

THE

SPRING 2016

Mercerian

A PUBLICATION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY | MERCER.EDU





CONTENTS

THE MERCERIAN, SPRING 2016

Features

**Students Loved and
Will Miss Icon 'Papa Joe'** 14

**Launching of Innovation
Center Will Help Create
21st Century Jobs** 16

**Nation's Most Prestigious
Academic Honor Society
Grants Mercer Chapter** 18

**Inaugural Alumni Award
Dinner Honors Three
Outstanding Mercerians** 30

Departments

ON THE QUAD 3

BEARS ROUNDUP 24

HEALTH SCIENCES 33

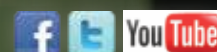
CLASS NOTES 36

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE 40

In Our Lens

Mercer student and reigning Miss America Betty Cantrell performed a stunning rendition of the National Anthem at Five Star Stadium on Nov. 21 prior to the Bears hosting Samford.

On the Cover — The Phi Beta Kappa key, symbol for the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society. See story on p. 18.



Make the Connection — Become a fan of Mercer on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch our latest videos on YouTube. mercer.edu/socialmedia

Panaprint Inc., Macon, Georgia, is a G7 Master Printer, using only environmentally responsible papers and soy based inks. All paper trim, spoilage and plates are recycled.

**MACON'S
TATTNALL SQUARE
PARK FOUNTAIN**

on Dec. 3 flowed for the first time in more than 80 years. The fountain has become a popular location for photo seekers both day and night.

A PUBLICATION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY

THE **Mercerian**

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2016

PRESIDENT

William D. Underwood, J.D.

CHANCELLOR

R. Kirby Godsey, Ph.D.

PROVOST

D. Scott Davis, Ph.D.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION
AND FINANCE**

James S. Netherton, Ph.D.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Kellie Raiford Appel, J.D.

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING
COMMUNICATIONS AND CHIEF OF STAFF**

Larry D. Brumley

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT
MANAGEMENT**

Penny L. Elkins, Ph.D.

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY
ADVANCEMENT**

John A. Patterson

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

William G. Solomon IV, J.D.

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

Rick Cameron

DESIGN EDITOR

Steve Mosley

STAFF WRITER

Kyle Sears CLA '09

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Janet Crocker PC '09

SPECIAL DESIGN

Jordan Bruner, Ginger Harper

PHOTOGRAPHY/ART

Mary Ann Bates, Janet Crocker, Roger Idenden,
Amy Maddox, Steve Mosley, Saldivia-Jones
Photography, Matthew Smith

CONTRIBUTORS

Drew Bloodworth, Laura Botts, Jordon Bruner,
Jill Kinsella CLA '85, Mary Beth Kosowski,
Allen London, Jenny Moss

EDITORIAL OFFICE

The Mercerian, 1501 Mercer University Drive,
Macon, GA 31207

T (478) 301-4024 **F** (478) 301-2684

www.mercer.edu • mercerian@mercer.edu

**TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS AND TO SUPPORT
MERCER UNIVERSITY, CALL:**

(478) 301-2715 or 1-800-MERCER-U, x2715

THE MERCERIAN is published by the Office of Marketing Communications at Mercer University. ©2016 Mercer University. The views and opinions presented in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors or the official policies of the University.

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

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

MACON | ATLANTA | SAVANNAH

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

Mercer Announces Partnership to Restore Historic Capricorn Studio, Launch Music Incubator

Mercer announced on Dec. 10 a partnership with NewTown Macon, Sierra Development and Southern Pine Plantations to bring back to life the historic Capricorn Studio as part of the largest market-rate residential development in the history of downtown Macon.

The studio, co-founded by the late Phil Walden, an alumnus, during its heyday recorded such acts as the Allman Brothers Band, Wet Willie, Elvin Bishop and the Marshall Tucker Band and was the epicenter of Southern Rock.

For more than a decade, the facility sat vacant and fell into disrepair until it was purchased and stabilized by NewTown Macon with a grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation. In 2010, it was named one of Georgia's most endangered historic buildings.

Sierra Development and Southern Pines recently purchased the property from NewTown Macon and will donate it — along with a substantial cash contribution — to Mercer for the purpose of renovating it into a music incubator. Piedmont Construction, which will be the project contractor, will also make a financial contribution.

The University has committed to raising at least \$1 million to complete restoration of the historic structure, which will be known as Mercer Music at Capricorn.

"Mercer has invested heavily in making Macon the kind of place that is attractive to talented, creative and entrepreneurial young people. Having a vibrant cultural climate, including an active, engaging music scene, is a necessary component of achieving this goal," said President William D. Underwood. "Through Mercer Music at Capricorn, we plan on putting this historically important facility

back to work as a tool to reignite a vibrant music scene in Macon."

Once completed, Mercer Music at Capricorn will be available for private rentals, including

rooms will be available to all types and genres of musicians at a low monthly rate. The second floor will also contain instrument lockers, a small common area and a studio apartment.

"I am thrilled that the Capricorn Recording Studio will be restored and help preserve the magic that once happened there," said Walden's daughter Amantha, a Turner Broadcasting executive in Los Angeles. "Mercer University's plan to use the studio as a place for musical instruction and rehearsal is such a fitting way to put this historically significant place back into service and will hopefully help to revitalize the local music scene. My father was very committed to the historic preservation of Macon, so perhaps there is no better way to honor his legacy and the legacy of Capricorn Records. I look forward to seeing how this comes together."

Sierra Development's lofts project will envelop the Capricorn Studio building and occupy most of the block bounded by

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Plum Street, Poplar Street and 5th Street.

Totaling more than 150,000 square feet, The Lofts at Capricorn will include 82 one-bedroom apartments and 55 two-bedrooms lofts. In addition, the complex will feature a 4,000-square-foot leasing office and clubhouse, an outdoor pool, 189 parking spaces, 13 units with private attached garages and more than 15,000 square feet of new office and retail space.



Macon's historic Capricorn Studio will be revitalized by Mercer, NewTown Macon and Sierra Development into a music incubator that will be part of the largest market-rate residential development in the history of downtown. Below, NewTown CEO Josh Rogers, CLA '05, addresses the crowd at the Dec. 10 announcement of this venture.



(TOP) JANET CROCKER PHOTO; (BOTTOM) AMY MADDOX PHOTO

special events or for musicians to record on their own equipment. The lobby will be renovated for use as one of Macon's most unique live-music venues and will have space for special events, seminars and classes. Plans also include preserving some of the artifacts that recount the history of Capricorn Records and the studio. The second floor will have large-, medium- and small-sized rehearsal rooms. The acoustically engineered rehearsal

Alumni Awards Dinner Recognizes Outstanding Mercerians During Homecoming Festivities

More than a dozen Mercerians were recognized for their contributions at the inaugural Alumni Awards Dinner, held on Oct. 23 during Homecoming.

Honorees included recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Meritorious Service Award and the Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award (see profiles on p. 30). The Alumni Association also recognized the newest class of Alumni by Choice honorees and presented alumni chapter awards. Winners

of the first-ever Greek Challenge and this year's three inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame were also recognized.

The Alumni by Choice awards were created to recognize individuals who did not graduate from Mercer but have demonstrated loyalty to the

University over the years. This year's recipients were Joanne and Kevin Guta of Tampa, Florida; Joan Godsey of Macon; Carolyn McAfee of Macon; and Beverly Olson of Macon.

Alumni chapter awards included the Pioneer Chapter Award, which was accepted by leader David Neeley, PC '95, on behalf of the Charlotte (North Carolina) Chapter, the Chapter Leader of the Year Award, which was presented to Amy Griswold Martin, EGR '05 of the Atlanta Chapter, and the Chapter of the Year Award, accepted by leader Jessica Layson Davis, CLA '08, on behalf of the Washington, D.C., Chapter.

The Mercer Greek Challenge, designed to increase financial support to the Annual Fund and award prizes to Greek chapters, presented awards in four competitions to Sigma Nu (Interfraternity Council Group A), Phi Delta Theta (Interfraternity Council Competition Group B), Phi Mu (Panhellenic Council) and Kappa Alpha Psi (National Panhellenic Council) (see story on p. 40).



Alumna Karla Sands, CLA '84, of Albany, emceed the first Alumni Awards Dinner.

SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Board Elects New Trustees, Approves New Programs at Homecoming

Mercer's Board of Trustees installed nine new members, elected new officers and approved two new degree programs during its annual Homecoming meeting Oct. 23.

New trustees who began their five-year terms at the conclusion of the meeting include William H. (Billy) Anderson II, Mercer graduate and chairman and CEO of Southern Trust Corp. and Southern Trust Insurance Co., Macon; Thomas P. (Tom) Bishop, a double Mercer graduate and senior vice president, chief compliance officer and deputy general counsel for Southern Company Services, Acworth; Dwight Davis, a graduate of Mercer Law School, co-owner and managing partner of King Springs Pecans in Hawkinsville, and retired partner with Atlanta's King and Spalding law firm; the Hon. Sarah L. Doyle, chief judge for the Georgia Court of Appeals and Mercer Law School graduate, Atlanta; Margaret (Maggie) Gill, president and CEO of Memorial

Health in Savannah; Robert F. Hatcher Sr., vice president of capital and strategic planning for MidCountry Financial Corp., Macon; James Thomas (Tom) McAfee III, Mercer graduate and chairman and president of Hallmark Systems Inc., Macon; the Hon. Maxine Cynthia (Cindy) Morris, double Mercer graduate and Georgia Superior Court judge, Dalton; and Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor, author, priest and lecturer, Demorest.

Trustees who rotated off the board and were recognized for their service include Cathy Callaway Adams of Marietta; Malcolm S. Burgess Jr. of Macon; John W. Collier of Macon; Milton L. Cruz of San Juan, Puerto Rico; Linda Willis of Atlanta; Nancy Grace of Atlanta; N. Dudley Horton Jr. of Eatonton; and Carolyn Townsend McAfee of Macon.

Tommy Malone, an Atlanta attorney and Mercer Law School graduate, was elected chair of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Spencer B. King III, an Atlanta cardiologist and graduate of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, was elected chair of the board's Executive Committee.

In other action, the board approved a new master's degree in comparative jurisprudence in the School of Law and a master's degree in health informatics in Penfield College.

The master's in comparative jurisprudence is designed to give foreign lawyers both academic and practical training with a focus on international business and trade law. It will be offered beginning in summer 2016, subject to approval by the American Bar Association. The one-year program will be the only one of its kind in the Southeast and will involve study on both the Macon and Atlanta campuses.

The master's in health informatics will be delivered entirely online by Penfield College. It is designed for information technology and healthcare professionals who want to expand their knowledge and skills in the evolving field of health informatics, which involves the acquisition, storage, retrieval, integration and use of healthcare information through computing and communication technologies. The program will be offered beginning this fall.

Students Learn International Business, Health Care on University's First Study Abroad to Bermuda

Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa, assistant professor of global health in the College of Liberal Arts, and six students traveled to Bermuda over the recent winter break to examine the country's influence on the global economy as well as social determinants of health in the British island territory.

The weeklong trip, which began Dec. 12, marked the first study abroad venture to Bermuda for the University, as well as the first group of students to visit the island under a new educational tourism initiative begun to foster relationships with U.S. and other foreign institutions.

Dr. Obidoa and students Devin Blais, Allie Collins, Sally Idehen, Amore Jones, Aaron Scherf and Lakendra Young visited many different sites to learn about the history, industry, geography and culture of Bermuda.

The highlight of the trip was a visit with the Premier Michael Dunkley, who met with the students and invited them to attend a parliamentary session during which legislators debated cigarette laws.

"This was a significant experience for us, not only because we were in Bermuda to explore the social determinants of health, but also because it was an opportunity for us to observe how public health policymaking takes place at the national level," said Dr. Obidoa.

While in the House of Assembly, Deputy Speaker Suzann Roberts-Holshouser formally welcomed the Mercer delegation during the session, which was broadcast on local radio. Several calls came in to the group's tour guide inquiring about the students' visit, and the country's only daily newspaper, *The Royal Gazette*, later published a story about the trip.

Another notable Bermudian the group met was the island's 6-foot-7 town crier Ed Christopher, who rendered a public welcome to Mercer faculty and students and explained his duty to make public pronouncements to the citizens as an officer of the court.

While visiting several companies, the students learned that, despite Bermuda's British charm and island soul, its primary industry is not tourism but international business.

They met with the president of Symphony

Management, a firm that specializes in reinsurance. Reinsurance is the process of insuring the insurance industry, mitigating the risk of potential incidents for corporations around the world while also allowing them to declare assets in a tax-free zone. Bermuda has the second-largest reinsurance market in the world.

many new things — I can hardly believe that it was only a weeklong trip," said Scherf. "I learned a great deal from the conversations we had with local residents and the reflections we had as a group."

Mercer's Global Health Studies program is one of three academic majors in the



Mercer students visiting Bermuda during the recent winter break had the opportunity to meet with Premier Michael Dunkley (third from left).

The group also visited the international headquarters of Bacardi Limited, the largest privately owned spirit producer and distributor in the world.

The students were given a tour of King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, the only hospital on the island, where they learned how the healthcare system operates both on a day-to-day basis and in the event of a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis.

The group visited several other healthcare facilities, including WindReach, a four-acre recreational and development center that offers therapeutic and educational experiences to people living with special needs; Packwood Home, a senior-living facility where the students sang Christmas carols and visited with residents; and SmilesInc dental clinic, which is run by an American dentist who splits his time between clinics in Hamilton, Bermuda, and Boston, Massachusetts.

"Our experiences in Bermuda taught me so

International and Global Studies Department that require a study abroad experience.

"The evidence is clear, study abroad is a transformative experience that profoundly impacts the development of the students intellectually, culturally and professionally," said Dr. Eimad Houry, professor and chair of international and global studies.

The University's Office of International Programs offers a wide variety of study abroad opportunities to students. In addition to faculty-led programs, the University offers a number of internships in South Africa, more than 12 tuition exchange programs and the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Oxford.

"Dr. Obidoa's faculty-led program to Bermuda has truly provided an impactful educational experience to our students," said Bryant Harden, coordinator of study abroad programs. "This program is illustrative of the incredible study abroad opportunities that we offer at Mercer."

Gustafson Named Dean of College of Liberal Arts

Presbyterian College historian and academic administrator Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson has been named dean of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, the institution's oldest and largest academic unit. Her appointment is effective July 1.

Dr. Gustafson succeeds Dr. Lake Lambert, who last summer assumed the presidency of Hanover College in Indiana after serving as dean of the College of Liberal Arts for five years. Dr. Keith Howard, chair and professor of mathematics, has been leading the College as interim dean since July 1, 2015.

In addition to serving as professor of history at Presbyterian College since 1997, Dr. Gustafson also held terms as interim provost from 2010-2012, interim dean of academic programs from 2005-2007, and chair of the history department from 2000-2004.

"During the interview process Dr. Gustafson clearly demonstrated that she has a heart for the liberal arts," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "She also is an experienced academic



Dr. Gustafson

administrator and award-winning scholar-teacher who I believe will provide effective leadership for our College of Liberal Arts. I am very pleased that Dr. Gustafson will be joining us at Mercer, and greatly appreciate the excellent work and service of Dr. Keith Howard, who has led the College during this interim period."

"I am impressed with Dr. Gustafson's energy, ideas and passion for liberal learning," said President William D. Underwood. "Her background and experience as a faculty member and administrator at an established private liberal arts college ideally position her to lead our College of Liberal Arts, which serves as the academic cornerstone of the University."

During her tenure at Presbyterian, Dr. Gustafson served on and chaired a number of committees, led several special academic and administrative initiatives and was the College's accreditation liaison with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Col-

leges. She was named Presbyterian's Professor of the Year in 2007 and received the Excellence in Teaching Award from South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, also in 2007. Her scholarship focuses on Swedish-American history. She has had numerous articles published in professional journals and publications and is a frequent presenter at national academic conferences.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to join the Mercer University community as dean of the College of Liberal Arts," Dr. Gustafson said. "I have been so impressed with the students, the faculty, and the administration, and I look forward to working together to prepare the leaders of tomorrow. Mercer's commitment to academics, to service, and to the overall undergraduate experience makes this an excellent fit for me."

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Dr. Gustafson graduated with honors from North Park University in Chicago. She earned her Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees in American history from Northwestern University.

Dr. Gustafson and her husband, Charles, have a teenage son, Karl.

Mercer Debate Team Concludes Another Successful Season

For a second consecutive year, Mercer's debate team reached the elimination rounds at the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) Tournament — the largest intercollegiate debate tournament in the nation — held March 18-21 in Long Beach, California.

Sophomores Jaz Buckley and Kyle Bligen outranked more than a hundred other teams from across the U.S. as an encore to the previous season's historic run. At last spring's nationals, Buckley became the first freshman and first African-American to be named top speaker, and Bligen was named fourth-best speaker.

The Bears won their second straight Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association (GPDA) state championship Feb. 26-28 in dominant fashion, as Buckley and Bligen were named the top-two speakers and didn't lose a single round on their way to the team victory. Junior Desirrae Jones and freshman Cassie Malcolm reached the semifinals, and sophomore Daniel Alvarez and freshman Keanu Lowo reached the quarterfinals.

"It is a great honor to win state for two con-

secutive years," said Dr. Vasile Stanescu, director of debate. "However, this honor does not belong to us alone but to everyone who made it possible. The success of Mercer debate is just the visible tip of the iceberg of a Mercer family that pulls together to support one another and our talented students. What this victory ultimately means is that Mercer is an institution that prioritizes academics, supports students and achieves competitive success. I, and the entire team, could not be more grateful for everyone who believed in us."

Buckley and Bligen also topped a formidable field at the 19th Annual Point Loma Round Robin in San Diego earlier in February. The invitation-only tournament traditionally pits the top



Bligen and Buckley

10 NPDA schools against one another as a warm-up for nationals. In addition to the team win, Buckley was named fifth-place speaker.

In January, Buckley and Bligen finished among the top 16 teams and Buckley was named 10th-place speaker at the Mile High Swing, the nation's largest parliamentary debate invitational, hosted by the University of Utah.

