







Many exciting developments taking place across the arts at Mercer are the subject of this fall's cover story, beginning on page 16. Above, a painting by Luke Buffenmyer, assistant professor of art, hangs in Frances Sewell Plunkett Gallery in Hardman Hall as part of the annual faculty art show.

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# CCJ to Extend Local Reporting with New \$2 Million Support from Knight Foundation

MERCER'S CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM (CCJ), which over the last five years broke new ground in advancing innovative journalism education practices and local community engagement, was recently awarded \$2 million in new funding by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

he investment helps to expand the Center's efforts, including support for Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) and the addition of a TV reporting partnership with Macon-based CBS affiliate 13WMAZ, which is owned by TEGNA Inc.

Established in 2012 with \$5.7 million

in funding from Knight Foundation and the Peyton Anderson Foundation, CCJ is a unique partnership between Mercer's Journalism and Media Studies Department, McClatchy-owned The Telegraph of Macon and GPB. The prototype brings students, faculty and veteran journalists together in a joint newsroom located in Mercer Village. Learning in a teaching hospital model, students and professional journalists work together to deliver strong local reporting and engage members of the community around issues of local concern. The collaboration has led to in-depth coverage of important issues and allowed students to use the latest digital tools and graduate with a portfolio of published work that gives them an edge in a rapidly changing field.

"The Center for Collaborative Journalism is a great example of how the teaching hospital model approach in journalism education can benefit both students and the community with stronger, more engaged journalism. By expanding the center's efforts to include local television news, we hope it will create even more

new lessons for the field," said Jennifer Preston, Knight Foundation vice president for journalism.

"We are thrilled with Knight Foundation's continued support," said Tim Regan-Porter, CCJ executive director. "The foundation has been much more than a funder. It has been a true partner, providing advice and expertise that has helped the center excel. This new grant will enable the Center to continue to make a

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Representatives from Mercer, the Knight Foundation, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, *The Telegraph*, Georgia Public Broadcasting and 13WMAZ participated in a July 25 news conference announcing \$2 million in new support for the Center for Collaborative Journalism.

difference in Macon, in the work of our media partners and in the lives of our student body."

Since 2012, CCJ students have published more than 600 stories for *The Telegraph* and GPB and produced content for National Public Radio, The Associated Press, ESPN and other regional and national media outlets. The

Center has also completed several major, award-winning community engagement projects, such as "Macon in the Mirror," which featured more than 600 interviews with Bibb County residents and resulted in a nine-part series in The Telegraph and on GPB. A seven-part series on residential blight influenced the local government to allocate \$14 million for blight remediation, and a student-led

series on pedestrian safety contributed to the formation of a community task force on the issue. The Center is currently in the midst of a project exploring the reasons behind and implications of the resegregation of public schools in Bibb County.

New Knight Foundation funding will enable the Center to partner with TEGNA'S 13WMAZ to add a local TV reporting component. The Center will employ a fulltime reporter who will work with WMAZ and students to produce local news stories for broadcast and for its 13WMAZ.com website, as well as for Mercer's own TV station, WMUB. Students will also, under the fulltime reporter's supervision, produce video content for The Telegraph and GPB.

Other initiatives that will

be supported include:

 Funding for GPB to support and enhance its local news operation in Macon, including its participation in community engagement projects and activities to train and mentor students.

Continued on next page —

#### **CCJ Receives New Support** Continued

- Continued funding of the Couric Fellows
   Program, which places Mercer students in
   paid summer internships with *The Telegraph*,
   GPB and media outlets around the world.
   Over the last three years of this program,
   named for the late Mercer journalism alumnus
   John Couric (father of journalist Katie Couric),
   students have completed internships locally
   and at outlets like Billy Penn in Philadelphia,
   *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans and the
   *Cape Argus* in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Continued funding for the center's summer digital media camp that draws a talented and diverse pool of high school students from around the world for an intense, sevenday, hands-on experience producing stories

- on various digital media platforms.
- Establishment of a Community Engagement
  Desk at the Center to support the Center and
  affiliated news organizations in exploring
  new ways to develop content that engages
  audiences, including through social media.
- Funding for a full-time community
  engagement coordinator, who will work out
  of the Center's Peyton Anderson Newsroom
  and assist partners in coordinating community
  events, oversee assignments and schedules
  for the reporting teams, and manage new
  community-engagement technology.
- Funding for knowledge sharing through conferences and a speaker series that will bring leading journalists from throughout the country to Macon.
  - "Macon's continued development

is dependent on creating a community of informed and engaged residents who can contribute to its growth," said Lynn Murphey, CLA '90, Knight Foundation program director for Macon. "By involving residents in journalism, listening to resident needs and crafting stories relevant to their lives, the center is helping to secure a better future for Macon."

Support for CCJ is part of Knight Foundation's efforts to advance excellence in journalism and journalism education and to help news organizations inform people in communities of all sizes through experimentation, innovation and leadership. Knight has made many investments in this area, including the Knight-Lenfest Newsroom Initiative, which aims to help advance digital transformation at local news organizations across the country.

### **Trustees Approve Record Operating Budget**

ercer's Board of Trustees met in April on the Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta to adopt a record \$244 million operating budget for 2017-18 and approve several new academic programs.

Continuing six consecutive years of belowmarket tuition increases, trustees voted to limit the tuition increase for Macon undergraduate programs to 2.5 percent for 2017-18. President William D. Underwood noted that the University's disciplined approach to holding down costs for students and their families, coupled with the national achievements of its students and faculty, contributed to *U.S. News & World Report* last year ranking Mercer among the 25 best values among national universities.

Trustees voted for no tuition increase for Mercer law students and M.D. students in the School of Medicine. Most other programs across the University saw tuition increases in the 2- to 4-percent range.

Trustees approved a new management major in the Stetson School of Business and Economics; a new civil engineering concentration and a graduate certificate in technical communication in the School of Engineering; a graduate certificate in health informatics in Penfield College; graduate certificates in theological studies and social enterprise in McAfee School of Theology; and a graduate certificate in integrated behavioral health and medical family therapy in the School of Medicine.

#### Mercer Featured by Princeton Review for 15th Consecutive Year

MERCER WAS FEATURED AMONG THE NATION'S BEST institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review's recently released 2018 edition of its college guide, "The Best 382 Colleges."

Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges and two colleges outside the U.S. are profiled in the book, published annually since 1992. The guide contains detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores in eight categories, as well as ranking lists of the top 20 schools in 62 categories. All of the ranking lists are based on The Princeton Review's survey of 137,000 students attending the colleges.

"We chose Mercer University because it offers outstanding academics," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's editor-in-

chief and author of "The Best 382 Colleges."
"Our selections are based on our surveys of
administrators at several hundred four-year
colleges. We also visit dozens of colleges each
year and give weight to opinions of our staff
and our 24-member National College Counselor
Advisory Board. Most importantly, we look at
feedback we get from each school's customers

— our surveys of students attending them. We also keep a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character."

In its profile, The Princeton Review praises Mercer for its focus on research, leadership and service, as well as



professors who seem "genuinely invested in their students." "Mercer aims to produce graduates who will endeavor to 'make positive changes in their local community and the world," the survey continues. "While the academics here are challenging, it's obvious that the university wants to see its students succeed."

In a "Survey Says" sidebar in the book's profile

on Mercer, The Princeton Review listed popular topics among students according to their answers to survey questions. The University's list included "students are happy," "great financial aid," "everyone loves the Mercer Bears," "intramural sports are popular" and "frats and sororities are popular."

# Mercer Innovation Center Announces Four New Fellows, Five Companies-in-Residence

ercer Innovation
Center (MIC) recently
announced its second
class of fellows — four
new businesses that will
launch with funding and support from the MIC
— in addition to five companies-in-residence
that will be provided office space and additional
resources by the Center.

All told, from this year's fellowship competition, nine new companies will base operations in Macon, with three relocating from Atlanta.

The annual Mercer Innovation Fellowships are open to entrepreneurs, 21 and older, from across the world, in addition to current Mercer students. Fellows receive a prize package that may include up to \$20,000 in funding, housing and parking on Mercer's campus, office space and MIC membership for a year, paid student interns, access to Mercer facilities, access to local investors, and coaching and mentoring by the Center's advisory board.

After offering fellowships to two businesses

— KUDU Safari Braai and HeadNoise — in its

inaugural year, the MIC doubled its number of fellows this year by inviting four companies — Hygeia, MedaSol, Ultimental and 43 Tech — to compose its second class.

"We are excited about the increased number of fellows and businesses choosing Macon as the place to launch and grow their companies," said Stephanie Howard, deputy director of the

President William D. Underwood, far left, and Center Deputy Director Stephanie Howard, far right, greet the new class of MIC fellows. Mercer Innovation Center. "One of the goals of the Mercer Innovation Center is to help entrepreneurs launch sustainable businesses, which ultimately impacts the Macon-Bibb County economy."

Fellowships for Hygeia and MedaSol also include funding from a Downtown Challenge Grant awarded by the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to support early-stage medical device and health information technology initiatives.

Hygeia, founded by Ricardo Ibarria, is a reimagined healthcare delivery system, designed with both patients and clinicians in mind. Its all-in-one, turn-key employer kiosk provides customized diagnostics in an onsite machine.

