

THE

SPRING 2013

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Cruz Plaza Transforming the Heart of Macon Campus



**Everybody Plays:
Mercer Intramurals**

**Facilitating
Tough Debates**

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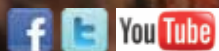
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InOurLens

Packed audiences were on hand at The Grand Opera House on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 for the taping of "A Grand Mercer Christmas." The one-hour special featuring The Mercer Singers and the McDuffie Center String Ensemble from the Townsend School of Music will air on Georgia Public Broadcasting and other public television stations across the nation during the 2013 holiday season. For more information, visit mercerchristmas.com.



Slam Dunk Season – The men's basketball team, in addition to recording back-to-back 20-win seasons, earned the University's first appearance in the National Invitation Tournament. In the first round game at Knoxville against the University of Tennessee, Daniel Coursey (52) shows the Vols how to warm up the nets. The Bears prevailed, 75-67.

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THE **Mercerian**

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University Dedicates Emily Parker Myers Admissions and Welcome Center

The University dedicated the Emily Parker Myers Admissions and Welcome Center on Nov. 2 as it lauded its namesake and her distinguished career at Mercer. Myers retired from Mercer in 2008 as senior vice president of advancement and external affairs after more than 36 years with the University. She worked in the University's Admissions Office before President R. Kirby Godsey appointed her to head University Advancement in 1979, when she became Mercer's first female senior vice president.

At the dedication, Dr. Godsey recounted Myers' accomplishments.

"I could never have known all of the conversations she was having with trustees, with donors, and even with our critics," Dr. Godsey said. "But I always knew that Emily represented the University with intelligence, with dignity and with integrity. She combines an extraordinary mind and a strategic good sense with poise and deep respect for her work and the people with whom she worked. She first brought that intelligence and poise to admissions and then she turned to advancement. Today I want to say to you that Emily was an outstanding citizen of this Mercer community. She was a resilient and effective senior administrator, a woman of extraordinary competence, a person driven by high expectations, all of which were cushioned by a wonderful and disarming sense of humor."

President William D. Underwood echoed Dr. Godsey's praises. "I think naming this Admissions and Welcome Center in honor of Emily's contributions is especially appropriate, because Emily began her career at Mercer in admissions, and one of her dreams was to see this kind of a facility constructed to provide a beautiful welcome and introduction to our campus for prospective students and their families," he said. "Emily understood the importance of having a facility like this and that makes it especially appropriate that we dedicate this facility in honor of Emily's contributions at Mercer."

The Welcome Center is located at the corner of Winship Street and Montpelier Drive and serves as the welcome center for campus



Long-time Mercer administrator Emily Parker Myers addresses the crowd that witnessed the dedication of the new Admissions and Welcome Center.

visitors, including prospective students. It is also the University's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified building. The new building houses the Office of University Admissions, which relocated from the Connell Student Center and the former Admissions House on Elm Street. It also incorporates one of Macon's oldest homes — the R.J. Anderson House, which was constructed in the mid-1800s. The project involved remodeling the 2,700-square-foot home and adding 3,000 square feet of new, sustainable construction. The reuse of the historic home, combined with environmentally friendly additions and high-energy efficiency, helped the project qualify

for LEED Gold Certification.

Today, Myers is in her "encore career" as president and CEO of Macon-based Myers McRae, an executive search firm. She thanked the audience of more than 150 attendees for coming to the event.

"What a blessing, what an honor to have been a part of Mercer University," she said. "I hope I made a difference because I know this: if you come to Mercer University, it's going to change your life for the better. This is a wonderful, beautiful, fabulous institution with great trustees. I'm so grateful to have been a part of it. I'm so grateful for your friendship today. God bless Mercer University and all of you who toil here."

\$1 Million Gift Endows Great Books Conference

Alumnus and former Trustee A.V. Elliott made a \$1 million gift to the University to endow the annual A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas. The annual conference, coordinated by the University's Center for America's Founding Principles, attracts prominent senior scholars to campus to lecture and lead discussions on thinkers central to the Western tradition.

"We are especially grateful to A.V. for making this annual conference possible," said President William D. Underwood. "It will enrich the lives of future generations of Mercer students, who will learn to think critically while being exposed to the ideas and ideals that have shaped our civilization, much as A.V.'s life has been enriched by his exposure to the humanities while at Mercer decades ago."

Elliott, a 1956 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, majored in history and Christianity. He said he gave the gift because of his love for the humanities, a love that was sparked at Mercer. Elliott is secretary and treasurer of Elliott Machine Shop in Macon, a 100-employee company he founded. His success, he said, was in part because of his ability to think critically at important moments, and it was a skill honed in his humanities courses at Mercer.

"You can learn the hard sciences anywhere,

but the interactions I had in my humanities courses with Mercer professors made a tremendous difference in my life," Elliott said. "I learned to think for myself, and I have been able to use those skills to become successful in my life. I wanted to share that success by helping Mercer to continue its great tradition in the humanities."

The Center for America's Founding Principles is committed to helping its students to become just such critical thinkers, said Center co-director Dr. Charlotte Thomas, a professor of philosophy and director of the philosophy, politics and economics program. The endowment makes the conference permanent and continues its rigorous nature, which includes reading groups among professors and students who study the texts to be presented at the conferences, and then engaging the top scholars in those disciplines at the event.

"This endowment will ensure not only that we are able to attract the top scholars in the country to the conference, but that we have the ability to tie this co-curricular activity to the curricula of our majors and programs affiliated with the Center for America's Founding Principles," Dr. Thomas said. "We are deeply grateful to Mr. Elliott for this wonderful gift, which will enable us to continue the important

work of exploring the significance of the humanities for the American founders and for our own understanding of what it means to be an American citizen in the contemporary world."

The gift will only enhance the conference's burgeoning reputation, said Dr. Will R. Jordan, co-director of the Center and associate professor of political science.

"Over the last five years, the Center's annual Conference on Great Books and Ideas has grown into one of the very best gatherings in the Southeast for the serious study of the history of ideas," Dr. Jordan said. "We've had panelists from across the region, and keynote speakers from Harvard, Notre Dame, Emory and Baylor. This generous gift will enable us to expand this Conference, making it one of the very best events of its kind in the nation. The conference gives Mercer students a chance to share their own research with some of the nation's best scholars."

The conference will also have a wider impact, said Dr. Lake Lambert, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "We are convinced that the Elliott Conference will be a nationally recognized event in humanities scholarship and further support Mercer's long-standing commitment to preparing students for leadership in our democratic society."

Alumnus and Life Trustee Bob Steed Honored for Service

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES at a dinner on the eve of its April 19 meeting honored Life Trustee Robert L. Steed with the unveiling of a bronze bust that

will be placed in the Walter F. George School of Law and approved the naming of the Law School's lobby in his honor. Steed, a double Mercer graduate who served six terms as a trustee, including a term as board chair, was instrumental in orchestrating the bargain-sale of the former Insurance Company of North

America building on Coleman Hill to Mercer in the late 1970s for the new home of the Law School. He also played a prominent role in the formation of the Woodruff Trust that benefits the Law School to this day.

The board also unanimously adopted a resolution honoring Steed. It read, in part:

"Whereas Mr. Steed has received virtually every honor that can be bestowed on an individual by Mercer University, including the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Mercer Law School, an honorary Doctor of Laws, and, in 2008, election as only the seventh Life Trustee in the history of the University;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved in recognition of Robert L. Steed's lifetime of meaningful service to Mercer University, that the Board of Trustees hereby designates the lobby of the Walter F. George School of Law Building as the 'Robert L. Steed Lobby,' in perpetual tribute to one of the institution's most loyal alumni and devoted Board members."



Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey, Chair of the Board of Trustees David Hudson and President William D. Underwood join Life Trustee Bob Steed, second from left, in the unveiling of a bust in Steed's honor.

ROGER DENNEN PHOTO

Trustees Adopt New University Mission Statement

Mercer's Board of Trustees adopted a new University mission statement at its spring meeting on April 19 and approved a \$222 million operating budget for 2013-14.

The board unanimously approved the new University mission statement to more accurately communicate Mercer's distinctiveness and its place in American higher education. The new statement reads "Mercer University's mission is to teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower and to serve."

"The new mission statement captures the energy and vitality of today's Mercer,

acknowledges our growing commitment to research and service, and embraces our continued grounding in our faith tradition," said Mercer President William D. Underwood.

In addition to adopting a new mission statement, the board also approved a proposed Quality Enhancement Plan, a component of the University's upcoming decennial reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The plan centers on aligning service-learning and research, two hallmarks of the University's mission.

"This topic is grounded in our new mission statement and our strategic plan, seeks to build on some of the most important work being done at the University, and promises to further distinguish Mercer University in the world of higher education," Underwood said.

The \$222,070,797 operating budget for next fiscal year, which begins July 1, represents an \$11.9 million, or 5.7 percent, increase over the current budget. Trustees voted to hold the tuition increase for Mercer's undergraduate programs to 2 percent, the lowest increase in decades. Students in the Walter F. George School of Law will see no increase in tuition next year and overall graduate and professional programs will experience tuition increases averaging 2.9 percent.

The board was informed that the University is finalizing plans with Sierra Development to construct Phase III of the Lofts at Mercer Village on University-owned property, adjacent to the Macon campus along College Street, between Centenary United Methodist Church and Alexander II Elementary School. The University previously worked with Sierra on the development of Phase I and Phase II of the Lofts at Mercer Village. Unlike the first two phases, Phase III will have no retail businesses. The new structure will house 111 Mercer students. University offices that are currently located in buildings on the property will be relocated to other Mercer facilities. Construction is expected to be underway by mid-May.

Trustees approved several new majors and degree programs across the University.

The Tift College of Education this fall will introduce a Master of Education in Independent and Charter School Leadership program on the Macon and Atlanta campuses. The degree is designed for school leaders in

private and charter schools and offers the same high-level leadership training as the College's educational leadership programs, but is tailored to the needs of independent school leaders who work outside the state certification system.

The board approved two new graduate programs for the College of Continuing and Professional Studies: the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, offered on the Atlanta campus, and the Master of Science in Human Services with a concentration in gerontology services, offered at the Henry County Regional Academic Center. The rehabilitation counseling degree will educate candidates to become licensed counselors assisting people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities to become or remain self-sufficient, productive citizens. The gerontology services degree will train students to work with nonprofits, hospitals and other service providers who serve aging populations.

Townsend School of Music will launch the Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies degree in Macon. The new program will offer a performance degree, with the additional opportunity to include 18 hours of study in an elective area. The degree replaces Townsend's Bachelor of Musical Arts.

Trustees also approved a five-year joint bachelor's and master's program with the School of Engineering and Stetson School of Business and Economics in Macon. The joint Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication and Master of Business Administration program will equip graduates with technical communication and management degrees within a five-year program, instead of the six it would take to complete the programs separately.

The College of Liberal Arts will offer a new major in chemical commerce in Macon. The major encompasses courses that provide students with a solid scientific foundation, the business acumen to compete in a global market and flexibility to meet their interests and goals. The program has the flexibility of following three business tracks: accounting, economics or business administration. It will also allow students to earn many of the necessary pre-requisites for medical pre-professional programs and MBA programs.

Newly Adopted University Mission Statement

MERCER UNIVERSITY'S MISSION is to teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower and to serve.

In fulfilling this mission, the University supports undergraduate, graduate, and professional learning as well as basic research and its application in service to others. As a university committed to excellence and innovation, Mercer challenges members of its community to meet and exceed high standards in their teaching, learning, research, scholarship and service.

Founded by Baptists in 1833, Mercer is an independent university that remains grounded in a tradition that embraces freedom of the mind and spirit, cherishes the equal worth of every individual, and commits to serving the needs of humankind. As a reflection of this heritage:

- We encourage our students to discover and develop fully their unique combination of gifts and talents to become leaders who make a positive difference in the world.
- We seek to inspire members of our community to live virtuous and meaningful lives by using their gifts and talents to serve the needs of humankind as an expression of their love for God and neighbor.
- We seek to enrich the mind and spirit by promoting and facilitating an open and rigorous search for truth and understanding, including an examination of the moral, religious and ethical questions of this and every age.
- We affirm and respect the dignity and sacred worth of every person and celebrate both our commonalities and our differences.

\$1.5 Million Woodruff Grant Funds New Strings Home

The Atlanta-based Robert W. Woodruff Foundation made a \$1.5 million grant to Mercer to fund renovation of the historic Bell House on College Street to serve as home for the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings.

"We are deeply grateful to the Woodruff Foundation leadership for funding this major endeavor of the University," Mercer President William D. Underwood said. "The Woodruff Foundation is known for its support of arts and education, and with this grant Woodruff is helping Mercer advance one of its marquee academic initiatives, which is rapidly becoming the finest strings program in the world."

"I am extremely grateful to the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation for its generous and powerful vote of confidence in the

mission of the McDuffie Center for Strings," Center Founder and Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Distinguished University Professor Robert McDuffie said. "The Bell House is a magical and historical venue. It will be an inspirational home for the talented students of the Center as they continue their journey to becoming complete artists. I'm also happy for my hometown of Macon. The combination of classical music and the beauty of the Bell House will be a wonderful addition to Macon's historic district."

The McDuffie Center's growth and development has created the need for a separate facility to house the program. With 125 students — 100 enrolled in the Townsend School of Music and 25 enrolled in the McDuffie Center for Strings — competing for the use of 16 practice rooms within the McCorkle Music Building, it became apparent that additional space would be necessary to facilitate the continued development of the

Center while allowing Townsend students more access to McCorkle's practice areas.

As the University evaluated various options to meet the Center's need for space, the Bell House, a gift from the Bell family of Savannah, appeared to be an ideal solution. Built as a private residence between 1860 and 1865, the Bell House is an important historic landmark located at 315 College Street. The house was individually listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and is one of only 57 historic places in Macon to receive individual listing status.

The new building is perfectly suited to accommodate the Center's enrollment limit of 26 students, with dedicated practice rooms and teaching spaces on the second floor, and a 60-seat performance hall on the first floor.

"I believe the renovation of this space will usher in a new era of performing arts at Mercer," said Amy Schwartz Moretti, McDuffie Center for Strings director and Caroline Paul King Violin Chair. "The opportunity for our students and faculty to practice and perform in such an incredible space will be a great addition to our students' educational experience. Our vision and dreams are now becoming reality."

In the recent past, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation provided financial support to Mercer for the 230,000-square-foot University Center and more recently with construction of the University's new Science and Engineering Building.



STEPHANIE SHADDON PHOTO

McDuffie Center students pose outside the Bell House with Center director Amy Schwartz Moretti, far left, and the Center's founder Robert McDuffie, far right.

McDuffie Student Wins Grand Prize at National Competition

NOT ONLY WERE THREE STUDENTS from the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer's Townsend School of Music selected as finalists in the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) national solo competition, but one was awarded the grand prize. Violinist Shin Jung Lee and cellists Riana Anthony and SiHao He were among the 12 finalists selected from throughout the country for this prestigious competition. He was awarded the grand prize at the competition finals that were held at Merkin Hall in the Kauffman Center in New York City on April 6-8.

"For string musicians, winning the grand prize at ASTA is like winning the Heisman Trophy or the NCAA tournament," said Amy Schwartz Moretti, director

of the Center for Strings and the Caroline Paul King Violin Chair at Mercer. "It is always meaningful to be acknowledged like this by fellow musicians who are aware of the work and dedication necessary to achieve a great performance, but it is even more so because our program is only six years old."

Mercer was the only institution to have three finalists in the 12-member Senior String division. Other schools represented include the University of North Texas with two finalists; and Curtis Institute, Juilliard, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Oberlin College, New England Conservatory and Yale University with one finalist each. The finalist from the Curtis



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

From left, SiHao He, Shin Jung Lee, Riana Anthony

Institute participated in the Robert McDuffie Labor Day Festival for Strings and is a former student of Schwartz Moretti.

Christmas Concert Taping Packs Grand Opera House

Two packed-out audiences participated in the taping of A Grand Mercer Christmas at Macon's historic Grand Opera House on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The concert was recorded live by Emmy Award-winning Brandenburg Productions for broadcast on Georgia Public Broadcasting and PBS stations across the nation during the 2013 holiday season.

The performances featured two internationally acclaimed ensembles: the Mercer Singers, conducted by Dr. Stanley Roberts, and the students and faculty of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings, directed by Amy Schwartz Moretti. Acclaimed violinist, Macon native and Center for Strings founder Robert McDuffie served as master of ceremonies.

The concert program included holiday favorites as well as new selections by the Mercer Singers and the McDuffie Center String Ensemble, highlighted by *What Child Is This* and *What Sweeter Music* alongside Matt Catingub's thrilling *Christmas Medley for Strings* and J.S. Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins* featuring Schwartz Moretti and Robert



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

The taping of A Grand Mercer Christmas for PBS was a major production.

McDuffie along with the Center orchestra. The combined chorus and orchestra also premiered two new orchestrations by composer Randol Bass: *Glory to God* and *Exultate Justi*.

A Grand Mercer Christmas was one of the most highly anticipated events in the

history of the Townsend School of Music. The concert and television broadcast will bring unparalleled national exposure for Mercer University and Macon.

To watch video highlights from the taping, visit mercerchristmas.com/video.

David Keith Appointed Dean of Townsend School of Music

Dr. C. David Keith, professor of music and director of graduate studies, was appointed dean of the Townsend School of Music, effective Jan. 1. Dr. Keith, who served as interim dean since July 1, 2012, succeeds Dr. John H. Dickson, who stepped down at the end of the 2011-12 academic year to accept the position of director of choral studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

"I commend the search committee on its good work in recommending David Keith as dean of the Townsend School of Music," said Mercer Provost Dr. Scott Davis. "Having served as both a top-rate program director and interim dean at Mercer, David brings both unique insight and perspective to this important leadership role."

Appointed as director of Mercer's Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Studies in Church Music on Aug. 1, 2010, Dr. Keith for 27 years served as professor of conducting and church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Church Music. Immediately prior to joining the Mercer music faculty, he served as director of music

and worship at Brentwood United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn.

