

THE

# Mercerian

FALL 2015

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*Freshman Residence  
Hall (Coming Fall 2016)*

## Transforming the Macon Campus

**New Home for Mercer  
Theatre Opens**  
**TeleHealth Advancing  
Rural Medicine**

*Mercer Lofts at Mercer  
Landing (Coming Fall 2016)*

*Mercer Land  
and Restaur*

*Moyle Football and  
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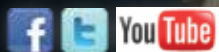
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# In Our Lens

*The Lofts  
at Mercer  
Village  
Center for  
Collaborative  
Journalism  
(2011-2012)*

In recent years the Macon campus has been expanding to the South and West, but virtually every corner of the historic campus is being transformed as the University continues to experience record enrollments.



**AS THE MERCERIAN** was in the final stages of design in September, once again the nation was reminded of the outstanding students enrolled at Mercer University as Warner Robins native Betty Cantrell was crowned 2016 Miss America. Coverage of her crowning is on page 15.



AP PHOTO/MEL EVANS

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# THE **Mercerian**

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2

FALL 2015

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to THE MERCERIAN, 1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, GA 31207.



**MACON | ATLANTA | SAVANNAH**

Columbus, Douglas County, Henry County, Newnan, Warner Robins

## Freshman Makes History as Top Speaker at National Parliamentary Debate Association Tournament

**J**az Buckley made history at the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) tournament March 14-17 in Kansas City, Kansas, when she became the first freshman and the first African-American to be named top speaker at the nation's largest parliamentary debate tournament.

Buckley, a sophomore majoring in political science and French with aspirations to be a lawyer, outranked 320 other debaters representing top programs such as the University of California, Berkeley, Wheaton, Rice and Whitman to receive the James "Al" Johnson Top Speaker Award.

NPDA is the largest intercollegiate organization for debate of any kind in the U.S.

A freshman with only two years of experience in organized debate, Buckley had competed in the novice division at most of the team's competitions last season. However, at nationals, there is not a separate novice division. Despite all debaters competing against one another, novice awards are still presented under the assumption that the top novice will not also receive the top speaker award. Buckley won both for the first time in the competition's history.

"This experience makes me want to continue to be involved with debate and opening the space to other individuals," said Buckley. "Debate can grow. It is a progressive and inclusive activity."

Parliamentary debate features two teams of two students debating one another on relevant topics of international interest, such as war crimes, biofuels and student loan debt. One team, called the "government," affirms a given resolution, while the other team, called the "opposition," refutes it. The four speakers alternate in presenting their arguments, which are based on their existing knowledge, as well as 20 to 30 minutes of research done just prior to the debate.

Buckley's teammate Kyle Bligen, also competing as a freshman, was rated the fourth-best speaker and second-best novice. The team of Buckley and Bligen, a politics, philosophy and economics major from Long Island, New York, finished in the top 16, as did Mercer's other team of seniors Lindsey Hancock, an English major from Thompson's Station, Tennessee, and Hunter Pilkinton, a political science and

communication studies major from Tifton. Hancock was rated the 10th-best speaker.

"When we would travel to national debate competitions in the past, other teams did not always know who Mercer was," said Dr. Vasile Stanescu, director of debate and assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Theatre Arts. "Now, because of these exceptional debaters, they do."

Hancock and Pilkinton also competed at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) March 20-23 at William Jewell College in Missouri. The duo from Mercer was the first team from the University and the state of Georgia to qualify for NPTE, the most prestigious parliamentary debate tournament in the nation. They finished with four wins and four losses in the 64-team field.

Senior Caleb Maier, a psychology and philosophy major from Alpharetta, and junior Gabriel Ramirez, an environmental engineering major from Warner Robins, as well as assistant coach Erica Eaton, a former Mercer debater, also contributed to what was the most



Jaz Buckley with the James "Al" Johnson Top Speaker Award

successful season in the history of the University's debate team.

"Debate is an academic activity. It entirely depends on the knowledge of the students," added Dr. Stanescu. "These achievements are a reflection of the academic excellence that Mercer always exhibits. My hope is that these victories highlight that debate at Mercer represents a space where everyone can succeed."

## Trustees Approve Record Operating Budget, New Academic Programs in College of Liberal Arts

**M**ercer's Board of Trustees, meeting April 17 on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta, approved a record \$237.1 million operating budget for 2015-16 and approved three new academic programs in the College of Liberal Arts.

The \$237,129,679 operating budget represents an \$8,077,726, or 3.5 percent, increase over the previous budget. For the third consecutive year, trustees voted to limit the tuition increase for Mercer's undergraduate programs to 2 percent. President William D. Underwood noted that

the University's disciplined approach to holding down costs for students and their families, coupled with the national achievements of its students, has contributed to recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* and other college guidebooks of Mercer's great value.

For the third consecutive year, students in the Walter F. George School of Law will see no tuition increase and, for the fourth consecutive year, Doctor of Medicine students in the School of Medicine will see no increase in tuition. Students in Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing will also have no increase in tuition for 2015-16. Most other graduate programs will see

increases of 2 percent or less.

The board authorized a new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the College of Liberal Arts. The BFA degree will augment the current art major that leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree by providing more in-depth study of the arts and preparing students for today's increasingly complex visual culture. Trustees also approved a new interdisciplinary neuroscience major that will be offered through the psychology and biology departments and a new interdisciplinary major in criminal justice that will draw from psychology, sociology, political science, philosophy, Christianity and Africana studies.

## Mercer Designated Georgia's First Purple Heart University

**M**ercer was recognized as Georgia's first Purple Heart University in a ceremony April 8 on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta.

The designation signifies the University's recognition and honor of veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart, created by George Washington to be bestowed on those wounded or killed in combat serving the United States.

The country's first Purple Heart University was designated in April 2013, and there are currently 19 such institutions nationwide.

"For over 200 years, military men and women, and especially our Purple Heart recipients, have sacrificed personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling, and our nation has relied on their courage, strength, sacrifice and selfless service," said retired Lt. Col. Scott Mahone, assistant director of regional academic center operations at Mercer.

"Being designated as a Purple Heart University is a profound honor and testimony to Mercer's unwavering support and commitment to our veterans, their families and military-connected students still serving on reserve or active duty both here and around the world."

Mercer has worked extensively to better assist military-connected prospective students through the enrollment process for traditional, non-traditional and graduate programs. These efforts resulted in the University being named a Military Friendly School, a designation re-



served for the top 15 percent of universities and technical schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military service members, veterans and family members as students and ensure their success on campus.

Mercer also participates in the Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program, which offers significant financial offsets and provides affordable private education to veterans. The University's Office of Enrollment Management is an active participant in Georgia Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegra-

tion Program (YRRP) events. YRRP is a Department of Defense effort to assist National Guard and Reserve service members and their families in obtaining personalized information on health care, education, training opportunities, financial services and other entitlements.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veterans service organization made up strictly of combat veterans.

# Mercer On Mission Prosthetics Program Recognized for Ongoing Efforts to Aid Amputees in Vietnam

**F**aculty Dr. Ha Vo and Dr. Craig McMahan attended in late July a celebration of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the U.S. as invited guests of Vietnamese Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh. The celebration was held at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

“The guest list was composed of a relatively small number of people and organizations who had made a substantial difference in healing the wounds of war and building new foundations for peace and prosperity between our two nations. Being included in such rare company speaks volumes about the impact that our Mercer On Mission prosthetics program has made in Vietnam under the tireless efforts of Dr. Vo,” Dr. McMahan said.

Dr. Vo, associate professor of biomedical engineering, and Dr. McMahan, dean of chapel and University minister, have led students and faculty on 10 trips to Vietnam since 2009 as part of the University’s unique Mercer On Mission initiative. They have fitted over 4,000 amputees with Dr. Vo’s patented Universal Socket Prosthetic, a highly durable prosthetic leg that costs less than \$200 to manufacture.

The most recent trip this summer saw 24 students and four faculty members fit 489 amputees.

Mercer’s program in Vietnam continues to receive the support of the country’s government. On June 25, the program was issued a Certificate of Operation, which officially acknowledges the Vietnamese government’s recognition and approval of its work. The certificate allows program-related taxes and fees to be waived, provides access to banking privileges and facilitates major purchases such as a vehicle that will allow trained fitters to travel among several clinics in the country.

Dr. Vo and Dr. McMahan met Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang and several other officials during a visit to the country this past February when they set up a third clinical base. With seven full-time Vietnamese fitters and Mercer On Mission fitters visiting each summer, the program has the potential to fit as many as 2,000

amputees each year at clinics in the southern cities of Ben Tre, Can Tho and Phung Hiep.

The Vietnamese government recently requested that the program expand its work to Hanoi and the northern region of the country. Dr. Vo, Dr. McMahan and Macon businessman Chris Sheridan, whose foundation has pledged more than \$1.25 million to the program, plan to return to Vietnam soon to explore the feasibility of establishing a new clinical base in that area.

“The Vietnam prosthetics program is one of the University’s most compelling examples of how the integration of research and service can not only provide relevant vocational preparation for students, but also fulfill the part of Mercer’s mission that encourages students to discover and develop fully their unique combination of gifts and talents to become leaders who make a positive difference in the world,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood, who traveled to Vietnam as part of the program in December 2013.

The work of this program stems from the childhood of Dr. Vo, who grew up in Vietnam and experienced many of the horrors of the Vietnam War, such as seeing the ravaging consequences of unexploded ordnance left throughout the countryside of South Vietnam.

Dr. Vo and his family eventually came to the U.S. in 1990 and he put himself through college, earning degrees in medicine, podiatric medicine



**Dr. Craig McMahan (l-r), Dr. Ha Vo and Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S. Pham Quang Vinh at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the U.S., held in Washington, D.C., in July.**

and surgery, manufacturing engineering and biomedical engineering.

He and Dr. McMahan both joined Mercer’s faculty in 2005. They became friends, and when Dr. McMahan was asked by President Underwood to design and implement the Mercer On Mission initiative, they developed a plan to include a prosthetics program in Vietnam.

In addition to the 10 trips to Vietnam, the program has made one trip to Haiti following that country’s devastating earthquake in 2010. The United Nations and other international agencies have had discussions with the University about expanding the program into other countries.

## Tift College of Education Preparing for Inaugural Cohort of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows

**T**ift College of Education, in collaboration with the School of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts, hosted nearly a dozen teachers and two dozen

students from area middle schools in June in preparation for the first class of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows.

The visitors participated in a weeklong robotics workshop, led by engineering professors Dr. Anthony Choi and Dr. Donald Ekong and education professor Dr. Barbara Rascoe, followed by a weeklong STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) camp, led by associate professor of education Dr. Sharon Augustine and professor of engineering Dr. Philip McCreanor. As part of the camp, Dr. Jane Metty, assistant professor of education, engaged students in an activity to teach the phases of the moon, and Dr. Matt Marone, associate professor of physics, demonstrated a solar telescope and gave a presentation on ancient Chinese technology.

"We had a saying in STEM camp that we wanted students to push themselves to 'their

optimal levels of confusion' because that is where innovation and learning happens. Students accomplished this balance by showing a great deal of intellectual curiosity, collaboration and persistence. They were

three Tift College students.

The goals of these events were to build relationships with local teachers from Bibb, Dodge, Houston and Monroe counties who will serve as mentors to Mercer's Woodrow

Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows and to pilot the new STEM-based Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) curriculum that will be taught to the Fellows.

The Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship, announced by Gov. Nathan Deal (CLA '64, Law '66) in March 2014, is aimed at increasing the supply of outstanding teachers in the STEM fields and changing how they are prepared to teach. Georgia was the fifth state overall to join this growing national initiative.

Mercer, as one of the state's five partner institutions, will offer master's degree candidates a rigorous yearlong teacher

preparation experience in local classrooms, similar to a medical school residency. Fellows receive \$30,000 stipends in exchange for a commitment to teach in a high-need urban or rural school in Georgia for three years with ongoing mentoring.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Area middle school students participated in a weeklong summer STEM camp hosted by associate professor of education Dr. Sharon Augustine and professor of engineering Dr. Philip McCreanor.

great representatives of what Middle Georgia students can do," said Dr. Augustine, who also serves as Mercer's program director for the Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship.

Also this summer, Dr. McCreanor taught a pilot course, called STEM Methods, to

## Nash Appointed McAfee School of Theology Interim Dean

**P**rovost Dr. D. Scott Davis appointed Dr. Robert N. Nash Jr. as interim dean of the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology, effective July 1, when the School's founding dean Dr. R. Alan Culpepper stepped down after 20 years of service in that post.

Dr. Nash serves as the Arnall-Mann-Thomasson Professor of Missions and World Religions at McAfee. He received his Ph.D. in church history (1989) and Master of Divinity (1985) from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Additionally, he completed both his Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville.



Dr. Nash

working with faculty, staff and students as we build upon the legacy of Dean Culpepper and work toward our common vision of nurturing God's Beloved Community in our churches and neighborhoods and across the world."

Prior to joining the faculty at McAfee in 2012, Dr. Nash served as global missions

"McAfee is strategically placed in Atlanta and on the Mercer campus where it serves as a center for theological inquiry, ministry preparation and innovative church leadership," Dr. Nash said. "I look forward to

coordinator at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship from 2006-2012 and as a professor in the religion departments at both Shorter College in Rome from 1994-2006 and Judson College in Marion, Alabama, from 1992-1994.

Author of three books and numerous articles, Dr. Nash has devoted his research and writing to the intersection between religious faith and culture, paying particular attention to what happens to religions as they move from one cultural context to another.

He has served as pastor and interim pastor of congregations in Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia and as a frequent lecturer on college and university campuses.



## Floyd Appointed Dean of Mercer Law School

**A**fter leading the Walter F. George School of Law on an interim basis since February 2014, Daisy Hurst Floyd has been appointed dean of the University's second-oldest academic unit by Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis.

It is Floyd's second term as dean, after serving in the role from 2004 to 2010. She succeeds Gary J. Simson, who in 2014 was appointed senior vice provost for scholarship at the University.

Floyd came to Mercer in 2004 from Texas Tech University Law School, where she was a member of the faculty from 1990-2004 and served as associate dean for academic affairs for more than seven years. She received a B.A. *summa cum laude*

and M.A. in Political Science from Emory University and a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as articles editor of the *Georgia Law Review*.

In 2010, she left the dean's office to serve as University Professor of Law and Ethical Formation, leading the University in collaborations between undergraduate and professional education to prepare students for lives of purpose and responsibility.

Floyd is the author of numerous law review articles and is a frequent speaker at academic and law conferences. Her teaching and research



Floyd

interests include ethics, legal education, civil procedure, and evidence.

Floyd has been a member of the American Bar Association Presidential Council on Diversity in the Legal Profession and served on the State Bar of Georgia Diversity Committee. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Order of the Coif, an elected Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the Texas Bar Foundation, and the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia, and a member of the State Bars of Georgia and Texas. She is a Master of the William Augustus Bootle Inn of Court, and serves regularly as a site team member for the American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools' sabbatical reinspection of law schools.

## School of Engineering, Office of International Programs Host Nearly 100 Brazilian Students for Summer Research Experience

**T**he School of Engineering, in partnership with the Office of International Programs, this summer launched a unique 10-week research experience for nearly 100 Brazilian students representing the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP), in addition to local undergraduate students.

The BSMP is a one-year, non-degree program offered by the Brazilian government to allow the country's students to study abroad in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields at the world's best colleges and universities.

The English Language Institute in Mercer's Office of International Programs has worked with the BSMP to provide intensive English courses for these students on the University's Atlanta campus prior to two semesters of undergraduate study on the Macon campus.

The Mercer University Summer Engineering Experience (MeSEE) was developed in response to BSMP students in U.S. engineering schools and Mercer students and professors

desiring a way to extend their research into the summer term.

"The MeSEE program is driven by teams of students who collaborate with a faculty member to design and develop solutions

innovative approaches to design problems and work closely with faculty members to master technology, teamwork and purposeful research."

In addition to Mercer undergraduates, this summer's inaugural MeSEE was open to all BSMP students nationwide.

"Our initial enrollment estimates were blown away by the outpouring of interest by BSMP students studying at higher education institutions across the U.S.," said Nicole H. Baker, international student adviser and scholar services coordinator.

"Mercer's BSMP students helped raise the profile of the University on a global level by reaching out to their peers from across the nation of Brazil who had been placed through the U.S. for their English language learning and undergraduate study."

Brazilian students representing 21 universities in 18 different states participated in around a dozen MeSEE projects in environmental, electrical, industrial, mechanical, computer and biomedical engineering.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Two of the nearly 100 Brazilian students who spent the summer performing research in Mercer's School of Engineering take measurements in a lab.

to an engineering problem," said Dr. Wade H. Shaw, Kaolin Professor and dean of the School of Engineering.

"Students receive normal academic credit as they use our labs and tools to craft

## Bear Statue Installed at Five Star Stadium Entrance

**A**n 1,800-pound bronze bear statue, a gift to Mercer from retired businessman Irwin Belk, was installed Aug. 3 near Butler Family Plaza at Five Star Stadium.

Belk, former president of Belk department stores from Charlotte, North Carolina, has provided millions of dollars in gifts for academic and athletic facilities, statues and other projects on college and university campuses, primarily in the Carolinas.

Gregory Johnson of Cumming, Georgia, was commissioned to create seven sculptures for Belk, including Mercer's newest bear, which is more than 10 feet long from its nose to its feet.