MedaSol, founded by Dr. Kevin Murnane, assistant professor in Mercer's College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, is a personalized mobile app designed to improve medication adherence in patients at risk of heart failure or heart attack. The app can also be tailored to other patient populations and disease states.

Ultimental, founded by recent Mercer

graduate Mike Masielle, is a natural, performance-enhancing supplement for white-collar, startup entrepreneurs that combines a green tea mix with natural sweeteners and eight active work-life performance enhancers, called nootropics.

43 Tech, founded by two-time Mercer graduate Michael Walter, strives to produce affordable and innovative technology solutions for everyday life. The company's KiwiCard is a credit card-sized Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) tracking device designed specifically for wallets.

Five additional Mercer Innovation
Fellowship applicants were selected as
companies-in-residence and will receive support
from the MIC, such as office space and interns.
They include data analytics software developer
IUVO, founded by Stephen Hatez; marketing
services agency AlyMedia, founded by Mercer
student Faiz Aly; natural hygiene products
company The Bee's Knees, founded by Mercer
student Julia Nazerian; crowdsourced student
notes platform Study Share, founded by Mercer
student Ricky Vega; and makeup brand Amaka,
founded by Mercer alumna Iijeoma Mbaezue.



### Newest Class of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows Announced at State Capitol

ov. Nathan Deal, CLA
'64, LAW '66, at the State
Capitol in June announced
Georgia's newest class of
Woodrow Wilson Georgia
Teaching Fellows, including 13 who will
study at Mercer.

With the addition of this year's class of 63 aspiring educators who will attend Mercer, Columbus State University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University and Piedmont College, the Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship will have prepared a total of 159 teachers to lead STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) classes in the state's high-need secondary schools.

"As Georgia re-emphasizes its commitment to turning around the state's low-performing schools, it is essential that every Georgia child has access to excellent educators, particularly in subjects like science and math," said Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. "With the Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship program, Georgia colleges are ensuring Georgia classrooms have a pipeline of needed teachers both committed to teaching in high-need schools and with the skills and abilities to boost student learning. Teachers like our Georgia Teaching Fellows are key to future success."

Among Mercer's newest Fellows are recent graduates or career-changers with strong backgrounds in the STEM disciplines. They include Morgan Akridge from Toccoa; Joey Chan from Marietta; Julius Collado from Darien; Dezmon Gay from Atlanta; David "Ben" Jones from Huntington, West Virginia; Austin Lord from Toccoa; Angela Monetta from

Loganville; Jiyou Oh from Macon; Chelsea Robinson from Clarkston; Shakevia Robinson from Atlanta; Lynetria Sanders from Columbus; Jose Santana Villa from Conyers; and Ashley Stirgus from Detroit, Michigan.

Akridge (CLA '17), Chan (CLA '15), Lord (CLA '17), Oh (CLA '12, MED '16) and Santana Villa (EGR '16) previously earned undergraduate or graduate degrees from Mercer.

Each Fellow received \$30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master's degree program based on a yearlong classroom experience. In return, Fellows commit to teach for three years in the urban and rural Georgia schools that most need strong STEM teachers. Throughout the three-year commitment, Fellows receive ongoing support and mentoring.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation is partnering with a wide range of school

districts across the state on this effort. The Bibb County School District, Dodge County Schools, Houston County Schools and Monroe County Schools are partnering with Mercer in Central Georgia.

Georgia, Indiana,
Michigan, New Jersey
and Ohio are currently
Woodrow Wilson
Teaching Fellowship
states. The Georgia
program brings the
Woodrow Wilson
Foundation's total
commitment to the
Fellowship to more than
\$90 million nationally.



Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal pose with the newest class of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows, including 13 from Mercer, at the State Capitol on June 29.

### Zeta of Georgia Chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society Inducts Second Class of Students

ercer's Zeta of Georgia
Chapter of The Phi Beta
Kappa Society on April
7 inducted 29 students
into the nation's most
prestigious academic honor society.

Prospective Phi Beta Kappa inductees are usually seniors among the top 10 percent of their graduating class who have completed a broad range of liberal arts and sciences coursework, including foreign language study and mathematics. Exceptional students meeting the Society's requirements may also be considered as juniors. This year's inductees are:

**Sarah Elizabeth Abney,** a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and Spanish from Marietta

**Emily Loraine Anspach,** a senior majoring in political science and international affairs from Fort Collins, Colorado

**Jacqueline Zanne Atchison,** a senior majoring in history and sociology from Savannah

**Anna Elise Bates,** a senior majoring in English and philosophy from Houston

**Taylor Nicole Bischoff,** a senior majoring in communication and media studies and psychology with a minor in women's and gender studies from Grayson

Anna Rose Cizek, a senior majoring in international affairs, French and global health studies from Naperville, Illinois

**Alexandra Leigh Collins,** a senior majoring in global health studies with minors in biology and chemistry from Cartersville

**Nora Wilfong Darling,** a senior majoring in global health studies and anthropology from Peachtree City

**Sarah A. Estrada,** a junior majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish from Tyrone

**Nicole Alexa Gentile,** a senior majoring in biology and Spanish with a minor in chemistry from Marietta

**Andrew Irving Hearn,** a senior majoring in global health studies with minors in biology and chemistry from Columbus

**Abby Marie Henry,** a senior majoring in English with a minor in film studies from Peachtree City

**Abigail Hannah Hundley,** a senior majoring in international affairs and political science with minors in economics and French from Buford

**Anna Lauren Johnson,** a senior majoring in neuroscience and women's and gender studies from Westborough, Massachusetts

**Hyun Min Lee,** a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Asian studies from LaGrange

**Timothy Martin Lewis,** a senior majoring in law and public policy with a minor in Christianity from Macon

**Kaitlyn Mary McBride,** a senior majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish from Peachtree City

**Shannon Marie Merritt,** a senior majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry from Douglasville

**Emma Rutherford Peel,** a senior majoring in global health studies and Spanish with a minor in

anthropology from Portland, Oregon

Ashley Elizabeth Ray, a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Spanish from Marietta

Abigail Christine Reddig, a senior majoring in communication and media studies with minors in journalism, media studies and Spanish from Fayetteville

**Teal Baker St. Nicklaus,** a senior majoring in English and philosophy with a minor in creative writing from Portland, Oregon

**Taylor Amanda Steen,** a senior majoring in English with minors in education and Spanish from Peachtree City

Jamilah Tejan, a senior majoring in global health studies with a minor in Spanish from Jacksonville, Florida

**Natalie Kaye Thigpen,** a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Spanish from San Diego, California

**Bristal Paige Thompson,** a senior majoring in biochemistry

and molecular biology and Spanish from Doerun

**Katelyn E. Towe**, a senior majoring in political science with a minor in chemistry from Rome

**Aurora Rose Vadini,** a senior majoring in French with a minor in English from Macon

**Andrew Michael Winslett,** a senior majoring in political science and law and public policy from Newnan

Mercer installed its chapter and inducted its inaugural class of 26 seniors and juniors in the College of Liberal Arts last spring.

Founded by five students at the College of William and Mary on Dec. 5, 1776, The Phi Beta Kappa Society has chapters at 286 colleges and universities in the United States, 50 alumni associations and more than half a million members worldwide.

Members of Mercer's second class in the Zeta Chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society gather following their April 7 induction ceremony.



### Crabtree Named Dean of College of Pharmacy

ercer alumnus and longtime pharmacy educator Dr. Brian Crabtree assumed the deanship of the University's College of Pharmacy on Oct. 1. He becomes only the fourth dean to lead the College over the last 60 years.

Dr. Crabtree succeeds Mercer's longestserving dean, Dr. Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews, who retired June 30 after 27 years as dean of the College of Pharmacy and 44 years at Mercer.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Crabtree has agreed to return to his alma mater to lead one of Mercer's most nationally recognized academic programs," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "He has extensive experience in pharmacy education and clinical practice, as well as being a national leader on matters of pharmacy accreditation and best practices. I believe he will be an effective successor to Dr. Ted Matthews, who has provided extraordinary leadership for the College for more than a quarter-century."

A native of Ringgold, Dr. Crabtree earned his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy in 1979 and his Doctor of Pharmacy in 1980 from Mercer and completed a postgraduate residency in psychiatric pharmacy at the University of Tennessee.

For the last four and a half years, he has served as professor and chair of the

Department of Pharmacy Practice at Wayne State University's Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He also since February 2016 has served the College as interim associate dean for pharmacy. Prior to joining Wayne State, where he began his teaching career in 1981, Dr. Crabtree was on the faculty for 28 years at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Concurrent to his faculty position in the School of Pharmacy, Dr. Crabtree served as an affiliate faculty member in psychiatry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a Thelma H. Cerniglia Distinguished Teaching Scholar at the University of Mississippi and the recipient of multiple teaching awards. He holds the title of Professor Emeritus from the University of Mississippi.

"Returning to my alma mater and native state to lead the College of Pharmacy is a dream come true," said Dr. Crabtree. "Dean Matthews and the faculty and staff have created a legacy of excellence that has established Mercer's prominence in the academy of pharmacy. I am energized by the opportunity to continue and build on the success of the College and this wonderful University to enhance the health of our communities."

