC, Mercer Engineering School, the AFRL, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind.

For the first 10 years, NEWSTARS involved only Mercer, the Robins Air Logistics Center and the AFRL, then was expanded to include Wright State and three years ago Rose-Hulman, opening the door to more ideas and collaboration on research projects, Dr. Barwick said. Thirty-two students participating in the program have received master's degrees, 25 of whom were Mercer students.

Dr. Barwick noted that the program has led to performance modifications on 22 separate electronic combat systems, mostly for the Air Force.

"There has been a significant impact on defensive systems, including improved communication security and improved threat warnings to aircraft," he said. "We are seeing these improvements being used in Afghanistan and Iraq today." And Dr. Barwick called the results "incredible in terms of the cost to taxpayers. This research program has saved the Department of Defense millions of dollars."

"Research projects have borne fruit at a fraction of the cost of what a contractor would charge for a similar idea," said Crowell, a veteran of 30 years of engineering experience with the F-15 at Robins.

Crowell called NEWSTARS "a think tank with the youngest minds in the field. They have provided the USAF with valuable thought material. Sometimes students will explain their thought process and that triggers something in mine." And the NEWSTARS students benefit from mentors such as Crowell, who has received a dozen awards for electronic warfare innovations and is a member of the Hall of Fame of the Association of Old Crows, a professional organization specializing in electronic warfare, tactical information



systems and related topics. Until recently, Crowell was chief of the F-15 and ALR-56M Engineering Section at Robins. He now is the subject matter expert for electronic warfare systems on the B-52 and C-130, working on new challenges, he said, to bring these aircraft into the 21st century.

"Students are doing research that is more challenging than research done by the typical master's student, Dr. Barwick noted. "Sometimes it takes three to four theses to solve one problem. Several students may be collaborating on a problem and sometimes the research is done in sequence," he said.

"NEWSTARS helps find real-world solutions for problems," said F.M. Barron III, senior division manager for the Embedded Systems Division at MERC and program manager for NEWSTARS. "It helps focus ideas for solving problems." Barron oversees the annual \$1 million appropriation from the DOD for the NEWSTARS program at Mercer and Rose-Hulman, the research and programmatic activities at MERC and Mercer and the overall program at Rose-Hulman.

While Mercer faculty members direct students on a day-to-day basis, Barron provides the real-world knowledge of the problems they are trying

to solve and the constraints under which the solutions must work.

"My job is to bring these different areas of knowledge together into a solution that not only meets the academic requirements for the degree program, but also provides a solution to a problem," Barron said.

A total of 17 students are currently a part of NEWSTARS, including six at Mercer.

A research/thesis project usually takes two years. Students provide short updates to the steering committee once or twice during their research and a final, fuller presentation on the results. Students also must present their thesis to their respective Mercer graduate committee.

Many of the NEWSTARS students are already employed at Robins or with area defense contractors. Mark Campbell, one of the first students in the NEWSTARS program, completed a portion of his research project during his working hours as an electrical engineer at the base. His thesis on spectral analysis of aircraft signals for electronic warfare applications also was a prototype that he was able to apply later to an ongoing project at Robins.

"The program was very rewarding. It provided a lot of insight into research on both the private and

government sides. It gave me hands-on knowledge about how systems work together and interface."

Campbell, who now serves on the NEWSTARS Steering Committee, said the program exposes students to weapon systems and how they work. "They gain important knowledge that can be applied in the future."

"NEWSTARS is a seed program" Dr. Schultz pointed out. The radar warning receiver problem that he, Dr. MacNeil and NEWSTARS students have been working on recently has shown successful improvements in simulations. The next step will be to get a DOD grant to duplicate the improvements in real life, Dr. Schultz said.

And NEWSTARS is solving another problem for the DOD. With many electronic combat experts getting older, Dr. Barwick and Crowell said a resurgence of youth is critical to providing electronic warfare systems and technologies in the future. NEWSTARS helps ensure that when experienced electronic combat engineers reach retirement age and leave active service there are younger trained engineers to take their place.

"It's a very important driveway into the mechanics of America's well-being militarily," Crowell said.

With Dr. Paul MacNeil, left, are NEWSTARS graduate students Steven Vaughn, Antoine Wilcher and Chelsea Smith, and F.M. Barron III, senior division manager for the Embedded Systems Division at MERC.



# Advancing Intervention

By Laura Raines

■ IN COLLEGE, SPENCER B. KING, III, M.D., tried his hand at broadcasting. “I was a radio announcer at Mercer, but I wasn’t very good at it,” said King. Fortunately — for thousands of patients and the advancement of medicine — he decided to go with his second choice. He became a doctor.

Today, the president of the Heart and Vascular Institute at Saint Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta is world-renowned as a pioneer and leader in interventional cardiology. In 2009, King received the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Career Achievement Award for his many clinical and academic contributions to the field.

“There was no ‘conversion on the road to Damascus’ type experience in my decision to go into medicine. In high school, you begin to drift towards the things you think you might succeed in, and I was good at science and math,” Dr. King, a 1959 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, said. “No one in my family had been a doctor, unless you count my grandfather’s uncle, a quack who peddled the benefits of something called ionized yeast.”

While many of his classmates at Lanier High School in Macon were headed to Georgia Tech, Dr. King’s father told him he could attend any college he wanted as long as it was Mercer. “My father was head of the history department there and free tuition was nothing to sneeze at in those days,” Dr. King said. “But Mercer turned out to have all the right ingredients that were worthwhile for me. I got a terrific liberal arts education there and had the advantage of interacting with faculty inside and outside of class. I developed strong relationships there.” He also honed his leadership skills as head of his Army ROTC unit.

At the Medical College of Georgia, physiology chair Dr. Williams F. Hamilton became a mentor. “He was an icon, the first person to accurately measure blood pressure. We always said that if anything seemed inaccurate in his textbook, to wait five years and it would be correct,” Dr. King said.

Fascinated by the physiology of circulation and the hemodynamics of the heart, he knew cardiology was his field by the time he became an intern at Walter Reed Hospital.

It was about to change rapidly. When Dr. King graduated from medical school in 1963, bypass coronary surgery hadn’t even started. But as a resident at Emory Hospital, he became interested in catheterization and, afterward, went to the third-largest coronary arteriography program in the country at Denver. “Emory recruited me back to their cath labs in 1972,” he said.

There he followed the work of Dr. Andreas Gruentzig in Zurich, who adapted Charles Dotter’s use of catheters to open up leg vessels. By reducing the size of the catheter for coronary vessels and adding a balloon to keep them open, he invented coronary balloon angioplasty in 1974.

Dr. King calls it a paradigm shift in medicine. “In the late ’70s, we began to hear about the success of his demonstrations, so I went to learn the technique.” When Dr. Gruentzig wanted a freer hand to develop his work, Dr. King suggested he come to Emory. In 1980, Drs. Gruentzig, King and others at the Emory catheterization labs began the first American angioplasty training programs. Twice a year, 400 to 500 practitioners would come to Emory to learn the technique. They would sit in an auditorium and watch the live procedure conducted in the catheterization labs via closed-circuit TV. “It was an exciting time, in part because the equipment was not as sophisticated in the early days. We always aimed for less excitement — like plane travelers, we preferred a boring ride where everything went as expected,” Dr. King said.

After Dr. Gruentzig’s death in 1985, Dr. King became director of the Andreas Gruentzig Cardiovascular Center at Emory for the next 15 years. It continued to be a catalyst for new devices and research. In 1987, he and Dr. John Douglass put in the first U.S. coronary stent, a device used to assist or replace the balloon. Dr. King also conducted the first National Institutes of Health trial to compare the results of angioplasty with surgery. It established angioplasty’s effectiveness.

“In the early days, anyone could learn the procedure and go do it,” said Dr. King. “By the 1990s, we realized that interventional cardiology needed more standards.” He served as the point person to establish the Interventional Cardiology Subspecialty Boards with the American Board of Internal Medicine and served as chairman for 10 years. In 1998, he became the first interventionalist to serve as president of the American College of Cardiology.

Dr. King continued his practice as the Fuqua Chair of Interventional Cardiology at Piedmont Hospital from 2000 to 2004, where he encouraged the partnership between Piedmont Healthcare and Mercer that led to establishment of the Center for Health and Learning. “That was a unique opportunity for two institutions to work together to foster nursing education and other health initiatives,” he said.

Education has been a guiding principle throughout his career. “I think training people is always the best contribution you can make. I’ve trained over 100 fellows in interventional cardiology over the years, sharing my clinical expertise and how to manage patients,” Dr. King said. He’s also written more than 500 articles and edited about a dozen cardiology texts. “Two



**"I think training people is always the best contribution you can make. I've trained over 100 fellows in interventional cardiology over the years...."**

years ago, we started the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Cardiovascular Interventions*. We're now a monthly publication with 10,000 subscribers," he said. Reading the 700 articles submitted from all over the world annually keeps King abreast of the latest research.

He freely credits his parents, his wife and his medical associates for any success he has achieved. "One of my former fellows recently called me a politician. I chose to take it in the way I'd like a politician to be," he said. "My father always told me to be fair, and to work together to get things done. I think collaboration has characterized my career more than anything."

Dr. King still sees patients on a limited basis and mentors people in the Saint Joseph's pre-clinical catheterization lab on the Georgia Tech campus. "We're looking at drugs and stents and regenerative medicine, how to re-grow heart muscle tissue. I recently got to assist with implanting an artificial heart valve, using advanced imaging technology."

As a Mercer trustee, he follows closely the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings. He established the Caroline Paul King Violin Chair, which McDuffie Center director Amy Schwartz Moretti holds, to honor his mother, a music teacher. "The Center aims to be a premier conservatory for strings, while preparing musicians for the real world with a broad liberal arts education. Being the 'go-to' place for string music education — that's a huge thing for Mercer," Dr. King said. A photo of Robert McDuffie, a former student of his mother, sits on his desk.

He has no plans to retire from medicine. "If you retire you don't get to do the fun things you'd like to do," Dr. King said, "and I can still think of things I want to do."

BILLY HOWARD PHOTO



# A Life-Saving Reunion

By Stephen Werk



After graduating from Mercer in 1985, close friends Leonor Ortiz Childers and Gowthami Arepally hoped to cross paths again despite the foreseen demands of their ambitious, professional careers. Neither could have imagined that their reconnection — more than 20 years later — would have such life-and-death significance.