"Thanks to the generosity of Irwin Belk and the craftsmanship of Gregory Johnson, this statue is going to completely change the entrance to Five Star Stadium on game day," said Brian Gerrity, senior associate director of athletics and executive director of the Mercer Athletic Foundation. "It will be a focal point for pictures and a place to rally around."

The statue was sculpted from 500 pounds of clay over approximately 150 hours by Johnson before it was sent to Eagle Bronze foundry in Wyoming, which made a mold and cast it in bronze.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Sculptor Gregory Johnson of Cumming, Georgia, created Mercer's newest bear statue, which was installed outside Five Star Stadium in August.

"What I attempt to do when I sculpt is make the sculptures so lifelike that they look like they can get down off of their settings," said Johnson, who has created more than 250 major pieces of sculpture.

The lifelike grizzly, which is portrayed

resting its left front paw on a raised rock and letting out a fierce roar, will join Mercer's five-year-old bronze statue of a fully upright bear that stands in Cruz Plaza as a popular gathering place on football game days, admissions tours and other campus activities.

## University, Health Sciences Center Participate in Second Annual Atlanta Science Festival

THE UNIVERSITY and the Mercer Health Sciences Center again were major sponsors of the second annual Atlanta Science Festival, a weeklong celebration of science and technology in Metro Atlanta. The festival culminated in the Exploration Expo held March 28 in Centennial Olympic Park. Faculty and students from the College of Pharmacy, College of Liberal Arts, School of Engineering and College of Health Professions performed demonstrations on subjects such as chemistry, biology, astronomy and biomedical engineering throughout the day.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Cotto Chosen for Amgen Scholars Program

Kelsy Cotto, a biochemistry and molecular biology major in the College of Liberal Arts, was selected as an Amgen Scholar and spent 10 weeks this summer conducting research at Washington University in St. Louis.

Cotto, a junior from Tifton, was one of 20 Amgen Scholars at Washington University from May 26-Aug. 8, where she worked on cutting-edge biotechnology research.

Cotto conducts undergraduate research in the lab of Dr. Garland Crawford, assistant professor of chemistry, where she investigates the regulation of the enzyme OGA. She has also worked with Dr. Bill Jenkins, associate professor of psychology at Mercer, and Dr. Coran Watanabe, associate professor of chemistry at Texas A&M University.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY  
Cotto

### Brewer Earns Fulbright to Teach in Germany

Thornton M. Brewer, a May 2015 College of Liberal Arts graduate, was selected to receive a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student



PHOTO COURTESY THORNTON BREWER  
Brewer

Award to teach in Germany.

Brewer, a senior from Houston, Texas, majored in both political science and German with a minor in economics.

As a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, he will spend 12 hours per week in German classrooms helping promote speech fluidity to students who are already knowledgeable in English through conversation practice. He plans to spend much of the remainder of his time integrating himself into the German culture through his work for a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and intercultural awareness and other activities.

### MBA Students Win Two Awards at International Business Competition

Stetson School of Business and Economics sent a team of MBA students to the International Business Ethics Case Competition (IBECC) for the first time this spring. The students won two second-place awards.

IBECC, which is the oldest and most prestigious intercollegiate ethics case competition in the world, was held April 21-23 in New Orleans. Ten graduate schools competed, including teams from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Hong Kong.

Mercer's team, consisting of A.J. Donaldson, Brandon Monk, Varnica Singh and Brigitte Zaman, delivered a 30-minute presentation based on the book *Waking Up Blind* by Tom Harbin, M.D., MBA, a recent guest speaker at the University.

The students volunteered to attend the competition after learning of it from Dr. Bob Perkins, associate professor of management, in his

Ethical Leadership course.

In the first phase of the competition, each team described problems with its case study from legal, financial and ethical standpoints, before recommending a solution. Expert judges, all practicing ethics and compliance professionals, posed challenging questions and provided feedback. Mercer won second place, behind a team from the University of Oxford of the United Kingdom.

In the second phase of the competition, two team members, Zaman and Monk, spoke only on their case's ethical implications. Mercer again won second place, this time behind McMaster University of Canada.

### Counseling Students Earn National Fellowships

Graduate counseling students Tavonda Hudson and Shabria L. Caldwell have each been awarded a \$5,000 fellowship from the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Hudson is pursuing a Master of Science degree in clinical mental health counseling in Penfield College and a Master of Divinity degree in McAfee School of Theology, while Caldwell is pursuing a Master of Science

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

degree in clinical mental health counseling in Penfield College.

Among 40 master's-level counseling students to receive a fellowship in 2015, Hudson and Caldwell are the second and third Mercer students ever to receive an NBCC award.

NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling.

### Ramirez Receives SMART Scholarship from U.S. DoD

John Morgan Ramirez was recently awarded a Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Ramirez, a junior mechanical engineering major from Simpsonville, South Carolina, will serve as an intern and, later, a civilian employee at Robins Air Force Base working with the U.S. Air Force Sustainment Center, which is headquartered at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

He will receive full tuition, room and board, an annual stipend and additional allowances while at Mercer for each year that he commits to work for the DoD following graduation. He will also be able to participate in summer internships at DoD laboratories.

### Walker Receives Boren Scholarship to Study in Morocco

Recent College of Liberal Arts graduate Timothy Walker was awarded a Boren Scholarship to study French and Arabic at Al Alakhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, during the spring 2016 semester.

Walker, from Biloxi, Mississippi, will also study the history and culture of Morocco and the Middle East/North Africa region,



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Walker

as he seeks to enhance his language proficiency and cultural awareness for a future career in the U.S. Army.

Walker majored in history and minored in military science and was a cadet in Mercer's Army ROTC program.

### Three Mercerians Selected to Serve in Peace Corps

Two Mercer students who graduated this past spring and one who will graduate next spring have been accepted into the Peace Corps.

Janique Hosier, from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Liberal Arts in May. She is the first person from the Virgin Islands to join the Peace Corps since 1961 and will serve as an English teacher at a secondary school in Burkina Faso.

Christie Hutchison, from Senoia, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental engineering from the School of Engineering in May. She will serve as a water and sanitation engineer in Mali.

Caleb Barefield, from Winder, is a senior pursuing his Bachelor of Arts degree in

Christianity in the College of Liberal Arts. He will serve as a youth development volunteer in Swaziland, beginning in June 2016.

### Hancock Joins Teach For America Corps in Mississippi

Recent graduate Lindsey Hancock was accepted into Teach For America and will spend the next two years teaching secondary English in Mississippi.

Hancock, from Thompson's Station, Tennessee, majored in English with minors in history and teacher education. A co-captain on Mercer's debate team, she credits Director of Debate Dr. Vasile Stanescu with encouraging her to apply for the program and inspiring her to pursue teaching as an avenue for social justice.

Hancock was among the 10 percent of around 40,000 applicants to be accepted to the program this year. The Mississippi corps numbers around 300 teachers, who are working to improve education in a state where only 11 percent of students are college-ready upon graduation from high school.

## Knapper Earns National Science Foundation Fellowship

Mercer alumna Kasie Knapper (CLA '13), now a Ph.D. student in analytical chemistry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, recently received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF).

She was one of 2,000 master's and doctoral students from the United States representing various scientific disciplines to be awarded a GRF from 16,500 applicants in 2015.

Knapper, who majored in chemistry and psychology at Mercer, conducted research in the lab of Dr. Kathryn Kloepper, assistant professor of chemistry, to investigate the role environmental conditions play in metal release from kaolin, a common mineral used in a wide variety of everyday products.

## Barway, Zeegar Named Sam Oni Scholars

Mercer recently named two students from Ricks Institute in Liberia as Sam Oni Scholars. The students are both 2014 graduates of Ricks and receive full scholarships, including tuition, room and board costs, to attend Mercer.

This year's Sam Oni Scholars are Emmanuella Barway and Abel Zeegar. Barway has spent the past year studying at Stella Maris Polytechnic in Monrovia, while Zeegar spent the past year studying chemistry at Cuttington University in Suacoco.

Each academic year since 2009, Mercer has granted at least two full scholarships to Ricks Institute graduates.

The scholarship program is named in honor of Sam Oni, a native of Ghana who in 1963 was the first black student admitted to Mercer. After earning multiple degrees from U.S. universities, Oni returned to Africa to begin Project Ploughshare, a non-



PHOTO COURTESY DR. RICHARD F. WILSON

Zeegar and Barway

government organization focused on rural development in Nigeria.

Sam Oni Scholars are required to return to Liberia upon graduation from Mercer for two years of service to their home country.

## Taslim Receives Robertson Fellowship for International Study

Alumnus Adriel Taslim has received a Robertson Fellowship to pursue a master's degree at the University of California, San Diego.

Taslim, from Redding, California, studied in Mercer's Robert McDuffie Center for Strings in the Townsend School of Music. He earned his bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* in May 2014 with majors in violin performance and French. Additionally, he minored in Asian studies, earned University Honors and departmental honors in French, and was a finalist for both Marshall and Fulbright scholarships.

He has spent the past year teaching in Thailand with Service First, a program based in Mercer's Institute of Life Purpose that offers graduates the opportunity to

engage in meaningful service that allows them to travel and significantly help others before attending graduate school or entering their chosen profession.

Taslim will pursue a Master of Pacific International Affairs (MPIA) degree in UC San Diego's School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

## Wibell Receives Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

Alumna Sarah Wibell recently received a \$5,000 fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi to pursue a Master of Philosophy in social anthropology at the University of Oxford.

Wibell, from Rutledge, earned her Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude* from the College of Liberal Arts in 2014 with majors in communication and women's and gender studies.

She was one of only 51 Phi Kappa Phi members to receive a \$5,000 award from the honor society this year. Each active chapter may nominate one candidate to compete for the fellowships, which support a student entering her or his first year of graduate or professional study.

# OnTheQuad

## FACULTY ROUNDUP

### ■ Roberts Receives Hendricks Award for Excellence in Teaching

Mercer presented Dr. Charles H. Roberts, associate professor of mathematics in Penfield College and a Mercer alumnus, with the Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award at the University's Macon commencement on May 16.



Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts, a native of Macon and valedictorian of his class at Peter G. Appling High School, was a student of one of the two professors for whom the award is named and a protégé of the other.

"I am a product of the local community, St. Peter Claver School and the public school system, and my experiences in this community and its schools greatly prepared me for academic life at Mercer, and eventually a productive career in education," Dr. Roberts said.

After graduating from Mercer with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics in 1969, Dr. Roberts went on to earn his Master of Science in mathematics and Ph.D. in higher

education/mathematics education from Michigan State University. He helped to establish what is now known as the Charles Drew Science Scholars Program at Michigan State. The program offers academic and social support for high-achieving students pursuing science and math degrees. He served as mathematics program director for 25 years, and was recognized for his efforts with the program's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003.

Having spent nearly 50 years as an educator, Dr. Roberts has also taught at the University of Georgia, as well as several high schools, including Central, Northeast and Peach County in Middle Georgia. He also spent three years from 1998-2000 as an elected member of the Lansing, Michigan, Board of Education. Prior to that, he established mathematics after-school programs at a high school and middle school in Lansing, which involved college students from Michigan State engaged in a form of service-learning.

The Hendricks Award recognizes a full-time teacher at the University who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguished Joe and Jean Hendricks as teachers and mentors to generations of Mercer students.

These include challenging and inspiring teaching in and out of the classroom, active engagement of students in the process of learning, discovery and leadership, as well as caring mentoring to motivate students and junior faculty to achieve their highest aspirations.

### ■ Codone Recommended for Fulbright Specialist Program Roster

Dr. Susan Codone, associate professor of technical communication in the School of Engineering and director of Mercer's Center for Teaching and Learning, was recently recommended to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster.



Dr. Codone

The Fulbright Specialist Program is the short-term arm of the Fulbright Scholar Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

### ■ Mines Named Society for Engineering Education Fellow

Dr. Richard O. Mines Jr., professor of environmental engineering in the School of Engineering, was recently named a Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).

Dr. Mines and 10 others — representing institutions such as Georgia Tech, Michigan State, Arkansas, Purdue and The Citadel — received the honor at the ASEE's annual conference June 15-17 in Seattle.

The Fellow designation is conferred by the organization's board of directors on members with outstanding qualifications, significant experience in engineering or engineering technology education or allied field, and contributions to ASEE.



Dr. Mines

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

## Ragusea Named Top Radio Reporter by Editors Association

Adam Ragusea, journalist-in-residence and visiting assistant professor of journalism in the Center for Collaborative Journalism (CCJ), was named the state's best radio anchor and/or reporter in the Georgia Associated Press Media Editors (APME) annual broadcast contest. Awards were announced at the Georgia APME meeting in Atlanta in June.

In addition to his teaching duties at Mercer, Ragusea hosts and produces a weekly podcast, "The Pub," for public broadcasting trade publication *Current*. He also contributes reports to several National Public Radio programs, GPB and *The Telegraph* newspaper in Macon.

Prior to joining the CCJ last fall, Ragusea mentored Mercer students in his role as Macon bureau chief for Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) radio, where he hosted NPR's "Morning Edition" on GPB Macon for two years.

## Vokhiwa Named to Fulbright Association State Board

Dr. Zipangani Vokhiwa, associate professor of science in Penfield College, has been named to the board of the Georgia Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

Dr. Vokhiwa served



Dr. Vokhiwa

as principal investigator for an \$84,220 Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad grant awarded to Mercer by the U.S. Department of Education in 2012. He led a team of 10 teachers and two administrators from Metro Atlanta on a four-week trip to his home country of Malawi to collect data for a research project, titled "The Interaction of Environment and Culture in

Malawi." He has also led three Mercer On Mission trips to Malawi — in 2010, 2011 and 2013 — where students worked at two orphanages and watershed sites.

The Fulbright Association, established in 1977, supports international educational and cultural exchange, in addition to the ideal most associated with its namesake Sen. Fulbright, which is mutual understanding among the peoples of the world. The Georgia Chapter was founded in the early 1990s and organizes six major annual events for visiting scholars, students and alumni.

## Silver Wins Author of the Year Award for *I Watched You Disappear*

Dr. Anya Silver, professor of English, received one of the 51st annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards (GAYA), presented June 27.

Dr. Silver won in the Poetry category for her book *I Watched You Disappear* (Louisiana State University Press, 2014), which explores themes such as faith, redemption, memory and family, seeking to find the eternal within the ordinary world.

*I Watched You Disappear* was also a finalist for the Julie Suk Awards and was listed as one of the top books of poetry in 2014 by both *The Christian Century* and *Image* magazine.



Dr. Silver

## Gushee Introduced as Newest Columnist for Religion News Service

Dr. David Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer, was introduced as the newest columnist for Religion News Service on June 29.

Religion News Service (RNS), based in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit news agency that aims to be the largest single source of in-depth, non-sectarian news coverage of religion, spirituality and ideas. Founded in 1934 as an affiliate of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, RNS has developed a network of correspondents around the world providing news and information on all faiths and religious movements to the nation's leading media outlets.



Dr. Gushee

## Jones Retires from McAfee School of Theology

Dr. Peter Rhea Jones Sr., who has experienced a long and distinguished career as a professor, New Testament scholar and pastor, retired from McAfee School of Theology at the end of July.

Dr. Jones, who served as J. Truett Gannon Professor of Preaching and New Testament, was a member of the study committee that recommended establishment of the McAfee School of Theology prior to its founding in 1996.

He spent 15 years on the faculty at McAfee, preceded by 21 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Decatur and 11 years on the faculty of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.



Dr. Jones



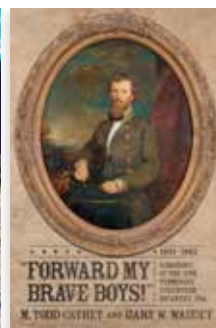
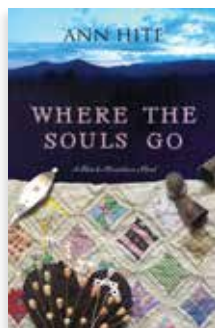
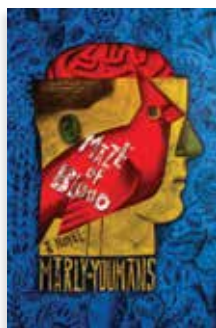
# MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

Small press. Great authors. Impressive books.

## MUP Offers an Exciting New Season of Books

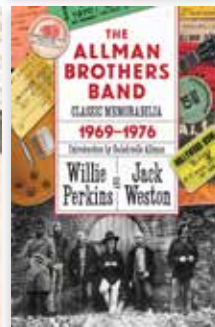
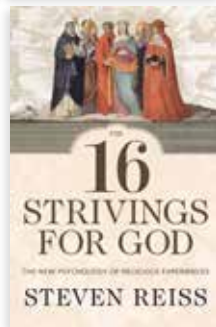
**A**n exciting first for Mercer University Press this season is the publication of five new novels — all by women authors. With 17 new books in all, readers will have a variety of fiction, poetry, history, memoir, sports and religion titles from which to choose.