Additionally, the Bears swept two Florida tournaments hosted by Florida International University and Miami-Dade College in late November, including the

first-ever win for the team of Alvarez and Lowo, while in October, Malcolm earned her first individual victory and Stanescu was named Coach of the Year at Valdosta State's Blazer Classic.

Willetts Appointed Dean of McAfee School of Theology

Dr. Jeffrey G. Willetts, professor of divinity, founding dean and former vice president at the John Leland Center for Theological Studies in Arlington, Virginia, has been appointed dean of the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology, effective July 1.

Dr. Willetts succeeds McAfee's founding dean, Dr. Alan Culpepper, who last summer stepped down after 20 years to return to full-time teaching. Dr. Robert N. Nash Jr., the Arnall-Mann-Thomasson Professor of Missions and World Religions at McAfee, has been serving as interim dean since July 1, 2015.

"Jeff Willetts assumes leadership of Mercer's McAfee School of Theology at a time when theological education in this country faces great opportunities," said President William D. Underwood. "The search committee, chaired by Chancellor Kirby Godsey, has done tremendous work in identifying a new leader for McAfee who brings a depth of experience and a vision for theological education that will seize those opportunities. I appreciate the diligence of the search committee in vetting a number of well-qualified candidates."

"I am very pleased that Dr. Willetts will



Dr. Willetts

become the next dean of the McAfee School of Theology," said Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "Dr. Willetts has been very innovative in delivering theological education to a broad audience during his time at Leland, and I look forward to working with him as he builds on the solid foundation established by founding dean Alan Culpepper. I also want to thank Dr. Rob Nash for his excellent leadership of the School this year as we have conducted our search."

Dr. Willetts has spent most of his professional career at The John Leland Center — also known as Leland Seminary — joining the institution during its first academic year in 1998 as academic director and associate professor. The seminary, accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, was founded by Baptist leaders in Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia and also offers programs at several Virginia sites in addition to its main campus in Arlington. In addition to his appointment at Leland, Dr. Willetts since 1998 has served as part-time pastor of Calvary Hill Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia. From 1991 to 1997, he served as pastor and church planter at Fair Oaks Baptist Church in Fairfax.

"On behalf of members of the search committee, we heartily support the president's selection of Dr. Jeff Willetts to serve as the next dean of the McAfee School of Theology," Dr. Godsey said. "The Committee was very impressed with Jeff's experience and his forward-looking approach to theological education."

"I am deeply honored to follow Dr. Alan Culpepper as dean of McAfee School of Theology," Dr. Willetts said. "Through Dr. Culpepper's leadership, McAfee has always been at the forefront of theological education among Baptists, and I am deeply humbled to be included as a part of its innovating and forward-leaning future."

Dr. Willetts earned a B.A. in religion and philosophy, *magna cum laude*, from Campbell University in 1985. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in religion from Yale University and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Wales, Swansea.

He has served as editor of several theological journals and philosophical publications, is the author of numerous academic papers and presentations, and is active in the Baptist World Alliance, the Society for Philosophy of Religion and the American Academy of Religion.

Dr. Willetts and his wife, the Rev. Elizabeth E. Willetts, are the parents of three adult children.

Mercer Among Princeton Review's 'Colleges That Pay You Back'

MERCER IS ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST HIGHER education institutions for students seeking a superb education with great career preparation at an affordable price, according to the Princeton Review's latest publication.

The education services company features Mercer

in the 2016 edition of *Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck*.

"We highly recommend



Mercer University and all of our Colleges That Pay You Back schools. They stand out not only for their outstanding academics but also for their affordability via comparatively low sticker prices and/or generous financial aid to students with need — or both," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's senior vice president/publisher and lead author of the book. "Students at these colleges also have access to extraordinary career services programs from their freshman year on, plus a lifetime of alumni connections and post-grad support."

Mercer Again a Top Institution in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

MERCER IS AGAIN THE HIGHEST-RANKED GEORGIA institution in any category in the latest edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" guide.

Coming in at No. 8, Mercer is ranked among the top 10 regional universities in the South for the 17th straight year.

overall score of 83 places the University among the top 20 nationwide in its category. *U.S. News & World Report's* 100-point scale factors in data regarding peer assessment, freshman retention, graduation rate, class size, student-faculty ratio, academic profile of entering class, acceptance rate and alumni giving.

Among the more than 400 regional universities that appear in this year's guide, the

The guide offers several additional rankings. In its category, Mercer is listed as the No. 2 best value, No. 4 for best undergraduate teaching, No. 7 best college for veterans and No. 8 most innovative school.

The School of Engineering's undergraduate program, which consistently ranks among the nation's top engineering programs that have bachelor's or master's as their terminal degrees, is ranked No. 39 and is one of only four programs in the region to be ranked among the top 50.

University, PHD Hotels Inc. Announce Plans for Marriott TownePlace Suites Hotel in Mercer Landing

Ground was broken on Sept. 22 for a new hotel and restaurant development on the Macon campus, part of the \$40 million-plus Mercer Landing project.

The hotel, which is among the first of a new prototype for Marriott's TownePlace Suites brand, is set to be completed this fall and will feature 95 rooms, all with full kitchens and the latest television and Internet technology.

PHD Hotels Inc. of Opelika, Alabama, is developing the property, which will include an expanded lobby, well-appointed guest rooms, 650-square-foot meeting room, outdoor pool and fitness center. PHD previously developed

the Hilton Garden Inn, located across Mercer University Drive from the site of the new hotel.

"We are excited about the opportunity to work with Mercer University again on another hotel project and be part of such a fantastic campus development," said Tom Hunt, president of PHD Hotels Inc.

The hotel sits in the midst of a two-block development known as Mercer Landing. This includes the 313-bed Lofts at Mercer Landing, set to be completed this summer, as well as a restaurant and food court near the new hotel on the site of the former Noland plumbing supply warehouse.

Sierra Development Group of Macon is developing the lofts and the new dining options.

The food court is set to include Chen's Wok, Papa John's Pizza, and Momma Goldberg's Deli. The stand-alone restaurant and additional food court franchises will be announced at a later date.

"With construction nearing completion on our fifth phase of student loft apartments and the signing on of new businesses who sense the excitement and opportunity Mercer Landing creates, we are proud partners in taking the campus experience to yet another level," said James H. Daws, president of Sierra Development Group.

Additionally, Macon-Bibb County has provided partial funding for a pedestrian bridge over Mercer University Drive connecting Mercer Landing with the remainder of the Macon campus.

"The pedestrian bridge, this development and the future rebuilding of the Tindall Heights Homes will greatly improve one of the gateways into our city. Working with our partners, we are revitalizing Macon-Bibb County's urban core and strengthening our entire community," said Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert, LAW '81.

Upon completion of these projects, more than \$100 million will have been invested on and near the Macon campus since 2011 for five lofts complexes and the hotel-restaurant development.

Tom Hunt, president of PHD Hotels Inc., provides details at a Sept. 22 news conference regarding the Marriott TownePlace Suites hotel that will be part of the \$40 million-plus Mercer Landing project.



ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

Stetson Again Among Princeton Review's Best Business Schools

MERCER'S EUGENE W. STETSON School of Business and Economics (SSBE) again appears among the pages of "The Best 295 Business Schools" guidebook, released by The Princeton Review on Oct. 13, 2015.

The Princeton Review does not rank the 295 institutions hierarchically. Instead, top-10 rankings are published in 11 categories. For the second consecutive year, SSBE is ranked No. 5 for providing the "Greatest Opportunity for Minority Students." The Princeton Review tallied

its lists based on its surveys of more than 22,000 students attending the 295 business schools.

The profile in the guidebook lauds SSBE for partnering with the College of Pharmacy to offer one of the only dual MBA/PharmD degrees in the country, as well as having "Atlanta's most accommodating MBA program for working students."

Penfield College Receives \$956K Grant to Support Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Scholarships

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Penfield College a \$956,956 grant to support its Master of Science degree program in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CLRC) on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta.

The five-year Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) grant will support scholarships for students recruited for the CLRC program. Penfield College will recruit and train these RSA Scholars and work with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to employ them to address personnel shortages in the state.

“I am proud that, as a result of this new scholarship program, more graduates of the Master of Science degree program in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling will be prepared to play a significant role in addressing the personnel shortages faced by rehabilitation agencies throughout Georgia and the nation,” said Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, dean of Penfield College. “Receipt of this award further reinforces our counseling program’s commitment and expands its capacity to equip individuals with disabilities to become even more highly functioning and contributing members of their communities.”

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agen-

cy reports a shortage of qualified rehabilitation counselors, while the state’s Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that field is expected to grow by 20 percent by 2022.

In response to such data, Mercer established the M.S. in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling in Penfield College in 2013, with a goal of increasing the number of qualified master’s-level rehabilitation counselors, especially those who closely reflect the diverse population of the country, region and state. The program’s evening classes are designed for working adults, and its location in Atlanta serves the largest area in the state requiring vocational rehabilitation services.

Tift College of Education Alumna Receives \$100,000 Grant in Farmers Insurance Dream Big Challenge

Emily Max, an alumna of the Tift College of Education, was named one of six educators nationally to receive a \$100,000 grant from Farmers Insurance as part of its 2015 Dream Big Challenge.

Max, a 2013 graduate of the Master of Arts in Teaching program, is a kindergarten teacher

at Fred Toomer Elementary School in Atlanta. She plans to use the grant money to build a playground that is accessible to students with special needs, a project that she began formulating in one of her classes at Mercer.

For the 2015 Dream Big Challenge, Farmers Insurance solicited proposals between February

and July from teachers across the U.S. on what they would do with a \$100,000 grant.

Max was selected as one of 15 finalists. The finalists were divided evenly among three geographic regions — Western, Central and Eastern — and the top two in each region, according to an online vote, received grants.



Max with Dream Big Challenge grant check

FACULTY ROUNDUP

■ Kiefer Named to Inaugural All-Southern Conference Faculty

Dr. Adam Kiefer was named to the inaugural All-Southern Conference Faculty Team on Jan. 15, as the league announced the representatives from all 10 member schools.



Dr. Kiefer

Dr. Kiefer, associate professor of chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts, has played an instrumental role in several study-abroad programs for the Mercer On Mission initiative, leading trips to countries such as Mozambique and Ecuador.

During his time overseas, Dr. Kiefer helped students undertake studies on the environmental impacts of mercury and cyanide chemicals that are utilized in the gold-mining process and taught miners techniques that minimize exposure to mercury. His work has been presented internationally and published in leading journals.

He is the second Mercer faculty member to be honored by the SoCon, as Dr. Ha Van Vo, associate professor of biomedical engineering, was named the conference's Faculty Member of the Year in 2015.

■ Cummings Serving as Entrepreneur-in-Residence for Stetson

The Stetson School of Business and Economics (SSBE) has named Atlanta Tech Village founder David Cummings as its entrepreneur-in-residence on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta.

An entrepreneur for more than 15 years, Cummings is CEO of Atlanta Ventures and launched Atlanta Tech Village, the largest technology entrepreneur center in the Southeast, in 2013. In 2014, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* named him one of the 100 most influential Atlantans.

A native of Tallahassee, Florida, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in



Cummings with Mercer President William D. Underwood

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

economics from Duke University, and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Mercer in 2015.

SSBE's entrepreneur-in-residence is a one-year faculty appointment. Responsibilities include speaking to and coaching aspiring entrepreneurs from around the University, and helping to develop new learning experiences that prepare students for startups.

■ Gushee Elected to National Religion and Ethics Posts

Dr. David Gushee was elected vice president of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Board of Directors on Nov. 5. The AAR is the world's largest professional association of scholars who study religion, with 9,000 members representing some 900 colleges, universities, seminaries and schools in North America and abroad. His appointment is a three-year commitment, as he will serve one year each as vice president, president-elect and president.

In January, Dr. Gushee was elected to



Dr. Gushee

serve a similar three-year term, as president-elect, president and past president of the Society of Christian Ethics (SCE). SCE is the preeminent professional organization for scholars, writers and teachers of Christian ethics and includes 950 members from institutions in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Dr. Gushee is widely regarded as one of the leading moral voices in American Christianity. As Distinguished University Professor, he teaches in McAfee School of Theology and throughout the University in Christian ethics. As director of the Center for Theology and Public Life, he organizes events and courses to advance quality conversations about major issues arising at the intersection of theology, ethics and public policy.

■ Hayhoe Named Electronics Engineers Institute Fellow

Dr. George Hayhoe, professor of technical communication in the School of Engineering, has been named a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The IEEE grade of Fellow is conferred by the organization's board of directors, and the total number selected in any one year does

not exceed one-tenth of one percent of total voting membership. This distinction is reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation.

Dr. Hayhoe is a member of the Fellows Class of 2016, recognized for his contributions to professional and technical communication and service through the IEEE Professional Communication Society.

Dr. Hayhoe came to Mercer as an adjunct instructor in 1996. He joined the Department of Technical Communication as a professor from 2002-2004, returned in the same capacity in 2006, and remained on the faculty until his retirement in December 2015.



Dr. Hayhoe

Hricik Elected to American Law Institute

Walter F. George School of Law Professor David Hricik was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI), an independent organization that produces scholarly work to clarify, modernize and improve the law.

ALI drafts, discusses and publishes Restatements of the Law, Model Codes and Principles of Law that are influential in the courts and legislatures, as well as in legal scholarship and education.

Hricik was only one of 61 individuals

elected to ALI this year, and the only newly elected member from Georgia.

In 2002, Hricik joined the Mercer law faculty, where he principally teaches Law of Lawyering, Patent Law and Litigation, Civil Lawsuits and Remedies. He has authored or co-authored books on property, statutory interpretation, civil procedure and ethical issues in patent prosecution and litigation. He is nationally recognized as an expert in ethics in intellectual property law.

Before coming to Mercer, Hricik earned his J.D. *cum laude* from Northwestern University School of Law in 1988 and his bachelor's degree Phi Beta Kappa and with High Honors from the University of Arizona.

Brackette Appointed to Behavioral Health Planning Board

Dr. Caroline Brackette, associate professor of counseling in Penfield College, was appointed to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Planning Board by a unanimous vote of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners at its Nov. 4 meeting.

Dr. Brackette serves Region 3, which includes Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale counties. The Regional Planning Board is a volunteer board composed of citizens from each of these six counties who identify community needs and gaps



Dr. Brackette

in the current service system and make formal recommendations to DBHDD. The board also produces an annual plan for the region.

DBHDD operates a community-based system in which regional offices oversee contracts and monitor the performance of private

providers who serve people living with developmental disabilities and behavioral health challenges. Each regional office provides planning for and coordination of its provider network, offers technical assistance and serves as the point of contact for consumers who have questions about accessing services.

Two Professors Selected for Teaching Fellows Program

Two Mercer faculty members participated in this year's Governor's Teaching Fellows program. The highly selective program is sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education and the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Karen Weller Swanson, associate professor of education and director of doctoral studies in curriculum and instruction in the Tift College of Education, and Dr. James Hunt, professor of law and business in the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics and the Walter F. George School of Law, have been involved in the prestigious program designed to encourage higher education faculty to develop important teaching skills through emerging technologies and instructional tools.

Dr. Swanson participated in the program's intensive two-week summer symposium, while Dr. Hunt participating in the 2015-2016 academic year fellowship consisting of six three-day symposia.

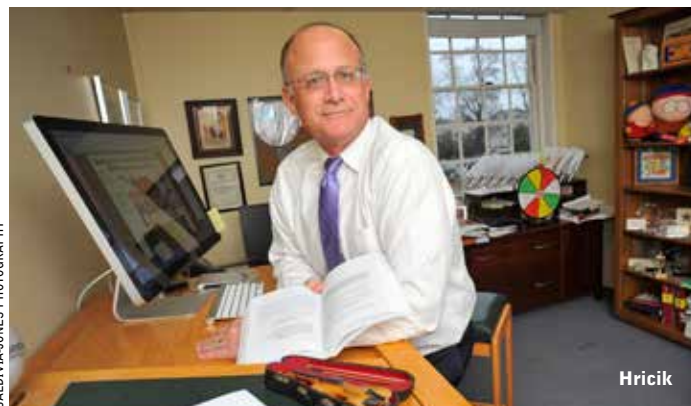
The Governor's Teaching Fellows began in 1995 thanks to then-Gov. Zell Miller. Criteria for selection into the program include excellence in teaching, interest in continuing to improve instruction, ability to have an impact on campus and the strong commitments of the home institution to the faculty member's participation.



Dr. Swanson



Dr. Hunt



Hricik

SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Wendell Berry Awarded Mercer's Sidney Lanier Prize

Mercer's Center for Southern Studies awarded its 2016 Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature to Wendell Berry. The prize, which honors significant career contributions to Southern writing in drama, fiction or poetry, was presented to Berry on April 23 on the Macon campus.

"For several years, students who took Mercer's First-Year Seminar classes read Mr. Berry's poem 'Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front.' In that poem, he exhorts the reader to live freely and love the world. The poem, and Mr. Berry's life, exemplify many of the ideals that Mercer aspires to uphold, and his prolific career as a writer, poet and activist have thoroughly enriched the tradition of Southern literature," said Dr. David A. Davis, chair of the Lanier Prize Committee and associate professor of English at Mercer.

Berry was born in rural Kentucky in 1934. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Kentucky and subsequently received a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University. He would spend time in California, New York and Italy, before ultimately returning to Port Royal, Kentucky,

where he bought a farm near land that had been owned by his mother's family. There he pursued his vocation as a writer.

Berry has authored more than 40 works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. He is also a noted environmental activist, cultural critic and farmer.

His first book, *Nathan Coulter*, was published in 1960 and is a coming-of-age tale of the titular character set in the fictional town of Port William, Kentucky. To date, Berry has set eight novels, 38 short stories and 17 poems in Port William, an established farming community that sits near the confluence of the Ohio and Kentucky Rivers, much like Port Royal.