In 2008, the two were reunited at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., where Ortiz Childers was being treated for breast cancer and blood complications, and Dr. Arepally serves as associate professor of medicine within the division of hematology.

Dr. Arepally led a team of Duke hematologists that devised a successful treatment plan for Ortiz Childers, who was suffering from the counteracting threats of blood clotting and uncontrolled bleeding following a cesarean section and the birth of her second set of twins.

Beyond this, Dr. Arepally has been a source of constant support and guidance for Ortiz Childers when, suddenly and shockingly, her health spiraled further downward late in 2008 after her heart failed, and Duke doctors conducted emergency surgery to implant an experimental heart pump to save her life.

Nearly a year and a half after the implant, Ortiz Childers' health is stable. The heart pump, one of the most advanced in a line of miniature left-ventricle assist devices (LVADs), is designed to keep her alive indefinitely. Powerful batteries around her waist give her the mobility to walk and keep pace with her four young children.

"After losing touch with each other for all those years, it's truly amazing how our lives have become so intertwined at such a crisis point in my life," says Ortiz Childers. "Beyond the fact that Gowthami is part of the team of doctors that saved my life is the fact that we have such a close personal bond that I believe has been integral to my recovery."

Dr. Arepally smiles when she says it has been a blessing for both that they reconnected under such dire and fateful circumstances.

"Having such a good friend during your college years is very special, but when you add how Leonor and I have reconnected through this experience, it really affects you to your core," she says.

The two first met in calculus class during the first fall quarter of their freshman year at Mercer. Since they were both science students, they traveled in the same circle of friends. As time progressed, their love of science, the late nights studying and the tightly knit academic and social environment at Mercer brought them even closer.

"Some of my best memories surrounded the camaraderie we had, even though we were both competing for the best grades," recalls Dr. Arepally, who graduated *magna cum laude* with degrees in physics and chemistry.

"I was in such awe of Gowthami, because she was such an excellent student across such a broad range of coursework, in chemistry, physics, biology and math as well as history and English," says Ortiz Childers. "It was incredible to see someone so brilliant in so many areas."

Ortiz Childers was making her mark as well, both academically and athletically. She served as a Mercer Ambassador, was a member of student government and starred on the women's tennis team, playing in the No. 1 spot for four years, all while earning her degree in physics.

After graduating, the two friends initially kept in touch regularly and would visit each other occasionally. However, the fast pace of life, frequent moves to different areas of the country, and the rigors of their budding careers hindered regular communication and they

eventually lost track of each other.

Following medical school at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Arepally moved to Atlanta, where she fulfilled her residency in internal medicine at Emory University Hospitals. She then gained a fellowship in hematology and oncology at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2001, she joined the medical staff at Duke.

Being a physician comes naturally for Dr. Arepally. Both her parents are medical doctors, as are her siblings (both her sister and brother attended Mercer) and husband. She has two children.

Ortiz Childers moved to Durham shortly after graduation and received her master's degree in environmental sciences at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health. After a stint at a private research company in the area's Research Triangle Park and working several years at the Environmental Protection Agency, her career path took a dramatic turn.

In 1997, she entered law school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"My interest in the law was sparked by my volunteer work at a local courthouse," Ortiz Childers says. "I was fascinated by it."

After graduating from law school in 2000, she opened a solo practice as a trial lawyer, representing primarily the Hispanic community. The analytical skills she gained as a scientist and her fluency in Spanish served her well.

"The minute I opened my practice, I was swamped," she says. "I loved it. I felt like I was making a real contribution to people's lives, particularly those who were underprivileged and not previously well represented."

Ortiz Childers practiced law for seven full years until she decided to focus entirely on her



*"Beyond the fact that Gowthami is part of the team of doctors that saved my life is the fact that we have such a close personal bond that I believe has been integral to my recovery."*

**Gowthami Arepally, left, and Leonor Ortiz Childers**

children: a set of twins born in 2006. Two years later, while pregnant with a second set of twins, doctors discovered late-stage breast cancer.

She underwent a mastectomy during her first trimester. The green light for chemotherapy was given during her second trimester.

"There was so much uncertainty during that period, much of which involved finding a way to continue the pregnancy and give birth to healthy babies while treating my cancer," she says. "Through the great work of the doctors at Duke and my faith in God, I was able to give birth to healthy twins in the summer of 2008."

About the time she first learned she had breast cancer, Ortiz Childers discovered, by glancing through Duke's hospital directory, that Dr. Arepally was on staff at Duke.

"It was such a wonderful surprise to hear her voice that first day in my office," Dr. Arepally says. "I wanted her to know that I would be there for her, and that I wanted to do everything I could to facilitate her care."

It wasn't until Dr. Arepally was conducting rounds at Duke months afterward that she became directly involved in Ortiz Childers' healthcare. Dr. Arepally was formally requested to consult on a blood-clotting problem that Ortiz Childers was experiencing. She helped implement a treatment plan that reduced the risk of a fatal blood clot while allowing proper healing of her cesarean section incision.

For several months afterward, Ortiz Childers progressed well. There were no signs of the dire situation that would suddenly endanger her life.

As the summer turned to fall, a combination of factors — the cancer and the effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatment, the pregnancy with twins and a cesarean section — converged to cause Ortiz Childers' heart to fail.

In a matter of hours, Duke received special permission from the FDA to implant the experimental device into Ortiz Childers. It was truly a life-or-death moment.



LESTODD PHOTO

After she reaches the five-year mark since her initial cancer treatment, which is 2012, Ortiz Childers will become eligible for a heart transplant. Until then, she is living each day at a time.

"I'm so grateful for so many reasons that things have progressed as they have," Dr. Arepally confides. "I'm so glad I've been able to be there for Leonor. It's not only made me a

better friend, it's made me a better physician."

For Ortiz Childers, her long-time friend's vigilance, compassion and devotion have provided continual encouragement and comfort.

"To have had this trusted friend and advocate there for me throughout all these extremely difficult times has been invaluable. You simply can't put a price on a friendship like ours."



The second modern-day fall Homecoming proved, once again, a great opportunity for students to join with faculty, staff and alumni in a week of bonding as Mercerians.



# CELEBRATE THE LEGENDS Homecoming

Those really ambitious Mercerians, anxious to get an early start on Saturday of Homecoming Weekend, participated in the annual Homecoming Road Race, which wound across campus after starting and ending at Porter Patch.







The Bears, for the second consecutive year, battled an Atlantic Coast Conference team in the Homecoming basketball game. Before a packed University Center, Mercer dropped a hard-fought contest to the Florida State Seminoles.



One of the highlights of Homecoming Week is the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen, again this year announced at halftime of the men's basketball game. This year's King and Queen were Aaron Gray and Amy Abel.

# coming , 09



Life-long relationships were begun and continued on Friday at one of the most popular Homecoming events, the bonfire and pep rally at Bear Hill.



# MERCER BEARS ROUNDUP

www.mercerbears.com

## Pope Named Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the Mercer Athletic Foundation; Cole Appointed Director of Athletics

**P**resident William D. Underwood has appointed Bobby Pope, current director of athletics, as special assistant to the president and the first full-time executive director of the Mercer Athletic Foundation, and named State Representative and Mercer alumnus Jim Cole as director of athletics. The appointments are effective July 1.

Pope, who has been Mercer's director of athletics for more than 20 years and has served at the institution for a total of 30 years, will move full time into the executive director's role for the Mercer Athletic Foundation, the primary fund-raising organization for Mercer athletics.

Cole, who lettered in baseball at Mercer in the early 1990s, has been serving for the past 18 months as executive director of the foundation while continuing to represent Georgia's 125th District and serve as Gov. Sonny Perdue's floor leader in the state House of Representatives.

"Bobby Pope and Jim Cole both have made important contributions to Mercer University's athletic programs over the years," Underwood said, "and they both will continue to lead and support our men's and women's NCAA Division I athletic teams and our student-athletes by assuming new roles within the Athletic Department. I am grateful to Bobby and Jim for their commitment to Mercer, to intercollegiate athletics within the context of an outstanding academic institution, and for their willingness to take on these new responsibilities."

The dean of athletic directors in the Atlantic Sun Conference, Pope is in his 21st year at the helm of Mercer athletics. During his tenure at Mercer, he has seen the expansion of the program to 14 sports. This fall Mercer will add men's lacrosse to its intercollegiate athletic program, with women's lacrosse fielding a team in 2011. He has overseen the addition of the first full-time coaches for men's and

women's golf, men's and women's tennis, cross country and men's lacrosse.

Facility upgrades have been a priority since he became athletics director, as evidenced by the \$40 million University Center, home to men's and women's basketball and volleyball since its completion in 2004. The building houses coaches' offices as well as locker rooms for all teams. Claude Smith Field, the home field for baseball, received a facelift in the fall of 2003, and a new softball facility was constructed in 2006. A major renovation of the soccer field was completed last summer.

The University twice won the conference's all-academic trophy during Pope's tenure, and the cumulative average grade point average for Mercer student-athletes never fell below 3.0 over the last 20 years. A Mercer student-athlete has received the conference's male or female post-graduate scholarship each year since its inception in 2007. The University also produced its only two-time, first-team Academic All-American during Pope's administration, when basketball player Will Emerson earned the honors from ESPN The Magazine in 2005 and 2006.

Pope is also very active in the A-Sun Conference, having served two years as president in the late 1990s. He has served on numerous committees and currently is a member of the conference's tournament committee.

For nearly two decades, Pope was a sports reporter, director and sports anchor at WMAZ-TV. Pope called high school football and basketball games from the mid-60s through 1972 on WMAC-AM radio and began his involvement with Mercer athletics in 1970 when he was the "Voice of the Bears." He served as Mercer's sports information director from 1980-1992.

He is active in the community as well, serving as secretary of the Macon Touchdown Club and chairing the board of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority.

A native of Augusta, Cole entered Mercer on an



Former Mercer baseball player and State Rep. Jim Cole will become athletics director on July 1.

academic scholarship in 1990 and lettered in baseball from 1990 to 1993. He was recipient of the Charles C. Morgan Outstanding Student-Athlete Award and graduated with honors from the University.