Highlighted books from this season include: **Maze of Blood** by Marly Youmans, a novel inspired by the life of pulp writer Robert E. Howard, who was the creator of Conan the Barbarian and the genre known as sword and sorcery; **Where the Souls Go** by Ann Hite, her third novel set in Black Mountain, North Carolina, which follows three generations of the Pritchard family and details women's struggles in Appalachia; **Forward My Brave Boys!: A History of the 11th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry CSA, 1861–1865** by M. Todd Cathey and Gary W. Waddey, a well-researched history from primary documents, along with newly-created battle maps and an extensive biographical roster; **Centennial: A History of the Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia** by E. Culpepper Clark, dean

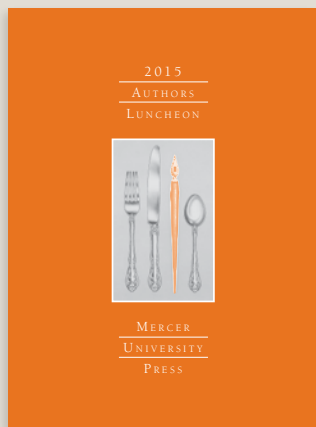


emeritus of the Grady College; **The 16 Strivings for God: The New Psychology of Religious Experiences** by Steven Reiss, an eminently readable book exploring the motivations and characteristics of individuals in their religious life; and **The Allman Brothers Band Classic Memorabilia, 1969–1976** by Willie Perkins and Jack Weston, a photo-rich chronicle of the iconic band during their early performing and recording years in Macon.

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# Authors Luncheon

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015 – 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta**

Authors appearing include Johnathon Scott Barrett, Jack Bunker, E. Culpepper Clark, Dale Cramer, John Ferling, Ann Hite, Robert D. Jenkins Sr., Jonathan W. Jordan, Andrew Maraniss, Cindy Henry McMahan, Steven Reiss, Steven Satterfield, Becca Stevens, Karen White and William “Billy” Winn. For more information, email [wallace\\_am@mercer.edu](mailto:wallace_am@mercer.edu).



# MERCER STUDENT BETTY CANTRELL CROWNED MISS AMERICA

**M**ercer student and reigning Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell was crowned Miss America on Sept. 13 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Cantrell, a native of Warner Robins and a graduate of Mount de Sales Academy in Macon, was pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in voice in Mercer's Townsend School of Music before putting her studies on hold to focus on the Miss Georgia and Miss America pageants.

"The Townsend School of Music is extremely proud of Betty and

her accomplishments. She is well loved and greatly respected by the students and faculty. She is a very caring student and has always sought to find the best in each person with whom she has come in contact," said Dr. C. David Keith, dean of the School.



Mercer student Betty Cantrell performed in the 2014 Mercer Opera production of "Gallantry."

Along with the coveted title of Miss America, Cantrell won a \$50,000 scholarship to continue her education. She received an additional \$2,000 for winning the talent portion of the competition for her performance of "Tu Tu

Piccolo Iddio" from Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly.

"Betty is a wonderful person, and we couldn't be more proud of her," said Dr. Martha Malone, professor of music and Cantrell's voice teacher at Mercer for the past two years. "She has determination, talent, is smart as a whip, and she has worked so very hard. We know she'll represent the University, Middle Georgia and the country well as Miss America."

While a student at Mercer, Cantrell twice won in her division at the Georgia National Association of Teachers of Singing statewide competition. She was also a member of the Mercer Singers, the University's primary touring choral ensemble.

Cantrell, who has aspirations of a musical theater career on Broadway, is the second Miss Georgia to be crowned Miss America, following Macon native Neva Jane Langley Fickling in 1953.





# MERCER OPENS TATTNALL SQUARE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**M**ercer Theatre's first performances in the newly completed Tattnall Square Center for the Arts — featuring William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* — were held April 16-26.

The Center serves as a community theatre and arts venue, as well as home to the University's Theatre Department. What was once a historic church that stood

sentry for more than 100 years is now a carefully renovated multi-purpose arts space. Sunday school classrooms have been transformed into state-of-the-art teaching studios, a scene shop with a two-story loft, costume shop and storage, and faculty offices. The Center accommodates visual and performing arts, lectures, film screenings and workshops hosted by community arts organizations, as well as the occasional wedding.

"The new facility has greatly enhanced the quality of theatre we can produce, as well as expanded the educational value of our theatre program at Mercer," said Theatre Director Scot Mann. "The cast of *The Tempest* included alumni, students and community members, as is fitting for a space that is focused on expanding the reach of arts programming in the local community."

Mercer Theatre will present four productions in the coming season, beginning with *A Flea In Her Ear*, Sept. 24 – Oct. 4. *Fiction* will be the first "in-the-round" production, Nov. 12-22. *Hedda Gabler* will be presented Feb. 18 – 28, and an evening of original works featuring Mercer playwriting students will close

out the season April 14 – 17.

Available to Mercer faculty and students, and the Macon community, the Center has already hosted several wedding receptions and a formal party for the Historic Macon Foundation. For more information on the Tattnall Square Center for the Arts, contact Arts Center Coordinator Charise Stephens at (478) 301-2974 or [stephens\\_cm@mercer.edu](mailto:stephens_cm@mercer.edu).



# Brewers Name Lobby of Performing Arts Center in Memory of Their Daughter



When Celia Brewer, CLA '83, passed away in 2013, her parents, Robert, CLA '56, and Faye, TIFT '59, Brewer wanted to do something to honor her memory. They learned of Mercer's plans to renovate the former Tattnall Square Presbyterian Church into the Tattnall Square Center for the Arts, and it was a perfect match.

The Brewer family has long shared a love for theater. Robert was a faculty member at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon for 39 years and a minister at Ailey Baptist Church. His wife, Faye, ministered alongside him in the community and was an educator for the Montgomery County School System for 44 years.

As an escape from the responsibilities of ministry and teaching, one of their favorite family activities was attending theater productions. They were members of a theater in Atlanta and always took their daughter, Celia, to see the performances.

"The theater came to be one of those enjoyable extra things we did away from teaching and ministry," Faye said. "We used that as one of those relaxing times to enjoy things, and it rubbed off on our daughter."

This exposure to the theater as a child began to stir a passion in Celia for the theater. The Brewer family's love for theater was such that even when they took a vacation they would go see a production if there was a venue in the area.

When Celia came to Mercer, she majored in speech and dramatic art while also minoring in psychology. Her parents could tell she was devoted to her drama studies, and when they would come to her performances, they knew it was meaningful for her as she took the stage.

She graduated from Mercer in 1983 and carried a love of the theater through life. After Celia's death, Robert and Faye decided the Tattnall Square Center for the Arts presented the appropriate opportunity to memorialize their daughter.

"We discussed what could we do to express our appreciation for her life and what Mercer had contributed to her dramatic talents," Robert said. "We came to know that Mercer was about to begin the development of the Tattnall Square Center for the Arts. It dawned on us immediately: Let's have a part in memory of our daughter in the development of that center. It's one of the most rewarding decisions we have made in our lives."

The lobby of the Tattnall Square Center for the Arts bears their daughter's name. The Brewers also made a gift to name the facility's rehearsal hall in honor of Paul Oppy, a longtime former professor and director of the University's theater program.

The Brewers made these gifts not only in memory of their daughter and in honor of Oppy, but also with gratitude for what Mercer has meant to their lives.

"It's a special relationship we have with Mercer, and I was very proud that my daughter and my husband went there," Faye said. "Mercer is a big part of our lives."



MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO, ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO; OPPOSITE: MATTHEW SMITH PHOTOS, ROGER IDENDEN PHOTOS, JESSICA WHITLEY PHOTO

# Mercer and Tattnell Square Park

**T**attnell Square Park, a 16-acre greenspace located between the Macon campus and Tattnell Square Center for the Arts, beckons Mercerians out of doors. Faculty and students use the park — one of the nation's oldest city parks — as a classroom, for research, a scenic backdrop for three dimensional art and recreation.

Serving as an informal entrance to Mercer's campus since the University moved from Penfield in 1871, the park and Mercer have enjoyed a symbiotic relationship for over a century. There are records of a Tattnell Square Improvement Association that date back to 1913. The group had heavy Mercer involvement then. These days, an all-volunteer organization called Friends of Tattnell Square Park (FoTSP) champions its needs. Chaired by Dr. Andrew Silver, a Mercer English professor, the group has been largely responsible for many of the park's recent and impressive upgrades.

"Mercer students have served a vital role in the entire revitalization process of Tattnell Square Park," said Dr. Silver, who is Page Morton Hunter Professor of English. "From coordinating programming for kids and community-wide events to large-scale city engineering projects like the recently completed rain gardens, the park has helped students accomplish Mercer's mission of community involvement and research beyond the classroom."

Sarah Reid, a recent graduate, served as president of FoTSP's student chapter for two years. She was instrumental in organizing volunteers, faculty and staff in creating events in the park the entire Macon community could enjoy. Arbor Day, on April 24, saw hundreds of local elementary students helping to care for the 215 trees planted in recent years.

"Reid is an unsung hero," Dr. Silver said. Reid took the lead in Dr. Silver's First-Year Seminar course and was responsible for writing a Knight Neighborhood Challenge grant that funded construction of a new seating wall. "She was also hands-on in the park, paying close attention to every detail of caring for a greenspace of this size, personally mulching and pruning every tree."

Senior Tabita Strimbu is incoming president of FoTSP's student chapter. She has already helped to create the Macon Parks Alliance, which will take the Tattnell Square Park model and help to implement similar efforts in blighted neighborhoods.

Engineering student Alex Oliver's senior thesis focused on the idea of using a rain garden to gather stormwater and control pollution in the park. Working with a landscape architect and civil engineer, Oliver led a team of engineering students to accomplish his vision.

"Both beautiful and functional, the centralized rain gardens are split by a stone bridge the entire community can enjoy. Native plants and grasses help soak up stormwater while attracting dragonflies and birds to the area, creating a healthier ecosystem," Dr. Silver said.

Public art has also helped to shape the environment of the park. The Art Department presented an exhibition titled "Art in the Park: New Forms From the Southeast" this spring. Seven sculptures by emerging regional artists were installed in the park and unveiled on March 20.

"The park has created an opportunity to get the whole community involved in this exhibit," said Craig Coleman, assistant professor of art at Mercer. "We have been able to take our students out to the park and discuss the sculptures, from materials, form and placement. But this also gave us an opportunity to get Bibb County schools involved in the entire art process."

Scot Mann, director of Mercer Theatre, which recently moved into the Tattnell Square Center for the Arts, has a vision for the park, as well. "We have plans for a Shakespeare in the Park series next year."

**From top: A new gateway connects the park with a roundabout and the recently opened Tattnell Square Center for the Arts. Completion of the gateway is expected this fall.**

**A fountain is returning to the center of the park after a decades-long absence. Donors are funding the \$300,000 project, which will include seating walls, lighting, brick pavers and landscaping.**

**Engineering student Alex Oliver designed a rain garden for the park as his senior thesis.**



MARY ANN BATES PHOTO, AMY MADDOX PHOTOS

# ORCUTT EARNS GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

## MERCER'S THIRD IN THREE YEARS

**K**aydren Orcutt earned one of the nation's most prestigious and competitive research scholarships for undergraduate students, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, which was awarded to only 260 students for the 2015-2016 academic year. Orcutt is the University's fourth-ever Goldwater Scholarship winner, and its third in three years.

Orcutt received the scholarship based on academic merit from a field of 1,206 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. The one- and two-year scholarships, awarded to undergraduate sophomores and juniors, cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

Orcutt, from Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, is majoring in both chemistry and Spanish at Mercer and is a 2013 Stamps Scholar and participant in the University Honors Program.

She works in the lab of Dr. Kathryn Kloepper, assistant professor of chemistry, where she is one of several undergraduate researchers utilizing analytical chemistry to investigate better ways to clean up oil spills. Specifically, this research pertains to biosurfactants, which are naturally produced, soap-like molecules that enable water and oils to mix.

"Kaydren is an outstanding student who has really embraced her academic opportunities," Dr. Kloepper said. "She started performing undergraduate research with me her first year at Mercer, and she continued her work for 10 weeks in my lab last summer. Kaydren is exceptional in the laboratory, and she is excellent at organizing and interpreting experimental data. Her proposed experiments build upon her previous research experiences and, more importantly, represent a unique contribution to the field."

# Enrollment Growth Brings Big Changes to Macon Campus

**M**ercer's Macon campus is in the midst of a five-year transformation that is in large part being driven by a surge in undergraduate enrollment. Since the fall of 2011 the University's entering freshman classes have grown by 50 percent and overall undergraduate enrollment has increased 28 percent, to almost 3,000 in the fall of 2015.

This fall Mercer welcomed a record freshman class of 831 that is also the most academically well-credentialed entering class in the University's history. For the first time ever, Mercer had a wait list.

Additional student housing has been needed to accommodate the growing undergraduate population and to house the increasing number of seniors who want to live on campus. Mercer has a three-year residency requirement for undergraduates, but has been unable to provide housing for all of the seniors who aren't required — but want to — live on campus.

Partnering with Macon-based Sierra Development Inc., the University began adding beds in the fall of 2011 with the construction of Phase I of the Lofts at Mercer Village, which houses 117 students and includes the Mercer Barnes & Noble Bookstore and other retail space on the first

floor. Phase II of the Lofts at Mercer Village — home to the University's Center for Collaborative Journalism — opened in fall of 2012 and accommodates 72 students on the upper floors. Phase III of the Lofts — located on College Street across from Tattnell Square Park — opened in the fall of 2014 and houses 111 students.

Another 613 beds of student housing are currently under

construction and slated for completion in summer 2016. About half of those beds will be in a new traditional-style freshman residence hall behind Mary Erin Porter and Plunkett Halls. The rest will be in the Lofts at Mercer Landing, which anchors a new \$40 million mixed-use development on Mercer University Drive across from Five Star Stadium and the main campus entrance. The development



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

The Lofts at College Hill



## Significant Changes on Horizon for Mercer's Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta

HOME TO MORE THAN 3,000 students enrolled in graduate and professional programs in business, health sciences, education, theology and Penfield College, the Atlanta campus has also been growing in recent years.

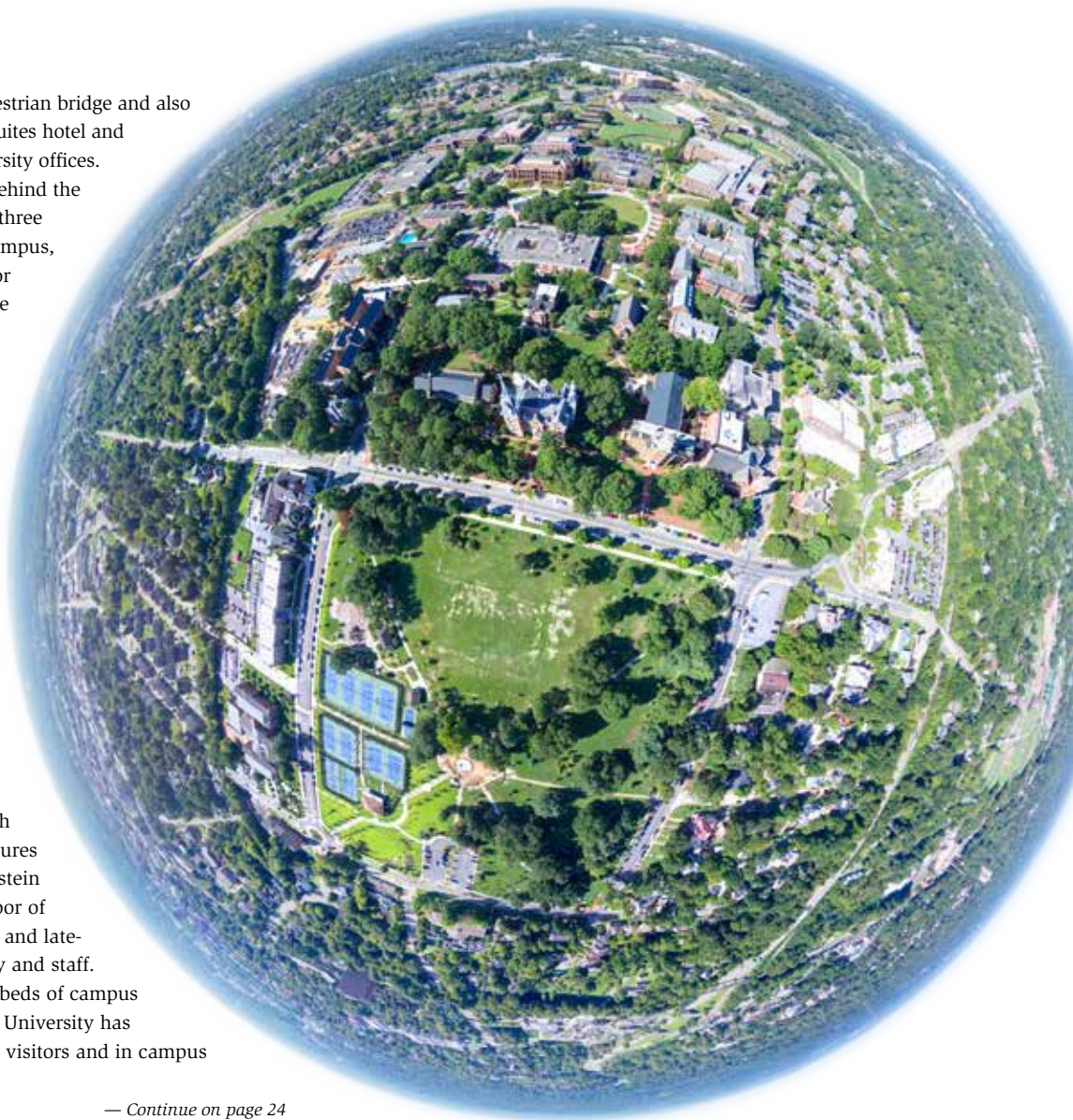
Artist's rendering of proposed changes to the Atlanta Administration and Conference Center.

will be connected to campus by a pedestrian bridge and also includes a new Marriott TownePlace Suites hotel and restaurants, as well as space for University offices.