"I am very honored to be named to this position," Dr. Keith said. "We have an excellent school with talented students who are seeking to learn more about their chosen field and are being equipped with music and life skills by an outstanding group of dedicated and committed faculty members. Stellar ensembles, a unique center for strings, exceptional faculty, excellent facilities, and the tremendous support of the administration makes this an exciting time to lead the School of Music."

"I look forward to working with David Keith as he leads the Townsend School of Music," Mercer President William D. Underwood said. "In a relatively short period of time at Mercer he has earned the respect of faculty, students, alumni and friends of the music school. He enjoys an excellent reputation nationally, and I am confident that Townsend will



Dr. David Keith

prosper under his leadership."

Dr. Keith received Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. In addition to serving as director of music and worship at Brentwood United Methodist Church, Dr. Keith has also worked as an adjunct professor of music at Belmont University, chorus director for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and director of choral activities at Howard Payne University.

Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, associate dean and the Arthur Lowndes Rich Professor of Choral Conducting, chaired the search committee, which included Amy Schwartz Moretti, director of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings and holder of the Caroline Paul King Chair in Violin; Dr. Carol S. Goff, Helen Wall Rich Professor of Keyboard Performance, chair of keyboard studies and coordinator of the collaborative piano program; Elizabeth Pridgen, assistant professor of music and holder of the G. Leslie Fabian Chair; and Dr. Douglas Hill, professor of music, director of instrumental ensembles, director of undergraduate studies and coordinator of the music education program.

LEAP Initiative Celebrates 10,000-Hour Milestone

Mercer University's LEAP initiative has reached its goal of providing 10,000 volunteer hours in the community. LEAP stands for Local Engagement Against Poverty and is a student-led program that organizes volunteer efforts by students to do projects that help alleviate poverty in Macon. The University marked the accomplishment, as well as several other service milestones, on April 18 with a service celebration, including being named to the federal President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

"We are so excited to celebrate some of the incredible work our students have accomplished this school year and to celebrate with some of our partners who made this work possible," said Chelsea Flieger, coordinator of

community engagement, before the ceremony. "Mercer prides itself on being an engaged university — committed to the community — a designation we have proved through our placement on the President's Honor Roll. We will celebrate, but then the work continues. There is so much to do."

The LEAP initiative, launched by Flieger and several fellow Mercer Service Scholars when she was an undergraduate, was sparked by an interest in helping Macon by working to help alleviate poverty. The Service Scholars committed to inspiring their fellow students to complete 10,000 hours of service to the effort at a Clinton Global Initiative University conference in 2010. Since that time, students have organized dozens of Service Saturdays, as well as other smaller projects to reach that goal. Three

years later, the group has surpassed it.

"The Mercer community has supported LEAP from its very beginning, and they are the reason we are celebrating today," said Lyndsey Autrey, student director of LEAP. "Without their diligence and willingness to show up to each Service Saturday, this dream would not have been achievable."

The event honored community partners, student organizations and the students who contributed to the University's service efforts through volunteer, work-study and service-learning hours. The event also included a celebration of the University's recent recognition on the President's Community Service Honor Roll. Mercer was one of only 113 higher education institutions nationwide named to the President's Honor Roll with Distinction. Mercer and Emory University are the only two institutions in Georgia on the Honor Roll with Distinction.

LEAP was one of the efforts that led to the University being placed on the Honor Roll, along with the chartering of the School of Medicine to train physicians to serve in rural and underserved areas and the Law School's Law and Public Service Program. Among other programs cited were the University's Mercer Service Scholars, which develops servant-leaders through an undergraduate service program; the award-winning international service-learning program Mercer On Mission; and Service First, a post-baccalaureate program that matches recent graduates with service programs worldwide following graduation.

The University's commitment to community engagement is deeply embedded in all aspects and all campuses of the University, including service-learning, volunteering and University-community partnerships. During the 2011-12 academic year, more than half of the University's student body contributed 224,572 hours of community service through service-learning and volunteer activities.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Professor Garner's Grant to Study Neighborhood Environments

DR. JENNIFER LOOK, assistant professor of chemistry, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation to study the environment in the neighborhoods around Mercer's Macon campus. As part of the grant, Mercer will match the funding. The \$100,000 project will include the purchase of instrumentation, funding for student research and the presentation of that research to the community.

"This project is exciting because it will get students out into the community to communicate about what they are learning," Dr. Look said. "Students will use cutting-edge equipment to gather data, analyze their results and then present the findings to local

audiences of non-scientists. We'll distinguish the strengths of Macon's local environment, and also identify areas of concern that warrant further study or require clean-up. We'll also be surveying residents about their attitudes towards Macon's environment and how science impacts their lives. Hopefully over the two-year grant period we'll see that people are better educated about the chemicals that we constantly interact with."

The grant, titled "Neighborhood Chemistry: Exploring Our Surroundings Through Analytical Techniques," will involve undergraduate students analyzing soil, air and water samples from the neighborhood. As part of the grant, Dr. Look has purchased a handheld

X-ray fluorimeter, which provides information about the elements that comprise a sample. "It, along with several other pieces of lab equipment, will be used in classrooms and outreach activities to analyze garden soil, paint and items such as jewelry and cell phones, to promote awareness of the chemicals all around us," Dr. Look said.

The student researchers will plan community events in which to announce findings and help explain their meaning. The project has already launched its website, bit.ly/neighborchem. The Dreyfus Foundation made the grant under the Special Grant Program in the Chemical Sciences, which funds innovative projects that advance the understanding of science.

Susan Gilbert Appointed Dean of Business School

A longtime business faculty member and academic administrator at Emory and Rutgers universities has been appointed dean of the University's Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. Dr. Susan Perles Gilbert, who also spent several years as an executive with AT&T in New Jersey, assumed leadership of Mercer's 1,000-student business school on April 1.

"Dr. Davis and the search committee have done an outstanding job in recruiting an experienced and accomplished dean for our business school," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Dr. Gilbert knows our region well from her previous experience and she has a sterling track record at the institutions she has served. We expect our business school will thrive under her leadership."

Since 2010, she has served as dean of the School of Business and Technology at Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, N.J., where she helped lead the school to a 14 percent increase in enrollment and launched two new MBA programs. Prior to her tenure at Thomas Edison, Dr. Gilbert was associate dean of the

business school at Rutgers, overseeing full-time and part-time MBA programs.

For 20 years, Dr. Gilbert served on the faculty and was an associate dean at Emory's Goizueta School of Business, where she won numerous teaching awards, was director of academic programs, and provided academic and administrative oversight for Emory's evening MBA program. From 2001 to 2005 she also chaired the President's Commission on the Status of Women at Emory.

"I am honored to be joining the distinguished faculty and administration of Mercer University, and delighted to be returning to my adopted home state of Georgia," Dr. Gilbert said. "The Stetson School of Business and Economics is one of several very high-caliber business schools in the Southeast, and I look forward to helping the school raise the bar even higher."

After earning her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Gilbert began her corporate career at AT&T, working



Dr. Susan Gilbert

in the marketing strategy and finance departments. She also graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor's degree in economics from Binghamton University in New York.

"I want to commend the search committee, in particular the chair, Professor Michael Weber, for their diligence and patience in conducting this national search," said Mercer Provost Dr. Scott Davis, who has been leading the business school on an interim basis since 2010. "We had a strong pool of candidates, but Dr. Gilbert was the unanimous choice of the committee."

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Weber, associate professor of marketing and director of Stetson's daytime MBA program on the University's Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta, also included Ed Baker, publisher of the Atlanta Business Chronicle; Dr. Linda L. Brennan, professor of management and accreditation strategic planning director; Robert F. "Robbo" Hatcher Jr., president of H2 Capital Inc.; Dr. Lake Lambert, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; David Lanier, regional president for BB&T; and Dr. Julie A. Petherbridge, assistant professor of accounting and director of the Master of Accountancy program.

Dean Carl Martray Retires After 42 Years in Higher Education

DR. CARL R. MARTRAY, dean of the Tift College of Education, retired at the end of the academic year, capping a 10-year tenure that saw expansion of the College both in enrollment and program offerings. He led the creation of Tift's first Ph.D. programs, as well as accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

"As dean of the College, his accomplishments and leadership are unparalleled," said Dr. Al Stramiello, professor and director of the Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction program in Macon and Savannah. "Dean Martray was instrumental in helping the College become recognized by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and NCATE as a leader among educator preparation institutions. In my 37 years of higher education experience, I have never taught under a more effective dean."

Since Dr. Martray arrived in 2003, the College has greatly expanded its program offerings, including three Ph.D. programs. Under his leadership the College established an educational leadership program, including Doctor of Philosophy and Education Specialist degrees and Master's in educational leadership and higher education leadership. The College was

instrumental in designing the state's education standards for birth-through-5 education, while also launching its own degree program in early care and education. In addition, the College instituted a comprehensive tenure, promotion and annual-review process for faculty, including post-tenure evaluations. He also helped nearly double the number of faculty positions and, in the process, helped Mercer become the largest private preparer of teachers in Georgia.

Dr. Penny Elkins, senior vice president for enrollment management, has been an enthusiastic supporter of Dr. Martray since he arrived on campus — when he was simply a candidate. She was chair of teacher education at the time and was wowed by his vision.

"A lot of people don't know this, but prior to Carl's arrival, I was exploring other opportunities outside of Mercer," Dr. Elkins said. "I changed my mind when I met Carl. I knew he was coming in with strong leadership and a new vision for the college and that is exactly what we were looking for in a new dean."



Dr. Carl Martray

Dr. Elkins quickly rose through the ranks of the College and into University leadership and in leadership roles with the state, including chairing the Professional Standards Commission, which oversees educator preparation programs statewide. She credits Dean Martray's arrival as the catalyst for her success.

"He is the epitome of a servant-leader. His leadership is steeped in humility, always putting others before himself," Dr. Elkins said. "He has great vision, bolstered by quiet strength. He used that vision and creativity at a time when Tift had just been renamed and was new in its journey. Though at the time we were known in the state for our teacher preparation, we did not have educational leadership programs or a wide array of advanced degrees. Now we are known throughout the state not only for teacher preparation, but for educational leadership as well."

Prior to joining Mercer, Dr. Martray served as dean of the College of Education and Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi, a position he held since 1998. Prior to joining USM, he spent 27 years at Western Kentucky University, the last eight of those as dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Mercer Named to Community Service Honor Roll

Mercer has earned the highest federal recognition for community engagement from the Corporation for National and Community Service. For the University's exemplary service efforts and service to the community, CNCS named Mercer to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for 2013. Mercer was one of only 113 higher education institutions nationwide named to the President's Honor Roll with Distinction. Mercer and Emory University were the only two institutions in Georgia on the Honor Roll with Distinction.

"Community service has been embedded in Mercer's DNA since the University's founding in 1833. It is a vital part of our mission," said President William D. Underwood. "It is gratifying to see our students, faculty and staff earn recognition from the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for their work in the communities across Georgia where Mercer has a presence."

Nationwide, only 690 higher education institutions were named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. Mercer was named to the inaugural honor roll in 2006 for its commitment

to community engagement and again in 2008.

"At many institutions, service and service-learning are confined to discrete pockets of activity or departments. Mercer is unusual in that service to communities — locally and globally — infuses all 11 of our colleges and schools," said Dr. Mary-Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning. "Service is part of our ethos and identity."



The University's commitment to community engagement is deeply embedded in all aspects and all campuses of the University, including service-learning, volunteering and University-community partnerships. During the 2011-12 academic year, more than half of the University's student body contributed 224,572 hours

of community service through service-learning and volunteer activities.

"The President's Honor Roll is an important initiative not just for encouraging volunteerism and service-learning among college students, but for giving students practice in civic engagement — practice that we hope they will take with them past graduation throughout their lives," Dr. Morgan said. "Research in higher education tells us that serving in communities reinforces deep learning, engaged learning in the classroom and helps students learn how to translate their knowledge in ways that are useful and meaningful to the community. In the process, students discover just how much of an impact they can make. They grow, personally and civically."

Mercer's mission to serve the community goes from individual students up through every part of the institution, from the chartering of the School of Medicine to train physicians to serve in rural and underserved areas, to the Law School's Law and Public Service Program. In Macon, the University's Mercer Service Scholars develop as servant-leaders through an undergraduate service and leadership program and, sparking movements such as Local Engagement Against Poverty. Internationally, the University has become known for the award-winning international service-learning program Mercer On Mission, as well as Service First, a post-baccalaureate program that matches recent graduates with service programs worldwide following graduation.

The Honor Roll was inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. CNCS has administered the award since 2006. The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, the Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. Through the agency's Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program, CNCS gives education institutions access to tens of thousands of AmeriCorps alumni with millions of dollars in Segal Education Awards for tuitions and fees. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

First Nurse Practitioner Class Perfect in Certification Exams

ALL 18 MEMBERS of the first graduating class of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program passed the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Examination on their first attempt and are now practicing family nurse practitioners. The average exam score for national test-takers is 585. The Mercer graduates averaged 599 on the exam.

"We were thrilled when we heard the news," said Dr. Freida Fuller Payne, professor and FNP program coordinator. "The inaugural FNP class entered into a brand new curriculum plan and certification results provide an external evaluation measure of your program. It's very reaffirming for us that we can offer

something that can be so successful."

Since 1999, Dr. Payne has served as a site visit team leader for the nursing school accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. She said the experience helped her to design the program to be rigorous, based on a wide range of best practices from the College's programs, as well as those she has visited. The program is a combination of online and on-campus instruction, with field experiences at clinical sites throughout Georgia, based on the location of the students. Some traveled from as far away as Augusta for the classroom sessions, Dr. Payne said.

The students began their coursework in May 2011 and completed it in August, earning a Master

of Science in Nursing from the College, which is the state's longest-standing educator of nurses. The Family Nurse Practitioner specialty is the newest of three tracks offered in the College's master's program.

The graduates, who will walk at the University's May commencement, have been complimentary of the program, said Dr. Payne, including Stephanie Bennett, a member of the first class and now a Family Nurse Practitioner.

"What stands out about the FNP program is that the faculty genuinely care about each student and want everyone to succeed," Bennett said. "They are available and willing to assist you."

Featherston Awarded Goldwater Scholarship

Mercer junior Aaron Featherston has earned one of the nation's most prestigious and competitive research scholarships for undergraduates, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

Featherston, a biochemistry and molecular biology major from Bryon, works in Dr. David Goode's lab at Mercer, researching a compound found in a sea sponge that may one day serve as the basis for a powerful antibiotic. He has his sights set on a career as a cancer researcher and plans to earn a Doctor of Philosophy in pharmacology with an emphasis on cancer biology and biochemistry, and conduct research to develop new treatments for cancer patients.

"The Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious award for undergraduate science and engineering students in the country, and we are proud of Aaron for both the accomplishment and the hard work he put into his application," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "It is a great honor for Aaron, for the outstanding student-centered faculty who mentor him, and for the University as a whole."

Featherston received one of only 271 scholarships awarded on the basis of academic merit for the 2013-2014 academic year. The scholarship is for undergraduate sophomores and juniors from the United States studying mathematics, science or engineering. This year, faculty at colleges and universities around the nation nominated 1,107 students. The one- and

two-year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

"Being selected as a Goldwater Scholar is a rewarding opportunity that will advance my research career," Featherston said. "It is only with the extraordinary assistance by the professors here at Mercer University, both inside and outside of the lab, that has made an opportunity like this possible. I am very thankful to have been given the opportunities I have, and for the support and help from all of my professors."

"Aaron is truly passionate about research, and it shows in his dedication and work ethic," said Dr. Goode, an assistant professor of chemistry. "He is one of the best research students that I have encountered at Mercer."

Goldwater Scholars have very impressive academic qualifications that have garnered the attention of prestigious post-graduate fellowship programs. Recent Goldwater Scholars have been awarded 80 Rhodes Scholarships, 118 Marshall Awards, 110 Churchill Scholarships and numerous other distinguished fellowships.

"Applicants undergo a rigorous application process and must write a scientific proposal for an independent research project," said



Aaron Featherston, shown with professor Dr. David Goode, earned the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

Dr. Adam Kiefer, an assistant professor of chemistry who worked with Featherston on his application. "This award is not only a testament to his hard work, intelligence and determination, but also recognizes his potential as a future researcher."

The Goldwater Foundation scholarship program, honoring Sen. Barry Goldwater, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields. Since its first award in 1989, the Foundation has bestowed more than 6,550 scholarships worth approximately \$40 million.

CCPS Adds Fourth Bachelor of Arts Program in Atlanta

Beginning in January, the College of Continuing and Professional Studies expanded the Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies program to the Atlanta campus, marking the fourth bachelor's degree offering for CCPS on the campus.

"While faculty in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies strive to thread liberal learning and the tenets of liberal arts education throughout all of our undergraduate and graduate programs, undergraduate students on our Atlanta campus can now focus on literature, history, or religious studies or choose to design their own interdisciplinary majors guided by liberal studies faculty advisors," said Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, dean of CCPS.

The B.A. in liberal studies is designed for adult students who think independently and

wish to explore the liberal studies tradition in disciplines such as history, literature or religion. The program has a focus on critical thinking, interpreting and analyzing texts and encourages students to chart their own course through the individualized major. The program's courses are taught in once-a-week evening class within an eight-week term, as well as online courses. The major is based on a liberal arts foundation and provides an opportunity for students to work alongside a faculty advisor to plan their degree and select from the range of courses. The major aims to encourage students to read, think, speak, and write and challenges students to use critical and creative thinking, analyze real world problems, construct arguments based on evidence, relate across cultures and engage in research and critical analysis

within and across disciplines.

"The B.A. in liberal studies degree makes sense in a changing world. Our graduates are prepared for new career opportunities and they gain a foundation for graduate and professional study," said Dr. Fred Bongiovanni, chair of the department of Liberal Studies.

The liberal studies bachelor's is also offered on the Macon, Henry County and Douglas County campuses. In addition to its numerous graduate programs on the Atlanta campus, CCPS also offers a bachelor's in public safety leadership with tracks in criminal justice, emergency services and homeland security, a bachelor's in informatics with tracks in health informatics, web development/human computer interactions and general informatics and a bachelor's in organizational leadership.