Cole was drafted as a pitcher by the Milwaukee Brewers in 1993 and was named the franchise's Organizational Player of the Year and a finalist for the TOPPS Minor League Player of the Year Award in 1994. After an injury ended his professional baseball career, he returned to Mercer in 1997 to earn his MBA while serving as a graduate assistant and pitching coach for the baseball team. In 1998 he served as pitching coach for the Madison Black Wolves minor league team in Madison, Wis., and then entered private business before being elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2004.

Cole is currently serving as the legislative voice under the Gold Dome for the constituents of House District 125, which includes Jasper County and parts of Monroe, Jones and Lamar Counties.

Gov. Perdue appointed Cole to serve as senior administration floor leader in early 2009, having served formerly as assistant floor leader from 2007-2008.

Cole is an active community leader throughout the state. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. A graduate of Leadership Georgia, he is a member of Forsyth United Methodist Church.

Cole is married to the former Gaylyn Lawson of Forsyth, where they live with their two children, Caroline (8) and Lawson (6).



Longtime Mercer A.D. Bobby Pope, left, was announced as the University's first full-time director of the Athletic Foundation.

ROGER INDENEN PHOTO

ROGER INDENEN PHOTO



## Emerson Named 2010 College Men's Basketball Player of the Year for State of Georgia

**S**enior forward Daniel Emerson was named the Georgia college men's basketball "Player of the Year" for the 2009-10 season by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. Emerson, along with other ATC award winners, was honored March 23 at the Naismith Awards Banquet at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center in Atlanta.

Earning an award like this might have been the furthest thing from Emerson's mind after transferring to Mercer. Despite having two older siblings enjoy successful careers for the Bears, the youngest Emerson endured two years that were largely mediocre at Western Kentucky University before having Georgia — and Mercer — on his mind. Being in the Bears' colors, ultimately, opened the door for Emerson's best college basketball years.

"I was shocked when coach first told me about the award," said Emerson. "This is especially meaningful when you think of the great players in the state this year like (Trey) Thompkins from Georgia, Georgia Tech's (Derrick) Favors and (Gani) Lawal, as well as Flo (Mercer teammate James Florence).

"The award means a lot because I came a long way to even get back to Georgia to finish my career. It puts a cap on what I was able to accomplish the last two years (at Mercer).

"But more importantly, it shows what we were able to do as a team. The fact that we had a solid enough season to make voters even notice our team and pay attention to one of our players says something. I felt like we sort of put Mercer back on the map."

While other players may have posted better numbers in one category or another, few can claim the efficiency of Emerson's game. His percentages in all areas of shooting — field goals, three-point attempts and free throws — were all at high levels. At the same time, his rebounding numbers were unquestioned.

"I am so very happy and pleased that Danny has received this award," said head coach Bob Hoffman. "I believe that this is truly a testament to his day-in and day-out, blue-collar work ethic. Danny is not a 'flashy' player, but he is about as consistent as you can get.

"If you think about what it takes to end the season averaging a double-double, especially when he frequently has to go up against taller players, it speaks volumes about how hard he works and how much he puts into his game.

"Furthermore, as good of a player as Danny is on the basketball court, he is an even better example as a young man. I am as proud of him for how he carries the Mercer banner and represents our program away from the game as I am with how he

plays basketball. He's a good student, a good citizen and a pretty darn good basketball player, too.

"This award, I believe, is a tribute to all of those aspects."

Emerson averaged a stellar 15.4 points and 12 rebounds per game, leading the Bears to the championship game of the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament. Even after suffering a serious eye injury in the second-to-last regular season game, Emerson game back strong in the A-Sun Championships to earn All-Tournament accolades by averaging 16.7 points and 12.3 rebounds for Mercer's three contests.

His rebounds average ranked third in the nation. Likewise, his 21 double-doubles was the third-highest total in the country. Emerson topped the A-Sun Conference in both of those categories and was also among the league leaders for scoring (seventh), field goal percentage (fifth/54.4%), and free throw percentage (eighth/73.8%). On the season, Emerson rolled up double figures in scoring in 28 of 32 games and in 25 of 32 games in rebounding.

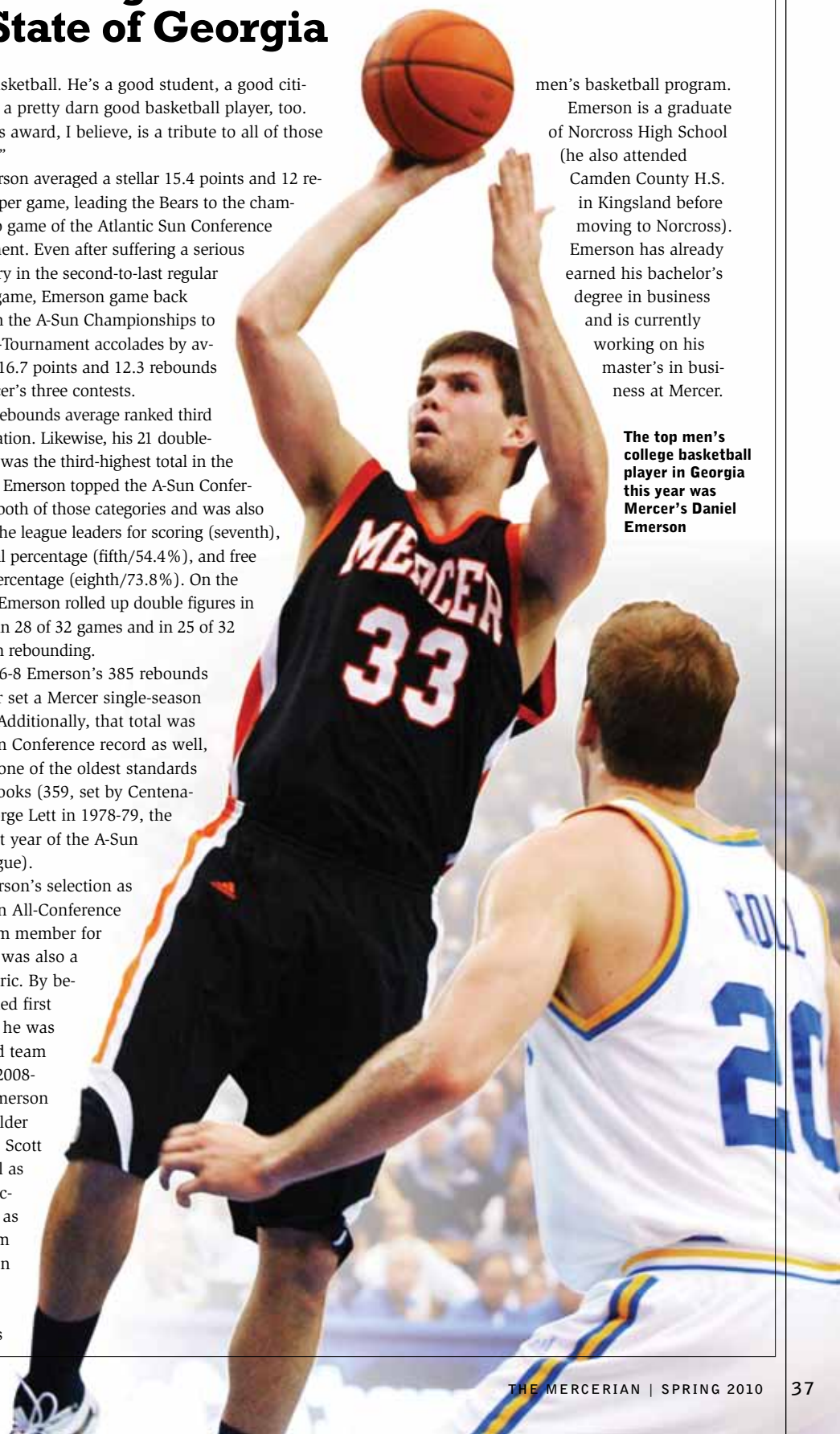
The 6-8 Emerson's 385 rebounds this year set a Mercer single-season record. Additionally, that total was an A-Sun Conference record as well, erasing one of the oldest standards in the books (359, set by Centenary's George Lett in 1978-79, the very first year of the A-Sun as a league).

Emerson's selection as an A-Sun All-Conference first-team member for 2009-10 was also a bit historic. By being named first team — he was a second team pick in 2008-09 — Emerson joined older brothers Scott and Will as being recognized as first team All-A-Sun honorees for Mercer's

men's basketball program.

Emerson is a graduate of Norcross High School (he also attended Camden County H.S. in Kingsland before moving to Norcross). Emerson has already earned his bachelor's degree in business and is currently working on his master's in business at Mercer.

**The top men's college basketball player in Georgia this year was Mercer's Daniel Emerson**



## James Florence Becomes Mercer's All-Time Leading Scorer

**I**n the second half of Mercer's game at UNC-Charlotte on Dec. 29, senior point guard James Florence drained a 3-point shot from the corner and became Mercer's all-time leading scorer. Florence, in the game against the 49ers, not only passed the legendary Sam Mitchell's career total of 1,986 points, but became the first Mercer player ever to score 2,000 points. Mitchell, who had a very successful professional career in the National Basketball Association and a former NBA Coach of the Year while at Toronto, played for the Bears from 1982-85.

"Flo" was honored for his accomplishment between the women's and men's games against Stetson on Jan. 30. After those in attendance watched the video of the record-breaking shot, Florence was presented the game ball from the Charlotte game and a photograph of the moment.

With a total of 2,177 points, Florence finished second best in career points in the history of the Atlantic Sun Conference. He is the only player in the conference to ever score more than 500 points in all four years of competition.



This was the 3-point shot at Charlotte by James Florence that notched his mark in Mercer history by passing the legendary Sam Mitchell.

JAMES NIX PHOTO

## Mitchell, Everett Inducted into Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

**T**wo Mercerians, former basketball great Sam Mitchell and golfer Edward Everett, were among the seven individuals selected in the 2010 induction class of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. The seven individuals were chosen from an eligible pool of 252 nominees who best exemplify the tradition of sports excellence in the State of Georgia.