The Lofts at College Hill, located behind the U.S. Post Office on College Street and three blocks from the Mercer Law School campus, opened this fall. Originally designed for graduate and professional students, the mixed-use development is housing some upperclassmen this year due to the shortage of beds on the main campus. When the 613 beds of undergraduate campus housing are completed next summer, the Lofts at College Hill will be devoted to its original purpose of housing law, medical and graduate students.

This fall the University also opened two new dining venues to serve the growing student population and to provide more culinary options. The former Bear Rock Café in the University Center was renovated and is now the Farmer's Market, a 215-seat, bakery-style café that is open for lunch Monday through Friday. Its menu features many locally sourced items. Also, Einstein Brothers Bagels opened on the first floor of Tarver Library, offering early morning and late-night food service for students, faculty and staff.

In addition to adding hundreds of beds of campus housing and more dining options, the University has been investing in facilities for campus visitors and in campus beautification projects.



— Continue on page 24

MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO

The campus' Atlanta Administration and Conference Center, which the University acquired from the Georgia Baptist Convention more than a decade ago, houses classrooms, a pharmacy simulation lab, and administrative and academic offices. It also houses the American Baptist Historical Society archives, the largest and most diverse collection of Baptist historical materials in the world.

The five-story building, adjacent to the rest of the Atlanta campus facilities and served by a separate entrance off of Flowers Road South, is due for a major refresh. Major exterior renovations and a reorienting of the building's main entrance to face the rest of campus are on the drawing boards. Plans call for connecting the building and its immediate grounds to the rest of campus by re-landscaping and installing sidewalks in the area between it and other buildings to the east.

Eventually a new perimeter road will be constructed to more effectively and efficiently circulate traffic around the newly connected campus.

Over the last few years, as the University has added health sciences

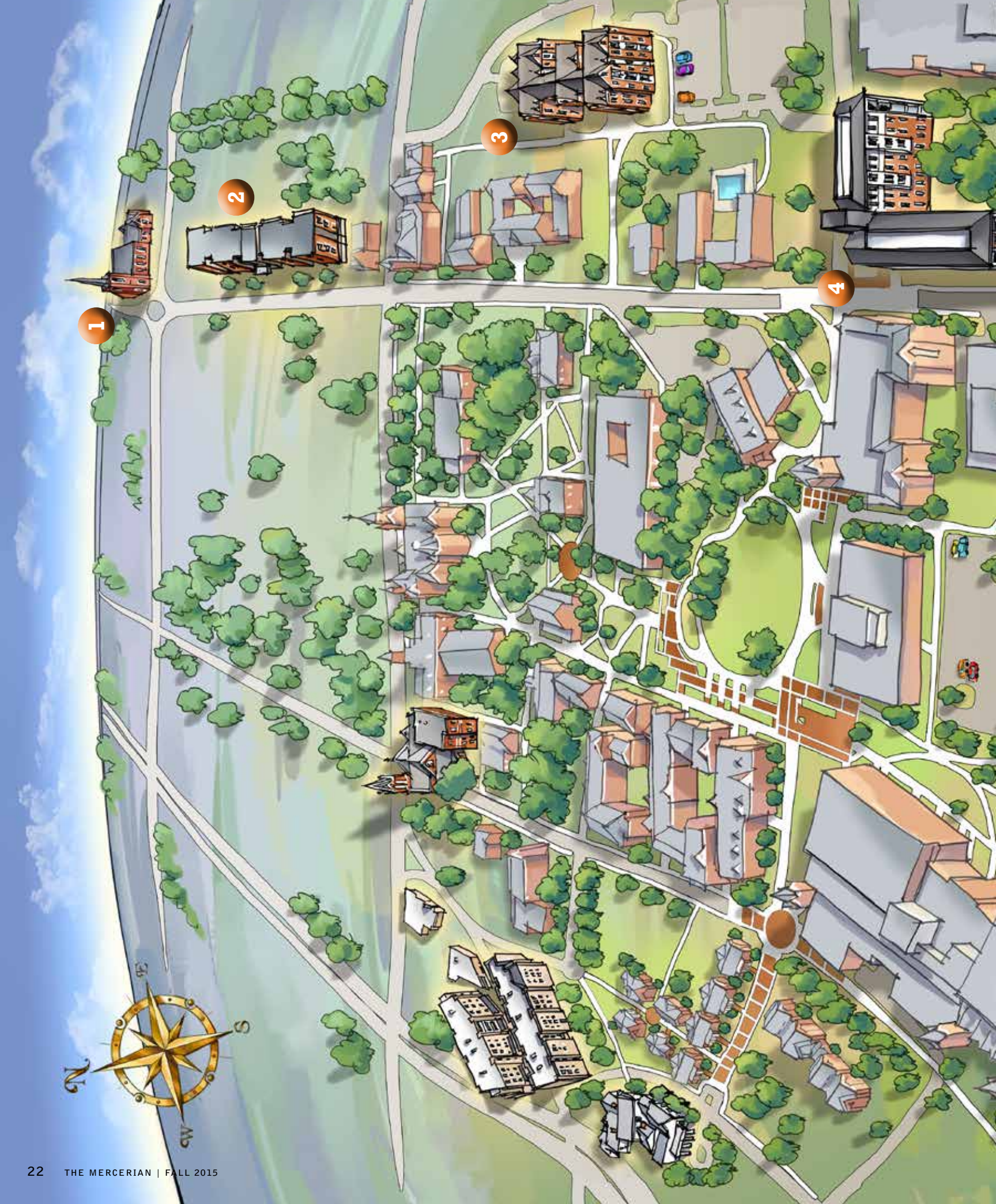
programs, the Davis Building has undergone a series of renovations. Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy and Public Health classrooms, labs and offices have been added, as well as a clinic that is operated by the PT department.

A major new pharmacy building is also in the plans. A key capital project in the University's Aspire Campaign, the new structure will include classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, and labs. Once that building is constructed, existing pharmacy space will be renovated to expand the College's research labs.

Administrators are also exploring options to expand and upgrade campus dining facilities and menu offerings for students, faculty and staff.

The University in August finalized a deal that will result in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's new Atlanta field office being built on a portion of the Atlanta campus that fronts Flowers Road South. Construction on the 151,000-square foot facility near the Atlanta Administration and Conference Center is expected to get underway in early 2016.

The FBI will lease the building for 20 years, providing rental income to the University. At the end of the 20-year lease period Mercer will own the building.



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## Newly Completed and Upcoming Projects

- 1.) Tattnall Square Center for the Arts/Mercer Theatre (April 2015)
- 2.) Lofts at Mercer (August 2014)
- 3.) Freshman Residence Hall (Summer 2016)
- 4.) Undergraduate Sciences Building (Spring 2018)
- 5.) OrthoGeorgia Park at Claude Smith Field (Spring 2017)
- 6.) Lofts at Mercer Landing (August 2016)

5

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**Campus Changes**, continued from page 21 —

The Emily Parker Myers Admissions and Welcome Center — Mercer's first LEED-certified building — opened in the fall of 2012. It incorporated 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 historic home and adding 3,000 square feet of new, sustainable construction. The Center welcomes thousands of campus guests each year.

Cruz Plaza, completed in 2013, transformed the central part of campus into a park-like setting, with fountains, terraced seating areas, landscaped flower gardens and a large green space. It has become a popular student gathering area. Another newly landscaped area is the M. Diane Owens Garden, a park-like venue on Stadium Drive near the athletics facilities that was dedicated in 2014. The garden has water features, benches, trees and a large green space that has been used for tailgating and student gatherings.

With the resumption of inter-collegiate football and the addition of men's and women's lacrosse, the University constructed the Moye Football and Lacrosse Complex. Dedicated in the fall of 2013, the Moye Complex includes Five Star Stadium, Drake Field House, Anderson Field, and the Butler Family Plaza. In August, a large bronze bear statue — a gift of retired North Carolina businessman Irwin Belk — was installed outside the main gates of Five Star Stadium and has already become a popular photo spot.

The arts at Mercer have also benefited from campus expansion. Last year the Townsend School of Music's Robert McDuffie Center for Strings moved into a beautifully restored historic mansion on College Street several blocks from campus. The Bell House, as it is known, contains studios, rehearsal rooms and performance space for the Center's 25 student musicians who come from all over the world.

In January, Mercer Theatre moved into the newly renovated Tattnall Square Center for the Arts, located a block off campus at the intersection of College and Oglethorpe Streets. Another historic structure that was formerly occupied by the Tattnall Square Presbyterian Church, the restored venue features a 150-seat performance space, classrooms, faculty offices, scene and costume shops, and dressing rooms. In addition to being the new home of Mercer Theatre, the facility also hosts community arts events.

A major renovation of Newton Hall for University offices was

also recently completed. As part of the project the area between Newton and Willingham has been transformed into an attractive plaza with a water feature, seating areas, hardwood trees and new landscaping and lighting.

One of the most significant growth areas at the University has been in the STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering and math. To address that growth, the University will begin construction this academic year on a signature undergraduate sciences building in the heart of campus.

The new sciences building, slated for completion in late 2017, will be located at the intersection of College Street and Edgewood Avenue, between the School of Medicine and Tarver Library. It will form a new science quadrangle, encompassing the School of Medicine, School of Engineering and the existing Willet Science Center. The new four-story, \$42 million structure will include more than 50 student and faculty research and teaching labs, as well as classrooms, faculty offices and common areas for biology, chemistry and neurosciences.

More students means more cars and more traffic, so the University has also been expanding the parking capacity and reworking campus roads. The Lofts at Mercer University includes a 400-car parking deck, and to support the new campus residence hall more parking is being added to the northeast quadrant of campus. The physical plant building, central receiving, and other support functions are being relocated to off-campus sites, and that area will be cleared to provide additional parking and to create more green space. East Hall, which

formerly housed the Communications Studies Department and Office of Human Resources, was demolished in July as part of the ongoing campus redevelopment.

Construction on a new stadium for Mercer's baseball team, one of the country's most successful NCAA Division I programs over the last six years, will get underway following the 2016 season. Encompassing the historic Claude Smith Field, OrthoGeorgia Park will sport new covered seating for 1,500 fans, a press box, dugouts, a team locker room for the Bears, concession stands, restroom facilities and ticket booths. Last year a new plaza was built behind right field and has become a popular spot for fans to tailgate and watch games. Total capacity of the stadium, including the right field area, will be 4,000.



AMY MADDOX PHOTOS

**Lofts at Mercer Landing and parking deck construction.**

*To see additional photos, renderings, videos and construction updates visit [construction.mercer.edu/macon](http://construction.mercer.edu/macon).*



A 30,000-square-foot medical education wing was recently added to the Hoskins Building on the Savannah campus.

## Expansion of Savannah Campus Nearing Completion

AN \$18 MILLION EXPANSION of School of Medicine facilities on the Savannah campus at Memorial University Medical Center is nearing completion this fall.

The first phase of the project included renovation of the William and Iffath Hoskins Center for Biomedical Research and construction of a new 30,000-square-foot wing to the Hoskins Center. Students, faculty and staff moved into the new medical education and research facility in early October. The second phase of the project, which will be finished by December, involves renovation of existing space for the medical library.

“The expansion of the Savannah campus facilities provides opportunity for the School of Medicine to greatly enhance its educational and research missions,” said Wayne Glasgow, Ph.D., senior vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies. “The addition of new medical education space allows for an increased student enrollment in the M.D. degree program from the current 160 medical students to 240 medical students, resulting in the training of more physicians to meet the medical needs of Georgia. In addition, the new medical education space will have facilities for high-technology human patient simulators that will improve the educational experience

and training for Mercer medical students, Memorial University Medical Center residents and other health professionals. The development of the new facilities allows for consolidation of the Medical School’s educational, research and office support space into one location on the Savannah campus, enhancing the interactions between students, faculty and staff.”

The new and renovated research facilities will expand the capacity of the research program on the Savannah campus by providing laboratory space for the recruitment of prominent research faculty and by establishing new state-of-the-art core facilities in the areas of microscopy, tissue culture, and flow cytometry/cell sorting. The combination of the new core research facilities and targeted recruitment of talented research faculty will allow for the further development of outstanding disease-based research teams.

The Savannah campus currently has 15 research scientists, supported by 13 postdoctoral research associates and laboratory technicians. These scientists lead research teams in collaboration with Memorial’s clinical departments and with clinical oncology faculty within the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute.

# MERCER HOMECOMING 2015

## OCTOBER 23-25

Homecoming  
2015 is for  
all Mercerians!

Dozens of events will draw thousands of alumni, friends and community members to the Macon campus for what promises to be another exciting Homecoming Weekend.





Make plans to come and see Mercer's growth and progress, reconnect with friends and faculty, and cheer on the Bears when they face VMI on the football field. Featured events will include the traditional Half Century Club lunch, 5K run, class reunions, pep rally, fireworks, alumni career speaker series, tailgating and family fun activities.



**Register Now at  
[homecoming.mercer.edu!](http://homecoming.mercer.edu)**

# BEARS EARN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## in First SoCon Regular Season and Conference Tournament

**W**inning programs breed high expectations on an annual basis, something that Mercer baseball has created thanks to the unprecedented stretch that head coach Craig Gibson and his program had put together in the five seasons leading up to the 2015 campaign.

During that time, Mercer established itself as one of the most feared programs in the Southeast, becoming one of just nine NCAA Division I teams to record 38 or more wins each season.

That expectation of success carried over to this spring, despite the challenge of replacing the team's ace and seven positional starters while transitioning to the Southern Conference.

The new-look Bears struggled to find their footing early, but a 16-4 triumph over in-state rival Georgia at Claude Smith Field jumpstarted

a mid-season surge. Mercer closed the year with wins in 24 of its final 36 contests, including a dominating run through the Southern Conference.

"We were in uncharted waters this season with such a young team," Gibson said. "The first game against Georgia was our turning point, showing the guys that we had the talent to win on a big stage. We were able to follow that with another big win over the Bulldogs for the season sweep, which helped put us on a roll throughout the rest of the year."

The surge was spearheaded by the SoCon's top pitching staff and defense, as the Bears allowed the league's fewest runs while also boasting the top fielding percentage. Mercer's offense heated up during that time as well, continuing a longstanding tradition as a power hitting program after ranking fifth nationally with 69 home runs.

The mid-season push carried the Bears to five straight wins to open SoCon play, helping them claim the fourth conference regular season crown in program history with a 16-7 record in league play. The run in its inaugural SoCon campaign continued for Mercer, as Kyle Lewis was named the SoCon Player of the Year and Gibson was tabbed as the league's Coach of the Year. Joining them in the postseason awards haul were First Team All-SoCon pick

The Mercer baseball team won both the regular season and conference tournament championships in their first season in the Southern Conference.



MERCER SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Eric Nyquist and Second Team All-SoCon performers Matt Meeder and Morgan Pittman.

The Bears carried that title and the league's No. 1 seed into Charleston for their inaugural SoCon Championship. Following a one-run victory in its opening game of the tournament, Mercer rolled past VMI and The Citadel to advance to the championship game against Samford.

Senior right-hander Eric Nyquist took over from there, dominating the league's top offense with a complete-game shutout to lift the Bears to a 5-0 victory and the program's third conference tournament title in the last six years. The effort handed Nyquist the SoCon's Walt Nadzak Award as the tournament's most valuable player, while Danny Edgeworth, Charlie Madden, Pittman and Truitt were each named to the SoCon All-Tournament team.

Mercer rode that momentum into one of the NCAA Tournament's toughest regionals, heading to Tallahassee to face off against No. 5 Florida State in a regional that also included

College of Charleston and Auburn.

However, the Bears would fall two runs shy of continuing their postseason run, dropping a heartbreaking extra-inning thriller to Florida State and a 1-0 contest to Auburn to close the year with a 35-22 overall record.

### GIBSON NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR

Craig Gibson's imprint on Mercer baseball was already significant coming into his 12th year as a head coach. However, the 2015 campaign added another winning chapter to his legacy with the Bears. Gibson led a team that featured one of the youngest lineups in the Southern Conference to a sweep of the league's regular season and tournament titles, taking the Bears to a NCAA regional for the third time in the last six years. That run also added another award to his mantle, as he was named the conference coach of the year for the second time in his career. He heads into 2016

on the verge of another career milestone, needing just seven victories to become the second coach in program history to reach 400 career wins.

### LEWIS IS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mercer sophomore Kyle Lewis stepped into the spotlight in his first season as a full-time starter and put together one of the best seasons in program history. Lewis nearly claimed the league's triple crown en route to SoCon Player of the Year recognition, leading the league in batting average (.367) and home runs (17) while also ranking in the top five in RBIs (56). That success led to national recognition as well, as he earned All-America accolades from several publications and was named the co-Gregg Olson Breakout Player of the Year. His incredible year carried over to the summer with his All-Star nod in the Cape Cod League and participation in the TD Ameritrade College Home Run Derby on ESPN.