Berry has received numerous awards and honors for his writing, including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1962), the Vachel Lindsay Poetry Prize (1962), a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship (1965), a National Institute of Arts and Letters award for writing (1971), the American Academy of Arts

and Letters Jean Stein Award (1987), a Lannan Foundation Award for Non-Fiction (1989), the Aitken-Taylor Award for Poetry from The Sewanee Review (1998), the Cleanth Brooks Medal for Lifetime Achievement from the Fellowship of Southern Writers (2009) and the National Humanities Medal from the National

Endowment for the Humanities (2010). In 2012, he delivered the 41st Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, and in 2013, he was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Berry has taught at Stanford, Georgetown College, New York University, the University of Cincinnati and Bucknell University,

in addition to two separate faculty appointments at his alma mater from 1964-1977 and 1987-1993. He retired from teaching in 1993 to become a full-time farmer, and currently lives and works with his wife, Tanya, on their farm in Port Royal.



ROBERT MCDUFFIE CENTER FOR STRINGS presented "What Color is Your Brother? An Exploration of Race Through Words and Music" on Feb. 27. The free, community performance, held at The Grand Opera House, featured McDuffie (center), the Mercer University Orchestra and Theatre Macon's Youth Actors Company.





MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

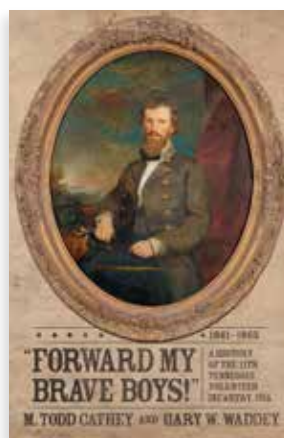
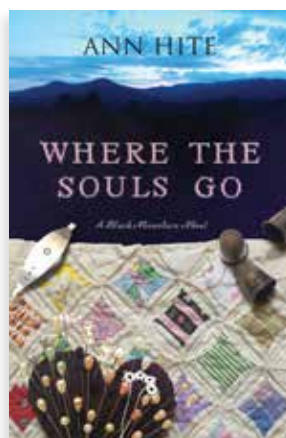
Small press. Great authors. Impressive books.

Mercer University Press Offers a Season of Books Rich in History, Biography, Essays and Fiction

For those who have recently visited a bookstore or purchased books online, it is clear that the printed book is alive and well. Even smaller independent publishers and university presses are publishing outstanding books that compete well in the marketplace. Many established authors have begun seeking out smaller presses because they feel the integrity of their writing can be maintained, often at the risk of selling fewer copies. Just a quick search online has made it possible to find good books from a seemingly endless supply of titles.

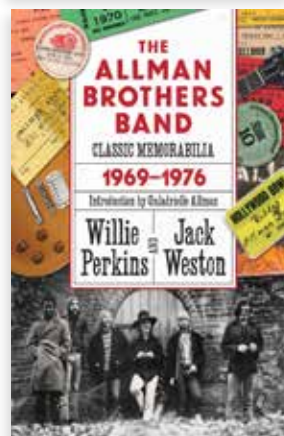
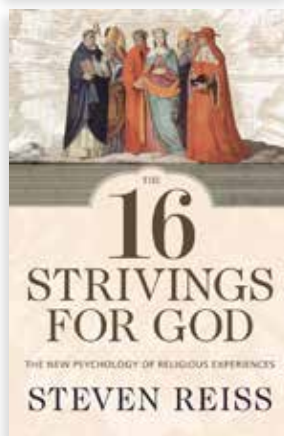
Mercer University Press continues to acquire strong scholarship from a variety of authors and proudly maintains an established standard of excellence in producing beautiful books that someday may become part of your personal library.

Offering 16 new books for the Spring/Summer 2016 season, highlighted titles include: *To Lasso the Clouds: The Beginning of Aviation in Georgia* by Dan A. Aldridge Jr., who sets the historical record straight on the first airplane flight in Georgia and brings to light the complete, incredible story of two young men from Athens, Georgia; *The Second Coming of the Invisible Empire: The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s* by William Rawlings, an eminently readable and meticulously researched account of the brief rise of one of America's most powerful social and political organizations; *Cracking the Solid South: The Life of John Fletcher Hanson, Father of Georgia Tech* by Lee C. Dunn, a chronicle of the life of this influential and controversial Georgia industrialist, journalist, and orator of the New South; *Confederate Sharpshooter Major William*



E. Simmons: Through the War with the 16th Georgia Infantry and 3rd Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters by Joseph P. Byrd IV, an entertaining biographical history of a notable Southern citizen-soldier, complete with maps, letters, photographs, and battalion roster; *The Most Sacred Freedom: Religious Liberty in the History of Philosophy and America's*

Founding edited by Mercer professors Will R. Jordan and Charlotte C. S. Thomas, offers a collection of essays based on the 2014 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas at Mercer; *Wondering Toward Center*, by Wesleyan and Mercer alumna Kathy A. Bradley, is her second book of essays on the healing power of nature, where she often finds the extraordinary in the ordinary; *Cardinal Hill* by Mary Anna Bryan, a novel set in the South during the 1930s and 1940s, tracing one family's secrets and a daughter who searches for the truth;



and *The King Who Made Paper Flowers* by Terry Kay, a novel set in Savannah, Georgia — where Arthur Benjamin begins life anew and finds unexpected friendships, his place and his purpose.

Visit www.mupress.org to see a complete listing of titles. Books are available from your favorite independent bookstore, major online retailers, or wherever fine books are sold. Order from Mercer University Press directly and receive a 40 percent Mercer Alumni discount by calling (478) 301-2880. Shipping charges and taxes apply.

REMEMBERING 'Papa Joe'

One of Mercer University's longest-serving and most beloved faculty members, DR. JOSEPH M. HENDRICKS — affectionately known as "Papa Joe" — died Dec. 19, 2015. He was a 1955 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and a faculty member and administrator at the University for more than 40 years.

Hundreds of former students, colleagues, family and friends attended a public memorial service Jan. 23 in Willingham Auditorium.

Dr. Hendricks, 81, was an instrumental figure at Mercer during the Civil Rights Movement, as he helped bring the first black student, Sam Oni, to campus in 1963. With the enduring belief that Mercer is a family rather than just an institution, Dr. Hendricks worked relentlessly to make diversity an asset for the University community. He also helped start Mercer's Upward Bound program, one of the first in the nation. For his efforts, a group of alumni, faculty and staff created the Joe Hendricks Minority Endowed Scholarship Fund in his honor to help minority undergraduate students afford a Mercer education.

"As the Mercer family mourns our loss of Joe Hendricks, we remember that Papa Joe continues to live on through the lives of the thousands of students he nurtured, through the work of scores of colleagues he shaped, and through the character of this University which he inspired," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "The soul of our University will forever bear the imprint of Papa Joe; his legacy will endure as long as students walk the halls of Mercer."

A native of Talbot County, Dr. Hendricks led the Mercer student body as Student Government Association president during his senior year from 1954 to 1955 and was presented with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, the high-



est non-scholastic honor a Mercer student can receive. After completing his undergraduate work at Mercer, Dr. Hendricks earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He then began postgraduate work at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and after joining the Mercer faculty, he later earned his doctorate from Emory's Institute for the Liberal Arts. He also received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Atlanta Law School in 1972.

Following his seminary studies, Dr. Hendricks returned to Mercer in 1959 as director of religious activities. During his long Mercer career, he also served as dean of men, dean of students,

general assistant to President Rufus C. Harris and acting vice president of academic affairs. Also a faculty member, Dr. Hendricks taught as a professor of Christianity and founded the Freshman Seminar Program in 1970 with his sister Dr. Jean Hendricks, who also taught at Mercer. In 2010, the Joe and Jean Hendricks Award for Excellence in Teaching was established to honor their life's work as educators and to recognize an outstanding faculty member. Later in his career, Dr. Hendricks served as the University marshal and as a faculty adviser to Mercer University Press before retiring in 2000. Even in retirement, he continued to serve as an ambassador for the University, traveling to numerous alumni events across the Southeast.

"Joe Hendricks was a singularly compelling figure in the history of Mercer University. For a generation of students, he was not only their most influential teacher but also became their moral compass. He taught with passion and he em-

braced students with a listening ear and genuine respect. He taught all of us that coming to the University was not only a journey of learning, but also a journey of wrestling with the values that should shape our lives," said Mercer Chancellor Dr. R. Kirby Godsey, who served as the University's president from 1979 to 2006.

"Joe was fearless in addressing the social ills of our community. He challenged and inspired each of us to take responsibility for confronting prejudice and bigotry whether in race or religion or sexual identity," Dr. Godsey said. "On a personal note, Joe Hendricks served President Rufus Harris as well as my administration with both diplomacy and good judgment. Joe Hen-



JOE HENDRICKS, left foreground, dear of men at Mercer University, talks with one of the more than 20 placard-carrying, anti-war demonstrators who sat quietly during the ROTC awards day ceremony today at Mercer. Dean Hendricks agreed to sit with the group if they would keep their protest orderly. The group which

Many Campuses R Strike Calls Contin

dricks was a University and a community statesman whose courageous and sometimes prophetic voice surely made Mercer a better university and made Macon a better community."

At commencement in 1991, Dr. Hendricks received the Spencer B. King Jr. Distinguished Professor Award, presented annually to a faculty member who embodies high standards of scholarship and teaching. In the fall of 1994, he was awarded a certificate of merit from the National Academic Advising Association in recognition of his excellence in academic advising and was honored at the organization's annual conference. Annually, the Student Government Association recognizes a current Mercer student with the Papa Joe Hendricks Award for Positive Contributions to the Mercer Community.

An ordained minister, Dr. Hendricks pastored several churches, including Bland Memorial Baptist Church in Louvale, Junction City Baptist Church in Junction City, Geneva Baptist Church in Geneva, and Alpha Baptist Church in Deputy, Indiana. He also served an interim pastorate at First Baptist Church in Gray while working at Mercer. With Will Campbell, Walker Percy, Thomas Merton and other dissenting

Blazing a trail through the midstate



Olympic torch relay delivers a day made for memories

By Joe Hendricks Jr.
The Photo Project

More Inside

It was a day to look back on as the heart of America and world and beyond and South...
It was a day to look back on as the heart of America and world and beyond and South...
It was a day to look back on as the heart of America and world and beyond and South...

The Olympic torch relay brought...
The Olympic torch relay brought...
The Olympic torch relay brought...

Christians, he helped form the Committee of Southern Churchmen to bring a radically theological perspective to addressing the racism built into human nature.

As a human rights activist, Dr. Hendricks staunchly believed in the equality of all people and was a force for good in the local community. He served as president of the Macon Council on Human Relations from 1961 to 1963, president of the Georgia Council on Human Relations from 1964 to 1967, and worked with the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as the State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 1976, First Baptist Church recognized Dr. Hendricks with an award for his outstanding contributions to race relations in Macon, and he received the inaugural Kaplan-Kalish Good Neighbor Award from Temple Beth Israel in 1979.

Additionally, Dr. Hendricks served as an Olympic torchbearer when it passed through Macon before the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. On Feb. 23, 2000, the Georgia State Senate unanimously voted on Senate

Resolution 603, commending Dr. Hendricks for his exceptional commitment to scholarship and to community service and conveying him their heartfelt appreciation and admiration.

"Dean Joe Hendricks embodied the spirit of Mercer University — as a student, as a professor, as an administrator and as a distinguished alumnus," said former Mercer Board of Trustees Chairman David Hudson, a 1969 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts. "He devoted his life to Christ-like service for equal rights, for expansion of knowledge and understanding, and for loving his neighbor. Like thousands of other Mercerians, I am personally grateful for his contributions to Mercer and how he enriched my life."

Dr. Hendricks is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty McGahee Hendricks, CLA '55; their three children, Catherine Hendricks, CLA '81, Joseph Hendricks, CLA '86, and his wife, Kelly, BUSM '87, and Barbara Jean Hendricks Barkley, CLA '83, and her husband, Ron; in addition to four grandchildren.

Dr. Hendricks once told an interviewer, "I want to be remembered as a Mercerian."



MERCER LAUNCHES INNOVATION CENTER

TO BOOST ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CREATE 21ST CENTURY JOBS IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

Mercer President William D. Underwood announced at a Nov. 17 news conference the establishment of a new center designed to advance a culture of innovation and develop a thriving community of entrepreneurs. The center will focus on utilizing technology to foster economic growth, create 21st century jobs and attract and retain talent.

"Innovation is a primary driver of the U.S. economy and is one of the American attributes that makes our country globally competitive," Underwood said. "Much of the growth in our cities over the

coming decades will come from within. Jobs are being generated by startups and expansion of existing business and industry. The Mercer Innovation Center will provide physical space, programming, technology resources and tools, and access to talent that will help people with good ideas turn them into commercially successful businesses that create 21st century jobs for Middle Georgia."

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, one of several government and business leaders who spoke during the announcement on the Macon campus, said that the Mercer Innovation Center can be "an economic engine not just for Middle Georgia, but for the entire state of Georgia."

"I believe that Georgia can be the Silicon Valley of the South," Cagle added. "What we're witnessing today is the ability for Middle Georgia to be the leader in creating the ecosystem that will spur on job creation in a 21st century economy that will be second to none."

Inspiration for the Mercer Innovation Center came from the Atlanta Technology Village, founded in 2012 by entrepreneur David Cummings and located in Buckhead. Cummings, who was recently named entrepreneur-in-residence for the Atlanta campus of Mercer's Stetson School of Business and Economics, has quickly grown ATV, of which Mercer is a founding sponsor and tenant, into the largest technology entrepreneur center in the Southeast with more than 200 startups and 900 entrepreneurs in residence. According to Cummings, the majority of jobs created in this country over the next decade are going to come from companies that have not yet been established.

With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, over the past year a team made up of representatives from Mercer and Cross Channel Initiatives conducted a feasibility study. The team visited and had conversations with 18 incubators, accelerators and organizations around the country that are involved with entrepreneurship-focused economic development to assess best practices. The feasibility study concluded that a Mercer Innovation Center will help create startup businesses and new marketable products and services that will boost economic development and create jobs in the region.

Mercer Innovation Center Names ADVISORY BOARD, ENTREPRENEUR-IN-RESIDENCE

The Mercer Innovation Center has named a 14-person advisory board to help guide its mission to inspire a culture of entrepreneurship among Mercer students and faculty while fueling a vibrant startup ecosystem in Middle Georgia.

The Center's advisory board includes:

STEWART VERNON (chair), founder and CEO of ASP Franchising LLC

ROB BETZEL, CEO of Infinity Network Solutions Inc.

LEONARD BEVILL, president and CEO of Macon Occupational Medicine

DAN DRECHSEL, CEO of HireIQ Solutions Inc.

ERICA EATON, EGR '09, Contract Specialist, Warner Robins Airlogistics Center

PAUL GIANNESCHI, managing principal and founder of Hatch Medical LLC

ROBBO HATCHER, CEO of H2 Capital Inc.

DWIGHT C. JONES, entrepreneur and real estate developer

HUGHES PINSON, president of the Central Georgia Division of Renasant Bank

JIMMY PUCKETT, EGR '05, CEO and founder of Specialized Information Environments

JOSH ROGERS, CLA '05, president and CEO of NewTown Macon

DR. WADE H. SHAW, dean and Kaolin Chair of Engineering at Mercer

J. BLAKE SULLIVAN, president of Sullivan Forestry Consultants Inc.

JEAN R. SUMNER, MED '86, associate dean for rural health in Mercer's School of Medicine

CLIFFARD WHITBY, chairman of Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority Board of Directors

In addition to serving as chair, Vernon has been appointed entrepreneur-in-residence on the Macon campus for the 2015-2016 academic year. His duties include leading a one-credit course in spring 2016, hosting a speaker series and mentoring students who are or aspire to be entrepreneurs.

Vernon founded ASP — America's Swimming Pool Company — in Macon in 2002 and has developed it into the nation's largest swimming pool cleaning, repair and renovation franchise system. Currently, ASP has 72 franchise partners who own and operate more than 176 franchise territories in 20 states. "As a lifelong entrepreneur and business owner in Middle Georgia, I am honored to now be associated with Mercer University and the great things being done there,"

Vernon said. "By creating the new Innovation Center and the Entrepreneurship Seminar, Mercer will be adding invaluable resources, to which aspiring entrepreneurs will have unprecedented access."

He holds a bachelor's degree in corporate communications from the College of Charleston and has been featured as a speaker at various academic and business venues throughout his career, including Georgia Tech, College of Charleston and Wesleyan College.

Entrepreneur, Consultant, Educator **DR. SAMANTHA RILEY** Named Director of Mercer Innovation Center

The Mercer Innovation Center is directed by Dr. Samantha Riley, entrepreneur, business and service-learning consultant, and educator.

Dr. Riley most recently served as visiting assistant professor of entrepreneurial business writing at Pennsylvania State University, where she developed and implemented a university-wide business writing program focused on service-learning and entrepreneurship. She led more than 550 students to develop 50-plus business startups and 25-plus service-learning projects.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Sam Riley to Mercer. Her breadth of experience in student entrepreneurship will help ignite a new culture on our Macon campus," said Dr. Susan P. Gilbert, dean of Mercer's Stetson School of Business and Economics.

Dr. Riley's teaching experience also includes appointments at Yale University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Eurolingua Language School in Freiburg, Germany. She has served as a consultant to Penn State and Middlebury College, and has work experience in both the corporate and non-profit sectors, including one year as an online operations contractor for Google.

"The Mercer Innovation Center welcomes a new chapter in entrepreneurship. We propose to synergize the spirit and wealth of our ideas to grow the local and global community. Our creative task encompasses all: Mercer University, its students, faculty and staff, Macon and extended Middle Georgia communities, and entrepreneurs worldwide," Dr. Riley said.

She has organized speaker panels and presented her scholarly work at over a dozen conferences, published several academic journal articles, and authored and edited two textbooks. She earned the Erika Lindemann Distinguished Teaching Award from the UNC Chapel Hill English Department, in addition to numerous other fellowships and grants throughout her career.

She earned her Ph.D. in comparative literature and Master of Arts with honors from UNC Chapel Hill, as well as bachelor's degrees in German literature and English philology from the University of Freiburg in Germany and a bachelor's degree with honors in comparative literature from the University of Iowa. She also completed a French language summer institute at Middlebury College and is fluent in German and French.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

The Mercer Innovation Center's goals are to:

- Advance the discovery and commercialization of products and services that have marketplace potential to promote job creation and economic development in Macon and Middle Georgia.
- Inspire a culture of innovation in the region by bringing together like-minded entrepreneurs in order to attract, cultivate and retain creative talent.
- Share the University's knowledge and resources to achieve positive growth in Macon and Middle Georgia.