The 2010 Induction Class highlights the broad range of sports in which Georgia's athletes excel. The class includes two broadcasters, a golfer, a basketball player, a multi-sport athlete, a football player, and a gymnastics coach. The combined careers of those selected span six decades.

Mitchell was a two-year starter on the basketball team at Columbus High School where he earned All-City honors. From there, he went on to lead Mercer to the Trans-America Conference (forerunner to the Atlantic Sun Conference) championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament in 1985, and was Mercer's all-time

leading scorer with 1,986 points until surpassed this season by James Florence. In addition to being named an honorable mention All-American, he was the TAAC Player of the Year as a senior and was a two-time, first-team selection. He was

inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. Mitchell played professionally in Canada and France before joining the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves in 1989. He is second only to Kevin Garnett in all-time scoring and rebounding in Timberwolves franchise history.

As head coach of the Toronto Raptors, Mitchell was named NBA Coach of the Year in 2007. Mitchell is a current member of the Mercer Board of Trustees.

Everett is a native of Macon where he attended both Lanier High School and Mercer. Everett began winning golf tournaments at the age of 11 in 1955 at the Macon Junior Tournament and continued to win tournaments as an amateur and professional for more than 40 years. Among



Sam Mitchell talks with his former coach and former A-Sun Commissioner Bill Bibb.

ROGER INDENEN PHOTO



ROGER INDENEN PHOTO

Former Mercer golfer Ed Everett addresses Hall of Fame Banquet attendees.

his many tournament victories are the Rose City Open in 1973, 1975, and 1976; the Perry Classic in 1990; the Georgia Senior Open in 1997 and 2000; and the National PGA Senior Club Professional Championship in 1997. Everett was inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

Others honored in the 2010 induction class included: former Georgia Tech play-by-play announcer Al Ciraldo, former Atlanta Braves announcer Ernie Johnson, former Georgia and NFL quarterback Larry Rakestraw, former Florida State lineman Ronald Simmons, and former Georgia gymnastic coach Suzanne Yoculan.

The 2010 Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held in Macon in February.



## Blalock Named to NCAA Women's Basketball Committee

**S**ybil Blalock, Mercer's senior associate athletics director for academic affairs and senior woman administrator, has been named to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee. Blalock will serve a five-year term beginning in September.

Blalock will assist with the planning, selection and administration of the NCAA Division I women's basketball championships. Her responsibilities will involve regular teleconferencing on prevalent issues as well as administrative duties on-site during the regional and Final Four competitions.

"For most of my life, I have been a basketball junkie to say the least, and my enthusiasm for the game has developed over the years as a player, coach and administrator," Blalock said. "To now be named as a member of the Division I Women's Basketball Committee is a true honor. I look forward to working with the committee as we strive to enhance the postseason experience for all of our women's basketball student-athletes."

Blalock has more than 25 years of experience in NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics to her credit as both a coach and administrator. She recently completed a two-year term as chair of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee and has served on numerous sport committees with the Atlantic Sun Conference. She has also served as the tournament director for both the tennis and volleyball championships for the A-Sun.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the NCAA Division I Tennis Committee for the past four years," said Blalock. "It has been my good fortune to work with devoted committee members and experience excellent leadership provided by the NCAA staff. I know this endeavor will prove to be very valuable as I become a member of the Division I Women's Basketball Committee next fall."

Blalock was recently the tournament director for the A-Sun Men's and Women's Basketball Championships hosted by Mercer which brought more than 10,000 fans to the University Center over four days. Mercer will host the A-Sun Championships again in 2011.

"Sybil's longtime career in athletics bodes well for her as she assumes this role with the NCAA women's basketball committee," Athletic Director Bobby Pope said. "She is one of the most organized and professional individuals I've ever met, and I have no doubt



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

**Sybil Blalock, who gained valuable experience in serving on the NCAA Tennis Committee, has now been appointed to the Women's Basketball Committee for five years. She also served as the chair of the 2010 Atlantic Sun Conference Basketball Championships that were brought to the Mercer campus for the first time this spring.**

she will do an outstanding job. This appointment is not only a great honor for her, but also for this institution as well."

Blalock has not only served Mercer as a coach and administrator, directing the academic support services that have helped position Mercer student-athletes among the A-Sun's best, but was a pioneer of its women's basketball program, playing for the Bears from 1971-75. A WNIT All-American in 1975, Blalock's name is still prominently etched in the MU

record books. She ranks among the school's career leaders in points scored with 1,856 (fifth), a scoring average of 18.9 points per game (fourth) and a shooting percentage of 53.4 percent (fourth).

Before beginning her career as an athletics administrator, Blalock played professionally in both Europe and the United States. She was a member of the U.S. team that played in the World University Games and was also a part of the U.S. Olympic Development Team.

## New Lacrosse Field Taking Shape

Work is well under way for the new lacrosse field, located next to Mercer University Drive, beyond the current Bear Field, home of the men's and women's soccer teams. Mercer will field its first NCAA Division I men's team in 2010.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

# Mercer Hosts A-Sun Championships for First Time, Drawing Local Buzz and National TV Audience

## Game-by-game Results of the Atlantic Sun Conference Basketball Championships



### Men's

#### Quarterfinals

#8 Kennesaw State 72 #1 Lipscomb 69  
#2 Jacksonville 76 #7 Univ. of North Florida 69  
#5 East Tennessee State 72 #4 Campbell 64  
#6 Mercer 87 #3 Belmont 81

#### Semifinals

#5 ETSU 69 #8 Kennesaw State 64  
#6 Mercer 66 #2 Jacksonville 63

#### Finals

#5 ETSU 72 #6 Mercer 66

### Women's

#### Quarterfinals

#1 ETSU 84 #8 Stetson 49  
#7 Univ. of North Florida 55 #2 Mercer 40  
#4 Belmont 70 #5 Kennesaw State 65  
#6 Jacksonville 52 #3 Campbell 46

#### Semifinals

#1 ETSU 77 #4 Belmont 63  
#7 UNF 50 #6 Jacksonville 46

#### Finals

#1 ETSU 63 #7 UNF 62

For 365 days, Mercer staff members prepared to host the institution's first Atlantic Sun Conference Basketball championships. When the last of the national TV lights were dimmed on Saturday night, March 6, not only had Mercerians hosted one of the finest tournaments the conference had previously seen, but also managed to cheer on their Bears in the title game.

Under the direction of tournament director Sybil Blalock, senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator, hundreds of Mercer faculty, staff, students and community volunteers joined forces to plan, prepare and execute a first-class tournament experience for 16 men's and women's teams over four days, March 3-6. With such community icons as the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau partnering with Mercer, the event turned in a community happening and a very welcome economic boost for members of the hotel, restaurant and retail trade environments.

In addition to the extensive media coverage locally, including all-out support by the Macon

Telegraph and radio and TV shows originating in the University Center, the men's championship game — of which Mercer was one of two teams featured — was telecast throughout the nation into millions of homes on ESPN2. Several members of the media observed on the last day of the tournament that it had become the biggest sporting event in Macon in years.

Coach Bob Hoffman's men's team came into the tournament as the sixth seed but quickly won the hearts of all the fans pulling for the underdog with back-to-back wins over higher seeds. Mercer defeated third-seeded Belmont on Thursday night in the quarterfinals, 87-81, and then sent Jacksonville, one of the teams tied for first during the regular season, home on Friday night in the semifinals by a score of 66-63. Playing only seven players for consecutive games, the Bears came up just short of their goal of a conference championship and trip to the NCAA Tournament when they were defeated 72-66 by East Tennessee State University in the title game. The millions of fans who viewed the championship game on ESPN2 were treated to a taste of an overflowing energized crowd in the University Center.



Members of the softball team were among the hundreds of Mercer students who felt staying on campus to watch the Bears in the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship was worth delaying a spring break trip for a couple of days.





## College of Nursing to Introduce Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

**T**he Georgia Baptist College of Nursing will add a Doctor of Nursing Practice to its graduate degree offerings this fall. The announcement follows on the heels of the successful launch of the new Ph.D. in Nursing program, which admitted its first students in fall 2009.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program will support advanced practice nurses in the areas of informatics, organizational analysis, and practice-focused research. The degree acknowledges the importance of clinical expertise at the doctoral level. Students will design

clinical projects that improve both the delivery of patient care as well as patient outcomes. The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing's program offers a post-master's, five-semester, on-line course of study that includes 43 semester hours and more than 500 clinical hours. The College will utilize both in-person and online course delivery techniques to effectively and dynamically transform the online classroom into a platform that reaches the highest possible level for learning.

"Graduates of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program will be prepared to meet the

changing demands of this nation's complex healthcare environment, which requires the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes," said Dr. Linda A. Streit, interim dean of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.

## College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Students Garner National Recognition

**I**t has been a banner year for students in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Graduate student Delaram Moshkelani, who last fall received a pre-doctoral fellowship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE), has picked up a second national fellowship. In November she was awarded one of four prestigious 2009 AAPS-AFPE Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Awards at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists annual meeting in Los Angeles.

"To receive one of these four fellowships among all the pharmacy schools in the nation is an important achievement for our College," said Dr. Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. "It also is a testament to the quality of research being carried out by Delaram and her major professor, Dr. Hailing Zhang. It is an honor for her to be recognized in such a significant way, and it enhances the national prominence of our Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical sciences."

The purpose of the pre-doctoral fellowships is to encourage outstanding pre-doctoral students, who have completed at least three semesters of graduate study and have not more than three years remaining, to continue their studies and earn the Ph.D. in the pharmaceutical sciences at a U.S. school or college of pharmacy.

National recognition has also come to second-year Doctor of Pharmacy student Soran-

arom "Belle" Kumsaitong, who was awarded an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' 2010 Student Leadership Award. Kumsaitong serves as vice president of Mercer's ASHP/GSHP chapter.

The ASHP Student Leadership Award program recognizes students with an interest in pharmacy practice in health-systems who have demonstrated leadership ability. This program recognizes and celebrates the contributions of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members. ASHP offers up to 12 awards annually.

In a collective student honor, Mercer's American Pharmacy Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter won the National Division A Chapter Achievement Award in March. The award was for the 2008-09 school year and was presented to the Mercer delegation at the organization's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Mercer competed for the award with the nation's largest pharmacy schools.