Dr. Crabtree's teaching and research interests are in the areas of patient care, psychiatry, addictive diseases, developmental disabilities, and teaching and learning. He



Dr. Crabtree

developed a particular interest in active learning strategies and coordinated implementation of the problem-based learning initiative at the University of Mississippi. Leadership, faculty mentoring and faculty development are his key passions. He is board certified in psychiatric pharmacy.

A past president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), Dr. Crabtree also serves as chair of the Argus Commission, composed of the five most recent past presidents. He previously served as chair of the AACP Council of Faculties.

"I would like to thank the pharmacy dean search committee, led by Dr. Nader Moniri, associate dean for research and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, for its excellent work in recruiting a well-qualified candidate pool," Dr. Davis said.

### Mercer Faculty Author New Books

BOOKS RECENTLY AUTHORED BY UNIVERSITY FACULTY:

**Dr. Jonathan Addleton**, adjunct instructor of international and global studies in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *The Dust of Kandahar: A Diplomat Among Warriors in Afghanistan*, Naval Institute Press.

**Dr. Sarah E. Gardner,** professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *Reviewing the South: The Literary Marketplace and the Making of the Southern Renaissance*, Cambridge University Press.

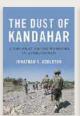
**Dr. David P. Gushee,** Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics, authored *Still Christian: Following* 

Jesus Out of American Evangelicalism, Westminster John Knox Press.

**Dr. Paul Lewis**, professor of religion in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *Wisdom Calls: The Moral Story of the Hebrew Bible*, Nurturing Faith Inc.

**Dr. Whitney Phillips,** assistant professor of liberal studies in Penfield College, co-authored, with Ryan Milner, *The Ambivalent Internet: Mischief, Oddity, and Antagonism Online*, Polity Press.

**Dr. Douglas Thompson,** associate professor of history and Southern studies in the College of Liberal Arts and director of the Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies, authored *Richmond's Priests and Prophets: Religious Richmond's Struggle with Civil Rights,* University of Alabama Press.

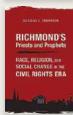












### FACULTY ROUNDUP

#### Kiefer, Vo Appointed Distinguished University Professors

President William D.
Underwood announced at
the spring Board of Trustees
meeting in Atlanta the
appointment of two new
Distinguished University
Professors, Dr. Adam Kiefer
in the College of Liberal
Arts and Dr. Ha Van Vo in
the School of Engineering.



They join current Distinguished University Professors Robert McDuffie in the Townsend School of Music; Dr. David P. Gushee

in McAfee School of Theology; and Dr. Wallace L. Daniel in the College of Liberal Arts.

The highest academic rank available to a Mercer faculty member is Distinguished University Professor. The appointment recognizes extraordinary scholarship or creative work by faculty who have achieved national and international distinction in their fields.

"Dr. Kiefer and Dr. Vo are accomplished scholars, outstanding teachers, beloved mentors to our students, and are both doing work that is making a profound difference in people's lives around the globe," President Underwood said. "They model every day Mercer's commitment to integrating research and service to improve the human condition."

Dr. Kiefer, who earned his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, joined Mercer's Chemistry Department in 2008.

He has played a lead role in Mercer
On Mission initiatives in Mozambique
and Ecuador that have developed and
implemented methods for reducing mercury
poisoning among artisanal gold miners. The
work has led to collaborations with the U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency, the Argonne
National Laboratory and with scientists at
other institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Vo, who is in his 12th year at Mercer,

holds engineering and medical degrees and has dedicated his career to improving the lives of amputees due to his personal experience with those in his home country of Vietnam who lost limbs to leftover ordnance from the Vietnam War.

Through the University's longest-running Mercer On Mission program, Dr. Vo and his students and faculty colleagues in the Biomedical Engineering Department developed a patented Universal Socket Prosthetic, an artificial leg that is affordable, easily fitted and extremely durable. Over the last eight years, more than 7,000 Vietnamese amputees have been fitted with the Mercer prostheses, allowing them to lead more productive and fulfilling lives while creating life-transforming opportunities for Mercer students who have participated in the program.

"Drs. Kiefer and Vo have both established internationally recognized programs that exemplify Mercer's emphasis on engaging in 'Research That Reaches Out,'" said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "They are most deserving of this recognition."

#### CCJ Director Regan-Porter Awarded Knight Fellowship at Stanford

Center for Collaborative Journalism (CCJ) Executive Director Tim Regan-Porter was awarded a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year at Stanford University.



Regan-Porter

Journalism fellowships at Stanford began in 1966 with the idea of giving reporters and editors free run of the university in order to produce superb journalism. A \$4 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in 1984 permanently endowed the fellowship.

"I am thrilled to join this distinguished group of journalists," said Regan-Porter. "This honor is a recognition of the accomplishments of CCJ's students, faculty and partners. I look forward to returning to CCJ with new ideas, knowledge and connections to help the Center continue making a difference in Macon and in the field of journalism."

Regan-Porter became the founding executive director of the CCJ on March 1, 2012. Previously, he was president and co-founder of *Paste Magazine*, the awardwinning entertainment title that became the third-largest music magazine in the country.

#### Knapp, Barbé, Moore Named Governor's Teaching Fellows

Three Mercer faculty members were selected last spring as Governor's Teaching Fellows, a highly selective program designed to develop important teaching skills through emerging technologies and instructional tools and sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia.



Dr. Kenyon Knapp, professor of counseling and coordinator of the Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision program in Penfield College, participated in the program's intensive twoweek summer symposium.

Dr. Tammy Barbé,



Dr. Moore

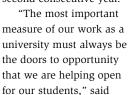
assistant professor and student and faculty development coordinator in the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, and Dr. Michael K. Moore, professor of biology in the College of Liberal Arts, are participating in the 2017-2018 academic year fellowship consisting of six three-day symposia.

The Governor's Teaching Fellows Program was established in 1995 by then-Gov. Zell Miller to provide Georgia's higher education faculty with expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Semmendinger, Cai Mercer's First Pair of Goldwater Scholars in a Single Year

For the first time in the University's history, Mercer had two recipients in a single year of the nation's most prestigious scholarship for undergraduates in science, mathematics and engineering. Senior Kyla Semmendinger and junior Runyu Cai both earned the highly competitive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, and senior Jessica Resnick was selected as an Honorable Mention for a second consecutive year.





Semmendinger

Resnick

Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Six Goldwater awardees and three Honorable Mentions in the last five years is an impressive indicator of the quality of our students and the research they are engaged in, and the significant investment that their faculty mentors have made in helping position them for this prestigious national honor."

Semmendinger and Cai were among 240 students — and two of only six in Georgia — awarded the scholarship based on academic merit from a field of 1,286 mathematics, science and engineering students nominated by the faculties of 470 colleges and universities nationwide.

Semmendinger, from Bremen, is majoring in environmental engineering with minors in Spanish, chemistry and engineering for development. She plans to obtain a Ph.D. in environmental engineering with a research focus in the relationship between hydrology and forestry, specifically in developing nations.

Cai, from Macon, is double-majoring in electrical engineering and physics and plans to obtain doctoral degrees in both fields of study. Originally from Weihai, Shandong, China, he aspires to teach at the university level and conduct research in nonlinear control and theoretical physics.

Resnick, from Woodstock, was one of 307 students recognized as an Honorable Mention. A biochemistry and molecular biology major, she was one of 256 students selected as an Honorable Mention last year. She plans to obtain a Ph.D. in an interdisciplinary program in genetics and molecular biology and to study genetic disease as a professor at a research university.

Goldwater Scholars have impressive academic qualifications that have garnered the attention of prestigious postgraduate fellowship programs. Recent recipients have been awarded 89 Rhodes Scholarships, 127 Marshall Awards, 145 Churchill Scholarships, 96 Hertz Fellowships and numerous other distinguished awards.

#### St. Nicklaus Awarded Davies-Jackson Scholarship

Recent graduate
Teal St. Nicklaus was
awarded a Davies-Jackson
Scholarship by the
Council of Independent
Colleges to participate
in a course of study at
St. John's College at the



St. Nickaus

Recipients of the Davies-Jackson Scholarship are admitted to Cambridge as affiliated students in St. John's College to work toward a Cambridge Bachelor of Arts degree. Scholarship recipients take the more advanced courses of study over two years instead of the usual three. As a result of

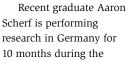
University of Cambridge in England.

its academic rigor, the international travel opportunities that are available and the overall preparation that the course of study provides towards a career, this degree is typically considered to be the equivalent of a master's degree in the U.S.

St. Nicklaus, who double-majored in English literature and philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts, is from Portland, Oregon. She is pursuing the affiliated Bachelor of Arts in English literature during her first year at St. John's College and will pursue a Master of Philosophy in medieval and Renaissance literature during her second year.

#### Record-tying Three Mercerians Receive Fulbright Awards

For the second time in four years, Mercer University had a total of three current students or recent alumni selected to receive Fulbright U.S. Student Awards in a single year. This record-tying number brings Mercer's overall tally of Fulbrighters to 13 since 2010.





wiiliams



Wildes

academic year, while recent graduate Alayna Williams and fellow alumnus David Wildes are serving as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) in South Africa and Spain, respectively.