The Center will be based in a modern, repurposed, 10,000-square-foot facility strategically located adjacent to Mercer's School of Engineering, School of Medicine and Willet Science Center. It is across the street from the site of Mercer's new \$40 million undergraduate sciences building, scheduled for completion in 2017, and is steps away from the Stetson School of Business and Economics. Macon-based Birch Communications is installing the latest telecommunications tools in the Center, including 1 gigabit-per-second (Gbps) broadband service.

The University is partnering with the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, which is providing up to \$75,000 annually for three years to help underwrite the salary for the Center's director and furnishing five additional co-working spaces in facilities it owns in downtown Macon. Macon entrepreneur and neurosurgeon Dr. Hugh F. "Tripp" Smisson III has made a significant financial commitment to the Center, and additional funding is coming from local business leaders Bob and Robbo Hatcher, as well as from the Knight Fund

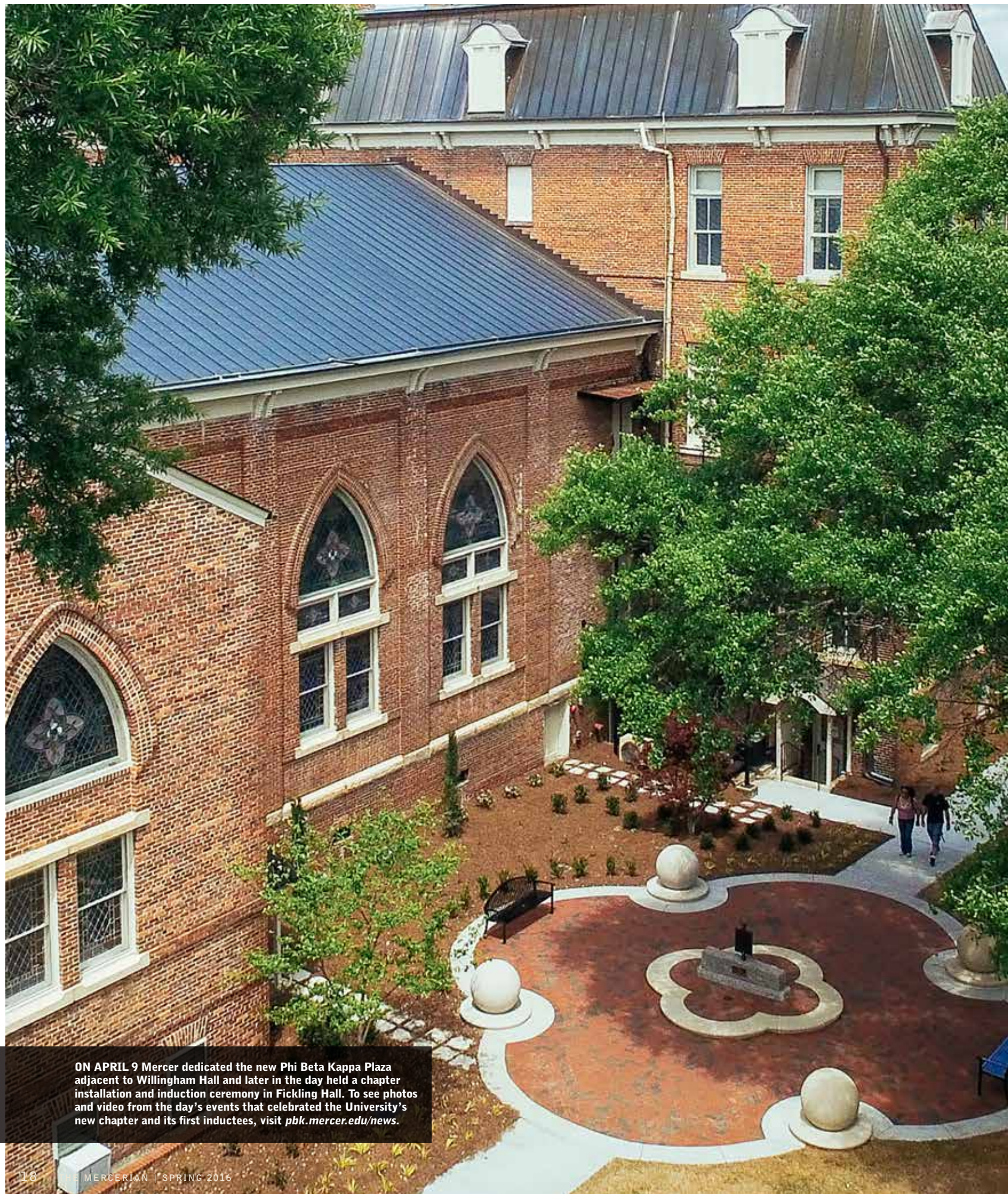
at the Community Foundation of Central Georgia.

The Center will offer three levels of membership to the public, with a 10-percent discount available to veterans and active members of the military:

- A \$25 per month Community Membership that includes admission to a monthly Entrepreneur Speaker Series and workshops by Stetson School of Business and Economics faculty, as well as access to mentors, coaches and other entrepreneurs.
- A \$100 per month Community PLUS membership that also includes workspace in the Center, access to other University facilities and student interns.
- A \$500 per month Community PRO membership that also includes a furnished locked office in the Mercer Innovation Center; access to University facilities, including laboratories, machine shops and fitness center; invitations to sponsored events, including venture capital pitches; and automatic entry into competitions, such as an April 2016 pitch competition with business community judges and prizes.

One of the Center's key initiatives will be the Mercer Innovation Fellowship, a competitive program open to entrepreneurs worldwide. Each year, up to five fellowships will be awarded through a competition. Recipients will get one year of housing, office space, interns, access to all Mercer facilities and \$20,000 cash. Applications were due by April 1, and winners will be announced by May 31.

More information on the fellowship, Center memberships and upcoming programs is available on the Mercer Innovation Center website at mic.mercer.edu.



ON APRIL 9 Mercer dedicated the new Phi Beta Kappa Plaza adjacent to Willingham Hall and later in the day held a chapter installation and induction ceremony in Fickling Hall. To see photos and video from the day's events that celebrated the University's new chapter and its first inductees, visit pbk.mercer.edu/news.



MERCER GRANTED
CHAPTER OF
PHI BETA
KAPPA
NATION'S OLDEST
AND MOST
PRESTIGIOUS
ACADEMIC HONOR
SOCIETY

T

HE NATION'S OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS
ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY — PHI BETA KAPPA
— APPROVED THE GRANTING OF A CHAPTER
TO MERCER UNIVERSITY OCT. 9 DURING THE
ORGANIZATION'S 44TH TRIENNIAL COUNCIL IN
DENVER, COLORADO.

Mercer is just the third Georgia research university — joining Emory and the University of Georgia — and one of only 286 nationally to shelter a ΦBK chapter. Liberal arts colleges in Georgia that also shelter chapters include Agnes Scott, Morehouse and Spelman.

The positive vote by delegates to The Phi Beta Kappa Society's Triennial Council, acting on a unanimous recommendation from the Society's Committee on Qualifications and Senate, served as

the culmination of a years-long and highly competitive process. Applications are only considered every three years.

"The granting of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter to Mercer University rewards the hard work and diligence of many faculty members and administrators who prepared our application, planned and hosted a successful site visit by the Committee on Qualifications in 2014, and advocated for Mercer's place in this most respected cohort

— Continue on page 22

THE HISTORY OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY

PHI BETA KAPPA WAS FOUNDED DEC. 5, 1776, at the College of William and Mary by five undergraduates who sought to create a student society that would be more serious-minded than others that had previously existed at the Williamsburg, Virginia, institution.

The first college society with a Greek-letter name, Phi Beta Kappa is derived from the initials for the society's motto, "Love of learning is the guide of life." ΦBK introduced the essential characteristics of the numerous Greek societies that would follow. These include an oath of secrecy, a badge, mottos in Greek and Latin, a code of laws, an elaborate form of initiation, a seal and a special handshake.

John Heath, the original president, and his cohorts established ΦBK with a focus on pursuing liberal education and intellectual fellowship. The organization began as a secret society in order to provide the freedom for members to discuss any topic of their choosing. Freedom of thought remains a hallmark of the society 240 years later.

In the winter of 1781, at the height of the American Revolutionary War, the College of William and Mary was forced to close, and, though it reopened just one year later, ΦBK activities were not re-established there for many years. This would have been the end of The Phi Beta Kappa Society, had it not been for the only member who was not a native of Virginia.

After the closure of the university, Elisha Parmele, a native of Connecticut

who studied at Yale and graduated from Harvard, established chapters at those two universities in 1780 and 1781, respectively.

In 1831, because of anti-Masonic sentiment, Harvard dropped the requirement for secrecy, which likely saved the society from further criticism as well as competition with the social fraternities that began to form at that time.

By the time the National Council of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa was created in 1883, the number of ΦBK chapters had grown to 25. Around that same time, the first women and African-Americans were invited to join. Between 1887 and 1917, 64 new chapters were established, and by 1983, another 147 had been chartered. In 1988, the national organization's name was changed to The Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Today, there are 286 chapters at American colleges and universities and more than 50 active alumni associations in all regions of the U.S. that continue to celebrate excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.

Each year, about one college senior in a hundred, nationwide, is invited to join The Phi Beta Kappa Society. Only about 10 percent of the nation's institutions of higher learning shelter chapters. And only about 10 percent of the arts and sciences graduates of these distinguished institutions are invited to join ΦBK, which makes the invitation process one of the most selective in the nation.

The ideal Phi Beta Kappa member has demonstrated intellectual integrity, tolerance for other views and a broad range of academic interests. Since ΦBK's founding, 17 U.S. presidents, 39 U.S. Supreme Court justices and more than

130 Nobel laureates have been inducted as members, along with countless authors, diplomats, athletes, researchers, actors and business leaders.

In addition to inviting the most outstanding arts and sciences students to join ΦBK, the society sponsors activities to advance the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences in higher education and in society at large.



PRIOR TO HIS DEATH, ALUMNUS, FORMER DEAN MALCOLM LESTER ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENT FOR ΦBK LECTURE SERIES AT MERCER

THANKS TO ONE MAN'S FAITH IN the value of a Mercer education and his reverence for the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society, the University's newly minted chapter of Phi Beta Kappa came with a generous, ready-made endowment to support its future activities.

Dr. Malcolm Lester, an alumnus and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, bequeathed in excess of \$300,000 to the University to support a ΦBK chapter that would not be established until more than seven years after his death.

Specifically, this gift is to be used to bring a distinguished scholar to campus each spring to deliver a lecture as part of the chapter's induction ceremony and to maintain a published record of these lectures.

Dr. Lester was born Dec. 9, 1924, in Georgetown, located on the Chattahoochee River in southwest Georgia. A history major at Mercer and 1945 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, he went on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Virginia, where he was invited to join Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Lester returned to Mercer in 1946 as an instructor and rose to the rank of professor by 1954. In 1955, he was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

During his time on the Mercer faculty, he met and married the former Pauline Domingos of Macon. In 1959, he accepted an appointment at Davidson College in North Carolina, where he taught and conducted research, primarily in the areas of diplomatic history and international relations, for the next 30 years.

Dr. Lester was a delegate to Phi Beta Kappa's 24th Triennial Council in 1955 and was for a time president of the Middle Georgia Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association. He also served ΦBK in the 1970s and 1980s as both a senator and a member of the Senate's Committee on Qualifications, which evaluates applying institutions and recommends the establishment of new chapters.

Throughout his career in higher education, he deeply revered the honor society and lamented that his alma mater had not sheltered a chapter.

"I shall always be grateful and proud of the opportunity that Mercer University gave me as a student, as a faculty member for thirteen years, and as dean of the College of Liberal Arts for four years," Dr. Lester wrote in an April 2007 letter to President William D. Underwood. "Tears come to my eyes when I remember the sacrificial services of professors and administrators, only two of whom I recall were members of Phi Beta Kappa."

In his letter, he expressed his desire to create an endowment "for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Mercer whenever one is established."

Dr. Lester passed away March 8, 2008, and left in his will details regarding how the endowment was to be used. Once Mercer established a chapter, "then the income of such endowed fund shall be used to pay for the delivery of and publication of an annual oration to be delivered by a distinguished scholar at

the annual initiation of members in course of Phi Beta Kappa."

Alternatively, per the terms of the will, from the time Mercer received his bequest until the University was granted its ΦBK chapter, the endowment annually provided a scholarship for an outstanding junior or senior history major who showed interest in teaching history at the college or graduate level. Since 2012, five students have received this scholarship.

As Mercer's Phi Beta Kappa faculty members undertake the responsibility of installing a new chapter and inducting its first class of members, they are also in the early stages of developing a committee to carry out Dr. Lester's vision for a lecture series built into the annual induction ceremony each spring.

"Dr. Lester's bequest will lead to a lecture series that will be among the highest-profile academic events in the nation," said Dr. David A. Davis, associate professor of English and secretary of Mercer's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. "We will be able to attract prominent scholars and intellectuals to share their ideas

with our students and the community, and the published lectures will be a major contribution to intellectual discourse. Dr. Lester's faith in Mercer and his commitment to Phi Beta Kappa and the ideals of a liberal education will leave a valuable legacy for the coming generations."



PHI BETA KAPPA, *continued from page 20* —

of American academic institutions,” said President William D. Underwood. “It is an important affirmation of the rigor of Mercer’s arts and sciences curriculum, the quality of its faculty and students, and the strength of its mission and values.”

In its recommendation for Mercer’s membership, the Committee on Qualifications described Mercer as “a quintessentially Phi Beta

Kappa institution in its values and its mission.”

“Phi Beta Kappa represents the very best ideals of the liberal arts, hosting chapters at fewer than 10 percent of national academic institutions. The granting of the chapter provides humbling acknowledgement of the College of Liberal Arts’ commitment to the highest standards of undergraduate education, societal engagement and scholarly pursuits,” said Dr. Keith Howard, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of mathematics.

PHI BETA KAPPA INAUGURAL INDUCTEES 2016



Natalie Elizabeth Biel
Senior; Biochemistry,
Molecular Biology;
Cumming, Georgia



Emily Erin Bless
Senior; International
Affairs, French;
Acworth, Georgia



Darcy Katherine Callaway
Senior; International Affairs,
Political Science, French;
Newnan, Georgia



Colleen Kaylynn Closson
Senior; Southern Studies,
International Affairs;
Summerville, South Carolina



Rebecca Anne Dickinson
Senior; History, Spanish;
Centreville, Virginia



Christopher William Isenock
Junior; Spanish;
Douglasville, Georgia



Jasbir Kaur
Senior; Biology, Latin;
Chattanooga, Tennessee



Victoria Wynn Konrad
Senior; Global Health
Studies, Spanish;
Huntington, West Virginia



Michael Ranjan Kshatri
Senior; Biology, Spanish;
Austell, Georgia



Elizabeth Claire Lynch
Senior; English;
Macon, Georgia



Lauren Katherine Maxwell
Senior; English, Spanish;
Forsyth, Georgia



Hanin Elizabeth Menchew
Senior; English, Spanish;
Macon, Georgia



Min Hyun Oh
Senior; English;
Daegu, South Korea



Kaydren Bailey Orcutt
Junior; Chemistry, Spanish;
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina



Utkarsh Parwal
Senior; Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology, Latin;
Johns Creek, Georgia

“Through the Phi Beta Kappa chapter, the College will have the means to confer a world-recognized badge of distinction to its most talented students.”

Mercer’s chapter, which will be known as Zeta of Georgia, inducted its first members in April. In order to qualify for membership, students must excel in a rigorous liberal arts curriculum with coursework in foreign languages and quantitative reasoning and show good character. Students ranked exceptional

among their peers in the junior and senior classes will be considered for membership, and they will be selected by the Phi Beta Kappa members of Mercer’s faculty.

“The faculty and administration of the College of Liberal Arts have pursued a chapter diligently for several years and are elated to see this effort come to fruition,” said Dr. Jeff Denny, chair of Mercer’s Phi Beta Kappa application committee, associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and associate professor of mathematics.

ZETA OF GEORGIA, MERCER UNIVERSITY



Carolyn Neal Sartain
Senior; Communication
Studies, Spanish;
Gainesville, Georgia



William Charles Scruggs
Senior; Christianity, Spanish;
Birmingham, Alabama



Hetu Rajesh Shah
Senior; Biochemistry,
Molecular Biology;
Hampton, Georgia



Sara Mae Stover
Senior; Mathematics;
Augusta, Georgia



Kara Marie Styers
Senior; Spanish,
Intercultural Studies;
Dublin, Ohio



Ansley Shelton Whiten
Senior; Psychology, Spanish;
Fayetteville, Georgia



Joshua David Wildes
Senior; International Affairs,
Political Science, Spanish;
Valdosta, Georgia



Alayna Celeste Williams
Junior; International
Affairs, Spanish;
Macon, Georgia



Rachel Alison Wilson
Senior; Psychology, Women’s
and Gender Studies;
Charlotte, North Carolina



Conner Ruth Wood
Senior; Journalism;
Cartersville, Georgia



Soowhan Yoon
Senior; Mathematics;
Seoul, South Korea

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Eleanor Rosalynn Carter, former First Lady of the United States

D. Scott Davis, Provost, Mercer University

Cynthia Stroud Gance, Institutional Research Analyst, Mercer University

R. Kirby Godsey, Chancellor, Mercer University

Keith E. Howard, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Mercer University

Sarah E. May, Director of Institutional Research, Mercer University

William D. Underwood, President, Mercer University

A foundation member is an individual who has demonstrated commitment to the ideals of the liberal arts, who has invested himself or herself in the development of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Mercer and who pledges to support and maintain the chapter.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wins SoCon Championship During Historic Run

The women's basketball team, under the direction of head coach Susie Gardner, went 22-7 during the regular season this year, setting a new program record for number of wins in the regular season during the NCAA DI era. The Bears also went 12-2 in Southern Conference play to win a share of the SoCon regular season championship and earn the No. 1 seed at the conference tournament at Asheville, North Carolina. That marked Mercer's first conference championship — shared or outright — since claiming a share of the 1991-92 Trans America Athletic Conference regular season title.