"While the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is well known for its research and academic innovation, it is also the professional activism and advocacy of our students that contributes significantly to our outstanding national reputation," Dean Matthews said. "We are very proud of these students and are grateful for the recognition they bring to themselves, the College and the University."

## Former Dean Authors Book on History of Medical School

Longtime Mercer School of Medicine administrator and former Dean Martin Dalton has written a book recapturing the events surrounding the founding and early years of the School. *The History of the Mercer University School of Medicine: 1965-2007* was published by Mercer University Press.



The story of the Mercer University School of Medicine is both inspiring and compelling. Rarely in the annals of higher education has a dream so remote and an idea so right come to fruition because of the resolute commitment of individuals who, for differing reasons, devoted themselves to the realization of an unlikely dream. While this story includes drama, intrigue, and uncertainty, it is mostly a story fueled by hope and vision.

"This is a story of courage, tenacity, and devotion to principle," Dr. Dalton says in the book's forward. "It is the story of how public-private partnerships can become powerful mechanisms for solving crippling social problems. Above all else, this story is a human story that reflects the selfless commitment of many individuals who worked tirelessly against great odds to make life better for future generations."

A compilation of first-person accounts and narrative histories combine to tell the story of a remarkable school that trains physicians to provide health care to Georgia and the South.

The book may be purchased through the Mercer Press web site at [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org).

## Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Launches Program to Help Church Laypersons Assist the Dying

**T**hrough a grant from Mercer's AIM program, the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing has launched an initiative to educate members of Atlanta-area churches to help others as they face death. The project offers free support from Mercer faculty volunteers with the College of Nursing, as well as School of Medicine and College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, who provide training for church lay health advisers, or Mercer Care Partners, in palliative care.

Mercer Care Partners are trained laypersons who help members of their congregations in need of palliative care, which is the practice of preventing and relieving suffering while ensuring the best quality of life possible for individuals with advanced chronic and life-threatening conditions.

The response to the program has been overwhelming, said Dr. Janet Timms, professor of nursing and one of the organizers of the program.

"We did outreach to a small number of churches, but we've been hearing back from other congregations who have heard about the program and want to participate," Dr. Timms said. "We're thrilled with the response. It's been a delightful surprise."

Most congregations are significantly affected by illness, care-giving, end-of-life needs and grief, Dr. Timms said, and congregations are looking for ways to help members with the winter in the "seasons of life," which can often extend for months or years. It is important for communities of faith to help members prepare for them and deal with those difficult times, she said.

As part of the program, church members who agree to participate and become Mercer Care Partners in their congregations receive training in the basics of palliative care; ethical issues at the end of life; cultural considerations and spiritual care; communicating with patients and families about end-of-life care; loss, grief and bereavement; and care during the final hours of life.

Churches that have been part of the pilot project have expressed a high level of interest, pastors working with the groups report. One such church is First Baptist Church of Tucker, which has had tremendous success with its first few classes, said the Rev. Randy Shepley, CLA '93, the church's head pastor and a class attendee. He was hoping for a dozen congregants to come to the class, but each session has had more than 30. The interest among his congregation is high, but

it is a complex undertaking to help others face death, loss and grief, Shepley said.

"When someone dies, we want to help, but sometimes we don't know the right thing to say, sometimes we don't know what to do, and this class has been an opportunity to learn those things and it has been tremendous," said Shepley, who is also a Doctor of Ministry candidate at the McAfee School of Theology.

The church members who are studying in the class are learning something that will enhance their relationships with others in the congregation and with God, Shepley said, as they help others transition from this world to the next. Being with someone in that time is a sacred experience, though difficult, he said. The training helps congregants to help the dying and their families in a more Christ-like and compassionate way.

"To sit with someone as they transition is a priceless, holy moment. It is not an easy moment, but it is priceless," Shepley said. "It is something that is important to witness, because God is there when that happens and God is in charge of that process."

Shepley has experienced it as a pastor on many occasions, and was taught many of the concepts of end-of-life care in his master's training at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. However, Shepley said, taking the latest concepts of a new field — palliative care — and applying them in a multidisciplinary way that involves church laypersons is a new concept.

"This is a cutting-edge congregational learning opportunity, and this is a new direction in involving the whole congregation and we're very glad to be a part of it," Shepley said.

So far, a number of churches have expressed interest and several have begun courses, Dr. Timms said. Through an initial university-funded grant, faculty facilitators are holding classes at four churches, and hope to have 75 Mercer Care Partners trained by this summer. The response has led the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing to apply for further funding within Mercer's AIM Grant Program, as well as outside funding to expand the program.

"There is just such a need for this, and we're hoping to find ways to expand it," Dr. Timms said.



Members of the Mercer Care Partners class at First Baptist Church, Tucker, gather to pray before their next palliative care class.



# College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences to Begin Physical Therapy Program in Fall

**A**t its December 2009 meeting, the Mercer Board of Trustees approved a new Doctor of Physical Therapy program for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The College has appointed Leslie F. Taylor, P.T., Ph.D., former division head of the physical therapy program at Georgia State University, to develop and implement Mercer's program. It will be based in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on the Atlanta campus and will enroll its first students in the fall.

"The addition of a Doctor of Physical

Therapy program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is a natural next step for us as we expand our commitment to provide health care practitioners for the state and region," said Dr. H.W. "Ted" Matthews, dean of the College. "In particular, this program will enable Mercer University to satisfy the growing demand for physical therapists who work with our aging population."

Dr. Taylor has more than 25 years of clinical experience as a physical therapist, working in a variety of clinical settings. In 1986, she began her private practice with an emphasis on treating individuals with chronic illnesses, and later earned a Master of Science in Community Counseling while completing an internship in Boston. After returning to her native Atlanta to pursue a position in physical therapist education, she earned her Ph.D. in Sociology in 1997 with an emphasis in medical sociology. She also

holds a graduate certificate in gerontology.

Dr. Taylor's current research addresses physical function in older adults, specifically on developing and evaluating physical activity interventions to maximize the independence, quality of life, and quality of care of those who are frail and chronically ill. Her research is presented and published nationally. Her teaching interests include rheumatology, geriatrics/gerontology, psychosocial aspects of disease and disability, ethics, communication, and evidence-based research.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to develop a premier physical therapy program that will be aligned with Mercer's vision of excellence in clinical education, research, and community engagement," Dr. Taylor said. "I look forward to working with the University's distinguished faculty and advancing the mission of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences."

## Smith Receives DeBakey Award

Rita Smith, assistant professor in the School of Medicine, has received the 2010 Michael E. DeBakey Library Services Outreach Award. Smith serves as outreach and education coordinator for the Medical Library and Peyton T. Anderson Learning Resources Center at the School of Medicine and as Mercer's liaison to the statewide Area Health Education Center program office. Her nomination highlighted 10 years of experience with a number of projects and programs focused on serving rural Georgia: Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information, Rural Health Information Clearinghouse, Georgia Rural Health Association and Georgia Health — Go Local. On the national level, she serves as the webmaster and listserv moderator for the Medical Library Association's outreach special interest group.

In the letter announcing her selection, Dr. Donald King, chairman of the board of directors of the Friends of the National Library of Medicine (FNLM), said: "Your dedication to improving access to health information to the healthcare professionals and the underserved populations in Georgia has benefited the entire community. FNLM is pleased to recognize your tireless 'hands on' work on behalf of the people of Georgia. Your dedication to these communities deserves the greatest recognition — you are an invaluable resource to the area hospitals and individuals alike."

Smith will be one of several members of the health care community being recognized at the FNLM Awards Dinner on May 11 in Washington, D.C.



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

**Women in Medicine** — The Mercer School of Medicine held its annual Women in Medicine Celebration on Feb. 16. In addition to a panel discussion, the event featured the traveling exhibition, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians." The event also celebrated the memories of four deceased faculty members, Kristina M. Detmer, Dona L. Harris, Collen M. Smith and Nancy N. Van De Water.

## Achievements

### 1940s

**Martha Alinor Price Thompson**, Tift '48, was named the 2009 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year for the state of Georgia by the Governor's Council on Aging and the Georgia Department of Labor.

### 1950s

**Donald F. King**, CLA '55, was inducted into the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame on Oct. 17 during the organization's third annual induction banquet.

**Dr. Robert E. (Bob) Taylor Jr.**, PHA '58, was recently featured in *Field and Stream* magazine's Heroes of Conservation section. Taylor was recognized for building wood-duck boxes that were sold to fund a scholarship awarded to environmental studies students at a local college.

### 1970s

**Leigh R. Keer**, CLA '75, received the Florida Planning and Zoning Association's highest award for lifetime achievement: The 2009

George W. Simons Jr. Memorial Award.

**Nancy (Norris) Kneece**, Tift '77, has published a book titled *6 of One*, a collection of short stories.

**Kerry Mote**, CLA '75, has published a suspense novel, *Hot Ice in Roman Ruins*, available on Amazon and Kindle.

**Mark Rogers**, CLA '78, published *The Complete Idiots Guide to Economic Indicators* (Alpha Books, 2009). He is senior U.S. economist for Econday Inc., a developer of web-based economics calendars for investors and traders. He is also a consultant on forensic economics issues and is based in Peachtree City.

### 1980s

**Terri Byrd**, CLA '89, is the new associate coordinator for Congregational Life and Missions for Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She is married to **Paul Byrd**, EDU '89.

**Roxan Kinsey**, BUS '88, was named the 2009 Marketing Manager of the Year for the Career Division of McGraw-Hill Higher Education. She celebrated her 30th anniversary with McGraw-Hill in December.

**Robert A. Mason**, LAW '88, has formed the Savannah-based elder law firm of MasonCerborne. He just completed a term as chairman of the Elder Law Section of the North Carolina Bar and was named one of 2009's and 2010's top attorneys in North Carolina by *North Carolina Super Lawyers Magazine*.

**Barry I. Mortge**, LAW '85, joined the law firm of Jeffery M. Goldberg & Associates, LTD., specializing in medical malpractice cases.

**Ernie Lee**, CLA '82, was named vice president of Senior Citizens Inc. in Savannah.

**Col. Fred Taylor**, LAW '86, had breakfast with former Mercer Law professor U.S. Rep. Jim Marshall during the representative's August 2009 Congressional Delegation visit to Afghanistan. Taylor is an active duty Army Judge Advocate serving in Afghanistan.