These three Mercerians are among more than 1,200 U.S. citizens who are teaching, conducting research and providing expertise abroad for the 2016-2017 school year through the program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Students are selected based on academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and demonstrated

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

leadership in their respective fields.

Scherf, from Acworth, triple-majored in international business, finance and economics with minors in global development studies and management. In Germany, he is pursuing a research project investigating the effect of housing conditions on cultural integration and well-being of refugees in the city of Heidelberg.

Williams, from Macon, triple-majored in international affairs, Spanish and women's and gender studies. In South Africa, she is serving as an ETA and also hopes to implement a debate program — similar to one she helped start as part of a Mercer On Mission trip to the country last summer — as well as teach dance as a method of community building.

Wildes, from Valdosta, graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in international affairs, Spanish and political science with University Honors. In Spain, he is serving as an ETA in the region of Galicia.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to solve global challenges.

Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in many fields, including 57 who have been awarded the Nobel Prize, 82 who have received Pulitzer Prizes, and 37 who have served as a head of state or government.

# Scherf Earns Donald M. Payne, Humanity in Action Fellowships

May 2017 graduate Aaron Scherf recently received a Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship to fund his graduate study and place him in a position with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) upon graduation.

Scherf, from Acworth, completed a month-long Humanity in Action Fellowship in Amsterdam on June 25, and is conducting



research in Germany for 10 months during the current academic year as a Fulbright U.S. Student Award recipient. He hopes to pursue a master's degree in international development or international trade and investment policy.

As an undergraduate, Scherf triplemajored in international business, finance and economics with minors in global development studies and management.

The Payne Fellowship is designed for young people who want to work on the front lines of some of today's most pressing global challenges, such as poverty, hunger, injustice, disease, environmental degradation, climate change, conflict and violent extremism.

The Humanity in Action Fellowship aims to facilitate a collective exploration of the social and political roots of discrimination, as well as to provide a forum where potential solutions to some of today's most challenging issues can be considered and discussed. The fellowship is also intended to instill a responsibility among fellows to recognize and address the need to protect minorities and promote human rights — in their own communities and around the world.

#### Bryant Joins Teach For America Corps

Recent alumnus Andrew Bryant was accepted into Teach For America and will spend the next two years teaching high school science in Eastern North Carolina.

Bryant, from Warner



Bryant

Robins, was a psychology major with a minor in philosophy. At Mercer, he was an active participant in the mock trial team, Student Government Association and Mercer Players. He also worked as a tutor in the University's Educational Opportunity Center and as a telecounselor in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Teach For America has served for 26 years in Eastern North Carolina, and currently has around 270 corps members reaching more than 15,000 students in high-need schools across the region's rural communities, with an additional 25 alumni serving in school and district leadership roles in the area.

Following his two-year commitment, Bryant is considering attending law school or graduate school in order to continue to impact the field of education.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

# Cizek Accepted Into Teaching Assistantship Program in France

Recent graduate Anna Cizek was accepted into the Teaching Assistantship Program in France and is currently teaching secondary English at the Académie de Nancy-Metz for the 2017-2018 academic year.



Cizek

A joint initiative of the French Ministry of Education, the Centre internationa d'études pédagogiques and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the program's goal is to strengthen English language instruction in French schools by establishing a native speaker presence while also providing American Francophiles with excellent teaching experience and first-hand knowledge of French language and culture.

Cizek, from Naperville, Illinois, triplemajored in international affairs, French and global health studies. Following her teaching assistantship, she intends to pursue graduate school for international affairs or language interpretation and translation.

### Buckley Participates in John Lewis Fellowship

Senior Jaz Buckley was one of 30 American and European university students awarded the John Lewis Fellowship to participate in a fourweek program about diversity and civil rights



Buckley

at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

The John Lewis Fellowship, honoring the U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights Movement icon, is the American program of the Humanity in Action Fellowship. European programs take place annually in Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris, Sarajevo and Warsaw.

In its first two years, the program explored the history of the Civil Rights Movement, diversity and minority rights in Atlanta. In its third year, the fellowship expanded to focus on restorative justice in Atlanta.

Buckley, from Columbus, is a political science and women's and gender studies double-major with a minor in French.

Upon graduation, she plans to attend law school with a focus on critical race theory as it pertains to the U.S. legal system. She aspires to become a civil rights attorney for a nongovernmental organization such as the American Civil Liberties Union that specializes in the protection of individual rights and civil liberties.

#### Resnick Selected as Mercer's Third Amgen Scholar in Three Years

Senior Jessica Resnick, a two-time Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention selection, was chosen as an Amgen Scholar and spent 10 weeks this summer conducting research at



Resnick

Washington University in St. Louis. She is the University's third Amgen Scholar in as many years.

Resnick, a biochemistry and molecular biology major from Woodstock, worked in the lab of a faculty member in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences under the direct mentorship of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

In addition to research, she participated in lab meetings, scientific and professional development seminars and workshops, and social activities. She also wrote a paper and presented a scientific poster at the National Amgen Scholars Program Symposium at UCLA in July.

Resnick plans to participate in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in

genetics and molecular biology and to study genetic disease as a professor at a research university.

### Thompson Selected as Truman Finalist

Senior Emily Thompson was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Truman Scholarship, the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders in the United



Thompson

States. She is only the second finalist in the University's history.

This year, 62 scholarships were awarded among 768 candidates nominated by 315 colleges and universities. Thompson was one of 199 finalists interviewed by the Foundation's regional review panels.

Thompson, from Leesburg, is a double-major in accounting and management with minors in psychology and economics. A Stamps Scholar, Presidential Scholar and Tift Scholar, she plans to pursue graduate study focused on a future career in politics and policy reform.

# Rice Completes German Research Internship Program

Senior Zechariah Rice, a 2016 Goldwater Scholar, was selected to participate in this summer's German Academic Exchange Service's Research Internships in Science and Engineering program.



Rice

Rice, from Newberry, Florida, is an electrical engineering and computer engineering double-major with minors in religion, physics and mathematics. He spent the summer working at Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt on two projects related to photovoltaic cells. The primary

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

project involved construction of a test-rig for solar thermal systems, while the secondary project comprised translation of a C++ computer model for solar thermal systems into a MATLAB model.

He aspires to obtain a Ph.D. in electrical engineering with a focus in non-linear controls and to conduct research and teach at the university level.

#### Bligen Tabbed for Newman Fellowship, CBCF Internship

Senior Kyle Bligen was selected as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization working to advance service-learning, civic engagement and the public purposes of higher education.



Bligen

The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, as well as access to exclusive scholarship and postgraduate opportunities.

Bligen, a politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) major from Peachtree City, is one of 273 students from across the nation to be selected for this year's cohort.

Bligen also was selected to participate in a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Summer Congressional Internship. His duties included drafting responses to constituent mail, conducting research, writing talking points, organizing events, attending hearings and briefings and providing assistance on the floor of the House of Representatives from May 28-Aug. 4.

Upon graduation, Bligen aspires to

continue his education in the joint degree program in public administration and business offered by Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Business School.

#### Braxton Chosen for Journalism Internship in New York City

Senior Avery Braxton earned a Knight CUNYJ Summer Internship to New York City in June and July to participate in an all-expense paid journalism training and internship program.



Braxton

The program was established in 2015 by the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Journalism, with generous support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, to address under-representation in U.S. newsrooms by helping build a stronger pipeline of academically excellent, digitally trained minority journalists.

Participants received classroom training from CUNY faculty and participated in a seven-week internship at a news outlet in the city. Braxton, a journalism major and media studies minor from Peachtree City, interned at Spectrum's NY1 television station covering the city's five boroughs.

Following graduation, he plans to remain in Macon as a television reporter, with a long-term goal of becoming an anchor in a major market or a correspondent for a national news network.

#### Winfield Earns Critical Language Scholarship to Tanzania

Junior Anastasia Winfield was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study Kiswahili in Tanzania this past summer. The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. With



Winfield

the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, the CLS provides opportunities for students from across the U.S. at every level of language learning.

Winfield, from McDonough, is a global health studies major on the pre-health track with a minor in art. She aspires to become a doctor or physician assistant and work with an organization such as Doctors Without Borders to serve areas with healthcare shortages.

### Porter Named Mount Vernon Fellow

Junior Cole Porter was one of 16 students nationwide selected to participate in this year's Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows program, a fiveand-a-half-week summer leadership program



Porter

for rising juniors who desire to make a difference.

The fully paid and funded program takes place at the famous George Washington estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. The small, select cohort engaged in leadership education curriculum, interacted with nationally recognized corporate, government and military leaders in our nation's capitol, and discovered how to change the world through self-reflection, experiential activities and a community service-focused capstone project.

Porter, from Dublin, is a political science major who, upon his graduation from Mercer, aspires to attend law school.

# Eclipse Balloon Launch Brings Engineering School Closer to Center for High-Altitude Payload Delivery

ssociate Professor of
Electrical and Computer
Engineering Dr. Anthony
Choi and 23 Mercer students
partnered with NASA to
launch a high-altitude
balloon from Sunset, South Carolina, on Aug. 21
to capture footage from near space of the first
total solar eclipse in the U.S. in 38 years.