Mercer advanced to the SoCon Tournament championship game, just the second time in the NCAA DI era that the women's basketball

team has played in a conference tournament title game. The Bears fell to second-seeded Chattanooga but, with the regular season

championship, Mercer earned an automatic bid to the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT). The Bears' postseason bid marked the second time in program history that they have played in the WNIT, after advancing to the second round of the 1975 tournament.

HONOREES

The Bears were honored for their successes, as they nearly swept the all-conference awards. Kahlia Lawrence was named the Southern Conference Player of the Year, Linnea Rosendal the Freshman of the Year and Gardner the league's Coach of the Year. Lawrence also earned a spot on the SoCon All-Conference first team, while Rosendal and



2015-2016
Mercer Women's
Basketball Team

MERCER SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTOS

KeKe Calloway were named to the All-Freshman team. Mercer's honorees earned the same distinctions in both the coaches and the media voting. For the second straight year, Mercer claimed the Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year honors.

Mercer had one of the youngest teams in the nation this season, as the Bears returned just one starter from a year ago. The Mercer roster consisted of seven freshmen, six sophomores and one junior college transfer. The Bears started at least three freshmen in every game and the primary starting lineup, which was used in all but two games this season, featured three freshmen and two sophomores.

CHASING RECORDS

In Mercer's regular season finale, Kahlia Lawrence became the 25th player in Mercer history to score 1,000 career points. She is the second player under Gardner to reach

the 1,000-point milestone in two seasons, joining Briana Williams.

Freshman Rachel Selph tallied 43 blocks, earning her a spot on Mercer's single-season block list, where she ranks sixth. Sophomore Sydney Means made her way onto Mercer's single-season assists and steals leaderboards, ranking eighth with 181 assists and fourth with 78 steals. Linnea Rosendal knocked down 61 three-pointers, ranking the freshman fifth on Mercer's all-time single-season three-pointers made list.

This season, Mercer ranked among the nation's top teams in turnovers per game, committing just 11.7 turnovers per game through the conference tournament. The Bears led the SoCon and ranked seventh nationally in the category. Mercer committed a season-low two turnovers in the SoCon semifinal game against Furman, tying for second nationally in single-game turnovers. Mercer also ranked

26th nationally with a 1.17 assist/turnover ratio, led by Means, who registered a 2.97 assist/turnover ratio of her own. Means led the SoCon and ranked seventh nationally.



Mercer Athletics Leads SoCon with 48 Fall Academic All-Conference Members

Mercer led the Southern Conference with a program-record 48 student-athletes named to the league's

Fall Academic All-Conference team, as announced by the conference office.

"I continue to be impressed by the results that our student-athletes are achieving in the academic and athletic arenas," said Director of Athletics Jim Cole. "This speaks volumes to the efforts of not only our student-athletes, but also the entire academic support staff led by Deputy Athletic Director Sybil Blalock."

The success from Mercer's student-athletes continues an on-going tradition since joining

the SoCon in July 2014. During that time the Bears' athletics program has posted the highest graduation success rate in school history, topped the league with 263 SoCon Academic Honor Roll selections and had 108



SoCon Academic All-Conference picks.

"We are very fortunate to have student-athletes that are dedicated to succeeding both academically and athletically as well as a staff that is committed to helping each student-athlete reach those goals," Blalock said.

To be included, a student-athlete must carry at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA entering the fall season and were required to compete in at least one-half of their team's 2015 competitions. In addition, the student-athletes must have successfully

completed at least 24 credit hours in the previous two semesters.

In total, 308 SoCon student-athletes competing in men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's soccer and volleyball were honored by the league. Mercer's 48 representatives marked a double-digit advantage over any other SoCon institution, as Wofford finished second with 38 student-athletes on the list.

The Bears also had a league-high three student-athletes that have maintained a cumulative 4.0 grade-point average, as Courtney Czerniak (women's cross country), Zac Rice (football) and Tori Penrod (volleyball) were among 12 individuals from the conference to achieve the mark.

Additionally, three of Mercer's six programs that compete in the fall topped the conference for total representatives in that sport. The Bears' football program had a record total of 19 selections this fall to lead all SoCon teams, while women's soccer (11) and women's cross country (6) also led the league in their respective sports.

Mitchell Football's First Academic All-American

Firsts have not been uncommon to Mercer football over the past three seasons, after returning to the gridiron in 2013 following a 72-year hiatus. However, 2015 saw a new accomplishment for head coach Bobby Lamb's program, as sophomore running back Tee Mitchell was named a "Capital One First Team Academic All-America" selection.

Mitchell joined elite company, as he tied Stanford's Christian McCaffrey for the most votes among all NCAA Division I (FBS and FCS) running backs. Mitchell was one of two Southern Conference student-athletes to be named to the first team, while joining Georgia Southern's Matt Dobson as the only representatives from Georgia's seven NCAA Division I institutions. He is just the eighth sophomore since 2002 to attain first-team status, joining Pittsburgh defensive lineman Vince Crochunis (2002); Florida's Tim Tebow (2007); South Dakota State's Kyle Minett (2008); Notre Dame's Corey Robinson (2014); Stanford's Christian



MERCER SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

McCaffery (2015) and North Dakota State's Greg Manard (2015).

A business management major, Mitchell emerged as the Bears' explosive back this season as a part of the league's top running back tandem with Alex Lakes. The running back fell just shy of becoming the program's second 1,000-yard rusher, posting a team-high 946 yards on the ground to go along with six rushing touchdowns. Mitchell also added 14 receptions for 189 yards and two scores en route to 103.2 all-purpose yards per game, which ranked fourth in the SoCon.

The prestigious honor was the pinnacle of another outstanding semester for the Bears academically. Mercer football once again led the SoCon with 18 Academic All-Conference picks, helping Mercer's athletic department to a league-high 48 student-athletes from fall sports on the list. Additionally, the Bears' football team saw a program-best three student-athletes named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team, as Mitchell was joined by junior Tyler Ward and sophomore Thomas Marchman.

Lewis Receives Top Preseason Honors

Junior Kyle Lewis burst onto the scene in 2015 after stepping into the baseball team's starting role in center field. The 6-4 outfielder was named the Gregg Olson Breakout Player of the Year and an All-American, while also taking home Southern Conference "Player of the Year" honors after helping the Bears to the league's regular season and tournament titles and the program's third NCAA Regional berth.

The Snellville, Georgia, native carried that success into summer ball, as he starred for the Orleans Firebirds in the prestigious Cape Cod League. There, Lewis shined even brighter, as he participated in the league's All-Star game and was tagged as the Cape Cod League's No. 1 Major League Baseball draft prospect by several publications.



MERCER SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

That exposure has turned Lewis into a projected first round draft pick and has led to a bevy of preseason awards. He was named the "Preseason SoCon Player of the Year" by the league's coaching staff in early February, while also garnering "Preseason First Team All-America" honors from Baseball America, D1Baseball.com, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and Perfect Game USA, as well as second team honors from Louisville Slugger.

Lewis heads into the 2016 season looking to pick up where he left off a year ago, when he fell just shy of the SoCon triple crown. He topped the conference in batting average (.367) and home runs (17) while finishing fifth in RBIs (56) despite missing more than a week of action because of injury.

Fall Sports Capsules

Six Mercer athletic programs — men's and women's cross country, football, men's soccer, women's soccer and volleyball — wrapped up competitive seasons in the fall.

Here's a quick recap.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Mercer men's cross country program was led by freshman Ahmed Jama in 2015, as the Woodstock, Georgia, native was named to the All-SoCon Freshman Team after finishing 20th overall with a personal record time of 25:18.90 at the 2015 SoCon Championships. The Bears' season was highlighted by a team title at their own Julius Johnson Invitational with Mercer securing five of the top seven finishes.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Women's cross country helped the Bears make a clean sweep of the Julius Johnson Invitational team titles, outpacing the field thanks to top-five finishes from seniors Jenna Gipperich and Kami Orrender. The two carried that success into the SoCon Championships, as Gipperich placed 19th overall while Orrender crossed the line in 26th.

FOOTBALL

The Bears completed their second season as a member of the Southern Conference in 2015, battling through injuries to finish with a 5-6 overall record. Head coach Bobby Lamb's youth-laden squad had a strong finish to the season, winning two of their last three, including an upset of No. 3 Chattanooga. Following the season, nine Bears were honored by the SoCon, led by unanimous All-SoCon picks Tee Mitchell and Bret Niederreither.

MEN'S SOCCER

The men's soccer program recorded an overall record of 11-6-3 in 2015, while tallying a 5-3-2 mark in SoCon play. The Bears advanced to the SoCon Tournament semifinal match for the second straight season and placed a league-leading three members on the SoCon All-Conference First Team en route to a total of seven players recognized. Ian Antley headlined the postseason awards with NSCAA All-South Region Third Team honors, while Mark Riggins was named to the Capital One Academic All-District IV First Team.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's soccer went 9-8-4 on the season and 5-3-1 in SoCon play en route to advancing to the Southern Conference Tournament championship match for the second consecutive season. Following the

season, five Bears were recognized by the SoCon, including second team honorees Maddie Clark, Maggie Cropp and Katelyn Dimopoulos. Cropp added another award to her 2015 haul, as the senior was named to the Capital One Academic All-District IV First Team.

VOLLEYBALL

The Bears' volleyball program had its best home start in over a decade, opening their home slate with seven straight wins including league victories over The Citadel, Samford, WCU and Wofford. Freshman Paige Alsten burst onto the scene for Mercer, as the middle blocker earned All-SoCon Freshman team honors after setting the program's single-season record with 135 total blocks. Additionally, junior Tori Penrod joined the 1,000-dig club during the season, pushing her career total to 1,204.

Newest Members of the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame

Three new members were inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame during the Alumni Awards Banquet on Homecoming weekend. New members (below) include, left to right, Nancy Fallin Green, CLA '95, women's soccer; Tom Abbott, BUSM '04, men's golf, and TV analyst for the Golf Channel; and Dr. Chuck Hawkins, Mercer Athletic Foundation board member for whom Hawkins Arena in the University Center is named.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



MERCER UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING

NOVEMBER 4-6 | 2016

Make the pilgrimage to
Macon an annual tradition!

Homecoming will feature dozens of events
designed to help you find your friends and rekindle
your fondness for the Mercer you remember.





Come and explore all of the exciting campus additions and improvements, or reminisce with friends at a tailgate party. Mercer is said to have the best game day environment in the Southern Conference, so make sure to cheer on the Bears when they face East Tennessee State University on the football field. Other featured events for the weekend will include the traditional Half Century Club luncheon, class reunions, alumni career speaker series, alumni awards dinner, pep rally, and so much more. Homecoming 2016 is for all Mercerians!

To view photos from Homecoming 2015, visit homecoming.mercer.edu.

Online registration begins in late summer at
homecoming.mercer.edu



Mercer Honors Outstanding Alumni at Inaugural Awards

— Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award —

Keitaro Harada, MUS '07, '08

Harada, of Cincinnati, Ohio, earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Townsend School of Music. Harada is a much sought-after, internationally known, award-winning musician and conductor. He is currently associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra, associate conductor of the Arizona Opera, and associate conductor of the Richmond Symphony.

In 2010, Harada was featured on NPR's "From the Top" — America's largest national platform dedicated to classically-trained young musicians. He is a recipient of The Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award (2014 and 2015); the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview (2013); and the Seiji Ozawa Conducting Fellowship at Tanglewood Music Festival.

Harada, who founded the Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra while attending Mercer, has generously given his time and talent by returning to Mercer to conduct current music students and by staying connected with faculty members.

"It certainly gives to our faculty an understanding that what they are teaching is equipping our students to excel at very, very high levels, so we are incredibly proud of Keitaro and the award he is receiving," said Townsend School of Music Dean Dr. C. David Keith.



The Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award is given to an alumnus/ alumna of Mercer University who has graduated within the past 10 years, is no more than 35 years of age, and has accomplished one or more of the following: Has demonstrated continuous support of the Alumni Association and the University through contributions of time and/or gifts; has made outstanding contributions to a chosen profession; has achieved in such a way that he/she has brought great honor to the individual and the University; has demonstrated service and a commitment to the community; has fostered the ideals, goals and values of the University.

Dinner held on Oct. 23 during Homecoming Festivities

— Meritorious Service Award —

Jerry S. Wilson, BUS '86

Wilson, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, earned his master's degree from the Stetson School of Business and Economics in 1986 and currently serves on Mercer's Board of Trustees as chairman of the marketing committee, where his contributions to Mercer branding initiatives and the University-wide \$400-million capital campaign are invaluable.

Wilson recently completed a long career with The Coca-Cola Company, where he served as senior vice president and global chief customer and commercial officer. Before joining Coca-Cola, Wilson was USA brand manager for Volkswagen of America Inc. He is now CEO of JSW Consulting LLC, which helps clients clarify, establish and execute strategic business growth priorities. He is co-author of the book *Managing Brand YOU* and has had articles featured in such outlets as *BusinessWeek.com*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Fortune Magazine* and *Advertising Age*.

"Jerry gives generously of his time, his expertise and his financial resources. He has made important contributions in our efforts to strengthen and to more effectively promote the Mercer brand," said Larry D. Brumley, senior vice president for marketing communications and chief of staff. "Jerry is someone we are very proud to call an alum, a trustee and, along with his wife, Jenny, an investor in Mercer University and its students."

Wilson with
President Underwood



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

The Meritorious Service Award is given to an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated his or her support of the Alumni Association and the University through his or her contribution of time, talents and financial resources.

Mercer Honors Outstanding Alumni

— The Distinguished Alumnus Award —

Benjamin “Benjy” Griffith III, CLA '77

Griffith is a 1977 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and currently serves on the Executive Committee of Mercer’s Board of Trustees.

An entrepreneur, he is president of Southern Pines Plantations, a timber and commercial real estate company he founded more than 30 years ago in Juliette. The company’s headquarters is now located in Macon with offices in Florida and Texas.

Southern Pines owns and manages more than 150,000 acres in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The properties provide not only timber, but also clean air, clean water, wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities and carbon sequestration.

Griffith’s father, Benjamin Griffith II of Macon, was a longtime, revered member of the University’s English faculty and a 1944 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts. His wife, Teresa Griffith, is also a 1977 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts.

Benjy Griffith III generously funds the Griffith Scholars program, which enables academically gifted graduates from Bibb County high schools to attend Mercer. The program was launched in 2010, with the inaugural recipient entering Mercer in the fall semester of 2011. In addition to his financial contributions to Mercer students, Griffith

generously gives his time and talents to the redevelopment and preservation of historic neighborhoods surrounding the Macon campus.

“He leaves a huge footprint that we can only hope to somewhat fill, so I’m very honored that Mercer decided to give him this award,” said his son and President of SPP Commercial Group Travis Griffith.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is given to an alumna or alumnus of the University who has served his or her profession in an outstanding manner and, in doing so, has brought honor to his or her person and the University.

Bina Named Savannah Campus Dean; Sumner to Succeed as Dean of Medicine

DR. WILLIAM F. BINA III, M.D., M.P.H., FAAFP, will become dean of the Savannah Campus of the School of Medicine, a campus that developed into a full four-year medical school campus under his leadership. He also will take on additional responsibilities as senior vice provost for global medical programs. Dr. Jean Sumner, M.D., currently associate dean for rural health, will succeed Dr. Bina as dean of the School of Medicine. These new appointments are effective July 1.

"As the School of Medicine continues to expand its educational and research footprint in Savannah, Dr. Bina has volunteered to assume the vitally important responsibility of leading that campus," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "It also will benefit the University and our students for him to devote more time to expanding the international healthcare components of the growing Mercer On Mission program, an initiative that he has been involved with and passionate about for several years."

Dr. Sumner, a member of the School of Medicine's first graduating class and a longtime practicing physician in Washington and Johnson counties, has been leading a major telehealth initiative for the School of Medicine as associate dean for rural health.

"She is well positioned to assume leadership of the School of Medicine as Mercer seeks to fulfill the School's mission to prepare primary care physicians for rural and medically underserved areas of our state," Dr. Davis

said. "The need has never been greater for primary care physicians in Georgia."

A 1986 graduate of the School of Medicine, Dr. Sumner has been a community faculty preceptor for the School of Medicine since completing her residency at the Medical Center of Central Georgia, Navicent Health, in 1989. She has served as hospital chief of staff and nursing home medical director, as well as a board member, chair and president of numerous community and statewide professional organizations. At the state level, Dr. Sumner has served most recently as a governor-appointed member, then president and medical director, for the Georgia Composite Medical Board.



Dr. Bina



Dr. Sumner

"Mercer is a great institution committed to excellence in education and service to our state. I am honored to be asked to work with the medical school," Dr. Sumner said. "Dr. Bina has a tremendous legacy, and all of Georgia should appreciate the contributions he has made and will continue to make to medical education and global medical initiatives. He has set the bar for all of us very high."

Dr. Bina joined the School of Medicine in 1991 and has served in various family medicine and community medicine departmental roles, including director of the family practice residency program, chair of community medicine and director of the nationally accredited Master's of Public Health degree program. He served in the School as executive associate dean and interim dean prior to appointment as dean in March 2009. Before coming to Mercer, Dr. Bina was director of the Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C. In November 2014, the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians named Dr. Bina as its Georgia Family Physician of the Year.

"I am excited about the opportunity to focus on the continued development of our Savannah campus, which with the recent expansion of its facilities is now positioned to enroll the same number of M.D. students as the Macon campus, and to lead an expansion of Mercer's global medical programs," Dr. Bina said.

MUSM Receives Additional \$35 Million from State

A settlement between the State of Georgia and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is generating a one-time \$35 million investment in the Mercer School of Medicine, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal announced on Feb. 10.

Mercer School of Medicine was selected to receive the funds based on its continued efforts to place graduates in rural and underserved areas throughout the state.

"The state should receive these funds as a result of a healthcare lawsuit settlement

regarding Medicaid reimbursements," Deal said. "It is only fitting that we in turn invest this money in health care education programs, particularly those that prioritize placing primary care physician graduates in high-demand areas throughout the state. Likewise, this funding fulfills a decades-old commitment made to Mercer University by the state. With this investment in its health care program, we are making good on that promise."