## Mercer Dominates Academic Success in First Year in SoCon

An impressive inaugural year in the Southern Conference got even sweeter at year's end for

Mercer, as the Bears' Athletic Department headlined the SoCon's 2014-15 academic honor roll.

Mercer led the Southern Conference in every major category for the league's 2014-15 academic awards. The Bears topped the conference with 263 student-athletes on the list, while posting a league-high 23 individuals with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

The Bears also paced the SoCon with 128 student-athletes earning the Commissioner's Medal, awarded annually to student-athletes who attain a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout the year.

The incredible showing features student-athletes from all 18 of Mercer's teams on the academic honor roll, including women's lacrosse and sand volleyball, which compete in

the Atlantic Sun as affiliate members.

Men's golf, women's golf and sand volleyball led Mercer with 100 percent of their

rosters on the honor roll.

Football led Mercer with 48 student-athletes on the list. Men's lacrosse put 30 on the list, while women's soccer and baseball added 24 and 22, respectively.

The academic honor roll originated in 1988-89, when SoCon athletic directors established the award as a way to recognize the league's outstanding student-athletes. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports at member institutions and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher while passing at least 24 hours in two semesters of classes or its equivalent for other academic calendars.

The Southern Conference had 1,822 student-athletes from the 10 member institutions and nine associate members earn the distinction. Mercer's 263 student-athletes led the way, while Furman (209) and Wofford (186) rounded out the top three.



The women's golf team was presented the spring semester Presidential Scholastic Award for having the highest team grade point average at Mercer at 3.691.

student-athletes earning a spot on the SoCon academic honor roll. Indoor volleyball had 88 percent of their student-athletes named to the list, while women's soccer saw 86 percent of the roster earn the honor. In total, 12 of Mercer's 18 teams saw at least 70 percent of their

## School of Medicine and Partners Launch Hancock County Healthcare Access Initiative

MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, Navicent Health, Putnam General Hospital, Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth, Community Healthcare Systems Inc. and around a dozen other organizations have launched the Hancock County Healthcare Access Initiative in the rural county in east central Georgia.

The initiative, which has received support from officials such as Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and State Sen. David Lucas, serves as the pilot study for a groundbreaking project involving telehealth, which is the delivery of health-related services and information through telecommunications technologies.

“This initiative will provide a great opportunity for Hancock County as far as economic de-

velopment, but it will also be the start of a program that we can implement across rural Georgia where health care is desperately needed,” said Sen. Lucas, who represents Georgia’s 26th District, which includes Hancock, Washington, Wilkinson and Twiggs counties as well as portions of Bibb, Jones and Houston counties.

“Telehealth is going to be a vital part of any sustainable rural health initiative,” added Jean

Sumner, M.D., associate dean for rural health in Mercer’s School of Medicine. “Mercer is delighted to be able to lead this effort along with our partner organizations.”

The Hancock County Healthcare Access Initiative is set in an area severely lacking health infrastructure. Hancock has no full-time primary care physician, and residents often seek help 25 or more miles away at one of the area’s hospital emergency rooms. Some 68 percent of the calls to 911 are not emergencies, but they often tie up the county’s sole ambulance service.

“Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth is excited to see this telemedicine initiative come to life in Hancock County. This program will become a model for the nation as other states struggle with the problem of getting health care to areas where access is often difficult. As care becomes more patient-centered, it only makes sense to provide healthcare access where the patient is — in the home,” said Sherrie Williams, executive director of Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth.

In mid-August, Excelsior Ambulance Service in Hancock County first employed a telehealth unit — including a high-resolution camera, stethoscope, EKG machine, basic lab equipment and a tablet computer — while responding to a call. Emergency medical technicians are trained to use these units to allow doctors working at partner hospitals to remotely examine and treat a patient and decide if he or she needs to be transported to one of these hospitals.

For the Hancock County initiative, EMTs who are trained in the use of the equipment as well as physical examination skills use the telehealth units to communicate with physicians at Putnam General and Navicent Health, who provide the patient consults.

“Emergency Department physicians and board leadership at Putnam General Hospital are behind the Hancock County Healthcare Access Initiative 100 percent,” said Alan Horton, FACHE, administrator at Putnam General Hospital. “Putnam General is committed to improving access to care in rural Georgia. If our physicians can examine and recommend treatment for patients remotely, then potentially life-saving emergency personnel can remain in Hancock County to be more readily available to respond to emergency situations.”



Dr. Jean Sumner uses one of the telehealth units in her Wrightsville office to demonstrate how a remote examination might take place.

AMY MADDOX PHOTOS



*“This initiative will provide a great opportunity for Hancock County as far as economic development, but it will also be the start of a program that we can implement across rural Georgia where health care is desperately needed.” — Sen. David Lucas*

The project’s partners believe telehealth offers a better way to save lives, time and money. They include Mercer, Navicent, Putnam General, Georgia Partnership for Tele-Health, Community Health Care Systems, Stratus Healthcare, the Hancock County Board of Commissioners, Sparta city leaders, the Georgia State Office of Rural Health, Department of Community Health, Department of Public Health, Emergency Management and Prevention, Verizon, AT&T, Roche Diagnostics and more. The Department of Public Health in Mercer’s College of Health Professions plans to help publish the costs, outcomes and satisfaction of the project. Additionally, on Sept. 6, Grady EMS succeeded Excelsior as Hancock County’s ambulance provider.

“I am proud that Hancock County was selected for this pilot project,” said Hancock County Commission Chair Sistie Hudson. “Our county’s healthcare needs will be greatly en-

hanced through telehealth technology, as non-emergency calls can be handled without unnecessary trips to our neighboring hospitals. It is a win-win for everyone.”

The goal of the Hancock County Healthcare Access Initiative is twofold — first, to build the primary health infrastructure in Hancock County, and second, to develop a telehealth-based business model that’s sustainable.

Eventually, the approach may be replicated statewide. Subsequent phases that are planned for the project include elective home visits, post-hospital visits to make sure patients understand their discharge instructions and medications, and elective visits paid by credit card or cash for anyone who doesn’t know a physician or doesn’t want to make a trip to the doctor.

“Community Health Care Systems has been able to utilize this system to treat homebound patients by having an EMT present the patient to the provider in the Sparta office. Using the peripheral devices, the provider was able to conduct a face-to-face visit with the patient that provided the same information that would have been received if the patient had been in the office,” said Carla Belcher, CEO of Community Health Care Systems Inc.



“Working with the EMT, the patient had a complete assessment without leaving the home. We believe this type of intervention can greatly enhance our access to patients that are homebound or have other transportation barriers that prevent them from being able to come in for a traditional office visit.”

## Matthews Receives Prestigious GPhA Award

**T**he Georgia Pharmacy Association (GPhA) presented its Larry L. Braden Meritorious Service Award to Hewitt W. “Ted” Matthews, Ph.D., longtime dean of the College of Pharmacy and Mercer’s senior vice president for health sciences, during the organization’s annual convention in June at Amelia Island, Florida.

The Braden Meritorious Service Award recognizes the Georgia pharmacist who, over his or her career, has made extraordinary, invaluable contributions not only to GPhA, but to the practice of pharmacy in the state of Georgia. As the highest honor GPhA bestows on a pharmacist, the award is not presented annually. The award’s namesake, Larry Braden, is a 1965 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, a former Mercer trustee, and former longtime executive vice president of the GPhA.

In his introduction, GPhA President Bobby Moody described Dr. Matthews as “a force for good, a force for progress in our profession... simply an original in Georgia pharmacy.”

Moody acknowledged Dr. Matthews’ visionary leadership at Mercer, his mentoring of countless student pharmacists, and his service to GPhA, including chairing the committee that rewrote the Pharmacy Practice Act in Georgia.

Dr. Matthews is a graduate of Mercer’s pharmacy school and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Pharmaceutical Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he was a National Institutes of Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow and a Fellow of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. He joined the faculty of the Mercer School of Pharmacy in 1973, was appointed the Hood-Meyer Professor of Pharmacy in 1982, and was named dean of the College of Pharmacy in 1990.



DAVID BURGHARDT PHOTO

**College of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Hewitt W. “Ted” Matthews (left) receives the Braden Meritorious Service Award from Georgia Pharmacy Association President Bobby Moody.**

He was appointed senior vice president for health sciences in 2012 and oversees the Mercer Health Sciences Center, composed of the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and College of Health Professions. The Mercer Health Sciences Center enrolls more than 2,000 students on Mercer’s campuses in Macon, Atlanta, Savannah and Columbus.

# HealthSciencesUpdate

## Shelley Appointed Interim Dean of Medicine in Savannah

Robert J. Shelley M.D., who most recently served as the School of Medicine's associate dean for student affairs in Savannah, has been appointed interim dean of the Savannah campus.



Dr. Shelley

Dr. Shelley succeeds T. Philip Malan Jr. M.D., who stepped down as dean on July 1.

"Dr. Malan has provided three years of top-notch service to the School of Medicine as dean of the Savannah campus and vice dean of the School," said William F. Bina III M.D., M.P.H., dean of the School of Medicine.

"Dr. Shelley has played a key role as associate dean for student affairs on the Savannah campus since January 2012. He is a highly regarded local pediatrician who practiced for about 30 years in Savannah before joining the School. He will serve us well in the interim period."

Dr. Bina also announced the formation of a search committee, led by Steve Carpenter M.D., chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in Savannah, which will be assisted by executive search firm Alexander, Wollman and Stark.

## Bannan Elected President of National Nurses Association

Georgia Baptist College of Nursing senior Ryan Bannan was elected president of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) during the organization's 63rd annual convention in Phoenix, Arizona.



Bannan

Bannan, who will serve as president for the 2015-2016 academic year, is the first Mercer student to serve in the top office of the 60,000-member nonprofit organization dedicated to mentoring students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses

and conveying the standards, ethics and skills that students will need as responsible and accountable leaders and members of the profession.

"Ryan is well prepared to serve in the role of president of NSNA. He brings a passion for the profession of nursing, knowledge of the issues relevant to the profession and a commitment to his fellow student colleagues," said Linda Streit, Ph.D., RN, dean of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing. "This is great recognition for the College and Mercer University, and I am so proud of the efforts of our faculty and students."

Additionally at the convention, senior Shayla Monroe was elected to the NSNA Nominating and Elections Committee for the Southern Election Area.



Monroe

This is the second consecutive year that Mercer has had two elected officers, as recent

graduates Rebeka Rivera and Craig Reuscher attended the convention as the outgoing secretary/treasurer and director of the Southern Election Area.

All four students were among a group of 20 students and five faculty members who attended the national meeting.

Dr. Streit was nominated by her students and won the Leader of Leaders Award for demonstrating distinguished support and service to students. The College also won Organization Website of the Year for [www.gbans.org](http://www.gbans.org), the site of the Georgia Baptist Association of Nursing Students, and the Stellar School Chapter award, which is given to chapters that demonstrate ongoing involvement in NSNA, including a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of students and faculty. This is Mercer's second time receiving the latter award, which is open to chapters that have maintained constituency status for the previous five years and meet the specific criteria for recognition.

## Mercer Mourns the Passing of Former College of Pharmacy Dean Oliver Littlejohn

OLIVER MARSILIUS LITTLEJOHN, Ph.D., the longest-serving dean in the history of Mercer's College of Pharmacy and former vice president of the University, died on April 8 at the age of 90.



Dr. Littlejohn

"Dr. Littlejohn was a great man and an outstanding leader. He was admired and respected for his 'never quit' attitude and love for the profession of pharmacy. We will all miss him very much," said H.W. "Ted" Matthews, Ph.D., dean of Mercer's College of Pharmacy and senior vice president for health sciences.

In 1957, Dr. Littlejohn was appointed dean of the Southern College of Pharmacy, which would merge with Mercer and be renamed the Southern School of Pharmacy two years later. He served as the school's dean for 27 years and is credited with saving it from closing during the 1950s and 1960s and later bringing it into national prominence.

In 1981, Dr. Littlejohn led the school in

becoming the first pharmacy school in the Southeast and fifth in the nation to launch the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) as its sole professional degree.

One of his proudest accomplishments was recruiting the first African-American student and successfully integrating the school. Following his deanship, he served as a Mercer vice president for two years. Upon his retirement, he was named dean emeritus and emeritus professor of pharmacy.

Born in Cowpens, South Carolina, on Sept. 29, 1924, Dr. Littlejohn came from a long line of military veterans. At 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served valiantly during World War II in the European Theater. He fought in several battles, including the Battle of the Bulge. His many medals include a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He earned undergraduate degrees from Spartanburg Methodist Junior College and the University of South Carolina before earning his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He was also the recipient of three honorary doctorates.

## Achievements

### 1950s

**Elliott Brack**, CLA '57, received the prestigious Others Award from the Salvation Army of Gwinnett County for his commitment and support of the ministries of the Salvation Army. In addition, the media room at the Gwinnett Corps office has been named in honor of Brack and his wife, **Barbara Brack**, CLA '58.

**The Hon. Richard H. Mills**, LAW '57, delivered a speech at a ceremony of appreciation, commemorating the 64th anniversary of the Korean War on June 14, 2014, in Wheeling, Illinois.

**Cubbedge Snow Jr.**, LAW '52, was honored by Georgia Legal Services at its Champions for Justice event in October 2014.

### 1960s

**Virginia Dare Domico**, NUR '68, professor and associate dean for graduate programs in Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, was appointed to the State Board of Nursing Home Administrators by Gov. Deal.

**The Hon. Hardy Gregory**, LAW '67, was honored by Georgia Legal Services at its Champions for Justice event in October 2014.

**Thomas W. Malone**, LAW '66, received a \$16.5 million verdict for client and classmate **Albert Dallas**, LAW '67, on March 4. This case, *Dallas v. Bass Logging*, involved an accident that severely injured Dallas in November 2011.

**Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews III**, PHA '68, longtime dean of the College of Pharmacy and Mercer's senior vice president for health sciences, was presented the Larry L. Braden Meritorious Service Award by the Georgia Pharmacy Association at its annual convention in July. The award, given for extraordinary contributions to the practice of pharmacy in Georgia, is the highest honor the association bestows on a pharmacist.

**Carl Reynolds**, CLA '64, LAW '66, and **T. Joseph "Joe" Boyd**, CLA '94, LAW '04, of Reynolds, Horne & Survant have settled a workers' compensation claim for \$275,000, in addition to more than \$141,500 paid after winning at the hearing and appellate levels, for a total recovery in excess of \$416,500.

### 1970s

**L. Jack Dunn Jr.**, PHA '78, was recognized in August 2014 as the National Community Pharmacists Association Pharmacist of the Year.

**Karen Durban**, NUR '71, TIFT '78, retired from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

**Merry Wilburn Fort**, CLA '78, was appointed to the State Board of Nursing by Gov. Deal and sworn in June 25.

**D.R. Jones**, CLA '79, LAW '82, received the 2014 American Association of Law Libraries Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award, given for outstanding achievement in research and writing. She is director of the law library and associate dean for information services at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphries School of Law.

**The Hon. Jeannette Lewis Little**, LAW '79, was appointed to the State Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Deal on May 28. Little is a Troup County State Court judge. She is a past president of the Council of State Court Judges and has served as a member of Judicial Council.

**Capt. Donna Price**, CLA '76, LAW '79, who attended Mercer as David Price and transitioned in 2014, has been elected chair of the board of governors of the Military Law Section of the State Bar of Virginia.

**Edward J. Schutter Jr.**, PHA '77, was appointed to the board of directors for Knight Therapeutics Inc., a

## Ernie Lee Named Georgia Teacher of the Year

**M**ercer alumnus Ernest William Lee II was named the state's Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Department of Education on May 9.

Lee, who teaches International Baccalaureate history, U.S. government and civics at Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, graduated from Mercer's College of Liberal Arts in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

He went on to a career as an attorney and practiced law for over 20 years before becoming a teacher in 2008.

"I congratulate Mr. Lee on being named the 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said in a release. "It is inspiring to see an individual like Mr. Lee, who had a successful career as a lawyer, decide to become a teacher later in life so he could have a lasting and positive impact on the lives of others."

Lee has also been an instructor for the Georgia Department of Revenue and Department of Human Resources. Additionally, he operated a mobile technology training lab, developed learning protocols and curriculum, and trained newly hired manufacturing plant employees for new technology positions while working for the Technical College System of Georgia.

He is chair of the board of directors for the Ben



GEORGIA DOE PHOTO

**Ernie Lee (right) and Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods.**

Marion Institute for Social Justice, an organization that presents workshops nationally and internationally to the public and private sector to prevent bullying.

The award was presented at the annual Georgia Teacher of the Year banquet at the James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Veterans Memorial Building in Atlanta.

As the state's Teacher of the Year, Lee will represent Georgia teachers by speaking to the public about the teaching profession and possibly conducting workshops and programs for educators.

specialty pharmaceutical company based in Montreal. He has also joined the board of directors of Vensun Pharmaceuticals, a generic pharmaceutical company based in Yardley, Pennsylvania. Schutter is the founder and CEO of Arbor Pharmaceuticals LLC and serves on Mercer's Board of Trustees.

**Jay Allen Sekulow**, CAS '77, LAW '80, was keynote speaker at Regent University's commencement ceremony on May 9. He is chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Center for Law and Justice.

**The Hon. Brenda Holbert Trammell**, TIFT '75, was appointed by Gov. Deal as a Superior Court judge in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit on Dec. 29, 2014.