The video, which was live-streamed on NASA's website, is the latest in a series of collaborations between Mercer's School of Engineering and NASA, building toward plans for a Macon campus-based academic center focusing on high-altitude payload delivery.

"We're trying to develop a very low-cost medium for people to gain access to near space for experimentation and data collection," said Dr. Choi, who also oversees Mercer's Machine Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory.

NASA currently offers the opportunity for universities, high schools and nonprofit organizations to design and provide experiments in 10-cubic-centimenter CubeSats for launch

into outer space. The process is highly selective and expensive, as it costs around \$10,000 per pound to be delivered into earth's orbit.

NASA set a goal to reduce the cost into the hundreds of dollars per pound over the next 25 years. Dr. Choi's proposed, first-of-its-kind center could provide access to near space — between 65,000 and 328,000 feet above sea level — well within that goal at around \$500 per payload.

NASA began providing grants to Dr. Choi in 2010 with a two-pronged goal of outreach — especially to K-12 students — as well as the

Mercer engineering students launch a high-altitude balloon from Anderson Field in February 2016. capability to conduct research and build systems toward NASA's goals.

This work originated with a project by Engineering Honors Program students James McNichols and Spencer Penley, who as freshmen began investigating mechanisms for delivering experiments into space. Under the advisement of Dr. Choi and with funding from NASA, these two students carried this project into their senior year and won several awards, including one from the American Society for Engineering Education.

Dr. Choi envisioned taking this student work to "the next level" by developing a Center for High-Altitude Payload Delivery, which attracted the attention of the Georgia Space Grant Consortium. Through contact with the consortium, Mercer was selected to represent the state through NASA's efforts to promote and document this year's total solar eclipse.

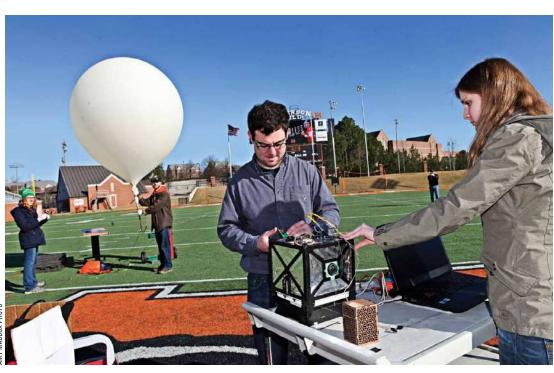
Dr. Choi, McNichols and Penley traveled to Montana State University last July for a weeklong intensive workshop on high-altitude ballooning. They've spent the past year leading nearly twodozen engineering undergraduates through a similarly intensive program focusing on various components of the balloon launch system.

McNichols and Penley, who graduated in May, have passed on leadership responsibilities to current students such as Kyle Struck, Andrew Robinson, Jacob Sokolove and Timothy Hood.

Dr. Choi and his students have also been involved in other NASA-funded outreach projects, including robotics training for Middle Georgia schools and a partnership with the Putnam County Charter School System to train high school students to become FAA-certified drone pilots.

With information gained from these activities toward the development of a system to support primary and secondary schools and other universities through the planned center, Dr. Choi intends to spend the next academic year on a "finding mission" focused on how exactly the system will work and what additional resources are needed.

"We're in this to create opportunities for K-12 and other researchers," he said. "We can become a hub for this type of research activity."





## MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

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### **MUP Offers an Exciting New Season of Books**

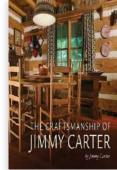
ublishing 18 titles by new and returning authors for the fall/winter 2017 season, Mercer University Press offers books in a variety of genres including history, memoir, biography, Southern foodways, poetry, fiction, philosophy and religion.

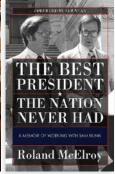
Highlighted books from this season include: The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter by Jimmy Carter, rich with four-color photographs showcasing his favorite hand-crafted furniture made in his Plains, Georgia, workshop; The Best President the Nation Never Had: A Memoir of Working with Sam Nunn by Roland McElroy, a first-hand account of the 1972 Georgia Senate race and life in Washington, D.C.; Play It Again, Sam: The Notable Life of Sam Massell, Atlanta's First Minority Mayor by Charles McNair, celebrates the life and career of a true Renaissance man; Clarence Jordan: A Radical Pilgrimage in Scorn of the Consequences by Frederick L. Downing, a religious biography of the New Testament Greek scholar and founder of Koinonia Farm; The Strange Journey of the Confederate Constitution: And Other Stories from Georgia's Historical Past by William Rawlings, includes

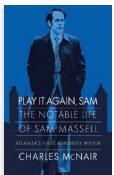
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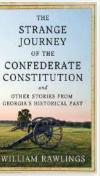
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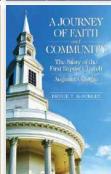




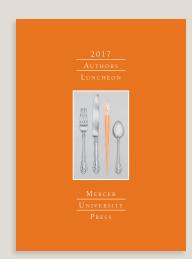








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# Authors Luncheon MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

### Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta

Authors speaking/signing include Jimmy Carter, Steve Oney and Anton Piatigorsky. Authors signing include Johnathon Scott Barrett, Christopher Blake, Vincent J. Dooley and Samuel N. Thomas Jr., Deron Hicks, Roland McElroy, William Rawlings, Fred W. Sauceman, Anna Schachner, Christopher Swann, and Virginia Willis. For additional information, email wallace\_am@mercer.edu.

# Mercer's Flourishing Arts Scene BY STACEY NORWOOD

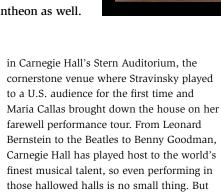
"To create, to discover, to inspire" is both the mission and the means propelling the arts at Mercer.



ohn Rutter's Requiem begins softly, on a haunting, almost hesitant note. Just a few beats in, however, the music begins to quicken, and the tapping of the lone timpani is joined by the melancholy yaw of the strings. Within the space of a heartbeat, the swell of the singers' voices ascends on the music, a celestial choir of many imploring the divine for intercession, and seeking the comfort of perpetua luceat perpetual light.

Rutter's remarkable work — notable for its rich themes explored through traditional Latin liturgy, English psalms, and selections from the Book of Common Prayer — is one of the composer's most beloved pieces. Since it was first published in 1985, the ambitiously conceived choral and orchestral mass has been performed countless times by some of the world's most renowned musicians and singers.

On Feb. 19, 2017, Rutter's *Requiem* became part of the Mercer pantheon as well.



erforming on one of the most revered stages in the world, the Mercer Singers and the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Ensemble were joined by Mercer Singers alumni, musicians from the Chancel Choir of the First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon, the Choral Society of Middle Georgia, and the Church in Atlanta. Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, director of choral studies and the Arthur Lowndes Rich Professor of Choral Conducting at Mercer, conducted the piece. It was one of three musical components of the gala concert presented by the University and Townsend School of Music.

The musicians and vocalists introduced the gala concert on the Perelman Stage



when the Mercer-led musical collective made its debut, they played to a full house, and when the final refrain of *Requiem* was sung, the performers received a standing ovation.

"They were on their feet cheering," says
Dr. David Keith, dean of Mercer's Townsend
School of Music. "Those of us who have
spent our careers doing music don't rely on
the cheering of an audience to determine

the worth of a program ... but that was incredibly gratifying."

### The Magic of Art

Eric O'Dell has a favorite saying he likes to repeat to his students: "Art no easy; art no cheap; art hard work."

A Mercer alumnus, O'Dell earned his

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in 1992. After receiving his Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) from Florida State University, Eric returned to Macon in 1994, and served as an adjunct professor at Mercer before joining the Arts Department faculty in 2013 as an assistant professor.

Passing on "the magic of art" that he first discovered at Mercer as an undergraduate, is



part of Eric's continuing mission — both as a teacher and a working artist.

The discipline of creative expression in any form requires hard work and a deepening commitment to edification for its own sake, Eric maintains. But at its best, he says, art is a breathtaking, illuminating force of nature capable of uplifting — even transforming — humankind. "Art is a deep and abiding connection to the community. It's really easy to treat art cheaply if you keep it about the individual."

Over the years at Mercer, O'Dell has taught classes in drawing, art history, art appreciation, art criticism and 3D design. As a drawing professor, he has led multiple summer sessions in Rome, Florence, Paris and Athens as part of Mercer's Study Abroad program. In addition, he is also an ongoing

instructor for Great Books, an eight-course program that serves as a general education track in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA).

From Descartes to Shakespeare and Goethe, to classic works by authors as diverse as Flannery O'Conner and Karl Marx, Great Books provides students with a grounding foundation in religious thought, philosophical thinking, political debate, and the discoveries of science — all keystones of manifesting the creative spirit and the study of art.

"Remember when God said to Moses, tell them that 'I Am' sent you? Art is about that 'am-ness' — who and what you are in this world," O'Dell says.

"Whether it's music or art, a good color or a good composition can move thousands of people. Art is a distinctly human thing."

And so uniquely elevating to the "inward

places of the soul," as Plato called it, that a person can spend an entire lifetime attempting to decipher and describe the nearly inexplicable alchemy that occurs through its creative expression.