"We are grateful to Gov. Deal and members of the General Assembly for their ongoing

and steadfast commitment to improving the delivery of health care to Georgians in rural and underserved areas of our state, including exploring new and innovative approaches to meeting rural health challenges," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Mercer is committed to using these funds to make a profound difference in the education of future Georgia physicians. These funds will directly support future physicians who demonstrate a commitment to providing primary care in areas of the greatest need."

Lundquist Advances from Interim to Dean of College of Health Professions

Dr. Lisa Murphey Lundquist, who as interim dean led the College of Health Professions since its founding, has been appointed dean.

"Dr. Lundquist has been a tremendous interim dean for the College of Health Professions since its inception in 2013," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "I am pleased that she has agreed to take the 'interim' off of her title, and I expect great things from the College under her continued leadership."

Dr. Lundquist was named interim dean, effective May 1, 2013, two months prior to the College of Health Professions opening as the University's 12th academic unit.

The launch of the College consolidated programs in physical therapy, physician assistant studies and public health that were previously housed in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences — now known as the College of Pharmacy — as well as the School of Medicine.

"Dr. Lundquist is a proven leader, manager and scholar who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and organizational skills as interim dean," said Dr. Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews, senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the College of Pharmacy. "I am confident that, under her continued leadership, the College

will achieve excellence in reaching all of its goals."

"I am honored to be appointed dean of the College of Health Professions," Dr. Lundquist said. "I am excited to continue to work with the outstanding College faculty and staff as we prepare our students to improve the health of the nation through excellence in education, service and innovation."

Dr. Lundquist joined the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2006 as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. In 2009, she was promoted to assistant dean for administration and clinical associate professor. As assistant dean, her responsibilities ranged from leading the accreditation self-study process of the College of Pharmacy to organizing interprofessional education activities for health sciences, to strategic planning.

In 2011, Dr. Lundquist was named interim chair and program director of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, a position she held for a year in addition to her responsibilities as assistant dean. In 2012, she was promoted to associate dean for administration, a position that expanded her responsibilities to include



Dr. Lundquist

chairing the Health Sciences Center's Ad-hoc Interprofessional Education Committee, as well as the planning committee for the College of Health Professions. In 2015, she achieved the rank of clinical professor.

Dr. Lundquist has received several awards, including Professor of the Year in 2011 from the Rho Chi chapter in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the College's Distinguished Educator Award in 2008. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa Society, Order of Omega, Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society and Pi Alpha Physician Assistant Honor Society.

She has authored or co-authored more than 90 scholarly articles and abstracts, and has made numerous presentations at academic conferences. She also completed the Academic Leadership Fellows Program with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Dr. Lundquist earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy. She completed a postgraduate residency in primary care and is a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist. Prior to arriving at Mercer, she served on the faculty at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.

Matthews Honored by University of Wisconsin

Dr. Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews, PHA '68, dean of the College of Pharmacy and senior vice president for health sciences at Mercer, was honored by his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, this past fall.

In recognition of his numerous accomplishments, Dr. Matthews received a Citation of Merit during the university's Homecoming celebration in October. The Citation of Merit is one of the highest honors given by the university, second only to the honorary degree. Recipients are honored for their service to education, research or the profession.

Dr. Matthews was selected based upon his extensive achievements in the field of pharmacy

education. The University of Wisconsin-Madison noted that Dr. Matthews — with more than 25 years of service — is one of the longest-serving deans at the same pharmacy school in the nation, and that the College is ranked among the top five private pharmacy programs by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The Citation also recognized Dr. Matthews being named the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists Outstanding Dean in 2012; his numerous teaching and service awards, including the 2015 Larry L. Braden Meritorious Service Award for outstanding leadership and contributions



Dr. Matthews

to the pharmacy profession from the Georgia Pharmacists Association; and his service as a founder and inaugural chairman of the board of directors of the National Pharmaceutical Association Foundation.

Dr. Matthews earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Clark Atlanta University and a Bachelor of Science in pharmacy from Mercer University. He went on to earn his Master of Science and Ph.D. in pharmaceutical biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was a National Institutes of Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow and a Fellow of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. He did his post-doctoral work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health Professions Receives \$1.1 Million Grant for PA Training

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies in Mercer's College of Health Professions has been awarded a \$1.1 million grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The grant, which will provide a total of \$1,126,390 over a five-year period, was offered through HRSA's Primary Care Training and Enhancement (PCTE) Program. The PCTE Program aims to address the nation's public health workforce shortage by preparing primary care practitioners to provide community-based and preventive care to medically underserved communities.

Dr. Sheena D. Brown, clinical assistant professor, will serve as principal investigator and project director for the grant, which involves collaboration with the Department of Public Health.

"I applaud the Department of Physician Assistant Studies partnering with the Department of Public Health in this collaborative effort to train students to improve the health of the nation with a focus on prevention, health service delivery, health promotion and societal determinants of health," said Dr. Lisa Lundquist, dean of the College of Health Professions and clinical professor.

Student trainees in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies will receive curriculum and clinical training specifically focused on providing evidence-based medical care to Georgia's rural and underserved communities.

Traineeship awards will provide financial support to eligible students with strong academic records who demonstrate an interest in community-based health promotion and primary care practice. Student clinical experiences in the program include providing care for minority, disadvantaged, underserved and rural populations.

"We are incredibly excited to receive grant funds to provide physician assistant students with public health training and help prepare our graduates to provide comprehensive care to Georgia's rural and underserved communities," Dr. Brown said.

"Securing funding will allow the program to provide trainees with public health training; further intensify efforts to recruit underrepresented minorities, persons from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds, and veterans; and prepare providers to deliver comprehensive care in underserved areas."

HRSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving access to health care by strengthening the healthcare workforce, building healthy communities and achieving health equity. HRSA's programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable.

House Elected Chair of Georgia Composite Medical Board

Alice House, MED '95, FAAFP, regional dean of the School of Medicine's Columbus campus, was elected chair of the Georgia Composite Medical Board for fiscal year 2015-2016.



Dr. House

The board — composed of 16 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate — licenses physicians, physician assistants, respiratory care professionals, perfusionists, acupuncturists, orthotists, prosthetists, auricular detoxification specialists and residency training permits. The board also investigates complaints and disciplines those who violate the Medical Practice Act or other laws governing the professional behavior of its licensees.

"It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Georgia on the Composite State Medical Board. I am humbled by this honor, and I look forward to continuing the work of the many talented and dedicated physicians who have worked to form one of the best medical boards in the country," said Dr. House, who was originally appointed to the Georgia Composite Medical Board by Gov. Sonny Perdue in January 2010 and served as its vice chair during fiscal year 2014-2015.

As the current chair of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, Dr. House also serves

a standing appointment on the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis.

The commission is composed of 11 members, including the commissioner of public health, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, director of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, commissioner of agriculture, chair of the Georgia Composite Medical Board and governor's executive counsel. It is responsible for establishing comprehensive recommendations regarding the potential regulation of medical cannabis.

Dr. House is a 1995 graduate of the School of Medicine. She completed her family medicine residency training at the Medical Center, Navicent Health, in Macon, and went into private practice in Byron before joining the Mercer faculty in 2002. She was appointed regional dean of the Columbus campus in July 2014.

Health Professions to Include Clinical Medical Psychology

The College of Health Professions on July 1 will expand to include the Clinical Medical Psychology degree programs, currently housed in the School of Medicine.

The Clinical Medical Psychology programs include the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.).

"We are pleased that the Clinical Medical Psychology programs will be joining the College of Health Professions," said Dr. Lisa Lundquist, dean of the College. "The programs' emphasis on integrated care to prepare skilled psychologists aligns nicely with the College's focus on excellence in training students to improve the health and quality of life of individuals and society."

These two five-year programs, which are exclusively offered on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta, are designed to produce graduates who are eligible for licensure as practicing clinical psychologists, particularly in integrative healthcare settings, and for careers in higher education.

Degree candidates must complete four years of coursework followed by a yearlong internship.

AlumniClassNotes

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

Achievements

1960s

Brenda Storey Bynum, CLA '62, was presented the 2015 Governor's Award for the Arts and Humanities by Gov. Deal in a ceremony at the State Capitol on Oct. 6, 2015. The award honors outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through service to the humanities or excellence in the arts.

Mary A. Epstein, TIFT '69, was named president of the Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) in February. The organization's purpose is to promote the concept of "music for everyone" through the improvement of music education in schools.

W. Phillip Jones, CLA '68, retired after 11 seasons as the head football coach at Shorter University in Rome. He has been named coach emeritus and is set to be inducted into Shorter's Athletic Hall of Fame. Jones was hired as Shorter's first football coach in 2004 to build the newly established program.

Thomas W. Malone, LAW '66, received a Verdicts Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award from *The Fulton County Daily Report*.

1970s

Andre Delgalvis, CLA '71, LAW '72, has written and published a book, *The Lost Tracks*, released Nov. 1, 2015, and available for purchase online.

1980s

Thomas P. Bishop, CLA '82, LAW '85, has been named senior vice president, chief compliance officer and deputy general counsel for Southern Company Services, effective Jan. 1. Bishop currently serves as senior vice president, chief compliance officer, corporate secretary and general counsel for Southern Company Services subsidiary Georgia Power, providing legal counsel to the utility's management team and overseeing corporate security, ethics and compliance, legal services, risk management and the corporate secretary's office.

Michael T. Hurd, LAW '89, was re-elected to a third term as commonwealth's attorney of Middlesex County, Virginia.

Phillip D. Irwin, LAW '86, was named chief manager of the Nashville, Tennessee, law firm Neal & Harwell. Irwin joined the firm in 1986. His primary practice focus is civil litigation.

John D. Mills, BUS '86, LAW '89, has published his sixth novel, *The Hooker, the Dancer and the Nun*. It is a courtroom thriller and is available for purchase online. He practices at the Law Office of John D. Mills PA in Fort Myers, Florida.

Chas Reynolds, CLA '85, LAW '88, was a speaker at the national meeting of the Defense Research Institute (DRI) in Washington, D.C., in October 2015. His topic was "Green Building Products and Resulting Litigation." DRI is the world's largest organization of litigation attorneys.

Lori Lynne Todd, BUS '85, has been appointed CEO of Trivantis Corporation, a global elearning software company and maker of Lectora, CourseMill and Review Link software. She resides in Napa Valley, California.

Brian T. Wilson, LAW '87, partner at Dellecker Wilson King McKenna Ruffier & Sos, has rejoined the Board of Directors of the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. Wilson previously served on the board for nine years beginning in 2004. He was chairman in 2007 and 2009.

1990s

William H. Atkinson, BUS '91, is chief financial officer of Frey-Moss Structures Inc., a manufacturer of

structures and modular buildings with offices in Atlanta and Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Andrea C. Buck, CLA '90, MED '98, was selected as the chief of staff for healthcare oversight integration by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General.

Anne H. Childress, CLA '93, released her debut novel, *A Woman's Choice*, on Jan. 22, in ebook format. The print book debuted in February. The story is an inspirational romance, tackling the controversial subject of post abortion stress syndrome.

Dean C. Copelan, LAW '94, joined Spivey, Pope, Green & Greer in August 2015. Copelan practices in the areas of wealth management and probate and estate administration. Previously, he has served as assistant general counsel at Bank of America and as vice president and senior trust advisor at Wachovia Bank.

J. Jeffrey Deery, LAW '90, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2015 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for commercial litigation and litigation — banking and finance. Deery is a shareholder with the law firm of Winderweede, Haines, Ward and Woodman, practicing in the firm's Orlando, Florida, office.

Matthew A. Getz, BUS '91, joined Encompass Digital Media as its chief people officer April 1, 2015. He oversees the company's global people strategy and directs day-to-day leadership of the North American human resources organization.

Tracy Green, EGR '93, '02, was one of 15 senior civilian leaders selected for the Air Force Civilian Strategic Leader Program (CSLP). CSLP is the Air Force senior corporate career-broadening program designed to develop multi-skilled leaders to enable them to navigate through complex environments. He is a technical director at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins.

The Hon. Render M. Heard, CLA '92, LAW '97, was appointed by Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston to serve on the state's Child Advocate Advisory Committee on Oct. 22, 2015. He is the judge of the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit, serving on the executive committee of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges.

Kenneth D. McArthur Jr., LAW '93, was named to *Virginia Business* magazine's "2015 Legal Elite" Health Law List as selected by his peers. He is an attorney at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti LLP in Richmond, Virginia.

Todd Sanders, LAW '90, was appointed director of the workers' compensation unit for the Florida First District Court of Appeal, which has jurisdiction over workers' compensation appeals statewide.

James S. Skesavage Jr., BUS '91, was elected to the Board of Trustees at Loyola University Maryland. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Visitors for the Stetson School of Business and Economics and is a member of the management team at Atlanta Capital-Investment Managers.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, was named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2015 Legal Elite," a list that ranks Georgia's top attorneys as selected by their peers. Tuggle, who works for Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle in Atlanta, is included among leading family law practitioners in the state.

Scott Alan Turner, CLA '94, hosts a personal finance podcast, "Financial Rock Star," featuring practical money, business and life advice, and includes inspiring stories and rock music. Turner is an entrepreneur and personal finance expert.

Rick Waller, LAW '94, was appointed chief public defender for the Macon Judicial Circuit, serving Bibb, Crawford and Peach counties, to represent indigent people accused of crimes. Waller was previously

interim chief and has been chief assistant public defender since 2005.

2000s

Brian P. Adams, LAW '05, celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Adams Law Firm. In its first year, the firm obtained a \$1.6 million verdict for one of its clients and a \$1.25 million settlement in a serious personal injury claim.

Bradley Bodiford, BUS '07, was sworn in as an assistant U.S. attorney (federal prosecutor) in Montgomery, Alabama, on Nov. 30, 2015.

Sarah Marks Bowman, LAW '07, became products counsel with the Volvo Group in Greensboro, North Carolina, in June 2015.

Heather A. Calhoun, CLA '02, LAW '05, was named an "On The Rise Attorney" by *The Fulton County Daily Report*. She is division lead counsel at Aaron's Inc. in Atlanta.

Kathleen B. Connell, LAW '05, was named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2015 Legal Elite," a list that ranks Georgia's top attorneys as selected by their peers, and is included among leading family law practitioners in the state. Connell works at the new law firm, Connell Cummings LLC, and she practices in family law.

Alexander Richard Garrard, PHA '08, received recognition as a member of the 2015 40 Under 40 by the *Puget Sound Business Journal*, which spotlights top business leaders under age 40. He has also appeared on the Discovery Channel television series "Deadliest Catch: The Bait" as a toxicology expert. Garrard is the clinical managing director of the Washington Poison Control Center.

Samuel H. Greer, CLA '08, joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta as an associate in the tax controversy and litigation section. He counsels clients in all aspects of federal and state tax litigation and advises on tax planning strategies related to business entity formation and operation, foreign asset disclosure and compliance, estate planning, asset protection, and estate and trust administration.

Bradley M. Harmon, LAW '02, was recognized by *Georgia Trend* magazine in its 2015 40 Under 40. He is a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Margaret E. Heinen, CLA '08, LAW '11, was elected vice chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Georgia for 20152016.

Thomas Howell, BUS '05, LAW '08, was named one of the 2015 recipients of the American Legal and Financial Network's "JPEG: Picture the Future," an annual publication profiling 12 standout young professionals making a significant impact on the mortgage servicing industry. Howell works at McCalla Raymer in Roswell, where he is managing partner of the litigation and trial practice group in Georgia.

Shawn J. McClendon, EGR '07, '12, has released two new books, *What YOU Can Do About Blood Pressure* and *What YOU Can Do About Type 2 Diabetes*, available for purchase online. He is the health and exercise columnist for *The Telegraph* in Macon.

Zachary A. McEntyre, LAW '06, was named an "On The Rise Attorney" by *The Fulton County Daily Report*. He is a litigation partner at King & Spalding in Atlanta.

Garon Muller, BUS '08, LAW '11, completed the Young Lawyers Leadership Academy for the State Bar of Georgia and is an affiliate outreach chair on the Executive Council of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) as well as vice president of the Augusta Affiliate of the YLD. He is also vice president of Turn Back the Block, a charity organization focused on rehabilitation of a historic neighborhood in Augusta.

Kristin Pollard Kiel, LAW '08, graduated from the distinguished National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) FIRST Leadership Program on Dec. 10, 2015, and was recognized by NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden. The FIRST Program is a

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.

highly competitive, yearlong, agency-wide leadership development program. The 2015 class was comprised of only 38 participants from across all NASA centers.

Charlotte Redo, LAW '06, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Evansdale Education Foundation. She is the cochair of the Community Service Committee of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA) and also served on the Board of Directors of GABWA.

Brent Savage Jr., LAW '09, was named an "On The Rise Attorney" by *The Fulton County Daily Report*. He is an attorney at Savage, Tucker & Pinckney in Savannah.

Brian J. Smith, CLA '01, has been promoted to manager of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Burton Hills Branch, in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his wife, Kelly, reside in Brentwood, Tennessee.

Brian R. Smith, LAW '06, was named an "On The Rise Attorney" by *The Fulton County Daily Report*. He is a partner in the real estate practice group at Arnall Golden Gregory in Atlanta.

Brett Lee Steger, LAW '07, helped form the law firm Davis, Broussard, Martin, Bernard and Steger in November 2014. It is the largest law firm serving Nassau County, Florida. He maintains a practice in Georgia and Florida, primarily handling civil litigation and criminal defense.

Darrell L. Sutton, LAW '03, was named an "On The Rise Attorney" by *The Fulton County Daily Report*. He practices at the Sutton Law Group in Marietta.

Jason E. Touns, LAW '06, joined McAngus Goudelock & Courie in Wilmington, North Carolina, as a workers' compensation partner in July 2015.

Michael L. Van Cise, CLA '01, was named a partner in the private wealth practice at Arnall Golden Gregory LLP in Atlanta. He focuses his practice on assisting individuals and families with sophisticated wealth transfer planning, federal and state wealth transfer taxation, business succession planning, charitable giving, probate and estate administration.