### 1980s

**Richard S. Bergholtz**, LAW '84, an attorney with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed PA, has been appointed to a one-year term on the Mount Dora, Florida, Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

**William D. Bloesch**, CLA '81, was awarded the Ph.D. in Christian Education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on May 16. He serves as director of missions for the Thomas County Baptist Association in Thomasville.

**J. Phillip Bond**, LAW '83, a senior attorney at the Georgia Legal Services Program in Macon, received the Mercer Law School Outstanding Alumnus Award and was recognized at the Law School's Alumni Dinner on March 6 in Atlanta.

**Ralph Claxton**, CLA '84, was named director of regulatory affairs for Pegasus Laboratories. In this role, he provides regulatory strategy for both pre-market (developmental) and post-market veterinary products to ensure product compliance with regulations.

**Linda S. Finley**, LAW '81, a shareholder in Baker Donelson's Atlanta office, has been elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the firm's board

of directors. She leads the firm's mortgage industry service team and concentrates her practice in litigation involving the mortgage lending and servicing industries as well as real estate issues.

**Sgt. Maj. William J. Gabbard**, CLA '81, was recently promoted to the senior enlisted rank of sergeant major, U.S. Army.

**Richard Gerakitis**, LAW '81, a partner in the labor and employment practice at Troutman Sanders in Atlanta, received the Mercer Law School Alumni Meritorious Service Award and was recognized at the Law School's Alumni Dinner on March 6 in Atlanta.

**Robert J. Kauffman**, LAW '88, was installed as the president of the State Bar of Georgia during the organization's annual meeting in June.

**Ernest W. Lee II**, CLA '82, an International Baccalaureate history, U.S. government and civics teacher from Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, has been named the 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year.

**The Hon. John S. Myers**, LAW '84, of St. Marys, was recently elected Georgia chair of the St. Marys River Management Committee, an interstate intergovernmental agency consisting of Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia and Nassau and Baker counties in Florida. Myers is the county attorney for Camden County.

**Nelly Withers**, LAW '81, was elected secretary of the executive board of the Georgia Council of Municipal Court Judges in June 2014. Withers serves as chief judge of the DeKalb County Recorders Court.

### 1990s

**Lauren L. Benedict**, LAW '97, was appointed an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**M. Brian Blake**, EGR '97, was named provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Drexel University in Philadelphia effective Aug. 1. He was

previously vice provost for academic affairs and dean of the Graduate School at the University of Miami.

**Benjamin B. Bush**, CLA '98, was recently appointed to the Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board by Gov. Rick Scott and confirmed by the Florida Senate.

**Sean Crosby**, LAW '93, joined The Chartwell Law Offices LLP in Orlando, Florida. After gaining bench and jury trial experience while serving as an Orange County public defender, Crosby began focusing his practice on the defense of workers' compensation cases across a ninecounty swath of central Florida.

**Angela Dawn Downes**, CLA '91, was selected by the Glenn Heights, Texas, City Council as the alternate judge in the Municipal Court of Record. Her first court date was Feb. 19.

**Jarome E. Gautreaux**, CLA '90, LAW '98, and Richard L. Sizemore, LAW '00, have moved their firm, Gautreaux & Sizemore LLC to Mulberry Street in Macon, a few blocks from the Law School Building.

**Kevin L. Hagan**, CLA '95, was named CEO of the American Diabetes Association in February to reinvoigate the national fight to end the diabetes epidemic in America. The association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

**Jonathan W. Hedgepeth**, LAW '91, founding partner at Hedgepeth, Heredia & Rieder in Atlanta, was selected for Georgia's Super Lawyers list for 2015 by *Atlanta* magazine.

**William Hopkins**, CLA '92, a professor of wildlife in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment, received the university's 2015 Alumni Award for Excellence in Research. Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the award is presented annually to up to two faculty members who have made outstanding research contributions.

**James H. "Jay" Jackson IV**, PHA '99, leads the global health economics and outcomes research

service line at Xcenda, working to generate evidence to support approval of pharmaceutical, device and diagnostic products.

**The Hon. Jeffrey Kight**, BUS '92, LAW '95, was appointed to the State Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Deal on May 28. Kight is a Waycross Judicial Circuit Superior Court judge. He is chairman of the Waycross Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Task Force and is a member and past president of the board of directors of Kids' Chance of Georgia Inc.

**The Hon. Katherine Lumsden**, LAW '96, was appointed to the State Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Deal on May 28. Lumsden is a Houston Superior Court judge. She oversees the Day Reporting CenterLite program for substance abuse offenders and is working to implement a mental health court in the Houston County Circuit.

**Mindy Makant**, CLA '90, published *The Practice of Story: Suffering and the Possibilities of Redemption* through Baylor University Press. The book released on Aug. 1.

**Kenneth D. McArthur Jr.**, LAW '93, has joined Pietragallo to run the Richmond, Virginia, office. He practices in the areas of health care, complex litigation, business and corporate as well as federal and state *qui tam* litigation.

**William D. NeSmith III**, EDU '91, LAW '97, is the deputy general counsel for the State Bar of Georgia, effective October 2014. He was previously the Sumter County attorney for 13 years.

**Patrick J. Poff**, LAW '95, was elected as one of four attorneys nationwide to the 12-member Governing Committee of the American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law on April 16. He will serve a three-year term. Poff is employed by Trenam Kemker, one of the largest law firms in Florida with offices in Tampa and St. Petersburg.

**Maggie Puccini**, LAW '99, a partner at Bouhan Falligan, was recently installed as the secretary of the Savannah Bar Association. Puccini's practice focuses

on bankruptcy, creditors rights, construction and commercial litigation, mechanics' and materialmen's liens, representation of condominium and homeowner's associations, and landlord/tenant disputes.

**Robert W. Smith Jr.**, LAW '98, joined the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia in April as a state resource prosecutor, specializing in RICO and appeals.

**Joseph C. Sumner Jr.**, BUS '98, LAW '03, was appointed to serve on the board of governors of the State Bar of Georgia during the annual meeting in June. He will serve the Dublin Judicial Circuit post on the board.

**Betsy Thomas**, CLA '93, was appointed deputy personnel director of Corrections Human Resources Management for the Georgia Department of Corrections effective June 1.

## 2000s

**Jason Blanchard**, LAW '07, was elected president of the Young Professionals of Augusta for 2015.

**Megan E. Boyd**, BUS '05, LAW '08, joined the faculty of Georgia State University this fall as a professor.

**Ivy Cadle**, LAW '07, was elected as one of 14 new shareholders at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC. He has also assumed the role of new litigator advisor for the Georgia offices.

**Leslie L. Cadle**, LAW '07, was appointed to serve as the Macon Bar Association's representative on the board of directors for the Georgia Legal Services Program.

**Kelly L. Christopher**, LAW '03, along with Timothy J. Buckley III and Tracy K. Haff of the law firm Buckley Brown PC, announce the formation of Buckley Christopher & Haff PC. Christopher focuses her practice in the areas of general liability, governmental/municipal liability and workers' compensation.

**Tomieka R. Daniel**, LAW '02, was named the recipient of the Bensonnetta Tipton Lane Award for Commitment to the Family by the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA). She received her award at

GABWA's 2015 Glitter Gala & Auction on July 25.

**V. Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield**, LAW '03, completed her term as the 68th president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia during its annual meeting in June.

**Kristen Wood Garner**, CLA '00, was selected as Henry County Media Specialist of the Year for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Kristin Gray**, LAW '06, was selected as a South Carolina Rising Star in the area of employment and labor law by Super Lawyers magazine. She works as counsel in the Spartanburg, South Carolina, office of Ford & Harrison LLP.

**Gina Ginn Greenwood**, LAW '01, was elected a shareholder at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC, where she is a member of the health law team, representing hospitals, skilled nursing homes, hospices and other practices and businesses.

**Keitaro Harada**, MUS '07, '08, joined the staff of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra as associate conductor in September. He has previously served as associate conductor of the Arizona Opera and the Richmond (Virginia) Symphony and music director of the Phoenix Youth Symphony.

**Tiffany D. Hogan**, BUS '03, has opened her own law practice in Olathe, Kansas. Her practice includes personal injury, family law, traffic and misdemeanor criminal defense in Missouri and Kansas.

**James Jordan**, CLA '04, a former member of the Mercer men's soccer team has written two books on soccer strategy, *It Pays to Win on Offense* and *It Pays to Win on Defense*.

**Shawn J. McClendon**, EGR '07, '12, a personal trainer and owner of Back to Basics Bodyweight Fitness, has written the book, *13 Things to Stop Believing to Become Healthy and Lose Weight*.

**Korey McCray**, CLA '01, was hired as an assistant coach for the men's basketball team at Mississippi State University. He previously worked as an assistant coach for men's basketball at LSU and UCLA.

**Patrick Mincey**, LAW '08, cochair of the Criminal Defense Practice Group at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP was named to The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 in October 2014.

**Rizza O'Connor**, BUS '07, LAW '10, was installed as the secretary of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia during its annual meeting in June.

**Kevin C. Patrick**, LAW '08, was installed as coeditor of The YLD Review, the newsletter of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, during its annual meeting in June.

**Sharon Pinkard Wilson**, PC '07, accepted a position with the Georgia Department of Community Health as the confidential executive assistant to the chief information officer.

**Stephanie D. Powell**, LAW '03, received the Friend of the YLD Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia during its annual meeting in June. She received the award for her work establishing the YLD's Succession Planning Pilot Program, which seeks to connect Georgia attorneys who intend to transition out of fulltime practice with new attorneys and recent graduates who may be interested in succeeding the attorney.

**Jeune Hawley Provost**, EDU '08, was selected as the 2015 Virgin Islands State Teacher of the Year and attended the National State Teacher of the Year competition, where she met President Barack Obama.

**Shannon M. Sheppard**, LAW '04, was appointed managing shareholder of Smolker, Bartlett, Loeb, Hinds & Sheppard PA of Tampa, Florida, on Feb. 26. In this role, she oversees all aspects of firm management, including strategic and long-range planning, business development and client relations.

**The Hon. Gregory T. Williams**, LAW '03, was appointed Pelham Municipal Court judge on June 19. Williams is municipal court judge for Edison, as well as the alternate municipal court judge for Albany and Camilla. He also serves as the city attorney for Meigs and Newton.

**L. Rachel Wilson**, CLA '08, LAW '11, received the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Profession from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia during its annual meeting in June.

## 2010s

**Terri K. Benton**, LAW '12, now serves as vice president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys Macon Chapter. In her role, she helps Macon GABWA members stay connected to each other, to Mercer Law GABWA members and to GABWA members across the state.

**Robert E. Cabe III**, LAW '14, joined Spivey, Pope, Green & Greer as an associate. His practice areas include business and corporate law, business litigation, employment law and estate planning.

**Lindsay A. Daniel**, LAW '11, was hired as a compliance officer in the Office of University Council at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee.

**Roger Michael Green**, BUS '14, was recognized by the Georgia State Legislature with a resolution in his honor. The resolution was presented to Green by Rep. Tom Rice on April 18.

**Phyllicia Hammonds**, CHP '13, a student at National University of Health Sciences, became the first naturopathic medicine student to be awarded The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. The fellowship program supports graduate students in learning to effectively address the social factors that impact health, as well as developing lifelong leadership skills.

**Kasie Knapper**, CLA '13, a Ph.D. student in analytical chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF). She is one of 2,000 master's and doctoral students from the United States to be awarded a GRF from 16,500 applicants in 2014-2015.

## American Diabetes Association Names Mercer Graduate Kevin Hagan CEO

**T**he American Diabetes Association named Kevin L. Hagan, CLA '95, as its next chief executive on Feb. 19, to reinvigorate the national fight to end the diabetes epidemic in America. Hagan joins the Association at a time when the incidence and costs of diabetes are at an all-time high.



Hagan

The American Diabetes Association has hired a proven leader to transform the fight to end diabetes," said Janel Wright, chair of the Association's board of directors. "Kevin brings a remarkable record of success in inspiring and reigniting organizations. His leadership skills and personal integrity will help us build upon and strengthen our legacy to stop the growing diabetes epidemic."

He joined the Association from Feed the Children, one of the largest charitable organizations in the world. During his tenure as CEO, Feed the Children experienced tremendous growth after Hagan led efforts to diversify revenue channels. These efforts also increased average gift size by 20 percent, focused on long-term donor value while creating a corporate philanthropy

engineering team to custom design corporate giving programs for Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to his work with Feed the Children, Hagan served as chief operating officer for Good360, a non-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling the needs of nonprofits with corporate product donations.

"I am honored to have been named CEO of the American Diabetes Association and ready to lead this important organization at this critical time for our nation," Hagan said. "I am excited to lead the Association's staff and work with its army of clinicians, researchers, members and volunteers who work hard every day to stop diabetes."

Hagan received his bachelor's degree in history, political science, and German from Mercer, and he earned his master's degree in international affairs from American University in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1940, the mission of the American Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. It has invested more than \$700 million in nearly 4,500 diabetes research projects and contributed significantly to advances in diabetes care and reductions in diabetes complications, allowing people with diabetes to live longer, healthier lives.

Submit your personal accomplishments, marriage/ births/ anniversary or In Memory announcements for *The Mercerian* in the Alumni Class Notes section to Drew Bloodworth, coordinator of Advancement Communications, at [bloodworth\\_dt@mercer.edu](mailto:bloodworth_dt@mercer.edu).

**Emily E. Macheski Preston**, LAW '10, was appointed deputy solicitor of the City of Brookhaven Municipal Court in April. She practices regularly in local government, constitutional and zoning law, and has represented clients across Georgia, including the cities of Valdosta and Brookhaven.

**Christopher B. McDaniel**, LAW '14, has joined the law firm of Butler Wooten Cheeley & Peak LLP as an associate in the Columbus office. His practice areas include personal injury, car and trucking cases, wrongful death,

auto defects and business torts.

**Sarah Wibel**, CLA '14, has received a \$5,000 fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi to pursue a Master of Philosophy in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford in England.

## Marriages, Births & Anniversaries

### 2000s

**Silky W. Beaty**, PHA '05, and her husband, Henry Beaty, announce the birth of their daughter, Sophia Ann, on Feb. 25.

**Alexandra Billings**, BUS '08, and her husband, Daniel Billings, announce the birth of their first child, Daniel David, in November 2014.

**Lara Thomas Carswell**, LAW '08, and her husband, Robert Carswell, announce the birth of their twin daughters, Charlotte Victoria and Elizabeth Adeline, on Dec. 22, 2014.

**William Carswell**, LAW '00, and his wife, **America Cross Carswell**, LAW '00, announce the birth of their first child, Victoria Elizabeth, on Nov. 19, 2014.

**Alicia R. Crampton**, CLA '07, married Heather N. Hunter on Nov. 23, 2014, in Crofton, Maryland.

**Peter Harrison**, LAW '09, and his wife announce the birth of their first child, Simon Whitcomb, on Jan. 28.

**Brandon C. Jones**, LAW '05, and his wife, Laura Jones, announce the birth of their son, Wes, on Nov. 22, 2014.

**John Ryd Bush "Jack" Long**, LAW '06, and his wife, Paige Long, announce the birth of their daughter, Julia Reynolds, on July 17, 2014. Additionally, he was installed as the 69th president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia during its annual meeting in June.

**Matthew Matson**, LAW '08, and his wife, Jenna Matson, LAW '08, announce the birth of their daughter, Martha Irwin, on July 7.

**Jason Rollins**, BUS '09, and his wife, Issa Rollins, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Reece Lei, on Feb. 20.

### 2010s

**Meredith Williams Chilausky**, LAW '10, married Matt Chilausky at Duke Chapel in Durham, North Carolina, on Nov. 22, 2014. The couple resides in Durham.

**Richard H. Flournoy**, LAW '10, married Michelle Carney on May 16, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was also named chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency.

**Hadley Hayes Mann**, LAW '12, married Will Mann, LAW '12, on April 25 on St. Simons Island.

## Mercer Mourns the Passing of Loyal Alumna and Supporter Ruth Drake

Mercer University lost one of its most passionate and dedicated supporters with the passing of alumna Ruth B. Drake, CLA '59, wife of Life Trustee and former Board Chair Judge Homer Drake. Ms. Drake died May 5 in Newnan.

"Ruth Drake was a consummate cheerleader for her beloved alma mater, Mercer University," said President William D. Underwood. "She loved this institution and its students, and along with Judge Drake formed a husband-wife team that advocated for the University everywhere they went. The Mercer community will miss her upbeat spirit and her unrelenting loyalty."

Ms. Drake graduated from Mercer in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in education. In addition to serving as vice president of Chi Omega Sorority, vice president of Kappa Delta Epsilon National Education Society and holding membership in the Cardinal Key Honorary Society, Ms. Drake enjoyed competing for Chi Omega in intramural tennis. Her love of athletics began at an early age. While



Drake

in high school, she was a member of the varsity basketball and tennis teams and was awarded the "Outstanding Athlete" trophy in 1955.

Of her time spent at Mercer, Ms. Drake once said, "I remember the wonderful memories surrounding the Co-op where boys met girls, snacks were available and mail was picked up. The competitive intramural games between the sororities were great memories for me. I enjoyed and love the sports arena where sororities competed against each other for the Outstanding Sorority trophy. Mercer was a school where people came from all walks of life, and we all bonded with each other as we studied, played and grew in body and spirit."