"Music unlocks the mystery of life for many in a way that words cannot. It has transformative powers that move us from our daily existence — which can be full of detours and potholes — to a sense of hope and wellbeing," Dr. Keith says, adding, "Our goal is for our students to grasp essential music skills, and also to instill a desire to use those gifts to make the world better through those gifts."

#### **I** Forging New Paths

In April 2015, the Mercer Board of Trustees undertook the usual business of passing an

operating budget for the coming academic year, discussing the important points of holding down tuition where possible, and increasing the resources and infrastructure needed to support the University's everincreasing undergraduate enrollment.

In another notable item of business, the board also authorized a new Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree in the College of Liberal Arts to augment the existing B.A. degree. It was an important step in preparing Mercer to invest in what economist and author Dr. Gerald Gordon calls "the currency of the 21st century." Gordon, who also serves as the president/ CEO of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Economic Development Authority, defines that currency as "creativity."

It's a sentiment echoed by other modern-day leaders of industry.

"We need people who think with the creative side of their brains — people who have played in a band, who have painted," said Annette Byrd, an executive for GlaxoSmithKline. "It enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm, learning how to kick-start a new idea, or how to get a job done better, less expensively."

From a dollars-and-cents perspective, the arts directly generated \$166.3 billion in economic activity in the U.S. in 2015. According to figures provided by Americans for the Arts, related nonprofits and arts and culture-based industries generated \$63.8 billion in spending, plus an additional \$102.5 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. That translated into:

- 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs
- \$27.5 billion in federal, state and local government revenue
- \$96.1 billion in household income. Years in the making, the B.F.A. directly positions art students at Mercer to competitively enter the workforce. Developing this enhanced educational track also recognizes the confluence of a rapidly evolving global economy, the impact of emerging technologies and the powerful sway that dynamic design and artful



Steve Ivey is a 1984 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. A music producer and writer with 17 Billboard No. 1 hits to his credit, Ivey has won multiple Emmy, Grammy and Dove awards. His music has been in the Billboard Top 10 sales charts for 1,000 weeks with more than 10 million units sold. He began his company, Ivey Music International, as a junior at Mercer and went on to work with numerous other companies, such as Sony, Warner Brothers, Provident, EMI, Curb, NBC, ABC, CBS, Dollar General, Walmart, The Weather Channel, among others. He has produced music for artists such as Dolly Parton, Aaron Neville, Willie Nelson, Vince Gill, Blackhawk, Billy Dean, The Oak Ridge Boys, Thomas Kincade, Mark Wills, Jonathan Wyndham, Betty Cantrell and numerous others.



Caleb Brown is a 2016 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. As an undergraduate, he excelled on many fronts including as a running back on Mercer's first football team since 1941 and as a student in the pre-physical therapy program. However, in the final semester of his senior year, Brown shifted his focus to pursue his lifelong talent — art — on a full-time basis. Inspired by art instructor Eric O'Dell, Brown founded his own business, FiNaO Enterprises LLC, and his artwork has attracted many prominent collectors, including Super Bowl MVPs, platinum-selling recording artists and Grammy Award winners. FiNaO stands for "failure is not an option" — the mantra on which Brown centers his efforts. Using many of the lessons he learned at Mercer, he strives to set an example that inspires others to pursue excellence and work constantly towards a life they love.

Amy Wilson is a 2010 graduate (Master of Music) of the Townsend School of Music. Currently, she is music director of the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, artistic director and founder of the Southeast Stonewall Music Festival and principal guest conductor of the Atlanta Musicians Orchestra. Wilson has been invited to spend a summer in Aspen as a guest of Robert Spano, where she studied with him privately. She also attended the Bakersfield Conducting Workshop and the Seasons Fall Festival, where she conducted the Bakersfield Symphony and Yakima Chamber Orchestra. She also holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of North Texas.





Amy Pirkle is a 2002 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. A book artist, printer and instructor at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Pirkle has taught courses in the Honors College, Blount Undergraduate Initiative, Department of Art and Art History, and New College. Her work has been featured in 500 Handmade Books: Inspiring Interpretations of a Timeless Form and 500 Handmade Books: Volume 2, both by Lark Books in New York, as well as in numerous exhibitions and permanent collections. She earned the Raymond F. McLain Book Arts Award and a Wingate Fellowship from the University of Alabama and served a Winter Letterpress Residency at the Penland School of Crafts in 2010 and a creative residency at Hambridge Center for Creative Arts and Science in 2013. She is a member of the Guild of Book Workers and the College Book Art Association and has served as a freelance printer and printing assistant at Pace Editions in New York City. She earned her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Alabama.



innovation holds over even the most mundane aspects of life — and at diverse touchpoints. The influence of those skillsets can range from how developers render websites for businesses to connect with customers, to how architects direct function and flow in living and work spaces, to the influx of "virtual reality" rapidly populating every conceivable, consumable media platform.

Along with more traditional B.A. degrees in Studio Art, Graphic Design and Art History, the interdisciplinary B.F.A. program offers Mercer students access to new career and life paths with opportunities to develop polished portfolios and seek internships in private and public sectors.

The new B.F.A. offering is also a powerful recruitment tool, says Art Department Chair Gary Blackburn. He adds the intensely focused coursework and thought leadership in and outside the classroom that are part and parcel of the interdisciplinary visual arts program also compels students to explore new creative directions and finetune highly competitive proficiencies in

drawing, printmaking, photography, digital media, public art installations, performance, videography and ceramics.

Even as the B.F.A. program takes flight, leadership in CLA is already eying potential academic expansion. Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson, dean of the College, says they are "exploring the option" of adding an M.F.A. program and weighing the resources and investments that would be required versus the growth and benefits it would bring.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) defines a 21st Century liberal arts education as "an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest."

Moreover, the AACU contends, "a liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and

problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings."

Noting her zeal for "the humanities" and predisposition towards the liberal arts, Dr. Gustafson maintains students who are exposed to the idylls of such an education — particularly in the kind of small-classroom settings for which Mercer is renowned — does indeed offer daily opportunities to learn to think analytically as well as creatively, as well as shape and hone students' foundational communication skills. For Mercerians actively pursuing careers in the visual or performing arts — or simply being exposed to both through elective classes and an abundance of opportunities to plug in through CLA — "there's no limit to what we can do."

#### Hitting the Right Note

That same fervor and spirit is alive and well at Townsend School of Music, which continues to rise on the tide of national recognition and gain prestige for its award-winning student body, as well as its artist faculty of 15 adjuncts instructors, 15 full-time professors, and 10 Distinguished Artists currently in residence at the McDuffie Center for Strings.

Additionally, the School offers aspiring musicians the allure of not only state-of-the-art performance facilities and studio space, but also a globe-trotting tour of festival performances, concert series and special performances for the School's three collegiate choirs, the University Wind Ensemble, University Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Percussion Ensemble and Flute Choir.

At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, courses of study at the School range from performance-based to music education, and a unique, ecclesiastical emphasis is available at the graduate level through the Townsend-McAfee Institute's Church Music program. Degree options for undergraduates include a Bachelor of Music in Performance (B.M.), Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.), or Bachelor of Arts in Music (B.A.). Graduate studies include a Master of Music in Performance, Master of Music in Collaborative Piano (vocal and instrumental), and a Master of Music in Conducting.

To help nurture student musicians pursuing their degrees, Townsend School of Music touts such feathers in the cap as its designation as an All-Steinway School, ensemble rehearsal rooms with recording capability, numerous practice rooms, labs, working classroom space, and the Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building. The 200-seat recital hall features outstanding acoustics, Dr. Keith says, and is equipped with a pipe organ and professional-level audio and recording equipment.

At an even more intensive level, the McDuffie Center for Strings offers conservatory-level master classes, private instruction and coaching sessions. Housed off-campus in a renovated historic structure on College Street, the McDuffie Center operates as a special institute within Townsend School of Music and caps enrollment at 26 students: 12 violinists, six violists, six cellists and two double bassists.

Remaining faithful to artistic pursuits that are "fundamental to our humanity," mentoring young instrumentalists and vocalists "to achieve at their highest levels," and positioning students to pursue successful careers in music, is the demand of every instructor and staff member under his leadership, Dr. Keith says. It requires a fine balance between designing a curriculum that offers a core comprehensive study of musical skills and nurturing the development of a "world view" through rigorous educational requirements, he adds.

"We want you to become the best musician you can be, but we also want you to become the best person you can become," Dr. Keith says.

#### **I**Setting the Stage

"The play's the thing, wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king," Shakespeare famously wrote in Hamlet, revealing not only the namesake character's inner dialogue, but also the powerful exchange that can occur between a performer and his or her audience.

It's the kind of "reciprocal relationship," that appeals to Mercer Director of Theatre Scot Mann. No stranger to Shakespeare, Mann has been cast in and directed numerous productions written by the bard, appearing in productions mounted by the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New American Theater, New American Shakespeare Theatre, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Like Eric O'Dell, Mann is a Mercer alum who sought a graduate degree elsewhere, then returned to his alma mater to pass on the gifts of mentorship and artistic collaboration that had been shared so generously with him when he came to campus as a student, he says — one of them being a unique specialty in combat choreography.