John M. Wanalisita, LAW '07, joined David Pattillo & Associates, a construction consulting firm, as senior vice president.

Matthew T. Wilson, LAW '07 was one of 16 attorneys selected for the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association 2015-2016 Leadership Education & Advanced Direction (LEAD) Program. In order to qualify, applicants must have less than 10 years of legal practice experience or be 35 years of age or younger.

2010s

Carrie Barnes, CLA '10, was named a 2016 "Young Gamechanger" by Georgia Forward, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of Georgia. In her role with Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Barnes serves as community development consultant where she provides economic and community development assistance to communities on behalf of the 41 EMCs in Georgia. She is responsible for strategic planning sessions, leadership programs and team building.

Janene Browder, LAW '12, joined the law firm of LaMalva Geoffroy & Oeland PC as an associate. She was also elected to serve a two-year term as a Northern District representative for the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division.

Dustin E. Davies, LAW '11, was named an "On The Rise Attorney" by *The Fulton County Daily Report*. He is an attorney of counsel at Hasty Pope in Gainesville.

Zandra Hall, LAW '15, has joined the Office of the DeKalb County Solicitor General as assistant solicitor general, Traffic Court. She is assigned to Judge Kiesha Storey.

Elizabeth Jane Hammond, CLA '15, was an inaugural recipient of the 2015 Larry Peterson Memorial Award for Investigative Journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists — Georgia and the *Savannah Morning News*. The award recognizes exceptional investigative journalism from professional and student journalists in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Shania King, LAW '13, opened The Law Office of Shania King, a boutique law firm offering criminal defense and intellectual property protection, in Atlanta. Previously, King worked in private law firms specializing in personal injury, entertainment and sports law, and intellectual property where she drafted entertainment contracts and helped individuals trademark and copyright their intellectual property.

Emily E. MacheskiPreston, LAW '10, was named a 2016 "Young Gamechanger" by Georgia Forward, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of Georgia. A litigation attorney with Coleman Talley LLP, she has represented developers and local governments across Georgia, including the cities of Atlanta, Brookhaven and Valdosta.

Emily Max, EDU '13, was one of six educators nationally to receive a \$100,000 grant from Farmers Insurance as part of its Dream Big Challenge. She is a kindergarten teacher at Fred Toomer Elementary School in Atlanta and plans to use the grant money to build a playground for special needs students, a project that she began formulating as a Mercer student.

Joan M. McCallum, LAW '10, joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta as an associate in the labor and employment group. She guides clients in state and federal administrative and court proceedings at the trial and appellate levels, and supports the firm's labor and

employment practice in a wide range of matters from employment discrimination and sexual harassment to restrictive covenants and other employment matters including collective and class action suits.

Ashley Muller, LAW '11, has joined the District Attorney's Office of the Augusta Judicial Circuit as an assistant district attorney.

Christopher J. Perniciaro, LAW '14, joined Martenson, Hasbrouck & Simon LLP as an associate in the domestic relations, insurance defense and commercial litigation practice groups at the firm's BuckheadAtlanta office. He was previously a law clerk for the Alcovy Circuit Superior Court.

Nigel Phiri, LAW '15, joined Elarbee Thompson as a staff attorney, working closely with the firm's partners and associates in the representation of public and private employers in the areas of complex litigation and labor and employment law.

Craig J. Reuscher, NUR '15, is a critical care nurse at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Stephen C. Rogers, LAW '11, completed a clerkship for The Hon. Hugh Lawson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and has joined the Huntsville, Alabama, office of Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC, where he practices in the general litigation, complex litigation and construction industry groups. He is licensed to practice in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Bryson McCollum Smith, LAW '13, joined Martenson, Hasbrouck & Simon LLP as an associate in the domestic relations, insurance defense and commercial litigation practice groups at the firm's BuckheadAtlanta office. She was previously a law clerk at the Alcovy Circuit Superior Court.

Linton Blade Thompson, LAW '11, was one of 16 attorneys selected for the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association 2015-2016 Leadership Education & Advanced Direction (LEAD) Program. In order to qualify, applicants must have less than 10 years of legal practice experience or be 35 years of age or younger.

Mary Beth Tolle, LAW '10 joined the Adams Law Firm in Macon as an associate attorney.

Michael S. Weldon, LAW '14, joined Martenson, Hasbrouck & Simon LLP as an associate in the domestic relations, insurance defense and commercial litigation practice groups at the firm's BuckheadAtlanta office. He was previously an assistant district attorney in Newton County.

Katherine N. Willet, LAW '10, was named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's "2015 Legal Elite," a list that ranks Georgia's top attorneys as selected by their peers. Willet, who works for Burroughs Elijah LLC in Augusta, is included among leading business law practitioners in the state.

Marriages, Births & Anniversaries

1990s

John Dickerman, CLA '98, and his wife, Michelle Dickerman, announce the birth of their daughter, Juliette Elaine. The family resides in Arlington, Virginia.

Heidi Hulsey Fowler, CLA '99, and her husband, Eric Fowler, announce the birth of their son, Elias Mathy, on May 14, 2015. She is an assistant professor in the School of Health and Human Performance at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville.

Jamie Marie Smith, CLA '98, married Brennen Arkins on May 2, 2015, in Savannah.

2000s

Claire Steinbeck Battle, CLA '09, married Ryan Battle on July 25, 2015, in Fort Myers, Florida. The couple resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Shalana Cobb, CLA '06, married Willie D. Jones Jr. on Oct. 3, 2015, in Warner Robins.

Brian Davis, EGR '04, and his wife, **Stephanie Barrett**

Davis, EGR '04, announce the birth of their twins, daughter Guerin Victoria and son Barrett William, on Dec. 2, 2014.

Jessica Layson Davis, CLA '08, married Stephen Davis on May 23, 2015, in Macon. The couple resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dr. Richie Hatcher, CLA '05, and his wife, Sam Hatcher, announce the birth of their first son, Hudson Wade, on July 10, 2015.

Sarah Hunt Kemp, BUS '06, and her husband, Taylor Kemp, announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Dees, on Oct. 18, 2015.

Adam Schnepf, CLA '06, PHA '10, and his wife, **Meredith Jackson Schnepf**, MUS '08, announce the birth of their daughter, Nora Grace, in August 2015.

Mark Shaefer, CLA '06, LAW '11, and his wife, Alexis Shaefer, announce the birth of their son, Allan McNair, on June 21, 2015.

Nazareth Ward White, BUS '04, CHP '07, married Jack D. White Jr. on April 28, 2015, at the historic Sacred Heart Cultural Center in Augusta. The couple resides in Grovetown.

2010s

Greer Aiken, LAW '10, and his wife, **Leah M. Aiken**, CLA '07, LAW '11, announce the birth of their son, Bowman "Bo" Ward, on Oct. 2, 2015.

Annette Daehler Drobac, PHA '15, married **David Drobac**, PHA '13, on May 30, 2015. The couple resides in Milwaukee.

John M. Franklin, LAW '10, and **Susan Bailey Franklin**, PHA '13, announce the birth of their son, George Hollis, on Sept. 2, 2015.

Daniel Larson, CLA '12, married Alison Murray on Nov. 14, 2015, in Atlanta.

Elizabeth Pool O'Neal, LAW '11, married John O'Neal on Oct. 24, 2015, in Griffin.

Jessica Walker Stone, CLA '12, married Cason Stone. The couple resides in Columbia, South Carolina.

In Memory

1930s

Frank Edwards, CLA '38, of Macon, Oct. 6, 2015.

Mary Goodwynne Owen, TIFT '37, of Winchester, Virginia, Dec. 16, 2015.

Robert M. Penland Jr., CLA '38, of Watkinsville, Oct. 13, 2015.

Mary Lea Sherrill, TIFT '39, of Santa Barbara, California, Dec. 21, 2015.

1940s

Herman DuPree Baker, CLA '49, LAW '52, of Tucker, Nov. 2, 2015.

James T. Barfield Jr., CLA '43, of Palmetto, Aug. 9, 2015.

Maria Teresa Martinez Belvin, TIFT '44, of Hampton, Virginia, Jan. 29.

Claris Stewart Bishop, TIFT '47, of East Point, Oct. 27, 2015.

Betty Williams Boatwright, TIFT '46, of Alpharetta, Aug. 14, 2015.

Ruth Stewart Bradley, TIFT '49, of Nashville, Tennessee, Jan. 9.

The Rev. William E. Broome Jr., CLA '48, of Denver, Jan. 31, 2014.

Carolyn Sandlin Chester, CLA '44, of Perry, Aug. 24, 2015.

Johnnie R. Forgray, NUR '46, of Loganville, Jan. 12.

May Baugh Griffin, NUR '42, of

Vestavia, Alabama, Nov. 12, 2015.

Vivienne Tyler Hambrick, TIFT '43, of Newnan, Aug. 14, 2015.

Rebecca Hamilton Haygood, CLA '49, of Jackson, May 29, 2014.

Margaret Stephens Heck, CLA '46, of Warner Robins, Oct. 21, 2015.

Nellie Grant Hollingsworth, TIFT '40, of Forsyth, Oct. 12, 2015.

William Payne Hopkins, PHA '49, of Hiwassee, Dec. 8, 2015.

Martha Johnson, NUR '42, of Decatur, July 16, 2014.

Catherine Elmore Maffett, CLA '43, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Sept. 22, 2015.

Kathryn Hinton Overman, CLA '45, of Winston Salem, North Carolina, Jan. 26.

Bettie Bowen Payne, CLA '48, of Springfield, Tennessee, Aug. 1, 2015.

Minnie Y. Phillips, CLA '42, of Macon, Aug. 28, 2015.

Harold B. Reed, CLA '47, of St. Johns, Michigan, Nov. 5, 2015.

Charlotte Reed Smith, TIFT '41, of Greenville, South Carolina, Sept. 9, 2015.

Ann Phelps Sturtevant, CLA '49, of Atlanta, Sept. 10, 2015.

William Fredrick Sutton, CLA '48, of Macon, Sept. 15, 2015.

Martha Howell White, TIFT '43, of Cartersville, June 30, 2015.

1950s

Bentley C. Adams Jr., PHA '54, of Thomaston, Sept. 29, 2015.

John I. Beck Jr., CLA '54, of Decatur, Aug. 2, 2015.

Maj. Gen. Emmett Wadsworth Bowers, CLA '51, of Albany, Nov. 29, 2015.

Warren Otis Brinson, CLA '50, EDU '55, of Albany, Sept. 7, 2015.

The Rev. J. Ben Brown, CLA '48, of Jacksonville, Florida, Mar. 17, 2015.

Julia Blanche Burdett, TIFT '55, of Smyrna, Aug. 28, 2015.

Charles L. Cannon Jr., CLA '50, of Macon, Jan. 11.

Sidney Graves Carswell, CLA '53, of Little Rock, Arkansas, Aug. 6, 2015.

Benjamin F. Chiles Jr., CLA '52, of Macon, Oct. 13, 2015.

Barbara D. Comer, NUR '54, of Snellville, Nov. 13, 2015.

Abe Crosby Jr., LAW '54, of Rutledge, Tennessee, Jan. 7, 2015.

Peggy H. Daniels, NUR '54, of Dublin, Jan. 19.

Charles D. Davis III, CLA '50, of South Easton, Massachusetts, July 27, 2015.

Jane Gheesling Deaton, CLA '53, of Columbus, Oct. 15, 2015.

Dr. William Edmund Farrar Jr., CLA '55, of Brevard, North Carolina, Dec. 28, 2015.

Delia Brown Floyd, CLA '58, of Merritt Island, Florida, Oct. 6, 2015.

Will Owen Godwin, PHA '51, of Smyrna, Nov. 17, 2015.

Jerri Bowen Haywood, TIFT '50, of Tallahassee, Florida, Oct. 21, 2015.

Joseph Millard Hendricks, CLA '55, of Macon, Dec. 19, 2015.

Laverne England Higgs, NUR '58, of Maple Valley, Washington, Jan. 1.

Barbara Joan Hollingsworth, TIFT '58, of Hinesville, Oct. 21, 2015.

Culas Wyly Hutchinson, CLA '57, of Macon, Oct. 6, 2015.

Mary Dean Moon Jones, TIFT '50, of Marietta, Sept. 29, 2014.

Imogene Laminack Marschik, TIFT '56, of St. Louis, Missouri, Sept. 8, 2015.

Pleasant Webster Martin Jr., CLA '56, of Johnson City, Tennessee, Oct. 28, 2015.

Robert H. Murrah Jr., CLA '59, of Pelham, Dec. 20, 2014.

John R. Nunnally, CLA '50, of Union City, Dec. 5, 2015.

Barbara S. O'Brien, CLA '54, of Burke, Virginia, April 29, 2015.

The Rev. James M. Palmer, CLA '53, of Athens, Texas, July 8, 2015.

Phyllis Jocquelyn Patty, NUR '54, of Fort Worth, Texas, Oct. 16, 2014.

Raymond G. Poole, CLA '58, of Jacksonville, Florida, Sept. 5, 2015.

The Rev. Robert J. Porterfield, EDU '55, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, Sept. 22, 2015.

Jewell Shadburn Rich, CLA '58, of Vienna, Virginia, Dec. 7, 2015.

The Hon. Joseph W. Rowland, CLA '51, LAW '52, of Wrightsville, Sept. 23, 2015.

Dr. Roger William Scarbrough Jr., CLA '57, of Savannah, Sept. 5, 2015.

James D. Sloan Jr., CLA '56, of Decatur, Nov. 19, 2015.

Joyce Windom Story, NUR '59, of Smyrna, April 26, 2015.

Myra G. Swilley, CLA '50, of Oceanside, California, June 18, 2015.

Pauline Styles Teal, EDU '55, of Johnson City, Tennessee, Sept. 27, 2015.

James Franklin Thomas, CLA '59, of Macon, Aug. 6, 2015.

Harold C. Todd, PHA '53, of Toccoa, Jan. 4.

Martha West, NUR '54, of Newnan, Sept. 18, 2014.

The Hon. William T. Whatley, LAW '51, of Vidalia, Sept. 24, 2014.

Kathryn Sawyer Willis, NUR '55, of Dublin, Sept. 2, 2015.

The Rev. G. Lewis Wright, CLA '57, EDU '69, of Macon, Sept. 25, 2015.

Lieselotte T. Young, CLA '58, of San Diego, California, Oct. 2, 2015.

1960s

Carol McNeal Baldwin, TIFT '66, of Jefferson, Jan. 14.
Richard Joseph Bielski, CLA '64, of Lavonia, June 27, 2015.
Catherine Albert Bohac, EDU '63, '67, of West Columbia, South Carolina, Nov. 29, 2015.
Lillie Jane Belflower Boyd, NUR '63, of Oxford, Dec. 2, 2015.
Rebecca Howell Bullard, NUR '62, of Sylvester, Dec. 17, 2015.
Charles Edward Clark, CLA '69, LAW '72, of Marietta, Jan. 19.
Remer Crum Daniel, LAW '65, of Macon, Jan. 16.
Margaret King Edenfield, CLA '67, of Macon, Nov. 1, 2015.
Jack C. Fincher Jr., PHA '66, of Canton, Sept. 6, 2015.
Stanley J. Gajdik III, PHA '69, of Acworth, July 31, 2015.
David E. Greer, LAW '69, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Aug. 22, 2015.
Elaine Chastain Hall, NUR '60, of Avondale Estates, June 23, 2015.
Kenneth D. Hammond, PHA '65, LaGrange, Aug. 18, 2015.
Marilyn Donahoo Haney, CLA '67, of Dallas, Texas, Jan. 6.
John P. Hatfield, CLA '60, of Milan, Jan. 22.
Louise Duck Jordan, EDU '68, of Nashville, Tennessee, Nov. 23, 2015.
Sara Nell Maloney Kahan, TIFT '62, of Roswell, Aug. 4, 2015.
Brenda Cheek Mallow, NUR '66, of

Mart, Texas, Dec. 29, 2015.
Moena Johnson Mullis, TIFT '61, of Statesboro, Sept. 27, 2015.
Judith P. Royal, CLA '69, of Birmingham, Alabama, Nov. 10, 2015.
Robert D. Sinyard, PHA '60, of Watkinsville, Oct. 9, 2015.
Emily Jeanne Fleming Smith, TIFT '65, of Griffin, Nov. 19, 2015.
Lt. Col. James Kelly Smith, EDU '60, of Columbus, Oct. 9, 2015.
William Shay Stripling III, CLA '62, of Norcross, Oct. 19, 2015.
Roy Edward Tucker, PHA '62, of Fairburn, Dec. 15, 2015.
Nancy Margaret Ross Walsh, TIFT '62, of Easley, South Carolina, Nov. 27, 2015.

1970s

The Hon. Alfred Harris Adams, CLA '70, LAW '71, of Marietta, Aug. 3, 2015.
Zona Biggs Allen, TIFT '72, of Kathleen, Dec. 22, 2015.
Julia J. Biegeleisen, CAS '74, of Doraville, Sept. 26, 2015.
Leonora Jean Green Bills, CLA '77, of North Plainfield, New Jersey, Sept. 14, 2015.
Mary Jane Cardwell, CLA '77, EDU '80, LAW '87, of Waycross, Jan. 13.
Thomas R. Childs, CLA '76, of Macon, Nov. 22, 2015.
Charles O. Cornelison, LAW '71, of Fort Myers, Florida, Oct. 23, 2015.
The Rev. Harold G. Crawford, CLA '73, of Commerce, Sept. 12, 2015.

Gary A. Dicus, CLA '72, of Tampa, Florida, Aug. 20, 2015.
Peggy Friel, NUR '73, of Longwood, Florida, Sept. 8, 2015.
Robert Russell Gunn II, LAW '77, of Macon, Aug. 10, 2015.
James Jeffries Hopkins, CLA '75, of Carrollton, Sept. 6, 2015.
Barry A. Lanier, PHA '76, of Metter, Sept. 16, 2015.
David L. Puckett, PHA '70, of Shelbyville, Kentucky, Oct. 5, 2015.
The Rev. William Lee Self, HON '70, of Johns Creek, Jan. 9.
Suzanne Rowe Wilson, NUR '70, of Charlotte, North Carolina, Dec. 22, 2015.
Reginald Claus Wisenbaker Sr., LAW '72, of Valdosta, Nov. 16, 2015.