### 1990s

**Auden Grumet**, LAW '97, was named the only 2009 Rising Star in the area of consumer law by *Georgia Super Lawyers*.

**Amy Landers**, LAW '01, was selected to become a shareholder in the law firm of Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC.

**Gil McBride**, LAW '91, was elected judge of Superior Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. McBride is married to attorney Betsy McBride. They have four children.

**Michael McGregor**, BUS '93, deployed with the 4th Infantry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in November 2007. He redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, in February 2009 and moved to the Pentagon General Officer Management Office in Washington, D.C., in June 2009.

**Chrissy Dixon Pearson**, CLA '97, was promoted to communications director for North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue in December.

**Luna Philips**, LAW '95, has been elevated to shareholder status at the Gunster, Attorneys at Law in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Ray Poole**, LAW '90 and CLA '87, was named partner in Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP in January.

**LCDR Brandon Sellers**, BUS '97, was recently assigned as the Navy Legislative Fellow to U.S. Sen. John S. McCain.

**Dr. Kele Sewell**, MD '95, has written the book, *Soul Purpose*.

## PRESIDENT WILLIAM D. UNDERWOOD AND PROVOST WALLACE L. DANIEL INVITE MERCER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TO JOIN THE

### Russia History and Cultural Heritage Tour Moscow and St. Petersburg June 3-12, 2010

Dr. Daniel, Mercer Provost and Russian scholar, will be the tour host and will provide commentary as participants explore Russian church architecture, art, music and history. The cost of this deluxe trip is \$6,989 and includes airfare, 5-star accommodations, Aurora train fare between Moscow and St. Petersburg, most meals, and admission to selected museums and performances. For more information, visit [mercer.edu/travel](http://mercer.edu/travel). Space is limited, so call today!





## 2000s

**Cassandra (Shular) Coddington**, CLA '04, received her Ph.D. in human development and educational psychology from the University of Maryland in December. She is employed at Georgia State University as an IES postdoctoral research fellow. She resides in Birmingham, Ala., with her husband, Luke Coddington, CLA '03, where he is attending graduate school in neuroscience at the University of Alabama.

**Darren M. Draper**, EGR '05, was named associate at Newcomb & Boyd in January.

**Lauren Elder**, BUS '05, was recently promoted from account coordinator to account manager at EOS Marketing & Communications Inc., based in Atlanta.

**Amy Griswold Martin**, EGR '05, accepted a position with Norcross-based Collinson Media & Events in January where she manages e-mail programs for the company's print publications and its clients.

**M.C. Moore**, BUS '03, earned the project management professional designation from the Project Management Institute in November 2009.

**Christina Shuman**, BUS '03, received her Juris Doctor degree from The Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., in September.

**Matthew Smith**, CLA '04, is a University of Alabama Birmingham Ph.D. applicant in the Pathobiology and Molecular Medicine program.

## Marriages, Births & Anniversaries

### 1950s

**The Rev. William T. Hartley**, CLA '58, and his wife, **Doris Hodges Hartley**, CLA '60, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1. The Hartleys met at Mercer.

### 1990s

**Danielle Carey Burruss**, BUS '98, and Bryan Burruss announce the birth of their son, John Bryan Burruss, on Jan. 18, 2009.

**Dana (Putnam) Burkhart**, CLA '97, married George Edward Burkhart III on Dec. 28, 2009, in Key West. The couple resides in Alpharetta.

**Robert W. Raley**, CLA '97, and **Rebecca Fisher Raley**, CLA '00, announce the birth of their twins, Sarah Ellen Raley and Fisher Thomas Raley, on Aug. 25, 2009.

**Lori (Skees) Rupert**, EGR '93, and her husband Paul and their daughter Emily, welcomed Blake Matthew into their home. Blake was born on Sept. 25 and was adopted on Sept. 28.

**S. Judson "Jud" Waites II**, LAW '92, and Birgit Waites announce the birth of their son, Cayden Waites, on Sept. 29.

**Kevin M. Wells**, ENG '96, married Julia K. Huff in Houston, Texas, on May 3, 2008.

## Practice Makes Perfect: Dr. James Oglesby, CLA '55, Sets World Record in Track and Field

**D**r. James Oglesby, CLA '55, is proving it's never too late to go for the gold. At 75, he's setting state, national and even world records as a track and field athlete — and he's just getting started.

Oglesby, a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, threw the javelin for Mercer for one season. "One of my fraternity brothers threw the javelin on the track team. He wanted to go out and practice one day and asked me to throw it back to him," Oglesby said.

"As we kept practicing, I kept throwing it back to him farther than he could throw it himself, so he said 'You need to join the track team!'"

Oglesby stopped throwing the javelin after graduating and moving onto to the Medical College of Georgia. Years later, he served as a coach for his son's high school track and field team, where he learned the ins and outs of shot putting. Much to his disappointment, the small team disbanded, and a friend suggested Oglesby try competing in the Florida Senior Games. At age 70, Oglesby picked up the shot put.

Now, 55 years after he graduated from Mercer, Oglesby is at the top of his game. In 2007, he set the Florida state record in outdoor shot put for his age group and went on to compete in the National Senior Games, where he placed second in both the shot put and discus.

In December 2009, he set new state records for the shot put, discus and javelin at the Florida state championships, where his shot put throw broke the all-time American record, and ensured his title as the 2009 top shot put thrower for his age group in not only the country, but also the world. To top it off, on Jan. 16, Oglesby broke his own record. All of his accolades place him

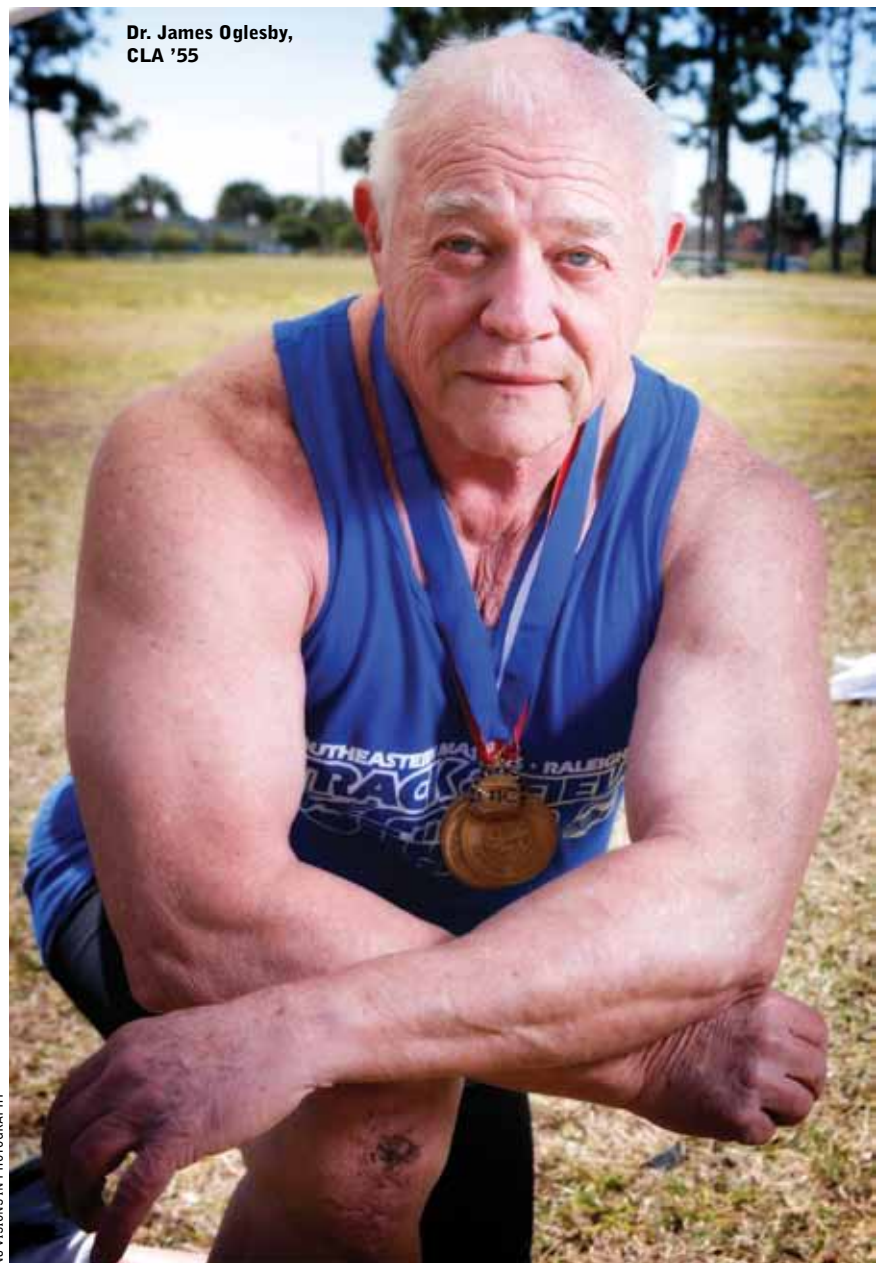
fourth in the all-time world rankings for outdoor shot put for his age group.

Oglesby, who spent 40 years in the Army, offered advice to those who want to get back in the game. "If you're going to do something and do it well, you've got to love it," he said. "You've got to spend the time thinking about it and doing it and living it."

The father of nine and grandfather of 12 lives in Kissimmee, Fla., where he practices general surgery. He is

proud that his family has been able to see him compete on several occasions and said that his wife, Jeanie, is his biggest fan. "Sometimes I think she's happier about it than I am," he said, laughing. "She's a big supporter."

He said anyone can improve their fitness level if they stick to it. "I'm a living example that you can get better no matter how old you are," he said. "It's not because I'm so great, it's because I've been practicing."



**Dr. James Oglesby,**  
CLA '55

NU VISIONS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

## 2000s

**Beth Barber Carder**, PHA '04 and Steven Carder, PHA '05, announce the birth of their twin daughters, Madison Elizabeth and Lily Katherine, on Oct. 2.