A certified sword master, in-demand stunt professional, and president of the Society of American Fight Directors, Mann teaches Mercer students the finer points of stage combat and movement, as well as acting, directing and improvisation. Mounting a handful of productions every year — as diverse as James and the Giant Peach, She Kills Monsters and Merchant of Venice — the Mercer Theatre Department offers students the chance to put their behind-the-scenes skills and front-of-house talents to good use.



Every performer, of course, requires a stage, and Mercer has invested in venues that serve not only the needs and interests of students, but also benefit the Middle Georgia community.

The Tattnall Square Center for the Arts, located on the perimeter of campus in the heart of the College Hill Corridor, is housed in the renovated rescue of a century-old church. Opened in 2014, the multi-purpose arts space holds classrooms, studios, and expansive, temperature-controlled storage space for costumes and props used in Theatre Department productions. The painstakingly restored venue also opens its doors to community organizations for lectures, arts events and seminars.

On an even more ambitious scale, the historic Grand Opera House, located in downtown Macon, has been operated by Mercer since 1995. In its original heyday, such greats as Sarah Bernhardt, Pavlova, Will Rogers, Charlie Chaplin and Houdini wowed Macon audiences at The Grand. Today, the venue continues to attract touring Broadway shows, as well as offer Mercer students performance and stagecraft opportunities through the Mercer-staged operas and musical theatre productions. Since 1986, The Grand has served as the home stage for The Nutcracker of Middle Georgia, one of the most well attended and cherished annual artsrelated events in the area.





Jonathan Johnson is a 2011 graduate (Bachelor of Music) of the Townsend School of Music. A tenor, Johnson has recently appeared in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's productions of "Les Troyens," "Lucia di Lammermoor" and "Don Quichotte." He made his debuts at the San Diego Opera as Fenton in "Falstaff," the Kansas City Lyric Opera as Frederic in "The Pirates of Penzance" and the Piedmont Opera as Lindoro in "L'Italiana in Algeri." Currently a member of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, he has appeared in the company's mainstage productions of "Le nozze di Figaro," "The Merry Widow," "Der Rosenkavalier," "Capriccio," "The Magic Victrola" and "The Passenger." He earned a master's degree and artist diploma from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

**Braeden Off** is a 2014 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. Currently signed with East Coast Talent, his most recent work as a film and television actor includes the roles of Deputy Silas Greene in Investigation Discovery's "Your Worst Nightmare," Chester Killmore in "The Family That Preys" and Robert in "Prowlers." His most recent stage work includes portraying Porterjohn in "99 Uses for a Naked Man" and Claudius in "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." His most recent production work includes writing and directing the short films "Crypts and Cretins," "SHOTS" and "Safe Words," as well as the web series "Dire Straights." He is currently pursuing his Master of Arts in film and television from Savannah College of Art and Design.



#### **Lasting Connections**

Two other large-footprint developments in the works continue to deepen Mercer's ties to Macon and increase the likelihood that President William D. Underwood will see, in the relatively near future, his personal vision for the downtown area come to fruition.

"What I think downtown needs is to be filled with creative young people with tattoos and nose rings," the president says.

Mercer is planning a major revitalization of the historic Capricorn Studio, a venture that was co-founded by the late Mercer alum Phil Walden. Walden's brainchild took off, and the label is credited with the rock-and-roll rise to fame of the Allman Brothers Band, Wet Willie, Elvin Bishop and the Marshall Tucker Band, among others.

The label disbanded more than a decade

after it was first launched in 1969, and the crumbling Capricorn building remained vacant. For years, the former epicenter of Southern Rock continued to fall into disrepair until it was rescued by NewTown Macon in 2010. The nonprofit group purchased the building with a grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation and is helping to lead the charge to renovate the historic structure and transform the facility as an anchor for the largest market-rate residential development ever conceived in downtown Macon.

Mercer has committed to raising an additional \$2 million to complete the restoration, which will be re-envisioned as Mercer Music at Capricorn, offering music students recording and rehearsal space. It will serve as an incubator for music talent in the community, host offices and meeting spaces for arts organizations, and include a

two-story interpretive area that tells the story of Capricorn and Macon's rich and influential music history.

Just a few blocks away, on Second Street, plans are underway to wholly remodel and re-envision a historic building as a visual arts gallery and multi-functional space that will include working studios for art students. It's a passion project for O'Dell, who has occupied his own painting studio space just around the corner since 1994. It's a renaissance he's hoped for and waited on for more than 20 years.

President Underwood takes a pragmatic view.

It is "enlightened self-interest" for Mercer to invest in the kinds of projects and arts programming that forge lasting connections with the community it calls home. "The better Macon is, the better Mercer is."



Patrick Mathis is a 2013 graduate (Bachelor of Science) of the College of Liberal Arts. A freelance lighting, projections and media designer, he has worked in regional theaters from Kentucky to Cape May, New Jersey, and recently accepted a position as a graduate teaching assistant at Utah State University. His most recent works include lighting design for the Utah State Theatre's production of "Next to Normal," Shawn Fisher's latest premiere "Fear Not Beasts of Sand" with the Fusion Theatre Project, as well as projection design for "Dogfight" with the Utah State Theatre Company. He is a standing member of the Society of American Fight Directors, the United States Institute of Theatre Technologies, and Actors Equity.

Keitaro Harada is both a 2007 (Bachelor of Music) and 2008 (Master of Music) graduate of the Townsend School of Music. He is currently in his third season as associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops. Recently, Harada made his debut with the West Virginia Symphony, South Bend Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, and assisted at Los Angeles Philharmonic. Overseas, he conducted Bamberg Symphony, Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester, Tokyo Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic, Kanagawa Philharmonic and New Japan Philharmonic. This spring, he was on the staff of the Asia Tour with Cincinnati Symphony and the Pops Orchestra. This summer, he made his debut with the Charlotte Symphony, Music In The Mountains Festival, Cincinnati Opera, and participated in the Europe Tour with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In the fall, he will conduct the Louisiana Philharmonic and make his European opera debut with the Sofia National Opera in Bulgaria.



PH010

### **COLLEGE BOUND:**

AN INSIDE LOOK AT ADMISSIONS

**PART OF MERCER UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2017** 

Planning your trip for Mercer's Homecoming? Don't miss the opportunity to get an inside look at the college admissions process.

Join the Office of University Admissions for a seminar designed for alumni, faculty, staff, and their college-bound students in grades 9-12.

#### **College Bound:**

**An Inside Look at Admissions** 

Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 11:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. Emily Parker Myers Admissions and Welcome Center Lunch will be provided.

The Admissions staff will provide information on

- Evaluating colleges and universities during your search
- Preparing a competitive application
- Mastering college entrance exams
- · Understanding financial aid
- And more

Your family will have the opportunity to

- Meet one-on-one with an admissions counselor
- Ask your pressing questions about college readiness
- Learn more about Mercer's admissions process
- Take an optional student-led campus tour

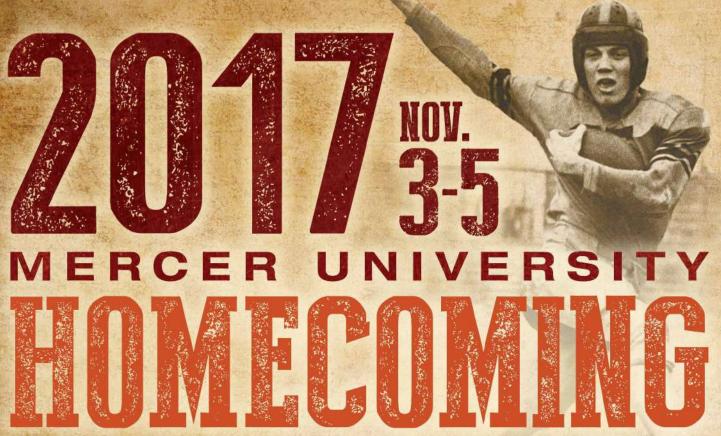
Registration is required for this free seminar at

homecoming.mercer.edu

Confirmation and details will be sent via email closer to the event date.

For more information contact **Chelsea Flieger**, CLA '12, Assistant Director of Admissions and Campus Visitation (478) 301.2076 or *flieger\_cm@mercer.edu*.







### View schedule and details at

homecoming.mercer.edu.

Come and explore all of the exciting campus additions and improvements. (If you haven't been back in years, you will be amazed!) Or reminisce with friends at a tailgate party, and then cheer on the Bears when they face Samford University on the football field.









Other featured events for the weekend will include the traditional Half Century Club luncheon, 50th Class Reunion, alumni awards dinner, pep rally, and so much more. Homecoming 2017 is for all Mercerians!

To view photos from Homecoming 2016, visit homecoming.mercer.edu.





# Mercer Mourns the Loss of Winningest Coach in University History

## FORMER BASEBALL COACH

BARRY MYERS

arry Myers, head baseball coach
at Mercer University from 1978 to
2003, died Aug. 10 at the age of 78.

Myers was the winningest coach
in Mercer history with 663 victories
during his 26-year career. His teams won
three Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) tournaments,
and he earned Coach of the Year honors four times —

in 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1994.

Myers also coached at Florida State University, Miami-

Dade Community College and Jacksonville University.