After teaching 10 years in DeKalb County Schools, Dougherty County Schools and Coweta County Schools, she married Judge Drake in 1969. Following the births of her two sons, Walter Homer Drake III and Taylor Bridges Drake, Ms. Drake opted to become a "stay-at-home mom."

Residents of Newnan, the Drakes have generously supported the Mercer Law School and Mercer athletics. They were also influential in the decision to open the University's newest regional academic center in Newnan five years ago.

After Mercer's 2010 decision to resume competition in intercollegiate football while Judge Drake was chair of the Board of Trustees, the Drakes made a lead gift to help construct a new stadium complex. In recognition of their significant gift, the field house was named in their honor and dedicated during Homecoming on Nov. 9, 2012.

## Influential Baptist Leader and Mercer Alumnus Dr. Jim Griffith Dies

Former president and executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention, Dr. James Norman Griffith, CLA '49, HON '77, died May 7 at the age of 89.

Raised in Macon, Dr. Griffith began working for *The Macon Telegraph and News* as a teenager, covering all high school sports. When he became sports editor at the age of 18, Dr. Griffith was one of the youngest sports editors of a daily newspaper in the nation.

He attended Mercer, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order and associate editor of *The Cluster*, and earned a degree in English and journalism in 1949. Dr. Griffith continued his newspaper career as news editor of *The Herald* in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and managing editor of *The News-Herald* in Morganton, North Carolina.

He attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, graduated in 1955 and went on to pastor four churches in Georgia and South Carolina, after which he was elected president and then executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention.



Dr. Griffith

During his administration, the Convention enjoyed tremendous growth and success. The debt on the Baptist Center was paid, and facilities at the Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa were expanded with construction of the Searcy S. Garrison Auditorium and a 100-bedroom hotel, which was named in honor of Griffith.

Camp Kaleo, a Royal Ambassador camp in Forsyth, and the Penfield Christian Home in Greene County, the first Southern Baptist alcohol and drug rehabilitation center for men, were also built under Dr. Griffith's leadership. Moreover, the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing replaced its nursing diploma program and admitted the first students to its accredited baccalaureate degree program.

Even in ministry, Dr. Griffith continued to pursue his love of journalism, writing a weekly column "Pulpit to Pew," which appeared for nearly 45 years in *The Christian Index*, the Georgia Baptist Convention news magazine. He was the author of four books.

A member of the University President's Council as well as the Board of Trustees in the 1970s, Dr. Griffith held three honorary degrees, including the Doctor of Divinity from Mercer. He was a recipient of the Louie D. Newton Award for Service to the University and was president of the Half Century Club.

In 2007, Dr. Griffith made a gift to establish the James N. Griffith Endowed Series for Baptist Studies, which funded a book series to explore Baptist life and thought.

Dr. Griffith was the brother of Dr. Benjamin W. Griffith Jr., CLA '44, a former professor and chair of Mercer's English Department, and the uncle of University Trustee Benjamin W. "Benjy" Griffith III.

## In Memory

### 1930s

**Emily Winters Greene**, TIFT '39, of Gainesville, March 20.  
**Virginia Slaughter Miller**, TIFT '31, of Sylvania, Feb. 18.

### 1940s

**The Honorable Percival C. Andrews Jr.**, CLA '48, LAW '49, of Thomasville, May 21.  
**Carolyn Bergeron Askew**, TIFT '49, of Monticello, Sept. 12, 2014.  
**Betty Sellers Bebbington**, TIFT '48, of Evans, Feb. 27.  
**Dr. Linton Hines Bishop Jr.**, CLA '47, of Atlanta, Dec. 10, 2014.  
**Jeannette McNeil Cathy**, TIFT '47, of Hampton, July 22.  
**June F. Causey**, CLA '49, of Macon, May 27.  
**William H. Crowley**, CLA '44, of Newnan, Sept. 24, 2014.  
**Erlene Paulk Denson**, CLA '46, of North Port, Florida, March 14, 2014.  
**Ila C. Dickerson**, NUR '42, of Stone Mountain, Feb. 23.  
**Vallusia Anchors Houck**, EDU '46, of North Augusta, South Carolina, Jan. 11, 2014.  
**Catherine S. Howard**, CLA '48, of Greenwood, Indiana, April 23, 2014.  
**Martha Phinazee Kraft**, TIFT '42, of Tullahoma, Tennessee, Aug. 11, 2014.  
**Virginia Corley Lloyd**, TIFT '43, of Forsyth, May 28.  
**Emilyn Rigdon Lunge**, TIFT '44, of San Leandro, California, Nov. 14, 2014.  
**Marjorie Moreman**, NUR '43, of Atlanta, Feb. 25.  
**Sea Willow Nichols**, TIFT '44, of Athens, May 2.  
**Lorena Spradley Owen**, TIFT '46, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Feb. 6.  
**Julia Callaway Poss**, TIFT '41, of Washington, Sept. 1, 2014.  
**Nathaniel L. Prather**, PHA '41, of Blue Ridge, June 8.  
**The Hon. Hugh D. Sosebee Sr.**, LAW '40, of Forsyth, March 18.  
**Mary Garbatt Stutts**, NUR '40, of Cartersville, May 4, 2014.

**Gertrude Addis Tharpe**, TIFT '40, of Birmingham, Alabama, Nov. 6, 2014.  
**Jerome B. Thomas Sr.**, CLA '49, of Raleigh, North Carolina, Nov. 28, 2014.  
**Ida Frances Cottingham Traxler**, CLA '44, of Atlanta, April 13, 2014.  
**Carleen G. Tyner**, CLA '49, of Albany, July 9.  
**Joyce Upchurch**, NUR '48, of Maryville, Tennessee, Feb. 1, 2014.  
**Dudley B. Wade**, CLA '49, of Pine Mountain, Jan. 17.  
**Thomas H. White**, CLA '44, of Greenville, South Carolina, June 5.

### 1950s

**Clyde L. Armour Jr.**, LAW '52, of Rome, July 8.  
**Nora Sanders Ball**, TIFT '54, EDU '65, of Monticello, April 24.  
**Mary Arnold Binns**, CLA '54, of Atlanta, July 11.  
**Glenn W. Boggs**, PHA '52, of Powder Springs, April 13.  
**Phyllis Westphal Bonner**, TIFT '55, of Alpharetta, May 12.  
**John B. Bowdre**, CLA '50, of Macon, June 9.  
**Robert H. Braswell**, EDU '55, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, June 1.  
**Dr. Larry Eugene Brightwell**, CLA '59, of Columbus, April 9.  
**A. Lamar Brooks**, PHA '58, of Dothan, Alabama, Dec. 16, 2014.  
**Anne G. Burnham**, CLA '53, of Macon, Nov. 27, 2014.  
**Cynthia A. Cave**, CLA '53, of Evans, July 22.  
**Thomas J. Champion Jr.**, PHA '50, of Cartersville, Dec. 25, 2014.  
**Elwyn J. Cheek**, PHA '57, of Stone Mountain, June 2.  
**Betty Cheek Cofer**, NUR '51, of Athens, June 30, 2014.  
**William R. Dorminy**, LAW '51, of Maitland, Florida, March 3.  
**Elizabeth Sangster Easters**, TIFT '52, of Lenox, July 17, 2014.  
**James Sewell Elliott Sr.**, LAW '52, of Macon, May 19.  
**Joanne Sandra Prince Epps**, TIFT '51, of Lexington, Feb. 19.

**Laura Gibbs**, NUR '53, of Bowdon, July 20, 2014.  
**Margaret Stubbs Gordon**, TIFT '56, of Macon, March 15.  
**Louise Kirkland Gresham**, TIFT '54, of McDonough, May 28.  
**Faye Sloan Henning**, NUR '51, of Athens, April 28.  
**The Rev. Glynn T. Hill**, CLA '52, of Little Rock, Arkansas, June 25.  
**The Rev. R. Jack Hopkins**, CLA '56, of Byron, June 17.  
**The Rev. James W. Howard**, CLA '51, of Sylvester, Feb. 27, 2014.  
**Chlo G. Hubbard**, CLA '56, of Rabun Gap, Jan. 9.  
**The Rev. James P. Hughes**, EDU '55, of Dalton, July 4.  
**Dr. Peter A. Jensen Jr.**, CLA '53, of Atlanta, May 17.  
**George Erwin Jones Jr.**, CLA '52, EDU '61, of Macon, April 16.  
**Jimmie Killcrease Jones**, TIFT '54, of Lawrenceville, March 16.  
**Nancy Kirk Jones**, NUR '56, of Hiwassee, April 22.  
**Dr. Spencer Fleetwood Maddox Jr.**, CLA '53, of Gray, July 1.  
**Dr. Oscar N. Maxwell Jr.**, CLA '55, of Huntsville, Alabama, June 3.  
**Carey Louise McLendon**, TIFT '59, of Torrance, California, Feb. 5.  
**Harvey M. Moore**, PHA '51, of Griffin, Aug. 16, 2014.  
**Mary Jane Newsome Morgan**, NUR '54, of Stone Mountain, May 11.  
**William D. Morgan**, PHA '57, of McDonough, May 1.  
**Shirley Jean Banks Newman**, TIFT '58, of Augusta, Feb. 19.  
**Gerald K. Palmer**, CLA '57, of Alto, June 9.  
**Barbara Senft Peterson**, CLA '55, of Macon, June 7.  
**Robert H. Ramsey**, CLA '56, of Manchester, Connecticut, July 12.  
**The Rev. Clyde Riley**, CLA '54, of Blythewood, South Carolina, July 12, 2014.  
**John A. Robertson Jr.**, CLA '50, of Gray, Feb. 19.  
**William Paul Rodgers Jr.**, CLA '55, LAW '57, of McLean, Virginia, Oct. 17, 2014.

**Thomas S. Roote Jr.**, CLA '57, of Kennesaw, July 10.  
**Cmdr. Jerry Ronald Smith**, CLA '58, of Milledgeville, June 22.  
**Jean Stokes**, NUR '50, of Aiken, South Carolina, Jan. 10.  
**Aletha Janis Tache**, TIFT '59, of Annapolis, Maryland, Feb. 26.  
**Jack Thornton**, CLA '54, of Albany, Feb. 13.  
**Blanche M. Willingham**, CLA '52, of Lookout Mountain, June 16.  
**Franklin Young**, CLA '51, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, May 22, 2014.

### 1960s

**Thomas D. Adams Jr.**, CLA '68, of Thomaston, July 16.  
**The Hon. Emmette Harvey Albea**, LAW '63, of Anniston, Alabama, April 27.  
**Theo Meier Bracewell**, CLA '67, of Decatur, July 9.  
**Myra Parkerson Burch**, EDU '61, of Eastman, July 11.  
**Erith Dugger Collinsworth**, CLA '69, EDU '75, of Macon, July 29.  
**Virginia Combs**, NUR '60, of Gurley, Alabama, Feb. 20, 2014.  
**William Joseph Connors**, PHA '62, of San Antonio, Florida, May 17, 2014.  
**William Oscar Crane Jr.**, CLA '62, of Camilla, May 12.  
**Bruce E. Forlines**, CLA '64, of Knoxville, Tennessee, Feb. 17.  
**Marianne R. Griffith**, CLA '60, of Eatonton, June 11.  
**Judith Hammons**, NUR '60, of Hayesville, North Carolina, Oct. 18, 2014.  
**John E. James**, LAW '64, of Macon, April 5.  
**Ina Faye Chambliss Jones**, TIFT '61, of Cataula, Nov. 4, 2014.  
**Samuel Edward Kilgore**, PHA '69, of Greensboro, June 18.  
**John D. Lauer**, PHA '67, of Naples, Florida, March 5.  
**Mary Ann Leavell**, NUR '64, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, Oct. 17, 2014.  
**Evelyn D. Nunes**, TIFT '66, of Davenport, Florida, May 18, 2014.  
**Audrey J. Partenza**, EDU '64, of Milledgeville, March 27.

**Winifred D. Reese**, CLA '63, of Macon, March 25.  
**Roberta Johnson Roper**, TIFT '66, of Thomson, April 20.  
**David E. Selman**, CLA '64, of Warner Robins, May 8.  
**The Hon. Curtis G. Shaw**, LAW '65, of Greenwood, South Carolina, June 18.  
**Max H. Staples Jr.**, PHA '69, of Marietta, March 12.  
**Ethel Moore Sumner**, TIFT '61, of Dalton, Nov. 6, 2014.  
**R. Stephen Taylor**, CLA '62, of Vienna, March 15.  
**David R. Thaxton**, CLA '64, of Fayetteville, May 26.  
**Brenda Green Tompkins**, EDU '63, of Asheville, North Carolina, April 1.  
**Mary O. Weaver**, EDU '67, of Macon, July 21.  
**Suzie Freeman Weldon**, NUR '64, of Lawrenceville, Feb. 15, 2014.  
**Dr. Carl Davis Whelchel III**, CLA '63, of Jacksonville, Florida, Aug. 23, 2014.  
**Joseph L. Williams**, LAW '67, of Nokesville, Virginia, March 2.  
**Robert C. Wood**, CLA '62, of Columbus, Sept. 29, 2014.  
**Charles R. Yielding**, LAW '67, of Fayetteville, Aug. 19, 2014.

### 1970s

**Norma Farmer Boggs**, EDU '75, of Jasper, July 18.  
**James Douglas Boss**, CLA '73, EDU '91, '94, of Leesburg, July 16.  
**Charles M. Brooks**, PHA '79, of Stanville, Kentucky, May 14, 2014.  
**Ruth Chatfield**, NUR '79, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Nov. 22, 2014.  
**William Cleary**, CAS '76, of Orlando, Florida, March 14.  
**Alvin B. Conyers**, CAS '77, of Auburn, Feb. 6.  
**Rita Dianne Morrow Cowart**, TIFT '79, of Macon, July 31, 2014.  
**George William Dupree**, CLA '76, of Juliette, May 2.  
**Charles J. Durrance**, CLA '77, of Ball Ground, June 1.

## Mercer Alumnus Posthumously Inducted Into Georgia Music Hall of Fame

**D**ouble Bear Philip Walden Jr., CLA '89, LAW '92, was posthumously inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame as a member of its 2015 class. The induction ceremony was held Sept. 26 in the Georgia Ballroom at the Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta.

The son of Georgia Music Hall of Fame inductee Phil Walden, Philip Walden Jr. followed in his father's footsteps in the music industry. After earning his bachelor's degree in English, Walden went on to graduate *magna cum laude* from Mercer Law School, where his honors included service on the *Mercer Law Review* and the Moot Court Board.

Following his graduation from law school, Walden began his career at King & Spalding in Atlanta. He was there for a short time before joining his father



Walden

in the effort to revive Capricorn Records in Nashville, Tennessee. During his time at Capricorn, the company again made an impact on the music industry, introducing artists such as Cake, 311 and Widespread Panic, which Walden managed during its early days in Athens. Walden's energy and legal expertise were instrumental in the label's success during this era.

In late 2000, the Walden family sold the label, and Walden returned to private practice with longtime colleague and friend, Leon Jones, at their firm, Jones & Walden. In 2006, Walden joined the legal team at Turner Broadcasting's Music Group, where he served in a leadership role on Turner's Diversity Task Force.

He was also a volunteer with the Street Law Program, helping high school students learn more about the legal profession and served on the board of the Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal services to artists and musicians in need.

Other members of the Hall of Fame class included Drivin' N Cryin', Gregg Allman, John and Jane Barbe, John Hule, Sam Moore and Monica Pearson. Sonny Limbaugh and Tim Wilson were also inducted posthumously along with Walden.

**Janice I. McManious Gordy**, TIFT '71, of Waverly Hall, March 26.  
**Lewis John Hartman**, CLA '75, of Randolph, Vermont, April 10.  
**The Rev. William Norris Hodges**, CLA '74, of Favares, Florida, April 22.  
**Margo Hogan**, NUR '76, of Hollywood, Florida, June 13, 2014.  
**Gary P. Horowitz**, CLA '72, of Broomall, Pennsylvania, Feb. 17, 2014.  
**Margaret Ward Hussey**, CAS '79, of Flowery Branch, Nov. 9, 2014.  
**Leon Larke**, CLA '76, of Augusta, July 6.  
**Jerry L. Lifsey**, LAW '71, of Chatsworth, Dec. 9, 2014.  
**Anthony C. Lowe**, TIFT '79, of Atlanta, Dec. 16, 2014.  
**Thomas V. McAbee**, PHA '74, of Lilburn, Dec. 2, 2014.  
**Linda Jean McGarrity**, CAS '79, of Atlanta, April 7.  
**Clara Patricia Rustin**, TIFT '79, of Macon, Feb. 22.  
**Rhonda I. Sharp**, CLA '79, of Eatonton, Nov. 6, 2014.

**Mary Skene**, LAW '77, of Roswell, March 3.  
**Sgt. Maj. Oliver B. Stoner Jr.**, TIFT '79, of Forsyth, Feb. 25.  
**Mary Thurmond**, NUR '72, of Lilburn, Dec. 15, 2014.  
**William E. Van Dyke Jr.**, CLA '78, of Columbus, July 3.  
**Donald A. VanBuskirk**, CLA '71, of Washington, Missouri, June 15.  
**Michael Hal Wallace**, PHA '71, of Smyrna, Jan. 30.  
**Robert Walls Jr.**, EDU '76, of Thomaston, Sept. 5, 2014.  
**Claude Manning Walton**, EDU '71, of Thomaston, April 28.