Debate Places 3rd at Nationals, Maier No. 1 Speaker

Mercer's debate team competed in the University of Florida's Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha (DSR-TKA) National Championship Tournament in Gainesville, Fla., in March and placed third in debate sweepstakes. Mercer also had three students place in the top five individual speakers, including sophomore philosophy and psychology major Caleb Maier of Milton, who was the top debate speaker in the tournament.

"Our team prepared well, and we had an excellent showing," said James Stanescu, Mercer's director of debate, who has led the team since 2010. "This is Mercer's best showing in recent years, and I'm proud of our team."

In addition to the successes of Maier and the team, several individuals and debate teams performed well. Freshman Gabriel Ramirez, an engineering major from Warner Robins, was fourth speaker and sophomore Hunter Pilkinton, a communication studies and political science major from Sycamore, was fifth speaker. Pilkinton and Lindsey Hancock, a sophomore



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES STANESCU

Left to Right: Mercer Debate's James Stanescu, Gabriel Ramirez, Caleb Maier, Lindsey Hancock, and Hunter Pilkinton, show off their trophies following the DSR-TKA national championship tournament.

English major from Thompson's Station, Tenn., advanced to the semifinals and Ramirez and Maier advanced to the quarterfinals.

The University maintains a long tradition of debate on campus since its founding, with debate societies springing up on campus and debating one another. The Mercer University Oratorical Association was organized in 1897

to compete in intercollegiate debates and won a number of debate contests around the state. In 1898, Mercer's champion orator, John Roach Straton, won the first Intercollegiate Oratorical Championships in Atlanta. Debate continued to be a significant intercollegiate sport for many years after that, with Walter F. George, namesake of Mercer's law school, leading a team to victory over the University of Georgia at the Mercer-Athens Debate in 1899. Following the World Wars, Mercer debate enjoyed another resurgence, with a team in 1951 taking the Wachtel Award for legislative speaking at the National Tau Kappa Alpha Debating Tournament and Conference. The University has had success in more recent times, climbing in rankings for periods since the 1970s, including top 64 showings in 2005 and 2008.

The DSR-TKA national tournament brings schools from across the country to compete. DSR-TKA was originally two honor fraternities that merged in 1963. The society has 195 chapters and more than 58,000 members.

Law School Roundup

Mercer Law Ranks 25th in the Nation for 2012 Employment Rates

— The American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar this spring released employment data for the class of 2012 as of Feb. 15, nine months after graduation. Mercer Law School was ranked 25th nationally, with 73.2 percent of its graduates in full-time, long-term positions

requiring bar admission. Mercer Law School was the second-highest law school in Georgia, behind Emory Law School by 0.1 percent. "It speaks volumes about the quality of our graduates, the education that they receive and, last but not least, the work that our Career Services Office is doing," said Dean and Macon Professor of Law Gary Simson."

Outstanding Bar Passage Results Announced

— State bar authorities announced that 93.1 percent of Mercer Law graduates taking the Georgia bar exam for the first time in July 2012 were successful. This is the third-highest passage rate for the July bar over the last decade.

Mercer Receives Best Brief in John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition

— Mercer's team of second-year students Christiane Cochrane, Geoff Bard and Catherine

Bishop competed in the John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition and took home the award for Best Respondent's Brief. The competition was hosted by Seton Hall Law School in Newark, N.J., in March.

Gerwig-Moore Receives National Law Education Award

— Associate Professor of Law Sarah Gerwig-Moore was selected as the 2013 recipient of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Clinical Legal Education's Shanara Gilbert Award. The award was presented to Gerwig-Moore at the Clinical Legal Education Conference in Puerto Rico in April.

The Shanara Gilbert Award honors an "emerging clinician," with 10 or fewer years of experience who has a commitment to teaching and achieving social justice, particularly in the areas of race and the criminal justice system; a passion for providing legal services and access to justice to individuals and groups most in need; service to the cause of clinical legal education or to the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education; and an interest in international clinical legal education.

Gerwig-Moore's nomination was supported by many of her academic and professional colleagues, current and former students and other members of the Mercer Law School and local community.



BILLIE FRY'S PHOTO

Mercer Law's Second Amendment Society raised \$3,100 for Child Life Services of Georgia through their Eighth Annual Charity Skeet Shoot held last spring. More than 75 students, attorneys, judges and their guests attended the skeet shoot to help raise money for Child Life Services — a non-profit organization devoted to helping children and their families overcome fears and anxieties associated with in-patient medical care.

New Titles from Mercer University Press



Toward Human Flourishing is a collection of essays and other materials grown from the Phronesis Project, a series of interdisciplinary projects involving more than 150 faculty and a significant number of students from Mercer University's 11 colleges and schools between 2005 and 2010.

The book explores the relevance to contemporary education of a number of Aristotelian convictions. Authentic human flourishing in community with others requires good character — the acquisition of an ensemble of deeply ingrained knowledge, skills and dispositions by which a person makes good decisions that promote the good. Additionally, the development of good character and practical wisdom is intimately linked to, and shaped by, a sense of life's meaning and purpose.

Edited by Mercer University faculty Mark L. Jones, professor of law at the Walter F. George School of Law; Paul A. Lewis, associate professor of Christianity in the College of Liberal Arts; and Kelly E. Refitt, assistant professor in the Tift College of Education, this book calls educators — whether teacher, scholar or administrator — to join together across disciplines and institutions to foster practical wisdom throughout the educational continuum.

A Killing on Ring Jaw Bluff: The Great Recession and the Death of Small Town Georgia, by William Rawlings, recounts the rise and fall of Georgia's rural population as told through the story of Charles Graves Rawlings, whose life followed that of cotton-based agriculture after the Civil War and along with it the rise and fall of Georgia's small towns. From modest beginnings as a liveryman, he acquired nearly 40,000 acres of land, as well as a bank, a railroad and diverse other businesses. By 1920, he was one of the state's wealthier men, with a loving wife and family, and powerful political connections. Five years later he was facing a sentence of life in prison for his role in the alleged murder of his first cousin, Gus Tarbutton.

The growth of wealth in rural Georgia during the first two decades of the 20th century was dramatic, as was the economic crash that accompanied and followed the so-called Great Recession of 1920-21. While the rest of the nation recovered rapidly, transitioning to the era of the Roaring Twenties, the rural South remained mired in social and financial despair. This is the story of rural Georgia that foreshadowed our own day, our own story.

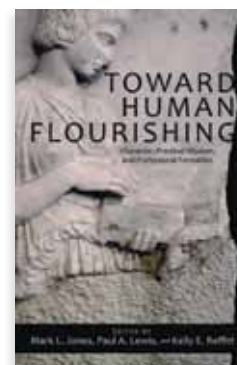
Camp Redemption, winner of the 2011 Ferrol Sams Award in Fiction, is a novel filled with a host of colorful Southern characters at a failing Bible camp. Travel with author Raymond Atkins to Sequoyah, where you will meet Early and Ivey Willingham. Early is a lifelong underachiever who occasionally practices bad habits and watches the world go by, while Ivey is a modern-day prophet who sees dead relatives and angels in her sleep. Together they own Camp Redemption, a failing Bible camp in the North Georgia mountains. After they are forced to close the camp, the Willinghams begin to attract a motley collection of people in trouble, whose trials and tribulations all converge on a frigid morning in high Georgia. Nothing will ever be the same at Camp Redemption.

Restless Fires: Young John Muir's Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf in 1867-68

by James B. Hunt provides a detailed rendering of John Muir's walk to the Gulf based on both manuscript and published accounts. Hunt offers one of the first books on John Muir's thousand-mile walk that places his journey in the context of the Civil War and Reconstruction, to which Muir gave only passing witness. Through these experiences and reflections, Muir came to radical views regarding humankind's relationship to nature, death and faith. Hunt is professor emeritus of History at Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash. For more information on his extensive Southern book tour, please visit his website johnmuir-restlessfires.com.

Books are available directly from the publisher, through your favorite online retailers (some in e-book format), or wherever fine books are sold.

Visit mupress.org to see a complete listing of available titles. Call Mercer University Press toll free (866) 895-1472 or (478) 301-2880 to place your order and receive a 40 percent discount by using this code: MercerianSpring2013. Georgia tax and shipping charges will apply.



Countdown to



ORANGE AND BLACK SHAKERS? **CHECK.** PORTABLE GRILL? **CHECK.**

POP-UP TENT? **CHECK.** FOLDING CHAIRS? **CHECK.**

COOLER? **CHECK.** RADIO? **CHECK.** TICKETS TO THE GAME? **CHECK.**

MERCER FOOTBALL FANS WILL BE MAKING THEIR LISTS AND CHECKING THEM TWICE AS THEY LOAD INTO THE FAMILY VEHICLE ON SATURDAY, AUG. 31, WHEN THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL RETURN TO THE MACON CAMPUS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN 70 YEARS.

By 'Voice of the Bears' Rick Cameron



KICKOFF



SINCE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RETURN OF DIVISION I FOOTBALL FOR THE BEARS IN NOVEMBER 2010, AND AS THE UNIVERSITY SECURED A COACHING STAFF AND PLAYERS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STARTED FROM THE GROUND UP WITH A NEW FIELD HOUSE, PLAYING SURFACE AND STADIUM, EXCITEMENT AMONG MERCERIANS HAS RISEN AT A FEVER PITCH AS FANS AWAIT THE FIRST KICKOFF AT 6 P.M. ON AUG. 31. THE COMPLETE INAUGURAL SEASON SCHEDULE IS LOCATED ON THE BACK COVER.

“What an exciting time as we approach the opening kickoff of 2013 and the rekindling of the Mercer football tradition,” Director of Athletics Jim Cole said. “Everyone associated with Middle Georgia and Mercer should take pride and relish in this historic moment.”

The excitement of college football returning to the Macon campus has also spilled over into the community.

“I am very excited to see the long-awaited return of Mercer Bears football,” Bibb County Commission Chairman Sam Hart said. “As an avid football fan myself, I can say that my family and I will proudly support Mercer’s return to college football. We are really looking forward to joining the fans in the new stadium and cheering on our home team! This is yet another sign of the growth and progress we are making together in our community. This has been a long time coming, and I believe it will be a big boost and mark of pride for our community!”

Macon Mayor Robert Reichert agrees. “The return of college football to Macon is a game changer for our entire community and presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase the University and bring people into our Historic Downtown. The City of Macon is excited to be working with Mercer University to make sure fans have an enjoyable experience. Go Bears!”

From the University’s perspective, it has presented several rewarding challenges in the preparation of a sport that weekly on fall Saturdays draws thousands to college campuses across America. In the South, football is not just a sport, it’s a passion and Mercer now looks forward to creating new football traditions while restoring some from years’ past.

Tailgating

The best thing about college football, next to a Mercer win or cheering for a Bears touchdown, is being able to tailgate with family and friends. While it is the intent for Mercer football fans to all enjoy their tailgating experience, it is also strongly encouraged that tailgaters work to maintain the integrity and beauty of the Macon campus. One rule of thumb to remember is “park on pavement; tailgate on grass.” Parked cars are allowed to occupy only one parking space. Fans are encouraged to tailgate

around their automobiles as long as they do not impede on the adjacent parking spaces.

At the time *The Mercerian* went to press, plans were to have designated campus tailgating areas for students, alumni and friends, families, corporate sponsors and University organizations/departments. Those locations will be finalized this summer.

Beginning July 1, reservations for rented tents can be made through the Mercer Alumni Association on a first-come, first-served basis. Rented tents will be set up and available for use on game day in a designated area. During the reservation process, fans will be allowed to choose their tent size, and add options such as tables and chairs. To reserve a tent, e-mail alumni@mercer.edu, or call the Alumni Association office at (478) 301-2943 or (800) MERCER-U on or after July 1, 2013.

At the first game, the Mercer Alumni Association plans to host a hospitality area where Mercer alumni and their families and guests may come to visit with friends, and socialize before the game.

Fans should check the mercergameday.com website this summer for complete details, including specific tailgating policies.

Tickets

If one was looking for an indication of the anticipation for the return of Mercer football, a good starting point would be in advanced ticket sales.

Mercer Ticket Sales (MTS) reports more than 3,800 season tickets have been sold since they first became available at the Big Bear Event in April 2012. While season ticket sales will continue through the first game of the 2013 season, purchasers had the opportunity to improve their seat locations with membership in the Mercer Athletic Foundation’s new “Bear Plus” program. The deadline for these upgrades was April 30. As the date of the first game approaches, tickets to individual games will go on sale sometime this summer. Tickets may be purchased through Mercer Ticket Sales at (478) 301-5470 or online at mercerbears.com.

“The phone keeps ringing!” says Mercer Ticket Sales coor-

MERCERGAMEDAY.COM



dinator Phil Banze. “We haven’t seen this level of excitement in Middle Georgia in quite a while.”

Traditions

One of the new traditions to look forward to this fall is the ringing of the Elliott Tower Bell, thanks to Mercer alumnus

and former trustee A.V. Elliott. The bell, which will ring after a Mercer score or victory, is located inside the stadium, next to Drake Field House.

Another game-day tradition will be the “Bear Walk,” when the Mercer team makes its way into the stadium. This will give Mercer fans an up-close view of the players as they



arrive for battle and an opportunity to “fire up the team” as it walks by.

Other traditions of years past, such as a few of the cheers that were popular back in the 1940s, are being reviewed by student cheer organizers for re-introduction.

Also, Mercer will once again field a marching band. Under the direction of Doug Cowden, the marching band is expecting to suit up 80-100 members in the first season. Uniforms and instruments have been ordered.

“We are openly recruiting incoming Mercer students and current Mercer students who have high school marching band experience,” Cowden said.

A major clinic, “Sounds of Summer,” will be held June 5-8, presented by the Yamaha Corp. “This clinic is available to all high school-age students. Yamaha will bring in guest artists to conduct master classes, along with Mercer marching band staff. Students can register for the clinic at mercerbands.com.”

Cowden said those working to organize the new band even received a visit in the spring from Doris McCamy Jones, a member of the last Mercer marching band to take the field in 1941.

Players Preparing Hard

Head coach Bobby Lamb had hoped to bring in about 45 initial players for the 2012-13 practice season. He and his staff did such a good job of selling the future of Mercer football — even without a stadium or field to show — that the Bears went through fall 2012 drills with nearly 100 players. Another 30-40 players are expected to join the squad this summer, and Lamb and his staff are looking to field a squad with some depth this August, even though they will be light on college-level game experience.

“After 10 weeks of fall practice and seven weeks of spring practice, our football team is ready to hit somebody else,” Lamb said. “Our staff has been impressed with the work ethic and attitude of our football team and how they’ve handled their business. They’ve done an outstanding job, both in the classroom and on the field. I was very proud of their effort to finish fall semester with a cumulative grade point average of 3.16 while honing their skills at practice in order to compete at the Division I level.”

About 4,000 excited Mercer football fans showed up on a picture-perfect Saturday for the squad’s first spring football game on April 13. To no one’s surprise, the defense for both the White and Black teams had the better of it. After coming onto the field to a standing ovation at the Moye Football and Lacrosse Complex, the two teams fought to a scoreless tie.

Parking

A key component for an enjoyable game-day experience is convenient parking. A committee studied for several months the existing parking lots on campus while also evaluating close-by sites off campus. For most games during the first season, adequate parking will be available in lots on campus and contiguous to campus. However, for the first game and Homecoming, planners are expecting more than 10,000 fans. Several meetings were held with representatives from the City of Macon, Bibb County, NewTown Macon, Mainstreet Macon, the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the Macon-Bibb County Visitors and Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss parking options for those big games. Lots in Downtown Macon are being looked at as an option, with free shuttle service to the stadium. Several downtown Macon merchants have discussed sponsoring pre-game and post-game events on game days.

Also, game-day events and tailgating are expected to take place in Mercer Village, Tattnell Square Park and some of the historic neighborhoods that are within walking distance of campus.

Until Aug. 31, when the band strikes up the fight song for the first time and the referees blow their whistles after the coin toss, final details on traffic, parking, tailgating, traditions and other game-day activities will continue to develop. Mercerians are encouraged to visit the mercergameday.com website to get the most up-to-date information concerning Mercer football.

TOE MEETS LEATHER ... GO BEARS!



MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO

Elliott Tower Bell



MERCERGAMEDAY.COM

EVERYBODYPLAYS

MERCERINTRAMURALS

BY JAMIE DICKSON '05



When David Newberry, a marketing major from Columbus, was narrowing down his college choices, he knew that soccer would play a crucial role in his decision. Having played since he was 5, he wanted to continue the sport in college, and when he got to Mercer, he was immediately drawn to intramural sports, which allowed him to play soccer and other team sports.

Now a senior, Newberry has played nearly every intramural sport Mercer offers. He said the program has improved his Mercer experience and has helped him meet students outside the classroom. "Intramurals give students a great way to hang out and forget the stresses of school and step out into a fun, friendly environment to get some healthy, competitive exercise," he said.

Last August, the Princeton Review ranked Mercer eighth nationally in its "Everybody Plays Intramural Sports" category, a well-earned ranking since more than half of Mercer's Macon campus students (which includes Mercer law and the medical students) participated in at least one sport during the 2011-12 academic year.

"[Intramural sports] is immensely impactful for the development of the whole student," said Dr. Doug Pearson, vice president and dean of students. "Higher education has evolved to a point where it's seen as more than just kids running around and playing ball."

He said the program builds community spirit, helps develop life skills, recruits and retains students and promotes physical fitness.

Emory Dunn, director of athletic admissions, said extracurricular activities — especially intramural sports — are vital to recruitment.

"Intramurals provide students with an outlet for something that they are passionate about," Dunn said. "So many of our applicants play sports in high school, and for those who do not have the opportunity to play an intercollegiate sport, intramurals gives them an opportunity to continue playing in that competitive atmosphere."

The Department of Recreational Sports and Wellness offers 13 activities throughout the academic year, including basketball, softball, flag football and ultimate frisbee. Basketball is the most popular sport, and this year 69 teams signed up to play, where more than 660 students registered to participate and more than 200 games were played.