**Tedra Clemons**, CLA '03, LAW '09, married Jakari D. Huston on July 25 in Augusta. They reside in Macon.

**Matthew Hall**, CLA '96 and LAW '00, and his wife, Aimee J. Hall, CLA '99 and LAW '02, announce the birth of their son, Jackson Matthew Hall, on Oct. 27, 2009.

**Susan (Hammontree) Gifford**, BUS '04 married Gary "Lee" Gifford Jr. on Oct. 25, 2008.

**Katherine "Katie" (Barber) Hammond**, CLA '09, married **Stephen Thomas Hammond**, CLA '08, on July 11. He is enrolled in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The couple resides in Tucker.

**Bryan Kight**, BUS '05, and Christin Kight announce the birth of their first child, Annaleise Renee, in November.

**Hope Lipfert Martin**, LAW '02, and Jason Scott Martin announce the birth of their son,

William Lipfert Martin, on April 24, 2009.

**Katie Pearce Miller**, BUS '05, and her husband, John David Miller, announce the birth of their son, Pearce Hauser Miller, on June 23, 2009. She was named 2008 Rookie of the Year by the Middle Georgia Association of Realtors and by Fickling Company.

**Odilia (Okoroukwu) Osakwe**, PHA '09, recently married Chima Osakwe.

**Miranda (King) Potter**, CLA '04, and Greg Potter announce the birth of their son, Dominic Gage Potter, on June 26.

**Bobby Reynolds**, BUS '04, and **Andi Price Reynolds**, EGR '06, announce the birth of their son, Joshua McCade, on May 22, 2009.

**Brandi (Holtman) Seiz**, CLA '06, married Adam Adair Seiz on July 12, 2008. She is a language arts teacher at Sonoraville Middle School in Calhoun where the couple resides.

**Elizbeth C. (Jennings) Smith**, NUR '06, and Jason A. Smith announce the birth of their son, Christopher A. Smith, on Nov. 20, 2008.

**Mark Vanderhoek**, BUS '08, and his wife Jill announce the birth of their daughter, Dulcie Sue Vanderhoek, on Nov. 24.

## In Memory

### Friends

**The Honorable Anthony Alaimo**, of Sea Island, died Dec. 30.

**Dr. Amelia A. Alderman**, former Medical School faculty member, of Macon, died Aug. 7.

**The Rev. Arthur E. Carden Sr.**, of Atlanta, died Sept. 21.

**Margaret Council**, of Macon, died Nov. 17.

**Dr. Willis Glover**, former faculty member, died Sept. 14.

**A. Jackson Head**, of Oglethorpe, died Oct. 21.

**Wilson Joiner**, of Hawkinsville, died Oct. 19.

**Lottie W. McFarlin**, of Crabapple, died Jan. 9.

**Stanley T. Peskoe**, Medical School faculty member, of Macon, died Nov. 3.

**Marie Eula Hartley Sanders**, of Lizella, died Oct. 16.

**Marvin S. Singletary**, of Albany, died Jan. 20.

**Dr. Hugh K. Sealy**, of Macon, died Oct. 21.

**Ronnie L. Shadix**, of Alamo, died Sept. 4.

## 1930s

**Raymond A. Coppenger**, CLA '33, of Arkadelphia, Ark., died Nov. 24.

**Lillian W. Darling**, CLA '32, of Dublin, Ga., died Oct. 4.

**Madeline Sechler Masters**, NUR '36, of Palatka, Fla., died Dec. 17.

**Emerson Womble McRae**, CLA '37, of Macon, died Dec. 28.

**Mary Julia Robinson Whaley**, Tift '39, of Baxley, died Dec. 23.

## 1940s

**William G. Adams**, CLA '41, of Macon, died Aug. 29.

**Brig. Gen. Raymond Astumian**, CLA '47, of Macon, died Oct. 18.

**Christine Wortham Alexander**, CLA '49, of Grove City, Ohio, died Dec. 21.

**Katharine McCook Bacon**, CLA '48, of Macon, died Jan. 15.

**Maria H. Basinski**, CLA '40, of Macon, died Sept. 23.

**The Rev. Howard Dennis Blalock**, CLA '43, of Oakwood, died Oct. 16.

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**George C. Christian Jr.**, PHA '42, of Jonesboro, died Oct. 18.

**Francis L. Clements Jr.**, CLA '47, of Macon, died Dec. 30.

**James Emmet Collins**, EDU '40, of Manchester, died Oct. 31.

**Wilma Baker Cosper**, Tift '47 and former Trustee, of Cullowee, N.C., died Oct. 12.

**Ashley P. Cox Jr.**, CLA '48, of Macon, died Jan. 5.

**Edna Beryl Flanagan**, CLA '48, of Macon, died Aug. 6.

**G. Jack Fleeman**, PHA '43, of Atlanta, died Aug. 15.

**Dr. James W. Franklin Sr.**, CLA '43, of Turnerville, died Sept. 25.

**Sara S. Goza**, CLA '46, of Fayetteville, Ga., died Sept. 4.

**Radford E. King**, CLA '49, of Rock Hill, S.C., died Sept. 29.

**Helen C. Murcell**, CLA '49, of Sacramento, Calif., died May 5.

**Oscar S. Neylans Jr.**, CLA '49, of Montezuma, died Aug. 24.

**Lucille Crutchfield Payne**, CLA '45, of Starke, Fla., died July 9.

## Former Trustee Pivotal in Founding of the Medical School Dies

**F**ormer University Trustee Charles Hubert "Charlie" Jones died on Sept. 25 following an extended illness.

A native of Upson County, Jones played a vital role in the founding of the School of Medicine. He traveled with former President R. Kirby Godsey throughout the state to secure funding for the project, and despite tremendous challenges, Dr. Godsey and Jones eventually succeeded in helping to create the almost 30-year-old School of Medicine.

"It was a tumultuous ride," said Dr. Godsey, who now serves as University chancellor. "But Charlie never blinked. He was the most forceful voice and the steadiest hand steering the course against hordes of naysayers, enabling the School to move from dream to reality and transforming fiction into fact."

Jones was a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees and a Life Member of the President's Club. He

served as the first chairman of the Board of Governors for the School of Medicine, and was later awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree by the University. In 2003, Mercer University Press published "Charles H. Jones, A Biography," written by Richard Hyatt.

In addition to his involvement with Mercer and the School of Medicine, Jones was a staunch supporter of higher education in Georgia. He served a seven-year term as a member-at-large of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

Jones graduated from R.E. Lee Institute in Thomaston as Commander of the Corps of Cadets. He later entered service in the United States Navy and upon discharge attended the University of Georgia. After earning his B.B.A., Jones spent a brief time in Atlanta with the governor's office before moving to Macon, where he served as an advocate for education and community involvement.

Jones was a devoted member of the Middle Georgia community and was once the president of the Macon Chamber of Commerce.

He served as the first chairman of the Macon/Bibb County Hospital Authority; vice chairman of the Macon Hospital Commission; chairman of the Macon/Bibb County Industrial Authority; and member of the Development Authority of Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce. He was a co-founder of NewTown Macon and was president of the Macon Lions Club. His private service includes directorships for C&S National Bank and the Family Federal Savings and Loan Association.



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

Charlie Jones



*U*our stories of experience, growth, and success as a Mercerian are priceless to young students who are considering Mercer as their college choice.

The Offices of University Admissions and Alumni Relations are establishing a **New Admissions Alumni Team**. We are seeking alumni partnerships to spread the word about Mercer to prospective students by:

- Representing Mercer at regional college fairs;
- Hosting receptions for local students and their families;
- Making personal contact with students in their area.

This is a fantastic opportunity to share your excitement about your alma mater with eager students who want to learn more about Mercer, from **your unique point of view**.

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## CLASS NOTES

**James C. Rehberg**, LAW '48, CLA '40, of Macon, died Aug. 5.  
**Phillip Keith Schmaeling**, CLA '49, of Long Beach, Calif., died March 13, 2009.  
**Martha Harrison Small**, CLA '40, of Baton Rouge, La., died Nov. 11.  
**Bess Edge Smith**, Tift '42, of Atlanta, died Jan. 5.  
**Dr. Robert H. Willets**, CLA '42, of Tulsa, Okla., died July 31.

### 1950s

**The Rev. A. Paul Addleton**, CLA '54, of Byron, died Aug. 3.  
**Mary Alderman**, Tift '56, of Pavo, died Aug. 29.  
**Eugene D. Anderson**, CLA '59, of Johnson City, Tenn., died Oct. 18.  
**Andrew J. Aultman**, LAW '52, of Albany, died Aug. 26.  
**Paul A. Bowen**, PHA '53, CLA '43, of

Atlanta, died Aug. 26.  
**The Rev. Cecil A. Brooks**, CLA '52, of Fernandina, Fla., died June 25.  
**Frank Edward Byington**, CLA '58, of Roswell, died Oct. 23.  
**The Rev. Jesse R. Daniel**, CLA '58, of Eastman, died Nov. 17.  
**Sue B. Davis**, CLA '50, of Americus, died Dec. 12.  
**Dr. C. Hines Edwards Jr.**, CLA '56, of Carrollton, died Sept. 10.  
**Alice Ramona Lanier Gandy**, Tift '52, of Jacksonville, Fla., died Dec. 16.  
**Leven H. Harris**, LAW '51, of Shreveport, La., died Sept. 18.  
**Robert V. Jones Jr.**, LAW '50, of Jasper, died Oct. 20.  
**Dr. Robert H. Ogden**, CLA '59, of Gastonia, N.C., died Dec. 7.  
**William V. Pentecost Jr.**, PHA '57, of Marietta, died Dec. 26.  
**Dr. A.M. Phillips Jr.**, CLA '54, of



PEGGY COZART PHOTO

**Celebrating Grace Premiere** — The congregational concert premiere of *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*, a project developed in conjunction with Mercer's Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Church Music Studies to help congregations worship God, was held Sunday, March 7, at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. Dr. John Simons, director of graduate studies in the Townsend School of Music and director of the Townsend-McAfee Institute, Dr. Stanley Roberts, CLA '84, associate dean at Townsend, and Mercer alumnus and trustee J. Thomas McAfee III drafted the original proposal in 2006 to create a hymnal. From this humble beginning, *Celebrating Grace* grew from a hymnal into a non-profit company closely partnering with the Townsend-McAfee Institute. Dr. Simons serves as coordinating editor for the hymnal and Dr. Roberts serves as the hymnal's editor. McAfee, left, recognizes the editors of the *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*: Milburn Price, John E. Simons, David W. Music and Stanley L. Roberts.