**1980s**

**Victoria A. Albee**, CAS '80, of Lawrenceville, Feb. 26.  
**Steven G. Algieri**, BUS '82, of Atlanta, Dec. 17, 2014.  
**James Myron Bates**, TIFT '84, of North Augusta, South Carolina, March 26.  
**Dianne Leonard Boulware**, TIFT '80, of Huntsville, Alabama, Jan. 9.

**Frances Ann Chambless Colter**, TIFT '82, of Rentz, Aug. 24, 2014.  
**Donna Law Cotton**, BUS '85, of Decatur, Aug. 29, 2014.  
**Beverly Ann Mitchell Dotson**, PHA '88, of Lithonia, April 23.  
**Tammy Fambrough**, NUR '83, of Stockbridge, Sept. 14, 2014.  
**Mark W. Froid**, CLA '81, of St. Petersburg, Florida, April 10.  
**William R. Hamilton**, CLA '81, of St. Petersburg, Florida, March 24.  
**Martha Herndon Jarrard**, TIFT '83, of Hampton, Dec. 7, 2014.  
**Jerry T. Jenkins**, CAS '82, of Jasper, Feb. 1.  
**Laverne S. McCrary**, TIFT '82, of Thomaston, May 19.  
**Beverly Parkerson Mitchell**, CLA '87, of Ivanhoe, North Carolina, April 23.  
**Michael R. Moravetz**, BUS '84, of McLean, Virginia, July 20, 2014.  
**William L. Mullen Jr.**, LAW '89, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, June 8.  
**Donald Kent Replogle**, BUS '88, of Monroe, March 21.

**Angela Bishop Rowland**, BUS '85, of Macon, May 11.  
**Deborah J. Webb**, BUS '88, of Grayson, May 16.  
**Russell D. Woodyard**, BUS '84, of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, March 26, 2014.  
**Joel L. Yavner**, CLA '84, of Centerville, Feb. 18, 2014.

**1990s**

**Rowona Eynone Beebe**, PC '96, of Eastman, Jan. 28, 2014.  
**Roger W. Comeau**, MED '97, of Macon, April 10.  
**John D. Gill Jr.**, BUS '91, of Stone Mountain, June 22.  
**Christy Bates Jerden**, EDU '90, of Dublin, May 20.  
**Shannon T. Payne**, CLA '90, of McDonough, Oct. 5, 2014.  
**Patricia Pedely**, BUS '99, of Grayson, June 26.  
**Daniel Stephen Ray Sr.**, PC '95, of Perry, July 12.

**Robert Charles Steele**, BUS '90, of Cumming, Aug. 15, 2014.  
**James R. Titzkowski**, CAS '90, of Minocqua, Wisconsin, May 2.

**Friends & Former Staff**

**Theodore S. Alexander**, of Macon, former staff member in central administration, May 28.  
**Dr. Derrell W. Ray**, of Savannah, adjunct clinical assistant in the physician assistant program, March 30.  
**Linda Gail Sheffield**, of Macon, former preceptor coordinator of community medicine, April 19.

**Mercer Engineering Founding Faculty Member Dies**

**J**ames A. “Jim” Wagner, a founding member of the School of Engineering, died Aug. 18, at the age of 77 after an extended illness.

Admired for his skill and diligence and beloved for his good spirit, Wagner served as director of admissions during his tenure with Mercer Engineering, recruiting the first class that enrolled in the fall of 1985.

Wagner earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University and built an impressive career in the U.S. Navy before joining Mercer.



Wagner

Commissioned as a Navy ensign in February 1961, Wagner was designated a naval aviator in August of the same year. Operational assignments included Carrier Anti-Submarine Warfare Squadrons 41, 42 and 30; the USS Independence CVA-62; and Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 12.

The Oil City, Pennsylvania, native was selected for Aviation Squadron Command in 1973. He served as commanding officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121, from 1975-1977. Shore tours included service as fixed wing specialist for the Atlantic Fleet, Anti-Submarine Warfare Tactical School, and as director of the Plans and Policy Division on the staff of Commander, Navy Recruiting Command.

Wagner accumulated more than 6,000 hours of flight time and 824 carrier landings as a Navy pilot. His last assignment prior to retirement in July 1984 was chief of staff to Commander, Navy Recruiting Area Three based in Macon.

He was a member of Martha Bowman United Methodist Church and the Roundtable Group.

**Generous Mercer Supporter and Trustee Mansfield Jennings Dies**

**A** generous supporter of Mercer’s McDuffie Center for Strings, W. Mansfield Jennings Jr. died June 23, following an extended illness. He was 71 years old.

“I lost a very good friend and a mentor, and the Center lost a staunch supporter with the passing of Mr. W. Mansfield Jennings Jr.,” said Robert McDuffie, founder of the McDuffie Center for Strings. “He was a gentleman to the core, proud of his family and humble in all that he did, and he did so much, not only for the Center, but for Hawkinsville and the state of Georgia. He has supported my career over many years, and I will forever be grateful to him for contributing to my success and that of the Center. We will miss his keen mind, his steady guidance and his gentle humor.”

Born and raised in Hawkinsville, Jennings attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and served in the U.S. Navy before returning home to follow in his father’s footsteps at Hawkinsville Telephone Company, which he purchased in 1980, beginning the transformation from a small telephone company to the di-



Jennings

versified telecommunications company of ComSouth.

Today, his legacy provides state-of-the-art telecommunications services to a broad swath of Middle Georgia, including Hawkinsville, Cochran, Perry, Fort Valley, Unadilla, Pinehurst, and parts of Warner Robins.

Active in advancing the telecommunications industry at both the state and national level, Jennings served as president of Georgia Telephone Association and later as a director.

An involved citizen in his community, Jennings served as chairman of the board for SunMark Community Bank and Taylor Regional Hospital in Hawkinsville. He was a past president of the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce and the Hawkinsville Rotary Club. He served on numerous other boards of Middle Georgia organizations, including the South Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Museum of Aviation and United Pulaski Inc.

Since 2006, he served on the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia on an appointment by former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue.

In recent years, Jennings served on the Mercer University Board of Trustees and endowed the Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Distinguished Chair in Music, held by Robert McDuffie.

He earned a B.S. in industrial management from Georgia Tech as well as an MBA from Emory University. He also studied at Georgia State University and the London School of Business. For his accomplishments, the Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business inducted Jennings into its Hall of Fame.

# 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.



**1915** (Above) One of the popular student organizations in 1915 was “The Nuts.” The group met in the “Peanut” Gallery of The Grand Opera House and, as one can imagine, some of their nicknames were quite creative. Nuttsy, Bootlick, Nux, Nub, Dinner Bell, Frosty, Pencil, Ketchup, Pinky and Shark were a few of the members.



**1990** Christina Ray, center, was crowned Miss Mercer 1990. Also pictured are first runner-up Shannon Prince, right, and second runner-up LeeAnn Brownlow, left. Jamie Price, Miss Georgia 1989, emceed the event, which featured a performance by the Mercer Dance Troupe as well as a Mitchell’s Formalwear and After Six fashion show.



**1965** (Left) The sisters of Phi Mu sorority won the annual Sigma Nu Relays in May 1965 as they took first place in the pin-in-a-pie, izzy-dizzy and pig chase events. Alpha Gamma Delta was a close second with wins in the pie throw, balloon burst, clothes change and the “surprise event,” which featured “selected sisters mounted on the shoulders of their team coaches and striving to smash with a newspaper an egg placed under a stocking atop the head of rival coaches.”



# University Giving

## Fundraising to Date for Aspire Campaign Exceeds \$120 Million

MERCER EXPERIENCED TREMENDOUS SUCCESS in fundraising during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, receiving more than \$27 million in gifts. Moreover, after launching Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University, at Homecoming 2014, progress toward the \$400 million goal stands at \$122 million as of the fiscal year just concluded.

The year was highlighted by a large multi-million dollar commitment from Macon resident and devoted friend of the University Jo Phelps Fabian to establish the Fabian Center for Musical Excellence in the Townsend School of Music. This commitment by Fabian, along with the gift that founded the School of Music, is the largest ever in support of the arts at Mercer.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded Mercer's College of Liberal Arts a \$500,000 challenge grant to support establishment of an endowed Center for Southern Studies. This grant requires the University to raise \$1.5 million in endowment gifts, and the University received several hundred thou-

sand dollars in gifts and pledges toward this \$2 million initiative in the prior fiscal year.

In fundraising for several athletic facilities, significant gifts were received for the football and lacrosse complex and its various components, the new soccer facility and the new baseball stadium. Five Star Automotive Group, owned by Charlie Cantrell and Dick Pope, made a multi-million dollar commitment to name Five Star Stadium, the home of Mercer football and lacrosse. Bill and Paula Betts, parents of former Mercer men's soccer standout Will Betts,

have signed on to provide a lead gift for the construction of the Betts Family Press Box at Bear Field. OrthoGeorgia, Middle Georgia's largest provider of orthopedic services, made a significant commitment toward construction of a new baseball complex, which will bear the name OrthoGeorgia Park at Claude Smith Field.

Additionally, several major gifts were received for various construction projects across Mercer's campuses as well as significant gifts for endowment, scholarship aid and other projects featured as part of Aspire.



## Mercer Celebrates New President's Club Life Members

MERCER CELEBRATED the 50th anniversary of The President's Club on April 17 and honored some of its most generous donors. At the annual event, members of The President's Club gathered for dinner followed by a desert reception in the Venetian Ballroom at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta.

The Mercer University President's Club was established in 1964 to recognize alumni and friends who provide a nucleus of support for the University. Over the years, this select group of alumni and friends has supplied nearly three-quarters of the gifts from individuals for annual support. Friends and alumni of Mercer who contribute \$1,000 or more during the calendar year are eligible for membership in The President's Club.

The University's highest level of leadership giving, President's Club Life Membership is conferred on those individuals and churches who have reached or surpassed \$100,000 in lifetime giving to Mercer. During the dinner, the newest Life Members were honored through a series of video tributes sharing stories from the heart and explaining



New President's Club Life Members attending the celebration with President William D. Underwood, back right, include: (back row L-R) Herb Hatton, David Bennett, Dean Copelan, John Fry, Cecil Staton, Bob Woodson, Jerry Wilson, (front row L-R) Michael Tanner, Teresa Bennett, Ashley Copelan, Jackie Fry, Catherine Staton, Carolyn Woodson and Ginny Wilson.

their reasons for giving to Mercer.

At this year's event, the following were recognized for achieving Life Member status: Everett\* and Teresa Bennett, Dean and Ashley Copelan, John and Jackie Fry, Herbert W.

Hatton, Cecil and Catherine Staton, Michael R. Tanner, Jerry and Ginny Wilson, and Robert and Carolyn Woodson.

\* Posthumously

# Advancement Update

## Advancement Office Adds New Staff

THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT has added several new staff members to assist with fundraising efforts for the University and work with Mercer alumni.

**Matt Hatchett** began his work in the Office of University Advancement as a development officer in June. A native of Dublin, Hatchett serves as a representative in the Georgia House of Representatives for District 150, representing Johnson, Laurens and Treutlen counties. After working with Delta Air Lines out of college, Hatchett left for entrepreneurial opportunities and has owned several businesses. He has also previously served as a local city council member. Hatchett is a graduate of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, where he was active in student government, worked on the senior class gift and assisted with a capital campaign. As an alumnus, he has served his peers as a class agent.



Hatchett

in fall 2014. King has broad experience in legal education and alumni outreach, having been a member of the inaugural leadership team at the Charlotte Law School in North Carolina, where she was assistant director of external and alumni services. King graduated *cum laude* from the Philippine Normal University with dual bachelor's degrees in arts and secondary education, majoring in English. She is also a licensed Project Management Professional.



King

generating annual fund and major gifts for the business school, developing relationships with business alumni and working with the Executive Forum speaker series. A resident of Newnan, Landrum's primary office is at the Atlanta campus. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and an alumna of Leadership Georgia.

**Anneliese Newberry**, CLA '01, came to Mercer in September 2014 and is the newest member of the Office of Alumni Services, working as coordinator of alumni programs. In this role, she manages the fast-growing alumni chapter program, the alumni travel program, the student ambassador program and identifies new perks and benefits for Mercer alumni. To help Mercer alumni reconnect with their alma mater, Newberry also assists the Alumni Association team in planning and executing special events like Homecoming, as well as various Mercer Mingles throughout the year and across the country. She resides in Macon.



Newberry

**LaVann Landrum** joined the Office of University Advancement as director of development for the Stetson School of Business and Economics. She brings more than 25 years of fundraising experience working at organizations such as Piedmont Healthcare, The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Her primary role at Mercer includes



Landrum

**Cheryll King** came to Mercer in June and directs the programs and engagement activities benefiting the alumni of Mercer Law. She fills the position vacated by **Leslie L. Cadle**, LAW '07, who transitioned into a new role as director of development for Mercer Law



COURTESY DAVID WEELEY '95, CHARLOTTE, NC, CHAPTER

## CONNECTING THE BEARS Through Alumni Chapters

city. Since September 2014, 26 more chapters have been established and are in the development stages. Be on the lookout for emails about your local chapter events.

Currently, there are Mercer Alumni Chapters in the following locations:

- Birmingham, Alabama
- San Francisco/Bay area, California
- Washington, D.C.
- Orlando, Florida
- Atlanta, Georgia

- Columbus, Georgia
- Gwinnett County, Georgia
- Locust Grove, Georgia
- Macon, Georgia
- Northwest Georgia
- Savannah, Georgia
- Tifton, Georgia
- Valdosta, Georgia
- Warner Robins, Georgia
- Woodstock, Georgia
- Gainesville, Florida
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Kansas City, Missouri
- New York City, New York

- Asheville, North Carolina
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- North Carolina Triad
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Beaufort, South Carolina
- Charleston, South Carolina
- Columbia, South Carolina
- Greenville, South Carolina
- Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Nashville, Tennessee

If you are interested in learning more about a chapter in your area, or in forming a chapter in your area, please contact Anneliese Newberry at [newberry\\_a@mercer.edu](mailto:newberry_a@mercer.edu) or (478) 301-5675. You may also visit the Mercer Alumni Chapters webpage at <http://alumni.mercer.edu/chapters>.

**M**ercer's Alumni Chapter Program has grown this year, with chapters established across the United States. Washington, D.C., Charlotte, North Carolina, and Atlanta blazed the trail in summer and fall 2014, holding launch events in each



# The Importance of Alumni Giving

A gift to Mercer has the power to impact the lives of our students by strengthening academic programs, supporting student organizations and providing scholarship funds. Alumni participation in The Mercer Fund is a critical component of our ability to provide students with an educational experience that is second-to-none. Your financial support represents an endorsement of the University's work and mission and indicates your satisfaction with your personal experience at Mercer.

We appreciate the support of our alumni and are grateful for your partnership in our mission. Your gift to The Mercer Fund not only equips students for success, but also indicates the strength of our support to external agencies. Foundations and other funding organizations as well as review and ratings services, such as *U.S. News and World Report*, consider alumni giving in their overall evaluation of the University.

Please take a moment to make a gift to The Mercer Fund. Remember, during *Aspire*, The Campaign for Mercer University, all gifts to The Mercer Fund count toward meeting the overall campaign goal of \$400 million.

If you've already made a gift to The Mercer Fund this year, thank you for your commitment to our continued success!

For more information on ways to give, contact the Office of University Advancement at (800) 837-2911 or visit [giving.mercer.edu](http://giving.mercer.edu).



# MERCER BASKETBALL

## 2015-16 HOME SCHEDULE

11.13	7 <sup>30</sup>	ALLEN
11.16	7 <sup>PM</sup>	GEORGE MASON
11.19	7 <sup>PM</sup>	ALABAMA STATE
12.2	7 <sup>PM</sup>	HIWASSEE
12.5	4 <sup>30</sup>	ALCORN STATE
1.2	4 <sup>30</sup>	SAMFORD
1.14	7 <sup>PM</sup>	FURMAN
1.16	4 <sup>30</sup>	WOFFORD
1.28	7 <sup>PM</sup>	VMI
1.30	4 <sup>30</sup>	UNC GREENSBORO
2.6	4 <sup>30</sup>	THE CITADEL
2.8	7 <sup>PM</sup>	CHATTANOOGA
2.18	7 <sup>PM</sup>	WESTERN CAROLINA
2.20	4 <sup>30</sup>	ETSU

COASTAL CAROLINA	5 <sup>PM</sup>	11.13
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	7 <sup>PM</sup>	11.20
SAINT LOUIS	2 <sup>PM</sup>	11.22
FAULKNER	2 <sup>PM</sup>	12.13
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	2 <sup>PM</sup>	12.19
JACKSONVILLE STATE	7 <sup>PM</sup>	12.21
GOLL. OF CHARLESTON	7 <sup>PM</sup>	12.30
NORTH FLORIDA	2 <sup>PM</sup>	1.2
CHATTANOOGA	7 <sup>PM</sup>	1.21
ETSU	2 <sup>PM</sup>	1.23
WESTERN CAROLINA	7 <sup>PM</sup>	2.4
UNC GREENSBORO	2 <sup>PM</sup>	2.6
SAMFORD	2 <sup>PM</sup>	2.13
WOFFORD	7 <sup>PM</sup>	2.25
FURMAN	2 <sup>PM</sup>	2.27



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