Intramural games are played six days a week during the academic year, which is giving students — both players and spectators — a reason to stay at Mercer on weekends instead of finding excuses to head out of town.

Kevin Andres, director of recreational sports and wellness, said games are more like social gatherings.

"Everybody plays, everybody participates," he said. "That is the culture here. We have a large group of spectators who come and watch our games. It's becoming a social scene."

Championship nights are an example of just how social intramural sports are on campus. In February, the department hosted its annual basketball championship night, where students gathered

not only to play and watch basketball, but also to eat free pizza and win a variety of door prizes donated by local businesses.

Rob Kelly, a junior economics major from Atlanta and student director of officials for intramural sports, said the program has played a key role in his Mercer experience. He's enjoyed his involvement so much that he hopes to become a graduate assistant in the field of intramural sports upon graduation. "Intramurals helps you feel connected to the campus," he said.

And students aren't the only Mercerians getting in on the action. Many faculty and staff members — approximately 30 each year — are also involved with intramural sports. Dr. Pearson has played basketball for several years and recently began playing soccer.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTOS

He said he participates in intramurals in order to meet and interact with students as well as other faculty and staff members.

In order to organize, schedule, officiate and supervise a year's worth of intramural games, Todd Thomas, assistant director of recreational sports and wellness, hires about 150 students annually. He needs officials and supervisors to manage each game, as well as student directors who are in charge of scheduling games and training officials and supervisors.

The hiring process isn't much different than what students might encounter after graduation. Applicants submit a résumé and cover letter and then interview with a hiring committee.

The chosen applicants then go through an intensive training program. Student officials must complete four to seven hours of training and are evaluated throughout the season.

Rebecca Webb, a senior double majoring in communications and history, is the intramural student director of registration. Webb is responsible for creating the weekly schedule and maintaining the website used for registration.

"Through intramural sports I have really been involved while at Mercer and gained valuable work experience," she said. "I know that after graduation the skills I have learned and the connections I

have made while working for intramural sports will be something I will carry with me wherever I end up after graduation."

Thomas said that student development is a major priority.

"The students do this," he said. "As much as there's supervision, the students run the program. We're about the professional and personal development for our student staff members who work in the department."

At the end of the day, intramural sports offers every student, regardless of skill level, the opportunity to play.

"Our goal isn't to get everybody in the best shape of their lives, and a lot of our teams aren't necessarily serious about competing and excelling at sports, but they enjoy being together and working as a team," Kelly said. "They play because it's fun."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL HARDING



INTRAMURAL SPORTS THROUGHOUT MERCER'S HISTORY

Intramural sports has been a part of Mercer's culture since the first intramural baseball game was played on the Penfield campus 145 years ago. Here's a look at intramural sports throughout Mercer's early history, gleaned from past editions of *The Cluster*.

October 1921 — First time intramural sports was mentioned in the student newspaper. The article announced the beginning of class basketball, and only four teams participated — one for each class.

January 1933 — The University announced a plan to organize boxing in an effort to increase involvement in intramural sports. In the same article, it was noted that intercollegiate baseball would be abandoned in favor of interclass games.

April 30, 1943 — Intramural sports replaced all intercollegiate play due to the start of World War II. "All in all, our sports program is very full and varied, and it provides plenty of fun as well as keeps our bodies fit for use to Uncle Sam," the reporter wrote.

December 1944 — The girl's intramural badminton tournament was cited as "a very popular attraction, with even a few of the males attending the games."

Fall 1956 — The Inter-Fraternity Council boycotted that year's tennis tournament because the intramural director, Coach Claude Smith, allowed the MIMA and ministerial teams to recruit freshmen. According to the article, "a representative from the fraternity group said that it felt the use of freshmen by either of these independent teams would put the other teams at a distinct disadvantage, as IFC rules prohibit the use of unpledged freshmen on fraternity teams."

Spring 1961 — Phil Walden, CLA '62, music pioneer and founder of Capricorn Records, accepted the intramural football trophy on behalf of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta.

1965 — The going rate for an intramural football game official was \$2.



MERCER CENTER FOR THEOLOGY AND PUBLIC LIFE FACILITATES TOUGH DEBATES

BY KATHERINE MANSON '13

Dr. David Gushee believes that sometimes the conversations that are uncomfortable are the most important. As Mercer University's Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Center for Theology and Public Life director, Dr. Gushee takes on tough topics ranging from abortion, health care, immigration and the environment, using the Center to encourage others to have the sometimes uncomfortable dialogue involving faith and public life.

"It's important for social peace in our country," Dr. Gushee said. "It's important for our American religious communities to contribute constructively and not be deconstructive in conversation."

The Center's primary goal since its launch in 2010 is to bring quality discussion of faith and policy issues to Mercer and to demonstrate civil conversations across differences, Dr. Gushee said. Approaching hot-button issues is not always easy to do.

"Talking about religion is difficult and talking about politics is difficult," Dr. Gushee said. "We talk about all the issues that are difficult to talk about politely and try to demonstrate how to do that. It's about civil dialogue and informed conversation."

As part of the Mercer Lyceum — a four-year, campus-wide initiative to spark discussions and harness the power of thoughtful dialog — the Center hosted "Christian Faith, Moral Values and Public Service: Two Views from Capitol Hill," where participants gathered to discuss the federal health care reform and the competing Christian perspectives. The dialogue of politics and religion was brought into question again in 2012 when the Center held a Lyceum event titled "Can We Find Common Ground on Abortion?"

Isaac Sharp, a third-year Master of Divinity student at Mercer, has been to practically all of the Center's events in the last three years. As part of his internship with the Contextual Ministry class, Sharp has been shadowing Dr. Gushee to gain a

better insight into his work.

"The Center's events have been enormously influential on me, as I hope to follow in Dr. Gushee's footsteps by one day helping to educate college and seminary students about constructive ways for people of faith to engage the 'public square,'" Sharp said.

The Center this year held a film screening of "Islam in America" in Atlanta on Feb. 21. The Christian documentary focuses on an inside look into life within a Muslim American community. In April, the Center organized a reciprocal visit with the historically African-American Morehouse College. Students from both Morehouse and Mercer met to reflect as black and white Christians about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

The Center's goals also advance Mercer's religious mission as a historically Baptist institution, said Dr. Alice Morgan, professor and senior vice provost for service learning, and it is helping define that mission for the 21st Century.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

"After the break with the Georgia Baptist Convention, there was a question of how Mercer would define itself without that long-standing institutional tie," Dr. Morgan explained. "By sponsoring conferences and constructive dialogues on issues critically important to contemporary society — poverty, abortion, torture, immigration — the Center places issues of ethics and faith squarely at the heart of the University."

A student asks a question of the speakers during the Center for Theology and Public Life's Common Ground on Abortion event.

MERCERIAN AND GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL NAMED 2013 GEORGIAN OF THE YEAR

Mercer Distinguished Alumnus and former trustee Nathan Deal was named the 2013 “Georgian of the Year” by *Georgia Trend* magazine, as he completed his second year of a four-year term as Georgia’s 82nd governor.

The magazine cited “his dedication to job creation and his willingness to work with business and economic development interests,” in naming Deal as the 2013 “Georgian of the Year.”

Deal, a Republican, said public safety is the No. 1 responsibility of state government, followed closely by public education. A strong education system attracts employers, Deal told the magazine. “I think we are making great strides in transitioning education from just being perceived as a function of government in and of itself to realizing that

education has as its goal to make our citizens employable,” he said.

Gov. Deal earned his undergraduate degree from Mercer in 1964 and graduated from Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law in 1966. As an undergraduate, he served as student body president. He would later serve a term on the Mercer Board of Trustees and was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the University.

Following law school, he served two years in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of captain. Upon leaving the Army, Gov. Deal moved to Gainesville to begin an extensive career in the public legal system and private law practice. Before being elected to Congress, Gov. Deal served as a Georgia state senator, including president pro tempore, the body’s highest-ranking senator; as a Hall County Juvenile Court judge; and as assistant district attorney of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia.

Gov. Deal told the magazine that his successes with the Legislature were in part because of his previous legislative experience. “Having served in the State Senate was valuable to me because I understood the institution of state government. I understood the way it worked. I’d seen the good and the bad,” he said. “My goal as governor is to help the legislative body achieve what they want to achieve – and hopefully both of us will be on the same page at the end of the day in terms of the accomplishments.”

Gov. Deal served as a U.S. Representative to Congress from 1992 until 2010, when he resigned to concentrate full-time on his gubernatorial campaign. His last vote as a U.S. Representative came just before midnight on March 21, 2010. The next morning, he gave his first speech as a full-time candidate to an audience of students, faculty and staff on Mercer’s Macon campus.



Gov. Deal in November 2011 visited his alma mater to speak and answer questions from the Mercer community and guests.

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

New Cruz Plaza

Transforming the Heart of Macon Campus

Mercer in December broke ground on Cruz Plaza, a major campus improvement project that is transforming the appearance of the central part of the Macon campus from the University Center to the historic Quad and from Greek Village past Tarver Library. The new campus feature is named for the Cruz family of Puerto Rico. Members of the Cruz family, Mercer officials and members of the Mercer community were on hand for the December groundbreaking.

The Plaza, designed by the Atlanta landscape architecture firm HGOR, includes new seating and gathering areas, a prominent water feature and



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO



major landscaping improvements. It incorporates major new gateways to the interior of campus around Tarver Library, the University Center and Connell Student Center, incorporating the current Porter Patch and W.G. Lee Park.

Trustee Milton L. Cruz, a 1982 graduate of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts and chairman, president and CEO of Medholdings Inc., along with his wife, Aileen Rosso, and his father Juan L. Cruz Rosario and sister Zoraida Cruz Torres — who are also Mercer graduates — provided the lead gift for the project.

(Opposite) President Underwood presents a framed artist's rendering of Cruz Plaza at the December groundbreaking to Zoraida Cruz Torres and her brother, Milton L. Cruz.



To see current images of construction, visit about.mercer.edu/plaza.



MERCER HOMECOMING

2013

NOVEMBER 22 – 23



Homecoming 2012 was the largest and best in Mercer's history, with record attendance and new activities for visitors of all ages. View photos at gallery.mercer.edu/homecoming.

This year, we are building on that success with a weekend lineup that includes Mercer returning to the gridiron for its first homecoming football game since 1941 against Stetson and men's basketball versus Yale for an amazing Saturday double-header. Save the date now for Homecoming 2013, November 22 - 23. Visit homecoming.mercer.edu later this summer for complete schedule and registration details.



half century club
luncheon, football,
basketball, 5K run and
pancake breakfast





Nominate Now

Nominate a deserving alum now for our annual Alumni Awards, to be presented at Homecoming 2013. Nomination deadline is August 1. Find details and nomination form at alumni.mercer.edu.



class reunions,
fireworks,
alumni career
speaker series,
tailgating, family
fun activities



Online Registration Begins Soon

HOMECOMING.MERCER.EDU

Bears Claim Conference Championship Outright for First Time in School History

A year after setting the University record for most wins in a season, the men's basketball team upped the ante during the 2012-2013 season, claiming the Atlantic Sun Conference regular season championship outright and nailing down back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time in school history. During the run to a 24-12 season, Bob Hoffman's team continued to be a BCS road buster, defeating Florida State in Tallahassee, Alabama in Tuscaloosa and Tennessee in Knoxville.

During a season when Hoffman earned his 400th victory as a men's collegiate head coach, the success of the Bears on the court earned Hoffman "A-Sun Coach of the Year" honors. Hoffman's next win will be his 500th overall of his storied career and his 100th as Mercer's head coach.

"As a head coach, you are always looking for improvement in not only your overall program, but also for the individuals who compose the team. I think each player on this year's team contributed to raise the bar even higher for Mercer men's basketball," Hoffman said. "Following their success in

winning the CIT last year, they worked very hard during the offseason, which prepared them to achieve another 20-win season and the regular season conference championship. It is a pleasure to work with these guys, who are tremendous individuals, on and off the court.

"I want to especially thank our seniors, Chris Smith and Travis Smith, who provided great leadership for the success of this year's team. We are very excited about the possibilities of what we can accomplish next season with another outstanding senior class."

With the renaming of its home court to



Above, senior Travis Smith drives past a UT defender in the NIT first-round win; below, Jake Gollon looks for an open teammate against the Volunteers in Knoxville.

Hawkins Arena and an even more energized home crowd thanks to a new overhead video scoreboard, Mercer fans showed up in record numbers and enjoyed a championship atmosphere each and every game.

After claiming the A-Sun regular season championship, the Bears traveled to Knoxville for the first round of the National Invitation Tournament and defeated the Vols before bowing out of the NIT in the second round against Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah. Both games were televised nationally by the ESPN network.

Just like the 2011-2012 season that culminated with the Bears claiming the CollegeInsider.Com Tournament — the first post-season championship for Mercer and the Atlantic Sun Conference — the Bears benchmarked several eye-popping accomplishments this season.

As a team, Mercer set a program single-season record with 75.3 percent free throw shooting and tied the school record for consecutive home court wins with 15 (17 consecutive when adding the two wins in the CIT at the end of the previous year). Their only home loss came in the A-Sun Conference Tournament championship game against Florida Gulf Coast, which also was televised on ESPN.

Senior Chris Smith graduated in May as the program's winningest player. He's been a part of 82 wins in four seasons. The ironman from Dublin, who became a letterman after arriving at Mercer as a walk-on, played in 182 consecutive games for the Bears.



RANDY SARTIN PHOTOS



Coach Bob Hoffman is obviously pleased with T.J. Hallice (14) drawing a charging foul at a pivotal time in the game against Tennessee.

The team's only other senior, Travis Smith, from Johns Island, S.C., set the best single-season mark in school history at the free throw line at 89.8 percent. His 74 three-point shots put him sixth in Mercer's single-season record book.

Post player Daniel Coursey, from Savannah, finished the season with 133 career blocks, just 41 short of the program career record. He will return next year for his senior season to challenge that mark.

Jake Gollon claimed one of the nation's top post-season honors when he was named to the Allstate Good Works Team. The junior from Stevens Point, Wis., was one of only five Division I players in the country named to that team, joining representatives from Duke and Louisville. In the second round of the NIT, Gollon appeared in his 117th game of his

career, just 28 shy of breaking into the top 27 of NCAA Division I career leaders. He was also named All-Academic this season.

After missing the first five games because of an ankle injury, point guard Langston Hall finished the season with 155 assists, seventh on the program's single season charts. The Atlanta native will begin his senior campaign just 39 shy of breaking the school's career assist record. During this season, he was the only A-Sun active player with 1,000 points, 400 assists and 100 steals.

Mercer posted 21 road wins in each of the last two seasons, the fourth highest total in the country.

Since the 2010-2011 season, Mercer has the most overall and conference wins among A-Sun teams. The Bears own 38 conference wins and 66 overall wins.

The Bears allowed only 59.3 points per game, 29th best in the nation.

Mercer's 24 wins established the program's first back-to-back 20-win seasons and the 51 wins are the most ever in a two-year span.

The Bears' team free throw percentage of 75.3 percent was tied for 16th best in the nation.

With one of the biggest — not to mention the winningest — upcoming senior classes in Mercer history ready to take to the court in November, Mercer fans are already salivating at what awaits their team next year. In addition to Hall, Gollon and Coursey, returning for their senior seasons will be Monty Brown, Kevin Canevari, Bud Thomas and Anthony White Jr. Last year, the Bears won the CIT championship. This year they advanced to the second round of the NIT. Next year — stay tuned.

Women's Basketball Earns 20 Wins, Post-Season Trip

Following her first two seasons as head coach of the women's basketball program that included two wins and six wins, respectively, Susie Gardner made a forecast for the upcoming 2012-2013 season during October's Mercer Tip-Off banquet in October that was not encouraging. After completing off-season and pre-season drills and ready to enter the new season with a 15-member squad, players were falling like flies.

Within the first week of practice, the Bears were already down to a roster of eight thanks to a rash of mind-boggling injuries. Among the injured warriors was last year's leading scorer and All-Conference guard Briana Williams. One of the eight still engaged in practice was Kendra Grant, who herself was returning from season-ending knee surgery the previous year.

What looked like another tough season for the Bears turned out to be one of the team's best in school history.

By the time conference play rolled around on Dec. 31, the Bears had impressive non-conference victories over Troy, Jacksonville State, Davidson, Georgia Southern and Alabama State. Along the way, they played three of the premier women's programs in the

country on the road — No. 5 Notre Dame, No. 6 Georgia and No. 23 Florida State.

After dropping their first two Atlantic Sun Conference games against pre-season favorites Stetson and Florida Gulf Coast, the Bears went on a 12-game winning streak. It began at Kennesaw State on Jan. 5 and the women did not lose again until Feb. 23 against Northern Kentucky. The streak was Mercer's longest since turning Division I.

After pre-season predictions by the media and coaches for this team to finish last in the conference, the Bears eventually finished third in the A-Sun with a 13-5 mark and a 20-11 overall record. Sophomore Precious Bridges and Grant were named to the A-Sun All-Conference first team. Bridges came within a fraction of a point of leading the league in scoring and was named A-Sun Player of the Week four times (three consecutive times during one stretch). Junior point guard Sharnea Boykin finished first in the A-Sun and third nationally with 7.3 assists per game. Her 236 assists ranks eighth-most in A-Sun Conference history and third in Mercer history. Post player Teanna Robinson, arguably the most improved player in the league, finished

first in the conference in blocks per game and third in rebounds per game.

Gardner earned the 200th win of her coaching career with a 68-61 home win over Jacksonville on Feb. 11. The Bears' 14-game jump from six wins in 2011-2012 to 20 wins this season trailed only SWAC member Texas Southern for the biggest turnaround in the country based solely on wins. The Bears' 13 A-Sun Conference wins are also a Mercer program record.

As a reward for its outstanding season, Mercer earned a No. 1 seed in the Women's Basketball Invitational. In their first postseason appearance beyond the conference tournament in over 25 years, the Bears eventually lost to a McNeese State team that ended up finishing as the tournament runner-up.