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

Macon, died Aug. 1.  
**Dr. Ed L. Stevens**, CLA '54, of Macon, died Nov. 20.  
**Audrey H. Stumpf**, CLA '54, of Sapphire, N.C., died April 1, 2009.  
**Charles H. Teal**, CLA '54, of West Palm Beach, Fla., died Aug. 1.  
**Lewis N. Waldrop**, CLA '51 and Tift '58, of Forsyth, died Nov. 26.  
**Benny Ralph Waugh**, CLA '55, of Macon, died Oct. 27.

### 1960s

**Linda McKnight Batman**, Tift '67, of Altamonte Springs, Fla., died March 17, 2009.  
**Norman L. Bellury**, CLA '66, of Gray, died Aug. 19.  
**Sibyl Branch Brooks**, LAW '68, of Tifton, died Oct. 28.  
**J. Quentin Davidson Jr.**, LAW '66, CLA '63, of Panama City Beach, Fla., died Aug. 27.  
**The Honorable Thomas DeMartin**, LAW '60, of Pennington, N.J., died Nov. 22.  
**Carlton D. Evans**, PHA '61, of Senoia, died Nov. 2.  
**The Rev. Cecil G. Irwin**, CLA '60, of Roanoke, Va., died Sept. 25.  
**E. Jerome Hancock Jr.**, EDU '61, of Macon, died on Sept. 7.

**Laura J. Kendall**, CLA '60, of Nashville, Tenn., died Sept. 2.  
**Alice O. Mixon**, Tift '66, of Albany, died Sept. 25.  
**William F. Peagler**, CLA '62, of Waycross, died Jan. 8.  
**LyNeil Peters**, NUR '60, of Hahira, died Oct. 1.  
**Charles M. Roberts**, CLA '64 of Fort Lupton, Colo., died Aug. 21.  
**Joel Watson Sikes**, PHA '68, of Brooklet, died Oct. 28.  
**The Honorable David J. Turner**, LAW '67, of Manchester, died Aug. 30.  
**Terry R. Wainscott**, CLA '69, of Hogansville, died May 7, 2009.  
**W. David Williford**, CLA '62, of Senoia, died Aug. 28.  
**James R. Willingham**, CLA '61, of Macon, died Sept. 2.

### 1970s

**Richard D. Allen Jr.**, LAW '74, CLA '68, of Tallapoosa, died March 2, 2009.  
**Carolyn Farris Carpenter**, PHA '76, of Knoxville, Tenn., died Nov. 5.  
**Walter J. Lane Jr.**, LAW '72, CLA '69, of Macon, died Aug. 5.  
**Lewis J. McIntosh Jr.**, CLA '76, of Maco, died Sept. 30.

**Manson M. Rhodes**, CLA '71, of Hartsville, S.C., died Aug. 5.

### 1980s

**Toika F. Bridges**, BUS '85, of Loganville, died March 15, 2009.  
**Althea Lorraine Buafu**, LAW '87, of Macon, died Oct. 20.  
**Craig Lanier Golden**, BUS '88, of Suwanee, died Nov. 9.  
**Joe David Jackson**, LAW '80, of Atlanta, died Nov. 11.  
**Robert L. Kirby**, LAW '88, of Alpharetta, died Aug. 4.  
**Joseph P. Powell III**, CLA '82, of Macon, died Jan. 15.

### 1990s

**Ronald W. Tigner**, LAW '91, of Atlanta, died Oct. 21.

### 2000s

**Kerry Faulkner**, EGR '02, of Forsyth, died Sept. 25.

Submit class notes to Jamie C. Dickson, CLA '05, director of advancement communications, at [dickson\\_jc@mercer.edu](mailto:dickson_jc@mercer.edu).



## PROFILE IN GIVING

### Eli and Phyllis Morgan

**E**LI MORGAN, CLA '83, is a proud Mercerian, which is why he has continuously given to Mercer for nearly two decades and more than a decade to the Mercer Fund. After joining the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Association in 1997 and eventually becoming its president, Morgan and his wife, **PHYLLIS, CLA '84**, began making gifts to the Mercer Fund for the College of Liberal Arts.

The Mercer Fund is the foundation for all of the University's charitable support. It touches virtually all facets of Mercer, and without it none of the educational opportunities that Mercer students are afforded would be possible.

"The Mercer Fund gives the University the greatest degree of stability. It gives the University the ability to use the money with the least amount of restrictions," Morgan said. He designates his Mercer Fund gifts to the College of Liberal Arts, and all donors have the flexibility to choose which school or college their Mercer Fund gift supports.

Morgan, who met his wife at Mercer, is an avid supporter of Mercer athletics — particularly women's basketball and volleyball. He attends many athletic events and gives regularly to the Mercer Athletic Foundation. He is also a member of The Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics' Executive Forum and is a former president of the President's Club — a group made up of University supporters who give \$1,000 or more annually.

Ultimately, Morgan gives to Mercer because he understands the importance of each and every gift. "I give to Mercer because I know the University is going to be a good steward for gifts that are entrusted to it. It's going to use due diligence to ensure that it continuously offers opportunities for those who have a desire to get a quality education at a Baptist institution," he said.

Make your 2009-2010 Mercer Fund gift before June 30. Visit [www.mercer.edu/gifts](http://www.mercer.edu/gifts) or contact the Office of University Advancement at 800-837-2911, extension 2725.



## Retired Mercer Faculty Give Back

Giving to Mercer is a tradition among faculty and staff at the University, and many retired faculty members continue to give back, even after they teach their last classes. *The Mercerian* asked these retired professors why they continue to give to Mercer.

**"It's the right thing to do. Everyone who has gone to Mercer University has received a great education that they would not have gotten otherwise if it hadn't been for some sort of financial support from someone outside their family."**

— **Dr. Vince Lopez**, 37 years in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Dr. Vince Lopez

**"When I think about giving to Mercer, I do it for my teachers and what they did for me."**

— **Dr. Mary Wilder, CLA '54**, former chair of the English Department; 41 years in the College of Liberal Arts



Dr. Mary Wilder

### Students Are Best Investment to Savannah Professor

Dr. Edward Klatt, professor of pathology at the School of Medicine in Savannah, is no stranger to giving back. In fact, he's given to each medical school he's associated with since beginning his residency.

He started making contributions to Mercer not long after he began teaching in Savannah and said that gifts to medical education influence the lives of many people. "Giving yields returns for everyone and strengthens the institution," he said. "Students receiving scholarships often remark that they are inspired to give back to the school when they are able following graduation. That perpetuates and multiplies the effect of giving."

Dr. Klatt, originally from Southern California, completed medical school at Loma Linda University, where he began making contributions to medical education. Once he finished his residency, he began teaching at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and has taught at four medical schools over the past 30 years.

He is passionate about his discipline and teaching his students, which is why he gives to Mercer. "The students are an inspiration. They are the future," he said. "They have great potential and represent the best investment one can make."



Dr. Edward Klatt

**"I think if you stay at an institution for as long as I did, you become a part of it and it becomes a part of you. All of those things mean that your life becomes intimately wound up with the institution, and when that happens, you want it to succeed — you want it to be able to realize those goals that you yourself have helped to shape."**

— **Dr. Kenneth Hammond**, former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and former Chair of the English Department; 28 years in the College of Liberal Arts



Dr. Kenneth Hammond

**"During more than 35 years of work as a teacher and administrator for the College of Liberal Arts, I attempted to help students attain their goals. My annual gifts to Mercer enable me to continue to support the learning environment of the College. I have donated to Mercer Press every year since its founding. I continue to support the Press because I believe it is an important aspect of the University's work."**

— **Dr. Wil Platt**, former director of the Honors Program; more than 35 years in the College of Liberal Arts



Dr. Wil Platt

**"My wife and I created our scholarship as a way to repay my beloved students, who gave so much to me."**

— **James L. Cox**, first chairman of the Political Science Department; former pre-law adviser (30 years); former Honor Council adviser (30 years); more than 38 years in the College of Liberal Arts



Dr. James Cox



# The Gift of Education

When Stephanie Sanders, a junior, learned that she was the 2010 recipient of the Warner J. and Pearl T. Raines Endowed Scholarship for Education, the holistic child major was relieved.

Sanders, whose mother died last fall, wondered how she was going to pay for her tuition before she was named the recipient. "This scholarship helped me pay the rest of what I owed, which helped me worry less about how to stay at Mercer and more about my academics," Sanders said.

This is why Warner and Pearl Raines, both graduates of the College of Liberal Arts, established three scholarships in the Tift College of Education. The couple spent a collective 56 years working in Georgia's public schools. They believe training future educators is important, and their gifts to Mercer help ensure that education students receive the best instruction possible. "Mercer is responsible for my training, and I'll always be grateful for that," Warner said. "I feel like I should give something back to Mercer, and I wish more alumni would give. People think you have to give thousands of dollars, but you don't." The couple also endowed the Donald C. Raines Endowed Scholarship for Pharmacy, named for Warner's brother, in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Sanders said she has a greater appreciation for alumni who give to the University. "After graduating, I plan on making a gift to Mercer, because if it weren't for the Raines, I would still be worried about how to pay for my education," Sanders said. "They helped me greatly, and I would like to do the same for someone else."

Stephanie Sanders, left, with Pearl and Warner Raines



Gifts to Mercer have the power to change the lives of current students. For more information about contributing to the Warner J. and Pearl T. Raines Endowed Scholarship for Education or to establish a scholarship in honor or in memory of someone, contact the **Office of University Advancement** at **(800) 837-2911**.



**MERCER UNIVERSITY**  
**HOME COMING**  
NOVEMBER 14-21 **2010**

**Mercer Bears Basketball**  
**Women vs. Furman, Friday**  
**Men vs. Harvard, Saturday**

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**Bonfire/Pep Rally with Fireworks**  
**Campus-wide Tailgating**  
**Skit Competition** **5K Road Run**  
**Athletic Hall of Fame Induction**  
**Anniversary Class Reunions**