1980s

Robbie S. Bennett, CAS '81, of Snellville, Aug. 7, 2015.
Diana W. Brown, TIFT '85, of Atlanta, Dec. 28, 2015.
The Rev. William Pryor Connell Jr., CLA '80, of McRae, Aug. 16, 2015.
James A. Dooley, CAS '84, of Douglasville, Dec. 22, 2015.
Tanya Comparetto Friel, LAW '85, of Lakeland, Florida, Nov. 19, 2015.
V. Fain McMullan, BUS '84, of Macon, July 18, 2015.
James M. Parrish Jr., BUS '85, of Dawsonville, Oct. 7, 2015.
Elizabeth Reed Puckett, EDU '85, of Macon, July 16, 2015.

Shirley Pharr Raynor, LAW '87, of Alpharetta, Oct. 24, 2015.
Diane F. Reitz, BUS '85, of Gainesville, Jan. 25.
W. Lee Robinson, BUS '85, LAW '85, of Macon, Nov. 4, 2015.
Carole E. Smith, CAS '81, of Atlanta, Dec. 8, 2015.
Richard G. Sullivan, CAS '83, of Cumming, Aug. 15, 2015.
Sherry Bedsole Wise, TIFT '80, of Milner, Sept. 18, 2014.

1990s

Robert Burnside Lucas, EGR '94, of Macon, Nov. 13, 2015.
The Hon. James W. Matoney Jr., LAW '91, of Alpharetta, Dec. 19, 2015.
Nikki A. Plymel, EGR '91, of Macon, Jan. 4.
Arthur Ray Shepherd Jr., EDU '92, of Macon, Aug. 3, 2015.
Kimberly Gail Struble-Hunt, CAS '90, of Snellville, Sept. 2, 2015.

2000s

Render L. Moultrie, EDU '02, of Brooks, July 27, 2015.

2010s

Jibri S. Bryan, BUS '14, of Savannah, Feb. 2.
Ademola Fasina-Thomas, BUS '13, of Douglasville, May 11, 2014.

Friends & Former Staff

Clarence Eugene Bell, of Macon, former faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts, Jan. 19.
Dumont C. Bunn, of Macon, former assistant director of the Stetson Memorial Library, Oct. 31, 2015.
Frank Davis, of Macon, former development officer, Aug. 24, 2015.
Betty Ann Harrison, of Bartow, Life Member of The President's Club, Jan. 24, 2015.
Will G. Holladay, of Macon, former director of personnel and Life Member of The President's Club, Jan. 27.
Douglas Johnson, of Atlanta, former faculty member in the College of Pharmacy, Nov. 23, 2015.
Way Kidd, of Big Canoe, founding member of the McAfee School of Theology Board of Visitors, Dec. 24, 2015.
Charles W. Knight Jr., of Bainbridge, former professor on the Atlanta campus, Aug. 7, 2015.
Dan Nyimicz, of Macon, former men's basketball coach, Sept. 29, 2015.
Dr. William H. Rhodes, of Union Point, former faculty preceptor for the School of Medicine, Nov. 19, 2015.
Marilyn M. Spradley, of Eastman, former faculty member in Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, Nov. 24, 2015.

Triple Graduate and Former Trustee Mary Jane Cardwell Dies at 58

Mary Jane Cardwell, alumna with three Mercer degrees and former member of the Mercer University Board of Trustees, died Jan. 13 in Waycross after a short illness. She was born in Albany, Georgia, to the late Dr. Albert L. and Maxine Richardson Cardwell and moved to Macon where her father was pastor of First Baptist Church of Macon. Cardwell graduated in 1977 from Mercer with a Bachelor of Arts degree and in 1980 with a Master of Education of Education degree. In



Cardwell

1987, she received her Juris Doctor degree from the Walter F. George School of Law. She was editor of the Mercer Law Review from 1985-1987. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees from 2003-2008, Cardwell was in the President's Club and a member of the *Baptists Today* Association.

In 1988, she moved to Waycross and worked for Kopp, Peavey, and Conner for several years and opened her own firm in 1994. She served the Waycross area as a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee, in Juvenile Court as a Guardian Ad Litem and was a member of the Waycross Bar Association, the Georgia Bar Association and the Waycross Exchange Club. Cardwell was a member of First Baptist Church of Waycross and attended Trinity United Methodist Church where she was in the Chancel Choir and His Royal Ringers Handbells.

Memorial contributions can be made to Mercer's Cardwell Scholarship Fund or Hospice Satilla, 808 Evergreen Way, Waycross, Georgia 31501.

Former Trustee Dr. William Self Dies One Day Shy of 84th Birthday

Dr. William L. "Bill" Self, prominent Baptist leader and longtime Atlanta-area pastor, died Jan. 9 from complications of Lou Gehrig's Disease. Dr. Self was pastor emeritus of Johns Creek Baptist Church, where he served as senior pastor from 1964 to 1990. More recently, Self taught at Mercer's McAfee School of Theology during the winter and spring of 2015, and served as chairman of Day 1 radio ministries, formerly the Protestant Hour.

Dr. Self pastored four churches in more than 50 years



Self

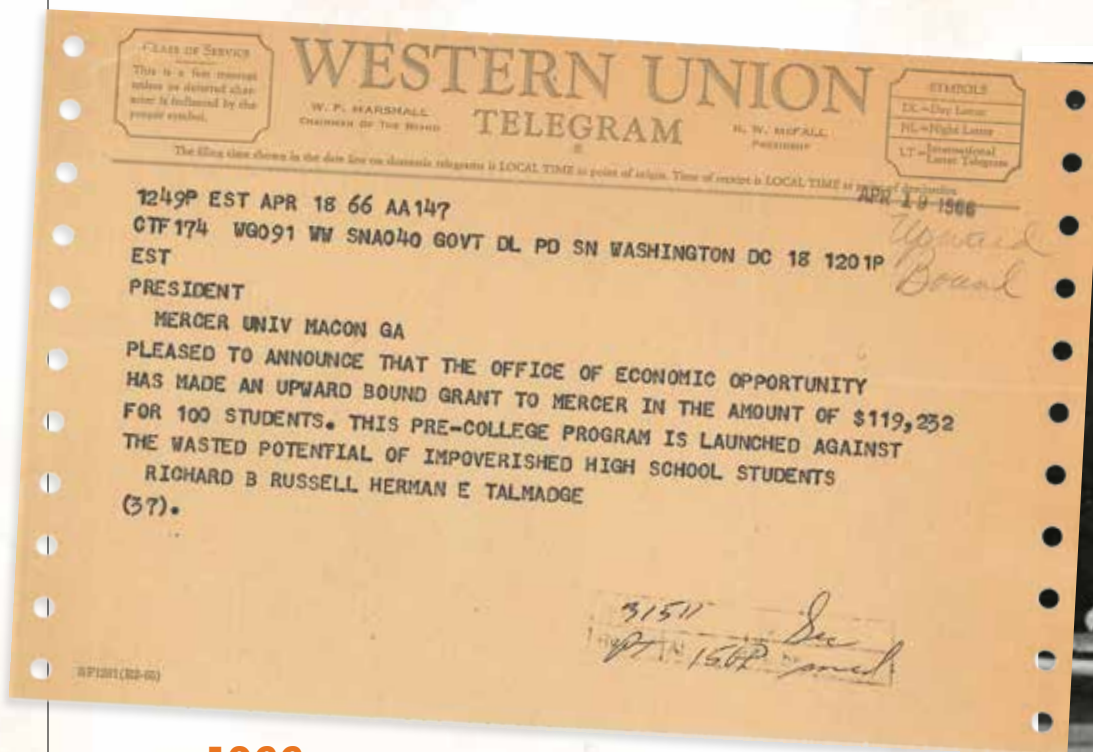
of ministry. He was a graduate of Stetson University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, had an earned doctorate from Emory University (STD), and was awarded four honorary degrees, including one from Mercer. He was recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He was also honored with the William L. Self Preaching Lectureship, established at McAfee School of Theology in 1997.

Dr. Self was the author of eight books, contributor to several books of sermons and author of numerous articles. He previously served as chair of the McAfee School of Theology Board of Visitors and served multiple five-year terms on the Mercer Board of Trustees, most recently from 2010-2015. He also was a recipient of the Louie D. Newton Award for Service to Mercer.

Gifts can be made in his memory to the William L. Self Lecture Series at the McAfee School of Theology.

25-50-100 Years Ago ...

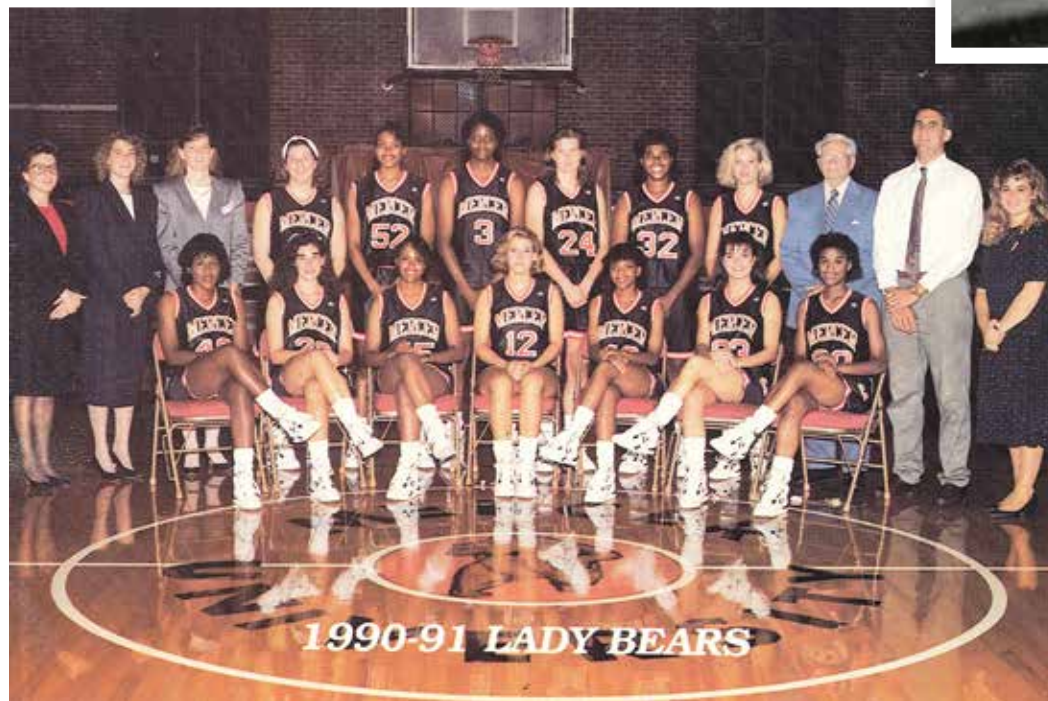
Photos and archival information for 25-50-100 Years Ago assembled by Laura Botts and the Tarver Library Special Collections staff.



1966 Mercer President Rufus Harris received this telegram announcing a federal Upward Bound grant in April 1966. Sens. Richard B. Russell and Herman E. Talmadge sent the news that Mercer had received \$119,232 to alleviate “the wasted potential of impoverished high school students.” Mercer was one of the first universities to apply for funding from the new program, which is still successful on campus today.



1916 (Above) Eugenia Wootton Stone, Bessie Tift College class of 1916, was an active student from Newnan. Her college roles included club officer, literary magazine manager, student government councilor, yearbook editor and class poet. In 1969, she published *Yesterday at Tift*, the history of the school, after retiring with 40 years of service on the faculty.



1991 Newly hired women's basketball coach Lea Henry led the 1990-91 Lady Bears to the regular season title of the New South Women's Athletic Conference, followed by a Trans America Athletic Conference title in 1991-92. This team included Mercer's only First-Team Kodak All-American in Andrea Congreaves. Pictured here with her staff and team, coach Henry was a member of the 1984 Olympic Gold Medal team in Los Angeles before becoming a collegiate coach.

AdvancementUpdate

Aspire Makes Great Strides through early 2016

During the first 18 months of its public phase, *Aspire: The Campaign for Mercer University* experienced great fundraising success. To date, over \$173 million has been received and pledged towards the \$400-million goal. Major gifts and pledges received since November 2014 include:

- **A large, multimillion dollar commitment from Jo Phelps Fabian** to create the Fabian Center for Musical Excellence in the Townsend School of Music. The gift is the largest ever, along with the gift that founded the School of Music, to support the arts at Mercer.
- **\$5 million commitment from Five Star Automotive** to name Five Star Stadium, the University's football and lacrosse venue.
- **\$1.5 million commitment from OrthoGeorgia** to name OrthoGeorgia Park at Claude Smith Field.
- **\$1 million commitment from L. Lin Wood, CLA '74, LAW '77**, to support the Walter F. George School of Law.
- **\$1 million commitment from Mercer Trustee Curt Anderson and his wife, Libba**, to support the construction of the Savannah Medical Education and Research Building.
- **\$1.5 million commitment from Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey** to establish the Joan

Stockstill Godsey Center for Keyboard Studies in the Townsend School of Music. This gift resulted in Mercer becoming an All-Steinway School and developing the Joan Stockstill Godsey Concert Series.

Numerous five- and six-figure commitments have been made to support various campaign priorities including the Tattnall Square Center for the Arts, OrthoGeorgia Park, the Savannah Medical Education and Research Building, the Southern Studies Program, the Rural Health Scholarship Endowment in the School of Medicine, the College of Pharmacy Building in Atlanta and the new Undergraduate Sciences Building in Macon. The Undergraduate Sciences Building is the largest capital project in the Aspire campaign with an estimated cost of \$40 million. To date, over \$20 million has been received and pledged toward this landmark building project.

It's important also to note that as a comprehensive campaign, all gifts received during the campaign timeframe are used to calculate the totals. All unrestricted gifts

(Mercer Athletic Foundation, school/college annual funds), restricted gifts (endowed funds, scholarships) and in-kind contributions are counted in a comprehensive campaign. In addition, certain planned gifts/pledges such as charitable trusts/annuities/life estates/wills are counted using formulas based upon a donor's age. These and other campaign guidelines are consistent with best practice policies employed at member institutions of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

According to Holly McCorkle Jones, CLA '88, LAW '91, chair of the Trustee Development Committee and member of the Aspire Steering Committee, "Giving to Mercer is at an all-time high, and the Aspire campaign is undergirding the success of our volunteers and university fundraising staff. I hope all Mercerians will join me in making a commitment to support the University through the Aspire campaign as an expression of personal gratitude to a place which changed our lives for the better."

Visit aspire.mercer.edu to learn more about *Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University*.



GREEK CHALLENGE

Connecting Alumni ~ Sustaining Chapters ~ Supporting Mercer

The Mercer Greek Challenge is an initiative of the Office of University Advancement to increase alumni giving and award prizes for Greek chapters, while also creating connections among alumni of Mercer's national fraternities and sororities. The challenge pits alumni from the various Greek chapters at Mercer in an annual giving competition.

While more than \$13,000 has been awarded to the 15 Greek chapters that participated in the 2015 Challenge, the University was the beneficiary of dynamic fund raising success:

Annual Fund (Greek Alumni)

October 2013–September 2014: \$702,146

October 2014–September 2015: \$921,662

(31 percent increase)

Annual Fund (All Undergraduate Alumni)

October 2013–September 2014: \$969,269

October 2014–September 2015: \$1,207,221

(25 percent increase)

Donors to Annual Fund (Greek Alumni)

October 2013–September 2014: 1,074

October 2014–September 2015: 1,468

(37 percent increase)

Donors to Annual Fund (All Undergraduate Alumni)

October 2013–September 2014: 1,907

October 2014–September 2015: 2,372

(24 percent increase)

THE 2016 GREEK CHALLENGE will officially launch in late April 2016 and conclude Sept. 30, 2016, with winners announced at Homecoming during the Alumni Awards Dinner on Friday, Nov. 4, 2016. Tolliver Rivers, BUSM '93/Kappa Alpha Order, and Kathryn Preston Rivers, CLA '94/Chi Omega, of Davidson, North Carolina, will serve as the 2016 Greek Challenge Chairs.

The Importance of Giving



Inspiring young scientists to stretch their minds has always been a part of Dr. Bob Hargrove's approach to teaching. Over the course of a 34-year career at Mercer, he's inspired numerous science and engineering students to pursue careers beyond their bachelor's degrees. In fact, since Dr. Hargrove and his wife, Carolyn, who had a distinguished nursing career spanning more than 30 years, arrived at Mercer in 1975, hundreds of his former students have pursued professional degrees in scientific research, medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

Today, through their recent six-figure commitment to support the construction of Mercer's new Undergraduate Sciences Building, the Hargroves hope to inspire many of these alumni to invest in the education of Mercer's science majors (including five Barry Goldwater Scholars or Honorable Mention Awardees since 2011) and their faculty mentors. Major gifts to the new Undergraduate Sciences Building will provide Mercer students the laboratory and classroom facilities they desire and deserve.

For information about the new Undergraduate Sciences Building and how to make a significant investment in our science students and faculty, please visit aspire.mercer.edu or contact Todd Smith at smith_bt@mercer.edu or Matt Hatchett at hatchett_jm@mercer.edu in the Office of University Advancement, (800) 837-2911.

Naming opportunities are available, including faculty offices, classrooms, laboratories and student learning spaces. All donors to this project will be counted as significant investors in *Aspire: The Campaign for Mercer University*.



A S P I R E

THE CAMPAIGN
for
MERCER UNIVERSITY



MERCER

BEARS

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



SEP 1
THE CITADEL



SEP 10
AT GEORGIA TECH



SEP 17
TENNESSEE TECH



OCT 1
AT VMI



OCT 8
AT CHATTANOOGA



OCT 15
WESTERN CAROLINA



OCT 22
AT AUSTIN PEAY



OCT 29
AT WOFFORD



NOV 5
EAST TENNESSEE ST.
HOMECOMING



NOV 12
AT SAMFORD



NOV 19
FURMAN

FOR TICKETS, CALL (478) 301-5470 OR VISIT TICKETS.MERCER.EDU