"Our program made great strides this year," Gardner said. "Our players overcame not just one, but two disappointing previous seasons. I have never been more pleased with the progress of one of my teams, overcoming great adversity to make history with the winning streak and other accomplishments individually by many of our players. Our coaching staff did a great job of assisting each of our players

to improve the quality of their individual efforts, resulting in improved team play and, subsequently, a 20-win season.

"While we were very pleased with the invitation this year by the WBI for post-season play, our goal — looking to the future — is still to win the conference tournament and advance to the NCAAs," she said. "This year was a wonderful learning experience for our players of what it is like to participate in post-season play."

With an outstanding recruiting class in hand, and with eight returning quality lettermen, coach Gardner's fourth season at Mercer could be her best yet.

Coach Susie Gardner's intensity helped keep her team focused while the Bears overcame a rash of early-season injuries and won 20 games for the first time since the program has been Division I.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

Gollon Named to NABC Allstate Good Works Team

The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and Allstate Insurance Company revealed the inaugural Allstate NABC Good Works Teams® in March, with Mercer University's Jakob Gollon (second from left in photo) named as one of 10 national honorees.

The award recognizes a unique group of men's college basketball student-athletes who have made outstanding contributions in the areas of volunteerism and civic involvement, including building homes for the elderly, leading basketball clinics, reading to students and working with children with hearing disabilities.

"It's a fantastic honor for him and our program to be recognized for the things we're doing off the court to make a difference in the community," Mercer head coach Bob Hoffman said. "It's a special thing for a young man like him, because he's taken it to another level and epitomizes what the Good Works team is about."

Gollon joins four other Division I men's basketball players on the list, representing Saint Joseph's University, Belmont University, the University of Louisville and Duke University. Gollon and his counterparts were invited by Allstate, an official corporate partner of the NCAA®, to the 2013 NABC Convention and 2013 NCAA® Men's Final Four® in Atlanta, where they participated in a community project in the city.

Gollon has used the pedestal of collegiate athletics to change the lives of countless others. Since arriving on campus in the fall of 2008, he's been a part of numerous commu-



ANDY STABELL PHOTO

nity service initiatives, becoming a welcome face in the local school system and the community. With young students, Gollon jumps at the opportunity to participate in reading marathons - and with older students, he's visited several classes to speak about the importance of test prepping. In the community, Gollon is an active member of Rebuilding Macon, a foundation created to help rehabilitate the houses of low-income and elderly homeowners. In similar efforts, he's taken part in Macon Impact, a yearly community service drive that focuses on rebuilding the Macon community while also organizing food and blood

drives. He's also partnered with Pastor James Moore, who mentors a group of children by offering friendship and helping with education.

Aside from those efforts, Gollon's exemplification of the "Good Works" team is evident in his personal mentorship of a young man at a local alternative school, who is striving to get back into the public school system. Gollon has taken it upon himself to form a close relationship with the boy, visiting both him and his family on a weekly basis. Gollon has gone to his school and home to mentor him, aiming to provide a shoulder to lean on while spending valuable time with the boy.

Betts Voted Capital One First Team Academic All-American

Mercer senior soccer midfielder Will Betts garnered arguably the highest academic honor in all of collegiate athletics when he was named a 2012 Capital One Academic All-America first team member, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Betts is the fourth Mercer student-athlete to receive Academic All-American honors in school history, and just the second to be voted a first team All-American. Former Bears' baseball players Mike Armstrong and Billy Burns were third team selections in 2006 and 2011, respectfully, while former men's basketball player Will Emerson was a two-time first team All-American in 2005 and 2006.

"Will is an outstanding student-athlete and is very deserving of this incredible honor," head coach Brad Ruzzo said. "He embodies all the characteristics that we want for a player in our program. Four years ago, Will bought into a vision and plan for this program and he has helped accomplish those goals due to his success both on the field and in the classroom."

Betts is the only Atlantic Sun Conference student-athlete to be named to any of the prestigious three teams announced in November. In addition, he is one of just 10 Division I



Will Betts

men's soccer players named to the first team.

This isn't the first academic honor for Betts, who has a 3.98 cumulative GPA as a finance major. The Brenham, Texas, native was named the Atlantic Sun Conference Men's Soccer Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2011 and 2012 and was voted a Capital One Academic All-District IV first team member as a junior and senior as well.

Betts finished his career with 77 games played and tied for the fifth-most games started in A-Sun Conference history, with 74. He had 33 career points on 12 goals and nine assists, including a stellar 2012 campaign where he amassed 11 points on four goals and three assists.

Mercer Athletics Adds Women's Track and Field

Mercer will add women's track and field as a varsity sport beginning in the 2013-14 school year. Long-time Mercer cross country head coach Ryan Bailey will assume coaching responsibilities for the team.

"We're very excited about adding women's track and field as our newest intercollegiate sport," Cole said. "As with other sports we've recently introduced, we commit to the addition with full-force and expect to compete at the highest level in the near future."

Women's track and field will pair with football as two new sports for the University in the 2013-14 academic year. The addition brings the school's number of intercollegiate programs to 17, including eight men's sports

and nine women's sports.

"I am very excited and proud to have the honor of establishing Mercer's first-ever women's track squad," Bailey said. "I feel it is a historic development for the University and anticipate a lot of interest from the very start. I am grateful for the opportunity to be the coach to begin such an important new chapter in Mercer athletics history."

Mercer's women's track and field team will compete in outdoor competitions during the spring season. The sport is one of 17 sponsored by the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Other schools sponsoring women's track and field with Atlantic Sun Conference affiliation are East Tennessee State, Jacksonville, Kennesaw State, Lipscomb, North Florida,

Northern Kentucky and USC Upstate. In 2012, 141 schools fielded NCAA Division I outdoor women's track and field teams.

Since the start of the 2011-12 academic year, Mercer has shuffled its alignment of NCAA Division I sponsored sports, adding men's lacrosse in 2010-11 and women's sand volleyball in 2011-12. The University also dropped rifle after the conclusion of the 2010-11 year and has announced plans to add women's lacrosse in 2014-15.

As a high school track and field coach, Bailey tutored a dozen individual state champions and was the recipient of numerous coaching awards, including five consecutive GISA Coaches Association Coach of the Year awards spanning from 1997-2001.

Levinson Named Women's Lacrosse Head Coach

University of Pennsylvania alumna Eve Levinson has been hired as Mercer's first women's lacrosse head coach.

Levinson brings eight years of coaching experience, after serving in various positions at the high school, club and collegiate levels. Most recently, Levinson served as head coach at Penn State Abington, a Division III member of the North Eastern Athletic Conference.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome Eve to the Mercer athletics family," said Director of Athletics Jim Cole. "We have the utmost confidence that she is the right person to help us build a successful program."

Cole's announcement established Levinson as the program leader as the University begins preparations for the team's first season in spring 2015. The beginning of her tenure also coincides with the opening of the Tony and Nancy Moye Football and Lacrosse Complex.

"I would like to thank President Underwood and Jim Cole for their continued support of lacrosse at Mercer and for welcoming me as the representative for their vision," Levinson said. "Mercer is a winning institution, and I am ready to contribute to its success with a winning lacrosse team. I look forward to creating a new element of tradition on campus and working with coach [men's lacrosse coach Kyle] Hannan to strengthen Mercer's place in the lacrosse community."

Mercer will compete in the Atlantic Sun

Conference, one of 13 Division I conferences with an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. In 2015, other schools affiliated with the Atlantic Sun for women's lacrosse will be Jacksonville, Detroit-Mercy, Howard, Stetson, Kennesaw State, Elon and Furman.

"We will be taking the next two seasons to build a base and prepare for competition," Levinson said. "This gives me the chance to really get out into the lacrosse world to find the right young women who will put us on the path toward a championship program and add to the complete picture of Mercer University as well."

Prior to taking on head coaching responsibilities at Penn State Abington, Levinson was an assistant coach and ultimately interim head coach at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. In that capacity, she provided direct position coaching to goalies, including the 2010 Most Improved Player, and prepared field players to execute plays while developing tactical knowledge. Her efforts at Bryn Mawr also extended beyond the field, as she played a key role in player recruitment.

As a player, Levinson spent two sea-



Athletic Director Jim Cole presents the Mercer colors to new women's lacrosse head coach Eve Levinson.

sons as the starting goalie for Germantown Academy (Fort Washington, Pa.), where she earned Defensive MVP honors and Academic All-America status in her senior year. After graduation, she joined the University of Pennsylvania women's lacrosse team where she was a goalie and team manager.

After graduating in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in history, Levinson went on to earn a Master of Science in Education from Penn in 2006. Since that time, she has also served as a special assistant to the athletic director at Bryn Mawr College, a field manager and canvasser for Grassroots Campaigns Inc. and an internet marketing manager for Prescott/Levinson Advertising.



Lundquist Named Interim Dean of New College of Health Professions

Dr. Lisa Murphey Lundquist, associate dean for administration in Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, has been named interim dean of the new College of Health Professions, effective May 1. Her appointment was announced by Dr. Hewitt "Ted" Matthews, senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

The new College of Health Professions becomes operational July 1 and will include already existing programs in physical therapy, physician assistant studies, and public health. The new College will be the 12th academic unit at Mercer and the fourth health sciences unit under the Mercer Health Sciences Center, which was launched by the University on July 1, 2012. The Center is designed to integrate the education of the University's health sciences students and helps coordinate the research efforts of its health sciences faculty. The other units under the Center include the School of Medicine, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Nursing.

"Dr. Lundquist is a proven leader, manager and scholar who brings exceptional credentials to her new post," Dr. Matthews said. "As both assistant and associate dean, she has demonstrated outstanding leadership and organizational skills that will serve her well as interim dean. I am confident that she will provide the leadership needed for

the new College to achieve excellence in reaching all of its goals."

Dr. Lundquist joined the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2006 as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

In 2009, she was promoted to assistant dean for administration and clinical associate professor. As assistant dean, her responsibilities ranged from leading the accreditation self-study process of the College of Pharmacy to organizing interprofessional education activities for health sciences, to strategic planning. In 2011, Dr. Lundquist was named interim chair and program director of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, a position she held for a year in addition to her responsibilities as assistant dean. In July 2012, she was promoted to associate dean for administration, a



Dr. Lisa Lundquist

position that expanded her responsibilities to include chairing the Mercer Health Sciences Center's Ad-hoc Interprofessional Education Committee.

A gifted professor and scholar, Dr. Lundquist earned the "Professor of the Year" honor in 2011 from the Rho Chi chapter in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the "Distinguished Educator Award" in 2008 from the College. She has authored or co-authored more than 80 scholarly articles and abstracts, and has made numerous presentations at academic conferences.

Dr. Lundquist earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2001 from Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy in Birmingham, Ala. She completed a post-graduate specialty residency in primary care and is a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist. Prior to joining the faculty at Mercer, she was on faculty at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.

Mercer Providing Immunization Training to Pharmacists

Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is now providing quarterly pharmacy-based immunization training for area pharmacists. The training could be particularly significant for independent pharmacists in Georgia who lack the required certification necessary to administer vaccinations to adult and adolescent patients.

Over the last decade, pharmacies across the country have developed active immunization programs, particularly administering vaccinations for influenza and adult shingles. In fact, a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that nearly 20 percent of Americans

received flu shots from community pharmacists in a retail setting.

However, many children and adults in Georgia are "under-immunized" against Hepatitis B, influenza and pneumococcal disease, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health. Experts in a 2008 study in Pediatrics suggest that pharmacies play a pivotal role in vaccination efforts because they are accessible, provide extended hours on evenings and weekends, and are a particularly important source of health care in rural communities.

Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has previously offered immunization training only to its fourth-year pharmacy

students, but was recently approved by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) to expand the training to practicing pharmacists. The APhA is the national organization that grants immunization certification to pharmacists. The training program provides pharmacists with the skills necessary to become a primary source for vaccine information and administration.

The next day-long quarterly training session is scheduled for July 7. The registration fee is \$395 for Mercer pharmacy alumni and \$495 for non-alumni. For more information, contact Dr. Advani at advani_aa@mercer.edu or call (678) 547-6223.



■ Diabetic Cookbook Produced by Mercer Pharmacy Students

Millions of diabetics across the world now have another resource for fighting the disease, thanks to Mercer's Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) chapter.

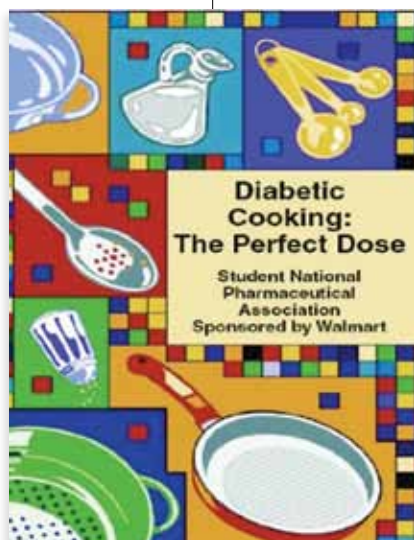
The chapter led the effort to publish a cookbook, *Diabetic Cooking: The Perfect Dose*, which is now on sale through *Amazon.com* for \$10. The book is sponsored by Walmart and includes recipes approved by the American Diabetes Association. The recipes were collected through a recipe drive with other SNPhA chapters from 100 pharmacy schools across the nation. SNPhA is the student arm of the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA), the professional organization representing the views and ideals of minority pharmacists.

Mercer pharmacy student Ashley Wilkerson proposed the book while serving as the SNPhA Diabetes Initiative chair. Proceeds from the book will support the Mercer SNPhA chapter and the American Diabetes Association.

"The purpose of the book is to provide a resource for preparing foods geared toward a diabetic diet," Wilkerson wrote in the proposal.

"The recipes will give diabetics an alternative for their favorite recipes and provide health information that will help improve their disease state."

The cookbook initiative is serving as a pilot fundraising project for the national student organization. If successful, the initiative will serve as a national fundraiser for SNPhA during National Diabetes Month in November 2013.



■ Mercer PA Program Set to Help Increase Care in Rural Georgia

Mercer's physician assistant program has launched an innovative way to encourage its students to work in rural Georgia.

After meeting with all six of Georgia's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) coordinators, PA Program Director Philip Tobin and the coordinators developed

a plan to select cities outside metro Atlanta where Mercer PA students will complete their clinical rotations. The focus is to offer Mercer PA students clinical rotations in medically underserved areas like Macon, Rome, Columbus and their surrounding communities. Students are expected to receive a richer medical experience in these locations due to fewer patient

loads and more one-on-one attention from clinical preceptors.

Ultimately the program hopes to encourage students to return and practice in the cities where they received their clinical training. The initiative is being called the "cornerstone city program."

"The program will be a great boon for Georgia," said Tobin, D.H.Sc., P.A. "There is a great need for primary care providers in rural areas. Currently, the majority of Georgia's counties are considered medically underserved, and many of these counties are even classified as health professional shortage areas. The exposure of physician assistant students to the primary care needs of the cornerstone city and its surrounding areas will help retain excellent, caring providers to these underserved areas."

For more information, please call the program's clinical team at (678) 547-6311.

■ Public Health Degree to be Offered on Atlanta Campus

Metro Atlanta residents interested in earning a public health degree during convenient evening hours will soon be able to do so on Mercer's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus.

Beginning in August 2013, Mercer will offer the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree on its Atlanta campus near I-85 and I-285. The generalist degree program is designed particularly for working adults seeking to either build or enhance their broad understanding of preventative health and research within local and global communities.

Since 1998, Mercer has offered the M.P.H. degree program on its Macon campus, producing hundreds of graduates who are meeting the growing challenges of protecting the public's health and preventing the spread of disease. With the new program in Atlanta, Mercer will now be offering the M.P.H. program at two locations, providing greater accessibility to a larger number of Georgia residents. The new program is designed for students in a cohort model to earn the M.P.H. degree in five semesters.

"Starting next fall, students will have access to a fully accredited generalist M.P.H. program in a nontraditional format," said Nannette Turner, Ph.D., M.P.H., director and chair of Mercer's Department of Public Health.

"We will offer evening classes, online classes, hybrid and distance learning options — all designed with the professional student in mind. The program is ideal for the student who wants to continue working part-time or full-time and complete her or his degree within a reasonable timeframe."

For more information about the new M.P.H. program in Atlanta, contact Brittany Taylor, graduate program associate, at (478) 301-5478 or taylor_bd@mercer.edu.

AlumniClassNotes

Key to Mercer Schools and Colleges — **BUS** — Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics; **CAS** — College of Arts and Sciences; **CLA** — College of Liberal Arts; **CCPS** — College of Continuing and Professional Studies; **DIV** — McAfee School of Theology; **EDU** — Tift College of Education; **ENR** — School of Engineering; **LAW** — Walter F. George School of Law; **MED** — School of Medicine; **MUS** — Townsend School of Music; **NUR** — Georgia Baptist College of Nursing; **PHA** — College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; **TCS** — Tift College Scholars; **Tift** — Tift College

Achievements

1950s

Arthur Binion Amerson Jr., CLA '58, has published a new book, *The Coral Carrier*, which presents the complete history of French Frigate Shoals, one of the atolls in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Amerson is a retired ecologist, environmental consultant, and technical and science writer.

Elliott E. Brack, CLA '57, has retired after serving as chairman and president of *The Red and Black* Publishing Company for 33 years. *The Red and Black*, the independent student newspaper of the University of Georgia, honored Brack at a dinner in Athens.

Victoria H. Price, Tift '52, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center in Harlingen, Texas.

1960s

The Rev. J. Edwin Bacon Jr., CLA '69, HON '99, is the rector of All Saints Church in Pasadena, Calif., a 4,000-member, multiethnic, urban Episcopal parish with a reputation for energetic worship, an inclusive spirit and a progressive peace and justice agenda.

David E. Hudson, CLA '68, of the Augusta office of Hull Barrett, PC has been selected by his peers as one of *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" for general practice/trial law. He also serves as chairman of Mercer's Board of Trustees.

Carol Huffman, NUR '62, published *Widow's Club*, a Christian inspirational book.

1970s

B. Ann Boyce, Tift '76, presented the 47th Amy Morris Homans Lecture at the 2013 conference of the National Association for Kinesiology & Physical Education in Higher Education in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in January. Boyce is associate professor of teacher education at the University of Virginia.

Darryl B. Cohen, LAW '70, of Cohen, Cooper, Estep & Allen in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for entertainment/sports law.

Robert M. Cunningham, LAW '78, of Hunter-Maclean in Brunswick, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for bankruptcy/creditors' rights.

John C. Gordon, LAW '79, has been elected chairman of the board of Skyland Trail, a nonprofit treatment facility for adults with mental illness, effective Dec. 6, 2012. Gordon has been a member of the Skyland Trail leadership team for more than 20 years.

Michael S. Haber, LAW '73, joins the Atlanta office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC as senior counsel and is a corporate lawyer focused on financial institutions with a national practice centered on commercial transactions and bankruptcy law.

R. Howard Jump, CLA '76, LAW '79, was installed as the 48th president of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel in June 2012.

Stuart M. Neiman, LAW '73, of Stuart M. Neiman Attorney at Law LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for real estate law.

The Hon. Samuel D. Ozburn, LAW '76, was presented with the prestigious 2013 R.O. Arnold Award at the Newton-Covington Chamber of Commerce's

Thompson Appointed President of Kansas Wesleyan

Kansas Wesleyan University has selected Dr. Matthew R. Thompson, CLA '97, BUS '01, as the university's 19th president.

Before joining Kansas Wesleyan, Thompson worked at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., where he served most recently as vice president for advancement and previously as vice president and dean of student development. At Mercer, he held a number of positions including assistant vice president for student life and special assistant to the president/director of special projects.

While a student, Thompson volunteered as a Mer-

cer Ambassador, and after graduating, he began working for the University in addition to completing a Master of Business Administration. He later earned his doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Georgia.

Founded in 1886, Kansas Wesleyan University is a liberal arts, faith-based institution located in Salina, Kan., that maintains a relationship with the United Methodist Church.



Dr. Matt Thompson

Jackson Named Miss University of Georgia 2013

Jenna Jackson, CLA '11, a second-year law student at the University of Georgia, was crowned Miss University of Georgia 2013 at the annual scholarship pageant held Jan. 19 in the UGA Fine Arts Auditorium.

She is the first African American to be named Miss UGA since 2005. As the pageant winner, she received a \$1,500 scholarship as well as a several gifts and prizes from local Athens merchants.

"I was absolutely floored," Jackson said. "It was such a magical moment, especially for minorities. There hasn't been a minority that won Miss UGA in years, so it was a really powerful moment for me."

Jackson graduated *magna cum laude* from Mercer with a degree in communications and theatre studies as well as a minor in Spanish. A member of the Mercer women's cross country team, she was named to the Atlantic Sun Conference All-Academic Team in 2008 and 2009.

Jackson will represent UGA as she competes this June in the Miss Georgia Pageant in Columbus. The winner of that competition goes on to the Miss America Pageant.



Jenna Jackson

annual meeting. The award recognizes a local resident for his/her lifetime community involvement and service.

The Hon. Philip T. Raymond III, LAW '79, was appointed to the State Commission on Family Violence by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal. Raymond is a Superior Court judge for the Macon Judicial Circuit.

Ward Stone Jr., LAW '79, of Stone & Baxter LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for bankruptcy/creditors' rights.

David P. Winkle, LAW '75, of Nelson Mullings Riley & Scarborough LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for healthcare law.

1980s

Andrea E. Allen, CLA '85, LAW '88, joins Klores Mitchell PC in Washington, D.C., as an associate, concentrating her practice in education law.

Gordon R. Alphonso, LAW '83, of McGuire-Woods LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for environmental law.

Gary A. Barnes, LAW '81, of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for bankruptcy/creditors' rights.

W. Carter Bates III, LAW '82, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 19th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Steven K. Bender, LAW '82, of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia*

Trend magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for real estate law.

Timothy H. Bendin, LAW '83, of Bendin Sumrall & Ladner LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" sections for healthcare law and personal injury.

Gregory W. Blount, LAW '81, of Troutman Sanders LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for environmental law.

Charles N. Collier Jr., CLA '87, has been appointed assistant dean for health career pathways of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. He was previously director of pre-professional services in Emory University's Career Center.

Charles M. Cork III, LAW '82, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for appellate law.

Steve Estep, LAW '88, of Cohen Cooper Estep & Allen in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for general practice/trial law.

Master Sgt. Bill Gabbard, MUS '81, led the military service bands in the 57th Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama's second term.

Richard W. Gerakitis, LAW '81, received the YMCA of Metro Atlanta's 2012 Volunteer of the Year award for his service at the YMCA of Metro Atlanta. He was honored at the annual volunteer recognition dinner Nov. 12, 2012. Additionally, Gerakitis, of Troutman Sanders LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for labor and employment.

Allen Harris, LAW '85, of Peterson & Harris in At-

lanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for family law.

Ron Hinson, BUS '84, was recently elected executive vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer and comptroller of Georgia Power, the largest subsidiary of Southern Company. He is a 34-year veteran of the company, previously serving as senior vice president and comptroller of Southern Company.

Budge S. Huskey, BUS '81, was promoted to CEO and president of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC on Jan. 1. He previously held the position of president and chief operating officer.

John F. Kennedy, CLA '87, LAW '90, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 19th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

The Hon. Nathan C. Lee, LAW '83, has been appointed to the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court bench by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell.

L. Robert Lovett, LAW '85, of Lovett & Myers in Macon, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for environmental law.

Col. Jay Macklin, CLA '88, became the chief of staff of the United States Army Aviation and Missile Command in Redstone Arsenal, Ala., on June 11, 2012.

Diane Turley McGehee, CLA '82, started Together in Hope, a nonprofit organization that empowers the world's poor through collaborative relationships that honor the dignity and value of every person and seeks to bring change from within through community leadership and development. Together in Hope currently works with squatter communities and street children in the Philippines, Ethiopia and El Salvador.

Anton F. Mertens, CLA '84, LAW '87, has joined the Atlanta office of Burr & Forman LLP as a partner. An experienced immigration attorney, Mertens previously practiced at the law firm of Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP. He was also recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for immigration law.

Zachery S. Mitcham, BUS '80, was appointed to serve on the New Hanover County (N.C.) Board of Health. He holds an MSA in health services administration from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions at Central Michigan University.

Jessica K. Moss, LAW '84, was appointed solicitor general of Cherokee County by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal on Aug. 22, 2012.

Paul A. Quiros, LAW '82, was elected chairman of the Board of Visitors of Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law. He is a partner in King & Spalding's Atlanta office.

William J. Rawls II, LAW '85, of Mozley, Finlayson and Loggins LLP in Atlanta was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

C. Patricia Reagan, TIFT '83, moved to Athens in May 2012 following a position with the Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund as the first director of development.

Jacquelyn H. Saylor, LAW '83, of The Saylor Law Firm LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for criminal law.

The Hon. Kimberley Slayton White, LAW '88, has been appointed to the 10th Judicial Circuit Court bench by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell.

1990s

James H. Aiken, LAW '97, of HD Supply Inc. in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for business law.

Jennifer H. Barfield, CLA '93, was named director of development and institutional advancement at First Presbyterian Day School in Macon. She joins FPD after serving as Middle Georgia State College's assistant vice president for development and alumni affairs.

Rafic H. Barrage, LAW '98, has joined Baker & McKenzie's Washington, D.C., office as a partner. An experienced international tax planning attorney, he will work in the firm's tax practice.

Lloyd N. Bell, LAW '92, of Bell Law Firm in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

Charles J. Bowen, CLA '90, announces the formation of The Bowen Law Group in Savannah. The Bowen Law Group will focus primarily on banking, commercial and tort litigation and will have offices in both Savannah and Atlanta.

The Hon. Enis Trenton "Trent" Brown III, LAW '99, has been tapped by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to fill a vacancy in the Ocmulgee Circuit Superior Court.

Gerald Morris Carr, LAW '98, of Carr Downey LLC in Macon, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for family law.

John Joseph Carter II, CLA '94, recently published *Eli Arnold and the Keys to Forever: It's About Time* along with its sequel *The Myth of Mythology*. The series is geared toward middle-schoolers and tells the story of Eli, who has been chosen to save the world by continuing a centuries-old battle.

Victoria Darrisaw, LAW '93, was appointed State Court judge of Dougherty County by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal. She was elected to the same position July 31, 2012, and sworn in Jan. 4. Before her appointment, Darrisaw served as a Dougherty County Magistrate Court judge.

J. Jeffrey Deery, LAW '90, a shareholder with Winderwee, Haines, Ward and Woodman in Orlando, Fla.,

was named as one of *Orlando Home and Leisure* magazine's top area lawyers. In addition, Deery was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 19th edition of The Best Lawyers in America for banking law.

David Dozier, CLA '94, LAW '98, has been selected for the National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers. The National Trial Lawyers is a professional organization composed of the premier trial lawyers from across the country who exemplify superior qualifications as civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers.

Erick Erickson, CLA '97, LAW '00, has become a FOX News contributor after three years as a CNN contributor. He is also editor-in-chief of *RedState.com*. Erickson delivered the keynote address at the University's 2013 Founders' Day celebration Feb. 13.

William H. Gregory II, CLA '93, LAW '96 has opened his own law practice, William H. Gregory LLC, in Vienna.

Robbie Guest, EGR '93, was one of 16 umpires selected worldwide for the 2012 Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pa., Aug. 16-26, 2012.

Ishuan Ku Hargrove, CLA '97, a breast cancer and brain tumor survivor, participated in the Young Survival Coalition's Tour de Pink East Coast, biking a 220-mile route from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., to raise money and awareness on behalf of young breast cancer patients. The event occurred Sept. 28-30, 2012.

Samuel Franklin Hart Jr., LAW '97, of Dozier Law Firm LLC in Macon, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for criminal law.

Jonathan W. Hedgepeth, LAW '91, and his fellow partners announce the formation of the law firm Hedgepeth, Heredia, Crumrine & Morrison LLC, a Martindale Hubbell AV-rated law firm located in Atlanta. Hedgepeth was also recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for family law.

Laura D. Hogue, LAW '91, of Hogue & Hogue, LLP in Macon, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for criminal law.

Jay Langdale, CLA '93, assistant professor of history and coordinator of the social science division at Andrew College in Cuthbert, recently had the revised manuscript of his doctoral dissertation, titled "Superfluous Southerners: Cultural Conservatism and the South," published by the University of Missouri Press.

Shawn Lanier, LAW '95, of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for real estate law.

W. Scott Laseter, LAW '90, of Kazmarek, Geiger & Laseter, LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for environmental law.

David Long-Daniels, LAW '90, of Greenberg Traurig LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for immigration law.

John Mabrey, LAW '90, of The Mabrey Firm PC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

R. David Maloy Jr., BUS '95, has become a partner with the financial wealth firm of Patton, Albertson & Miller, LLC in their Macon office.

James B. Manley Jr., LAW '96, of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for general practice/trial law.

Ann-Marie McGaughey, LAW '93, of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for corporate law.

Frank R. McKay, LAW '91, was appointed chairman of the State Board of Workers' Compensation by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, effective March 1. McKay fills the vacancy left by outgoing Chairman **Richard**

S. Thompson, CLA '79, LAW '82.

Joseph R. Neal Jr., LAW '93, principal and founder of Neal Law, attended the American Association for Justice's art of persuasion trial advocacy course at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., March 10-13, 2012. He was also chosen for admission into the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates, one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the United States. Members of this group are recognized for winning million and multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements. Less than 1 percent of U.S. lawyers are members of this group, with approximately 4,000 members worldwide.

Patrick John Poff, LAW '95, of Trenam Kemker in Tampa, Fla., was named chairman of the American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry's division on insurance, surety and liens in June 2012.

Erik S. Rodriguez, LAW '98, of Greenberg Traurig LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for immigration law.

Thomas O. Sippel, LAW '96, of Leitner, Williams, Dooley and Napolitan PLLC in Atlanta, was named a Georgia Super Lawyer in the practice area of civil litigation defense.

Jamie Marie Smith, CLA '98, was promoted to director of communications at Coastal Home Care in Savannah. She joined the Ogeechee Riverkeeper board of directors in June 2012 and joined the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Club in July 2012.

John O'Shea Sullivan, LAW '95, of Burr & Forman LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for general practice/trial law.

Matthew R. Thompson, CLA '97, BUS '01, has been selected as the 19th president of Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kan. Previously, he was vice president for advancement at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, an attorney with Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle in Atlanta, has been recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 40 Under 40: The Best & Brightest" as well as in the publication's "2012 Legal Elite" section for family law.

Michael N. White, LAW '99, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 19th edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Heather C. Wright, LAW '99, of The Wright Law Firm LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for business law.

2000s

Barret S. Albritton, LAW '03, of Leitner, Williams, Dooley and Napolitan PLLC in Chattanooga, Tenn., was named Young Attorney of the Year by the Chattanooga Bar Association. This annual award is given to an outstanding young attorney in Chattanooga who has shown exemplary service and commitment to the Young Lawyer's Division of the Chattanooga Bar Association and to the community.

Alison E. Alexander, MUS '03, graduated from Louisiana State University with a master's degree in music education in August 2012.

Laura R. Anthony, LAW '08, of Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for labor and employment.

Sally M. Bowman, LAW '07, has joined Gallivan, White & Boyd PA in Charlotte, N.C., as an associate in the complex litigation practice group. Her practice will focus on products liability, toxic tort, construction defect and other complex litigation.

Heather A. Calhoun, LAW '05, of Holland & Knight LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend*

magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for general practice/trial law.

Yoon Ettinger, LAW '06, of GreenbergTraurig LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for pro bono and nonprofits.

Rhett Fraser, CLA '05, LAW '08, opened the law firm Huegli Fraser Law in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 1, 2012. Huegli Fraser Law will focus exclusively on criminal defense and personal injury litigation in Oregon and Washington state.

Will B. Geer, LAW '09, of The Law Offices of Will Geer in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for bankruptcy/creditors' rights.

Robert F. Glass, LAW '07, of Cash, Krugler & Fredericks LLC in Atlanta was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

Thomas M. Gore, LAW '07, of McCorkle & Johnson LLP in Savannah, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for bankruptcy/creditors' rights.

Gina Ginn Greenwood, LAW '01, of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC in Macon, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for healthcare law.

Keitaro Harada, MUS '07, was selected by the League of American Orchestras as one of only six conductors for the 2013 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview. In March, he conducted the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in a prestigious showcase that occurs biennially in an effort to promote gifted, emerging conductors to orchestra industry leaders. Currently, he is assistant conductor for Arizona Opera in Phoenix.

Tiffany D. Hogan, BUS '03, has joined American Family Insurance as a regional legal staff attorney in the Kansas City, Mo., office.

Soo Jung Hong, LAW '08, was named a partner in the bankruptcy division of Blevins & Hong PC in Marietta.

Ann-Patton Hornthal, LAW '06, has been recognized as a North Carolina Super Lawyer Rising Star in the practice area of civil litigation defense. She is employed with the firm Roberts & Stevens PA where she was recently promoted to partner. She resides in Asheville, N.C., with her husband, Lang, and son, Ashe.

Anthony C. Kalka, LAW '02, of The Kalka Law Firm LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" sections for personal injury and general practice/trial law.

M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins, LAW '05, was promoted to partner at Balch & Bingham LLP in the firm's Atlanta office. She concentrates her practice in litigation.

Krystal Morris Keith, MUS '07, graduated from the College of Coastal Georgia with an associate's degree in nursing and is now working as a registered nurse.

W. Thomas Kemp III, LAW '00, of Kemp Law Firm LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" sections for personal injury and general practice/trial law.

Karen S. Kurtz, LAW '04, was named an income shareholder in the Atlanta office of Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughey.

Nicholas J. Laybourn, LAW '05, has been named a partner at HunterMaclean. His practice areas include medical malpractice, business litigation, transportation law and products liability.

Jason D. Lewis, CLA '00, LAW '06, was admitted to the partnership of Chambless, Higdon, Richardson, Katz & Griggs LLP.

John R.B. Long, LAW '06, of John R.B. Long PC in Augusta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for general practice/trial law.

James A. Robson, LAW '07, of Cash, Krugler & Fredericks LLC in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

Serina F. Shyu, BUS '05, graduated from Georgia State University with an MBA in personal financial planning in May 2012.

Earl Stewart, CLA '09, released a new Christmas album, "Christmas Hymns at the Piano."

Haynes M. Studstill, LAW '07, of the Studstill Firm LLP in Valdosta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

Justin D. Studstill, LAW '07, of O'Neal, Brown & Gautreaux PC in Macon, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for personal injury.

Q. Bonita Wang, LAW '05 has joined the law firm of Fowler White Boggs as an associate in the Tampa, Fla., office. She practices in the areas of taxation and corporate and business services.

Tiffany L. Williams, LAW '07, of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, LLP in Atlanta, was recognized in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2012 Legal Elite" section for intellectual property.

Kathleen L. Wright, LAW '02, was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 19th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for municipal litigation.

2010s

Terri Benton, LAW '12, has joined the law firm of James-Bates-Brannen-Groover LLP as an associate in the Macon office.

Janice Fordham, EDU '11, was named Teacher of the Year at Hillcrest Elementary School in Dublin and was also recognized as Teacher of the Year for Dublin City Schools. Fordham is a kindergarten art teacher

and was chosen as the top teacher from a group that included nominees from each of Dublin's six schools.

Ronny Hulsey, LAW '12, has joined the law firm of James-Bates-Brannen-Groover LLP as an associate in the Macon office.

Jenna Jackson, CLA '11, was crowned Miss University of Georgia 2013 at the annual scholarship pageant held Jan. 19. She is a second-year law student at UGA.

Lea McLees, MEDN '12, has joined Care and Counseling Center of Georgia's main office in Decatur as a staff counselor.

Catherine Mitchell, LAW '11, recently joined Smith Moore Leatherwood's Charlotte, N.C., office as a real estate associate. She will focus her practice on commercial real estate transactions, representing both lenders and developers. Prior to joining Smith Moore Leatherwood, Mitchell represented national lenders in mortgage-related litigation.

Romney C. Rogers Jr., LAW '12, joined Rogers, Morris & Ziegler, LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as an associate and concentrates his practice in business transactions; real estate; banking matters; and wills, trusts and probate.

Beau T. Shrable, LAW '12, joined the law firm of Sell & Melton LLP in Macon as an associate. He will handle business litigation, business law and eminent domain matters for the firm.

Betsy L. Stewart, LAW '12, joined the law firm of Bailey & Wyatt, PLLC as an associate in the Charleston, S.C., office.

Chris A. Underwood, LAW '12, has joined the law firm of James-Bates-Brannen-Groover LLP as an associate in the Atlanta office.

Brandon Veasey, LAW '12, has joined Troutman Sanders' Atlanta office as an associate in the environmental and toxic tort litigation practice group. His practice

includes representing corporate clients in federal and state courts in civil litigation and environmental matters. He also represents clients in product liability cases.

Ashleigh Whitty, EGR '10, accepted a position as interactive web developer/producer for the Georgia Department of Economic Development in November 2012.

Ailya Zaidi, LAW '12, co-authored an article that appears in the winter edition of *Verdict*, a publication of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. The article addresses the intersection of family law and personal injury, focusing on post-marital division of compensation awards. Zaidi is a member of the academic assistance staff at the Law School.

Marriages, Births & Anniversaries

1990s

Javier A. Alegre, EGR '99, and his wife, Jeannie Alegre, announce the birth of their first daughter, Emma Isabella, on Feb. 13, 2012.

Anne Hendricks Childress, CCPS '93, married David Childress on Nov. 3, 2012. The couple resides in Griffin.

Andrea Ferrell, BUS '98, and her husband, Justin Troy Ferrell, announce the birth of their second daughter, Amana Michelle, on June 4, 2012.

William Daniel Palmer IV, BUS '98, BUS '00, married Ellen Williams Palmer on March 9.

2000s

Christopher Edmonds, EGR '06, and his wife, **Regina Edmonds**, CLA '07, announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Kristina, on June 20, 2012.

The family resides in Pooler.

Kristin Pollard Kiel, LAW '08, married Demetrius Kiel in August 2012. She is employed as an in-house attorney for the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Andrew Lopez, EGR '06, and his wife, **Rebecca Lopez**, BUS '05, announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Andrew, on Oct. 18, 2012. The family resides in Huntsville, Ala.

Holly Ravita, EDU '04, and her husband, Patrick Ravita, announce the birth of their second daughter, Abigail Rose, on Aug. 11, 2012.

Bobby L. Reynolds, BUS '04, and **Andi Price Reynolds**, EGR '96, announce the birth of their fourth child, McKaylyn Glory, on June 7, 2012. She weighed 9 pounds. The family resides in Johns Creek.

Sarah MacConnell Schanck, BUS '06, and her husband, Justin Schanck, announce the birth of their first child, Audrey Rose, on Sept. 16, 2012. The family resides in Macon.

Sam Sholander, BUS '09, CLA '09, married Lorin Watson Sholander on Nov. 17, 2012, in Washington, D.C. The couple resides in Fairfield County, Conn.

Jennifer Ritcher Tyler, LAW '07, and her husband, Jason Tyler, announce the birth of their son, Jacob Benjamin, on Oct. 30, 2012.

2010s

Roshanna McNeely Beard, EDU '11, married **Jason Beard**, CLA '11, on March 7, 2012. They reside in Tallahassee, Fla., with their son, Christopher.

Anna Adams Groce, CLA '10, married **Daniel S. Groce Jr.**, CLA '10, on Nov. 24, 2012. The couple resides in Sandy Springs.

Cody Kinderman Stephens, EGR '10, married **Bradley W. Stephens**, EGR '10, on Sept. 15, 2012.

Mercer Mourns Passing of Alumnus Ferrol Sams

One of Mercer's most accomplished graduates, the man known by many as "Sambo," died Jan. 29 at the age of 90. Dr. Ferrol A. Sams Jr., CLA '42, penned eight books, including a trilogy of works featuring Porter Osborne Jr., a character largely based on Dr. Sams' own Georgia boyhood in Fayette County. All of his works are rooted in the oral traditions of Southern humor and folklore, and his novel *The Whisper of the River* to this day is used in Mercer classrooms.

"Sambo was an amazing man and a great Mercerian," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Generations have been inspired by the accounts of his exploits while at Mercer in *The Whisper of the River*. He will be missed."

Dr. Sams was born in Woolsey on Sept. 26, 1922, and earned his bachelor's degree in 1942 at Mercer and his Doctor of Medicine at Emory University Medical School in 1949.

Dr. Sams served on the Mercer Board of Trustees from 1992-1997. He delivered the commencement address to the Mercer School of Medicine in 2010. To honor Dr. Sams, Mercer established the Ferrol A. Sams Jr. Distinguished Chair of English in 1993 to bring a nationally prominent fiction writer, poet or dramatist to Mercer each spring to teach creative writing and highlight the literary arts. In addition, Mercer University Press annually gives the Ferrol Sams Award for Fiction to the best manuscript that speaks to the human condition in a Southern context.

"Sambo will always be a Mercer legend — in the pantheon of the greats," said David E. Hudson, chair of the University's Board of Trustees.



Dr. Ferrol Sams

During his medical career, Dr. Sams and his wife, Helen, who died a few weeks after Dr. Sams, were in private practice together in Fayetteville and, in 1987, they established the Fayette Medical Center. He embarked on a writing career at age 60 and captured readers with his witty, affectionate portraits of life between the world wars in Georgia, of what he has called "being raised right" in the rural South.

The trilogy begins with the work *Run with the Horsemen*, published in 1982. The novel was warmly received by critics and the public, encouraging Dr. Sams to continue the tales of Porter Osborne as he left the farm and headed to the university in *The Whisper of the River*. Osborne's journey to "Willingham University" parallels Dr. Sams' own education at Mercer.

Dr. Sams completed the trilogy in 1991 with the publication of *When All the World Was Young*, in which Dr. Sams' picaresque hero experiences World War II overseas as an Army surgical assistant.

Dr. Sams' other works include *The Widow's Mite and Other Stories* (1987) and *Epiphany* (1994). His nonfiction books include *The Passing: Perspectives of Rural America* (1988) and *Christmas Gift!* (1989). In 2007, Mercer University Press published Dr. Sams' novel *Down Town: The Journal of James Aloysius Holcombe Jr. for Ephraim Holcombe Mookinfoos*, a fictionalized chronicle of Fayette County and the origin of Peachtree City, told as a multigenerational family story that spans a century and a half from Reconstruction through the present.

A natural storyteller whose works made him a popular writer in the South and garnered favorable national attention, Dr. Sams was honored in 2001 for 50 years of commitment and service to the people of Fayette County. *The Whisper of the River* won the Townsend Prize for Fiction that year and was performed in 1992 for American Public Radio's Radio Reader. In 2006, *Run with the Horsemen* was selected by Atlantans as the inaugural text in the Atlanta Reads: One Book, One Community program. Dr. Sams received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Writers Association in 2012.

In Memory

1930s

Ruth Sauls Kimzey, CLA '38, of Davidson, N.C., April 17, 2012.
Marjorie Farmer O'Keeffe, EDU '37, of Raleigh, N.C., Aug. 24, 2012.
June Williamson Powell, TIFT '39, of Americus, Jan. 19.
Alsie Bateman Rabun, TIFT '37, of Savannah, Oct. 9, 2012.
Rooks Maines Rawls, CLA '37, of Lexington, Ky., Oct. 29, 2012.

1940s

Charles Albert Adams, CLA '46, of Atlanta, Jan. 26, 2012.
Doris Armenaki, NUR '45, of Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 5.
Jean Bailey, TIFT '45, of Decatur, May 3, 2012.
Frances Hortense Castellow Balkcom, TIFT '41, of Georgetown, Aug. 13, 2012.
William E. Blanchard, CLA '49, of Augusta, Jan. 24.
June V. Collins, NUR '48, of Pompano Beach, Fla., July 26, 2012.
Sara Chatfield Essig, TIFT '40, of Hollywood, Fla., Nov. 23, 2012.
Elizabeth Y. Evans, CLA '47, of Dearing, Aug. 12, 2012.
Lilian Leavell Fountain, CLA '48, of Black Mountain, N.C., Aug. 27, 2012.
Sara E. Thomas Horne, TIFT '48, of Tallahassee, Fla., Dec. 2, 2012.
Sara Jane Reese Kopp, CLA '42, of Winder, Nov. 24, 2012.
Ray Latimer, CLA '49, EDU '50, of Macon, Dec. 14, 2012.
Ralph Lightsey, CLA '45, of Statesboro, Sept. 2, 2012.
James Tyree Manley, CLA '48, of

Loganville, Feb. 13.
Lucile D. Neighbors, CLA '45, of Columbus, Miss., July 18, 2012.
Betty M. Smith Neisler, TIFT '47, of Forsyth, Nov. 24, 2012.
The Rev. Sydney H. Odom, CLA '49, of Centerville, Nov. 30, 2012.
The Rev. Walter Theodore Oman, CLA '44, of Broken Arrow, Okla., Oct. 19, 2012.
Mary Pararo, NUR '47, of Tallahassee, Fla., June 8, 2012.
Fred N. Pylant, PHA '49, of Marietta, Oct. 20, 2012.
Lt. Col. Marion W. Rainey, LAW '48, of Macon, Oct. 3, 2012.
Rachel C. Dozier Rentz, TIFT '45, of Spring, Texas, Nov. 22, 2012.
The Rev. Ernest Saloom, CLA '42, of Macon, Feb. 8.
Dr. Ferrol Sams Jr., CLA '42, of Fayetteville, Jan. 29.
Mildred Hillman Sanders, EDU '43, of Macon, Oct. 19, 2012.
Otis Norman Shands Jr., CLA '41, of Chillicothe, Mo., Dec. 17, 2012.
Richard B. Thornton, CLA '49, LAW '50, of Macon, Sept. 11, 2012.
June Tatum Watson, TIFT '45, of Norcross, Dec. 7, 2012.
Juanita Wooton, NUR '47, of Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 31, 2012.
Martha Kaderly Zebrowski, CLA '42, of Erie, Pa., March 8, 2012.

1950s

Ralph Abernathy, PHA '52, of Stone Mountain, Sept. 26, 2012.
Jacquelyn Anderson, TIFT '50, of Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 5, 2012.
Lois "Amelia" Helton Barclay, CLA '58, of Rex, Dec. 19, 2012.

Dr. Harold Bascom Bates, CLA '50, of Roaring Gap, N.C., Jan. 9.
Dr. Carl L. Beard, CLA '50, of Warner Robins, Feb. 11.
Betty Blasingame, NUR '57, of Atlanta, Dec. 9, 2012.
Daniel E. C. Boone Jr., CLA '59, LAW '62, of Tampa, Fla., Dec. 8, 2012.
William B. Bowles, CLA '52, of Bonaire, Sept. 19, 2012.
J. Vernon Brown, CLA '50, of Five Points, Ala., March 7, 2012.
Joseph Holmes Brown Jr., CLA '50, of Augusta, Sept. 7, 2012.
Blossom C. Burgamy, CLA '51, of Macon, Oct. 1, 2012.
Clifton Maurice Culberson, EDU '55, of Rome, Sept. 17, 2012.
Faye J. Davis, CLA '58, of Cordele, July 24, 2012.
John W. Denney Sr., CLA '56, LAW '57, of Midland, Nov. 10, 2012.
Wanda Jean Harper Dover, TIFT '54, of Ellijay, Sept. 14, 2012.
The Rev. Curtis R. Driver, CLA '53, of Cordele, Sept. 18, 2012.
George William Farmer, EDU '51, of Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 18, 2012.
Latimer C. Farr, EDU '53, of Venice, Fla., Dec. 7, 2012.
E. Sam Goolsby Jr., CLA '58, of Monticello, Dec. 3, 2012.
Herman Gruber, CLA '58, of Durham, N.C., Aug. 26, 2012.
Perry E. Hawkins, PHA '54, of Newell, N.C., Feb. 13, 2012.
Mary Lee Green Hays, CLA '54, of Macon, Dec. 25, 2012.
Betty Langston Hemingway, CLA '51, of Macon, Oct. 13, 2012.
Shirley Davis Hodges, CLA '58, of Augusta, Sept. 4, 2012.

Eddie Mavity Huff, CLA '56, of Asheville, N.C., Jan. 1.
William H. Jago, CLA '57, of Ocala, Fla., June 4, 2012.
Royce Aldean Johnson Jr., CLA '56, of Snellville, Dec. 31, 2012.
Annie Anderson Jones, CLA '51, of Macon, Nov. 24, 2012.
John A. Kaufman, CLA '58, of Saint Simons Island, Nov. 19, 2012.
James P. Lamb, LAW '55, of Miami, Feb. 3.
George C. Luna, PHA '57, of Hampton, Jan. 21.
Jeanette I. Massey, EDU '55, of Macon, Dec. 16, 2012.
Roy L. Matthews Jr., CLA '59, of Newnan, Feb. 13.
William O. McMahan, PHA '58, of Unadilla, Aug. 19, 2012.
The Rev. Charles L. McMillan Jr., CLA '50, of Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 28.
The Rev. Jack H. Richardson, CLA '54, of Trion, Jan. 28.
John Carlos Robards, CLA '55, of Newnan, Oct. 19, 2012.
Stanton D. Rumley, CLA '55, of Moultrie, Oct. 23, 2012.
David Jackson Simpson Sr., PHA '54, of Albany, Dec. 9, 2012.
James T. Stewart, LAW '51, of Springfield, Va., Jan. 20.
Edward H. Trent, CLA '54, of Knoxville, Tenn., Oct. 20, 2012.
Reba Fae Treon, TIFT '55, of Atlanta, Nov. 21, 2012.
Julian Hall Turner Jr., CLA '54, of Atlanta, Feb. 8.
William Wesley Turton, CLA '51, of Cordele, Jan. 2.
Doris Ann Wagener, TIFT '52, of Americus, Sept. 9, 2012.

Anne S. Wilson, CLA '50, of Perry, Sept. 26, 2012.
William Wisse, LAW '52, of Warner Robins, Sept. 5, 2012.

1960s

Sarah Downey Barnard, TIFT '62, of Rome, Dec. 22, 2012.
Sandra Brown, NUR '68, of Clemson, S.C., Sept. 1, 2012.
Hazel Dyer Cape, TIFT '61, of Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 11, 2012.
Judy Hunnicutt Carswell, TIFT '65, of Forsyth, Feb. 17.
Myrajean D. Ford, TIFT '67, of Warner Robins, Nov. 22, 2012.
Lawrence M. Giglio, PHA '66, of Tampa, Fla., Sept. 3, 2012.
Frederick E. Graves, CLA '69, LAW '71, of Charlotte, N.C., Nov. 12, 2012.
Boyd B. Hagood, PHA '62, of Lawrenceville, Feb. 11.
Susan Russell Hardy, CLA '66, of Manchester, Feb. 19.
Sidney E. Harrelson Sr., CLA '61, of Macon, Oct. 6, 2012.
The Rev. Edmond F. Harris, CLA '65, '71, of Gainesville, Feb. 21.
Howard Thomas Hembree, CLA '61, of Byron, Sept. 29, 2012.
Fred H. Hodges Jr., LAW '63, of Macon, June 5, 2012.
Mimi Anne Jacques, CLA '65, of Dunwoody, Dec. 23, 2012.
Janice Martin Joiner, CLA '63, of Rock Hill, S.C., Nov. 30, 2012.
Thomas Clarence Kendrick-Holmes, CLA '64, LAW '68, of Macon, Dec. 10, 2012.
Thomas N. Key, LAW '69, of Fincastle, Va., Aug. 27, 2012.
John F. Mercier, CLA '60, of Tucker, Jan. 10.

Honorary Alumna and Former Miss America Neva Fickling Dies at 79

Mercer honorary alumna and longtime Macon arts and community leader Neva Langley Fickling died Oct. 18, 2012, at the age of 79.

An accomplished pianist and friend of the performing arts in Georgia, she was the wife of Mercer Trustee William A. Fickling Jr. The concert hall in Mercer's McCorkle Music Building was dedicated in her honor in 2003.

"Neva Fickling was the embodiment of grace, talent and leadership," President William D. Underwood said. "She was loved by her family, her community and all who supported the arts."

The only Miss Georgia to be crowned Miss America, Fickling gave graciously of her time to a number of enterprises. She served on numerous boards, including her alma mater Wesleyan College, Mulberry Street United Methodist Church, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Keep America Beautiful Commission, the Macon Symphony Orchestra, the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Macon Heritage Foundation, the



Neva Fickling

Georgia Council of the Arts, the Park City Chamber Music Society, the Junior League of Macon and the advisory board of Hay House, among others.

"Neva Jane Langley, Miss America 1953, will always be remembered for her hard work and the difference she made during her year of service as she traveled around the country," Art McMaster, president and CEO of the Miss America Organization, said. "Neva's memory will remain in our hearts and her legacy is a treasure to our Organization."

She was the founder of Georgia Women of Achievement, which recognizes women of outstanding achievement in Georgia with an annual award. Fickling also initiated the formation of the Macon Arts Council, now called the Macon Arts Alliance. In addition, she helped establish Georgia Citizens for the Arts, a statewide arts advocacy organization.

Fickling is a recipient of the Lady Bird Johnson Award and multiple Woman of the Year Awards by Keep America Beautiful. Moreover, when Macon's Grand Opera House was threatened by demolition, she was asked to head a fundraising event, the Grand Topper, which is credited with saving the building, beginning its renovation and preserving it for posterity. It now serves as a performing arts center for the University.

In 2011, Mercer awarded her the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree at its May commencement. She also received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Wesleyan College.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, William, their four children and nine grandchildren.

Marilyn Nighbert, NUR '66, of Kennesaw, Jan. 7.
Agnes D. Overby, PHA '63, of Shawnee, Kan., Nov. 17, 2012.
James S. Owens Jr., LAW '66, of Atlanta, Feb. 10.
Charles A. Ruff, CLA '65, of Houston, Nov. 30, 2012.
Leslie Ann Meineke Sandlin, TIFT '63, of Savannah, Oct. 10, 2012.
Robert Lee Swearingen Jr., LAW '62, of Reynolds, Dec. 26, 2012.
Curtis Brooks Tuck, EDU '60, of Grayson, Sept. 10, 2012.
Roy C. Watson, CLA '68, of Buford, Oct. 11, 2012.
George D. White, CLA '68, of Atlanta, Sept. 21, 2012.
John M. Wyatt, CLA '60, LAW '62, of Opelika, Ala., Feb. 12.

1970s

Edward M. Beckwith, CLA '70, EDU '77, of Savannah, Aug. 2, 2012.
Barbara Anne Becraft, CLA '77, LAW '81, of Cordele, Dec. 19, 2012.
Kathy Ann Waters Bradley, TIFT '73, MEDN '98, of Cumming, Jan. 10.

Joseph Henry Brown Jr., CLA '70, of Hartwell, Sept. 7, 2012.
Clyde D. Bryson, PHA '79, of Thomasville, N.C., Sept. 19, 2012.
William D. Covington, LAW '74, of Carrollton, Sept. 1, 2012.
Robin Massengill Edney, CLA '76, of Moore, S.C., May 10, 2012.
Marianne Hillhouse Frick, TIFT '70, of Columbia, S.C., Feb. 14.
Jean Gaughf, NUR '71, of Newberry, Fla., Sept. 9, 2012.
William Jackie Hammond, PHA '70, of Fitzgerald, Nov. 23, 2012.
Susan Eileen Hempel, PHA '76, of Bucksport, Maine, Nov. 8, 2012.
Laurie A. Jossey, TIFT '75, of Forsyth, Dec. 20, 2012.
Harry W. Krumenauer, LAW '76, of Marietta, Nov. 15, 2012.
Susan Salter Moon, TIFT '75, of Thomaston, Oct. 9, 2012.
Beverly A. Randall-Harris, CLA '76, of Macon, Oct. 16, 2012.
Francis Rice Roberts, EDU '75, of Saint Simons Island, Jan. 4.
Myrtice H. Roberts, CLA '71, of Macon, Oct. 2, 2012.

James Michael Romy Sr., BUS '75, of Pine Mountain, Aug. 15, 2012.
Janet Rosenstern, NUR '79, of Barrington, Ill., April 23, 2012.
Robert E. Stabasefski, BUS '76, of Milner, Aug. 29, 2012.
Laurie Whittelsey Taylor, CAS '79, of Milledgeville, Nov. 1, 2012.
Elizabeth Giles Williams, TIFT '70, of Byron, Jan. 4.

1980s

Sydney D. Askew, BUS '84, of Carrollton, Texas, Jan. 13.
Latrelle Y. Braswell, CAS '81, of Lawrenceville, Aug. 1, 2012.
Celia J. Brewer, CLA '83, of Riverdale, Jan. 31.
Bradford Lusk Girault, CLA '87, of Metairie, La., Jan. 20.
Terry L. Gleaton, BUS '80, of Byron, Aug. 3, 2012.
Margaret Elizabeth Hux, CLA '84, of Macon, Aug. 27, 2012.
H. Dean Propst, CLA '85, of Atlanta, Nov. 12, 2012.
Christopher N. Shuman, LAW '85, of Atlanta, Dec. 24, 2012.

Vanna D. Wood, EDU '83, of Eatonton, Sept. 9, 2012.

1990s

Pamela C. Aderhold, CAS '91, of Marietta, Aug. 10, 2012.
Jennifer Susan Clark, LAW '90, of Covington, Nov. 21, 2012.
Linda R. Easterly, BUS '97, of Decatur, Ala., Oct. 31, 2012.
Johnny Lamar Harris, EGR '93, of Macon, Feb. 17.
Christopher Michael Kelsay, EGR '98, of Juliette, Oct. 24, 2012.
Katherine Suzanne Knipper, PHA '98, of Fort Myers, Fla., Oct. 21, 2012.
Matthew Wallace Morgan, PHA '91, of Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 12, 2012.
Shawn Hideyoshi Pope, LAW '90, of Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 31, 2012.
Nathan Lemuel York, CLA '95, of Rossville, Jan. 8.

2000s

Fred W. Borrish, HON '05, of Douglasville, Oct. 12, 2012.
Lisa Wheeler Clay, PHA '03, of Meansville, Jan. 22.

Sen. Hugh M. Gillis Sr., HON '01, of Soperton, Jan. 1.

2010s

Neva Jane Fickling, HON '11, of Macon, Nov. 18.

Friends

Carlton Michael Drummond, of Macon, former director of instructional technology, Dec. 5, 2012.
Bernard Greenberg, of Hilton Head Island, S.C., a former member of the Southern School of Pharmacy Board of Visitors, Oct. 24, 2012.
Dr. Helen F. Sams, of Fayetteville, whose husband, Dr. Ferrol Sams Jr., authored *The Whisper of the River*, a well-known novel of his exploits as a student at Mercer, March 1.

Loyal Mercer Supporter Fred Borrish Dies at 98

A longtime friend and supporter of Mercer, Fred W. Borrish, of Douglasville, died Oct. 9, 2012, at the age of 98.

He and his wife, Aileen Kasper Borrish, took a special interest in the academic programs at Mercer, particularly the University's Douglas County Regional Academic Center. Their support provided enhanced educational opportunities for residents of Douglasville and the surrounding areas.

Since 1982, the Borrishes have been members of The President's Club, and, in 1999, they became Life Members. A self-educated man himself, Borrish said



Fred Borrish

the Regional Academic Center provided a chance for working individuals to get a quality education, for which Mercer is known, and to expand their professional careers while still keeping their part- or full-time jobs.

Moreover, the Fred W. and Aileen K. Borrish Building, which houses the Douglas County Regional Academic Center, was dedicated in their honor in 2007, as well as the Fred W. and Aileen K. Borrish Science Laboratory, a state-of-the-art science center that the Borrishes generously funded. As an additional honor, Borrish received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Mercer in 2005 for his steadfast support.

Borrish worked as a mechanical engineer at Delta Air Lines from Sept. 1939 to July 1976 and was known for his ability to integrate equipment for planes as technology improved, resulting in significant cost savings.

He was a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, Hapeville Lodge No. 590, the F&A Masons and the Yaarab Shrine Temple. He is survived by Aileen, his wife of 65 years, and her family members.

Baptist Leader and Former Mercer Trustee Ches Smith Dies at 85

A renowned leader in Baptist life and a loyal Mercer alumnus, Dr. W. Ches Smith III, CLA '51, HON '73, died March 2. Pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Tifton at the time of his passing, Smith faithfully served that congregation as senior pastor for nearly 30 years from 1966-1995.

In the early 1990s, while a member of Mercer's Board of Trustees, he championed the cause for the University to create its own school of theology. Smith served as co-chairman of the study committee that recommended establishment of what became the McAfee School of Theology on Mercer's Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Smith attended Mercer and eventually completed



Dr. Ches Smith

his bachelor's degree at Emory University in 1951. He earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1954 as a member of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's first graduating class. He also earned Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southeastern.

Smith served two terms as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention from 1980-1982, two terms as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1976-1978, moderator of the Atlanta Baptist Association, moderator of the Mell Baptist Association, member of the First National Coordinating Council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and first moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia.

For his service to Baptists and as a multiple-term trustee to Mercer, the University awarded Smith an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1973. To continue his support of McAfee and its students, Smith and his wife, Dorothy Walters "Dot" Smith, established the W. Ches and Carolyn Smith Scholarship Fund in honor of his parents.

Smith is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy; their five children, including Dr. Carol Goff, a member of Mercer's Townsend School of Music faculty; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Mitchener Helps Secure French Organ Gift

WHEN DR. JACK MITCHENER joined the Mercer faculty in spring 2012 as director of the Townsend-McAfee Institute of Church Music, associate professor of organ in the Townsend School of Music and University organist, he proposed an opportunity for the University to acquire a unique historic organ.

Having trained in Paris, Dr. Mitchener brought expertise in French organ music and a network of connections that made Mercer a potential home for this one-of-a-kind musical instrument.

His access to other organists in France, as well as members of the family that owned the organ, provided him with a connection to its heir, Michel Snethlage, who wished to give the organ to a university to train aspiring organists and preserve the legacy of his uncle, Giuseppe Englert.

Englert was a noted composer of electronic music in Paris, but his early studies were in organ with renowned performer and pedagogue André Marchal. He was Marchal's assistant organist at the Church of St. Eustache in Paris and also was married to Marchal's only daughter, Jacqueline.

In fact, during a trip to Paris, when Dr. Mitchener played a recital at Notre Dame Cathedral, he had an opportunity to visit with Englert's wife and play the organ.

"I was astonished at what a beautiful and versatile instrument it is," Dr. Mitchener said of his first experience playing Englert's organ.

Originally built in 1953, the organ is an exceptional example of the neoclassical style

of organ building in the 20th century. It represents the next logical step after the work of the great 19th century French romantic organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll.

This two-manual and pedal organ of 16 stops has nearly 1,400 pipes, almost all of which are in enclosed divisions. It is possible to vary the volume of the sound, making the organ versatile and appropriate for almost any composition in the six centuries of repertoire available to organists.

The organ was built by Victor Gonzalez in Paris at the request of Englert for his large apartment across the street from Les Invalides, the site of Napoléon's tomb. Gonzalez was the most famous organ builder in France at the time and was a leader in the neoclassical movement in organ building.

Englert's organ was known to many renowned musicians in Paris during and after the 1950s and was played by such notables as Maurice Duruflé, Jean Langlais and Olivier Messiaen.

"The Englert Organ has great historical value, but it also will serve the daily needs of our students," Dr. Mitchener said. "It will be used for teaching lessons, classes and practicing. And, it will always be exciting to know

that we have a little bit of Paris right here in the music building."

The organ is a gift of Snethlage, Englert's nephew, with additional support provided by the Townsend-McAfee Institute of Church Music, as well as private gifts.

"We are thrilled that the Giuseppe Englert Memorial Organ has found its home in the Townsend School of Music, and we are especially grateful for the generosity of Michel Snethlage," Dr. C. David Keith, dean of the Townsend School of Music, said. "This unique organ allows our students to experience an organ built by the most famous organ builder in France during the 1950s. To have this instrument in Macon and at Mercer is a testament to the strength of the Townsend School of Music and its commitment to providing quality musical experiences for our students."

In order to prepare the organ for its trans-Atlantic voyage from Paris to Macon, Robert Martin, an organ builder from Marseille, France, disassembled and packed the organ's various parts for safe travel. Martin also made the journey to Macon to reassemble the organ in its new studio upon arrival on campus.

Based on the cost of ordering a similar custom organ today, the University estimates the organ is worth approximately 12 times the amount paid in transportation and assembly expenses to bring it from Paris to Macon.

Mercer held a weekend-long dedication and inauguration celebration April 12-15 for the Giuseppe Englert Memorial Organ. The weekend featured a ceremony followed by a concert with Dr. Mitchener and guest organists performing. The festivities continued with a lecture by Martin, who aided in transporting and assembling the organ, then an open house in the Englert Organ Studio. Mercer students concluded the celebration by performing on the organ, after which local organists were invited to play the instrument for themselves.

Celebrating the dedication and inauguration of the Giuseppe Englert Memorial Organ are (L-R) Ralph Tilden, Guillaume Gionta, Marie-Antoinette Vernières, Barbara Howell, Dr. Jack Mitchener, Michel Snethlage and Robert Martin.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Bryan Creates Scholarship for Rural Students

SINCE 2009, COUNTRY MUSIC sensation Luke Bryan has held an annual “Farm Tour,” appropriately at a farm or similar open field, in or near various college towns around the Southeast. Last fall, he concluded the Fourth Annual Farm Tour with a stop in Macon, playing in Central City Park before thousands of fans from across Central Georgia. In total, more than 100,000 people attended a Farm Tour concert in 2012, doubling year-over-year attendance.

As a way to support the communities where he played on the Farm Tour, Bryan established a scholarship at a local university in each location, using the concert proceeds to benefit some 20 scholarships awarded in the last four years. Naturally, he chose Mercer University to create a scholarship in Macon.

Established in 2011 after his first Macon concert the prior year, the Luke Bryan Expendable Scholarship Fund provides financial aid to students who are from a farming family, background or community. A native of Leesburg and a son of a peanut farmer himself, Bryan uses his scholarships to help students with a similar upbringing defray the cost of a college education.

In fact, the idea for the Farm Tour concerts was born out of Bryan’s desire to give back to farming communities by celebrating and lifting up the American farmer and offering a fun escape with the outdoor shows.

This academic year, Mercer awarded the scholarship to an inaugural group of three freshmen — Isabella Connor, Christian “Luke” Roland and Mary Kathryn West.

Connor, a native of Tifton, is a biomedical engineering major enrolled in the five-year master’s program in the School of Engineering. Specializing in the area of cellular, tissue and genetic engineering, she aims to earn an M.D. in the field of reconstructive surgery, where



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA CONNOR

Scholarship recipients Isabella Connor (left) and Mary Kathryn West (right) met Luke Bryan backstage prior to his 2012 Farm Tour concert in Macon.

she can implement her own designs. As a student at Irwin County High School in Ocilla, Connor had a variety of farming experiences through the school’s agricultural programs. She was the 2012 valedictorian and STAR student.

From Bryan’s hometown of Leesburg, Roland graduated from Lee County High School, where he played baseball and was salutatorian of his class. For multiple generations, his family has grown vegetable crops, which he helped to tend at home. A President’s List honoree with a 4.0 GPA his first semester at Mercer, Roland is also enrolled in the School of Engineering and plans to complete the five-year master’s program in mechanical engineering.

West, from Moultrie, home to the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo, is a biology major enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts. She intends to become a physician’s assistant and participate in medical missions. Members of her extended family own and operate Mobley Gin Company, a local cotton gin in Colquitt County. Both of her parents were raised and worked on a farm and, being from a farming community, she has an appreciation for the role agriculture has played in local history.

Thanks to Bryan’s generosity, these students are better able to afford a Mercer education, and they are grateful he has

chosen to support rural students as they strive to succeed.

“I believe it’s such an exceptional thing that Luke Bryan is doing by giving this scholarship here at Mercer,” Connor said. “I’m so grateful that he’s recognizing the hard work and efforts of students from rural areas that sometimes may be overlooked due to our not being from more urban and populated areas. He has given us the opportunity to show that we, too, have given it our all to be here at this phenomenal school.”

When the Farm Tour came through Macon, Connor and West had the opportunity to meet Bryan before the concert and express to him in person their gratitude for his scholarship.

“Words could not explain how much this scholarship has helped me through the year, and hopefully for future years to come,” West said. “Mercer was my dream school when I was young, but I never imagined actually attending. With the poor economy today, staying at Mercer was looking improbable, but this scholarship definitely helped make the impossible possible. Not to mention, meeting Luke Bryan backstage was fantastic! It was really great to have the opportunity to personally thank him for his generosity.”

25-50-100 Years Ago ...

Photos and archival information for 25-50-100 Years Ago assembled by Laura Botts and the Tarver Library Special Collections staff.



1913

The 1913 baseball team was coached by Dr. Charles Crawford Stroud and included future Mercer Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Julien Bostwick "Stick" Roddenbery. The team was victorious that season against such opponents as Wake Forest, Tennessee, Georgia Tech and Auburn.



1963

President Emeritus Spright Dowell passed away on Feb. 24, 1963. He served the University as president from 1928 until 1953 and was interim president after the death of George B. Connell in 1959. Dowell was known for his frugality and his persistent fund-raising. During his tenure, Mercer's endowment grew some \$3 million. Dr. Dowell, left, and Dr. Connell, right, are pictured here with Board of Trustees Chairman T. Baldwin Martin in 1953.



1987

Students rallied to support Mercer during the 1987-88 academic year after a controversial Baptist minister condemned the school as heretical. Then-president Dr. R. Kirby Godsey addressed the Georgia Baptist Convention, which passed motions opposing the pastor and continuing funding for the institution. Mercer students wore "I Am Mercer Proud" buttons, pictured here, as they took a stand for the University.

ND RUTH DRAKE FIELD HOUSE

JOIN THE
TEAM,
CELEBRATE
MERCER
ATHLETICS,
AND LEAVE
A LEGACY.

THE RETURN OF FOOTBALL this fall marks the beginning of a new chapter in the rich history of Mercer University. In order to accommodate football as well as the addition of men's and women's lacrosse, construction is well underway on a state-of-the-art facility — the Moyer Football and Lacrosse Complex, including Drake Field House, Anderson Field and Butler Family Plaza — that will serve as the new home of the Bears.

MERCER ALUMNI AND FANS have the opportunity to be a part of history-in-the-making through a gift toward the completion of the stadium and complex. Gifts to the campaign accrue toward annual and lifetime giving totals.

THIS IS A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT. Donors of \$100 or more who give before June 30 will have their names listed on a donor wall displayed at the complex as a tribute to those who rally to the cause.

**MAKE YOUR MARK
ON MERCER HISTORY.**

Naming opportunities available.
For more information
or to give,
visit football.mercer.edu/giving.



THE BEARS ARE BACK

MERCER



2013 SCHEDULE



AUG. 31
REINHARDT
6:00 PM



SEPT. 14
WARNER
TBA



SEPT. 21
BERRY
TBA



SEPT. 28*
DRAKE
TBA



OCT. 5*
AT
SAN DIEGO
TBA



OCT. 12*
VALPARAISO
12 NOON



OCT. 19
CARNEGIE
MELLON
1:00 PM



OCT. 26*
AT
CAMPBELL
TBA



NOV. 2*
AT
DAVIDSON
TBA



NOV. 9*
JACKSONVILLE
TBA



NOV. 16*
AT
MARIST
TBA



NOV. 23*
STETSON
4:00 PM
HOMECOMING

VISIT MERCERBEARS.COM OR CALL (478) 301-5470 FOR TICKET INFORMATION

* Pioneer League Games