His success on the field was more than matched by the performance of his players in the classroom. One season, 24 of his 30 student-athletes were named to the conference's All-Academic team. During his career, more than 95 percent of his players earned their college degrees.

Myers' accolades at Mercer include three divisional titles, in addition to the three conference championships. At one time, the Bears recorded nine consecutive 30-win seasons under his guidance.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Myers taught physical education courses. In his early years at Mercer, he served as the baseball team's first assistant, second assistant, trainer and groundskeeper. He was also the University's soccer coach from 1974 to 1976.

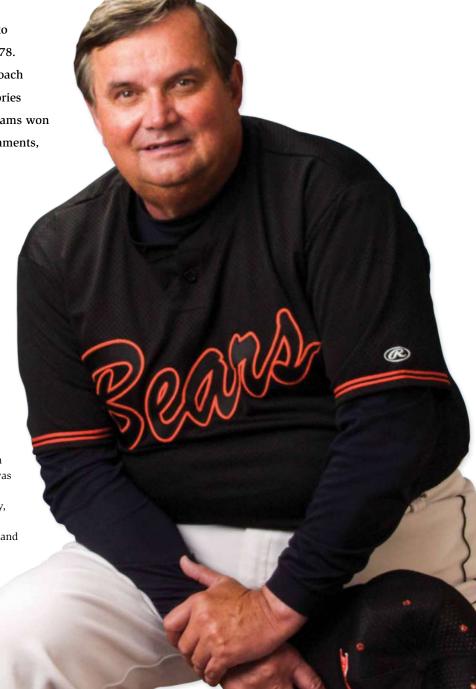
Myers was inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002, and the University's Barry Myers Endowed Scholarship was created in his honor.

A native West Virginian, Myers attended Marshall University, where he played baseball for the Thundering Herd.

Myers was preceded in death by his mother, Rosalie Myers, and his father, Ingrim Myers.

He is survived by his son, Robb Myers, and brother, Mike Myers, both of Macon.

The family requests that gifts be made in his memory to the Barry Myers Scholarship Fund at Mercer.





# Mercer Tops SoCon in Academic All-Conference Selections for 2016-17

ercer University
posted a Southern
Conferenceleading 113
honorees over the
course of the year
as the league announced its Spring Academic
All-Conference Selections. The total selections

for the year by the Bears led the league and was nearly 20 more than any other Southern Conference School.

Mercer was the only school in the league to post over 100 academic all-conference

selections. Only ETSU (95) and Samford (91) posted over 90 selections.

The spring academic all-conference team included all sports whose seasons concluded after the start of the year. Mercer posted 61 selections in the spring, second in the league, after posting a conference-leading 52 honorees in the fall.

In addition to leading the league with the overall total number of selections for the academic calendar year, 14 of Mercer's teams either led or were second in the total number of selections for each respective sport. Baseball (12), football (18), men's golf (4), men's lacrosse (12), men's tennis (4), women's soccer (13) and volleyball (8) all either led or tied for the league lead in number of selections.

Men's soccer (6), softball (8), women's basketball (4), women's cross country (5), women's golf (4), women's outdoor track and field (10) and women's tennis (4) all were second in the league in number of selections throughout the year.

To be eligible for the academic all-conference team, student-athletes must carry at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average at the conclusion of the spring semester and were required to compete in at least one-half of their teams' competitions. In addition, the student-athletes must have successfully completed at least three semesters at their institutions, making true freshmen and first-year transfers ineligible for inclusion.

The Spring Academic All-Southern
Conference selections came after Mercer claimed
the Barrett-Bonner Award for the second
consecutive year. The Barrett-Bonner Award is
given to the Southern Conference school that
places the highest percentage of its studentathletes on the league's academic honor roll.

As Mercer student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, the Presidential Scholastic Award for the 2017 spring semester was awarded to the men's golf team. The team's composite gradepoint-average for spring was 3.857.



### Mercer Leads SoCon with 314 Honor Roll Selections

Mercer tallied 86 more honor roll selections than the next closest school

ercer University had a Southern Conference-leading 314 student-athletes named to the league's 2016-17 academic honor roll, marking yet another academic accomplishment for the school's 18 intercollegiate athletics programs this past year.

The Bears have led the SoCon in honor roll recipients for three straight years dating

back to the 2014-15 academic year. Mercer's 314 honor roll selections were 86 more than the next closest school, which was Furman (228). Mercer also led the conference with 31 student-athletes who earned 4.0 grade point averages.

The academic honor roll originated in 1988-89, when SoCon athletic



directors established the award as a way to recognize the league's outstanding student-athletes. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports and posted a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher, were eligible the entire academic year and were members

of the final squad lists.

# HN KNIGHT PHOTO

## Health Sciences Update

# MUSM, Gov. Deal Recognize First Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship Recipients

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE on Aug. 18 recognized the first 25 students to receive inaugural Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarships, which cover 85 to 100 percent of tuition for up to four years in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program.

he University funded
the scholarship program
with the entirety of a
one-time infusion of \$35
million from the state
of Georgia as a result of
a settlement agreement

offer from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in February 2016.

"It is critical that we remain focused on improving access to quality health care in rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia," said Deal. "When rural hospitals shut their doors, it's not only bad for healthcare access but also for the local economies. This program is instrumental in prioritizing this access by training and placing graduates in high-demand areas of our state. I am proud of these inaugural scholars and the commitments they are making."

President William D. Underwood announced that current and future recipients of the

scholarship will be called Nathan Deal Scholars in recognition of Georgia's 82nd governor who is a graduate of both the University's College of Liberal Arts and School of Law.

"Gov. Deal, who was raised in Sandersville, has been a strong advocate for rural health care in the state," said President Underwood. "He was instrumental in directing the federal settlement proceeds to programs that enable the preparation of more physicians for rural and other medically underserved areas of our state."

The Physicians for Rural Georgia
Scholarship Program will accept new applicants
each fall among admitted first- through fourthyear students. Second-, third- and fourth-year
students who meet the program's criteria will
be eligible to receive funding for each of their
previous years of study.

In return, those who accept the scholarship commit to at least four continuous years of full-time medical practice in a medically underserved, rural Georgia county upon the completion of residency. Furthermore, the medical practice must accept Medicaid patients.

"Mercer University School of Medicine, our faculty, staff and students are committed to service in rural Georgia," said Dr. Jean R. Sumner, MED '86, dean of the School. "The Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship Program enables well-prepared students from rural communities, who want to return to their rural community after medical school, to begin practice with essentially no debt. We are grateful for this opportunity and solidly focused on improving access to quality health care in these areas. These Nathan Deal Scholars will help to reestablish a strong foundation that will grow through the years."

MUSM Dean Dr. Jean Sumner, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, Mercer President William D. Underwood and State Rep. Terry England participated in a luncheon honoring the inaugural recipients of the Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship.



# College of Nursing Awarded Nearly \$2 Million to Improve Workforce Diversity

he Georgia Baptist College of
Nursing was recently awarded
a nearly \$2 million grant by
the Health Resources and
Services Administration (HRSA)
to increase nursing education opportunities
for individuals from disadvantaged
backgrounds, including racial and ethnic
minorities who are underrepresented among
registered nurses.

The College of Nursing is one of 29 nursing programs across the country — and one of only two in the state — to receive this grant. A total of \$1,992,044 will be awarded to the College over four years.

In concert with the legislative purpose under Title VIII of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, the Dedicated to Diversity: Risk to Resilience (R2R) program is focused on promoting successful transition to the nursing workforce for baccalaureate (BSN) nursing students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds. The project's goal is to identify and mitigate risk while fostering resilience and ultimately increasing diversity in the nursing



workforce and enabling health equity.

The R2R program is built upon a strong foundation of lessons learned through the 2016 Dedicated to Diversity (D2D) program, which focused on the retention of diverse and disadvantaged BSN nursing students through a multilayered program of academic, social, physical and mental health, financial, and professional interventions.

Dr. Lanell M. Bellury, associate professor, will serve as the principal investigator and

project director for the grant, which involves collaboration with faculty in Mercer's College of Health Professions and Tift College of Education, the Center for Nursing Excellence, student affairs and minority affairs offices, as well as the Atlanta Black Nurses Association.

The 2016 D2D program supported 20 qualified undergraduate nursing

students who evidenced strong academic potential as well as economic need. The 2017 R2R program will continue support up to 20 qualified progressing senior students and support up to 15 qualified junior nursing students annually.

The project was supported by the HRSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under grant number D19HP30842, Nursing Workforce Diversity Program.

#### **Holcomb Named NSCA Sports Medicine Specialist of the Year**

r. Bill Holcomb, professor and founding director of the Master of Athletic Training Program in the College of Health Professions, was recently presented the Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Specialist of the Year Award by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

"We would like to recognize Dr. Bill Holcomb for his outstanding accomplishment," said Michael Massik, executive director of the NSCA. "This award is a small attempt to recognize him for the impact he has made to sports medicine and rehabilitation for athletes."

Dr. Holcomb was selected for the award by the NSCA's Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Special Interest Group, which determines the winner based on contributions to the NSCA, their community and the field of sports medicine/rehabilitation for athletes. The award has been presented annually since 2001.

Dr. Holcomb joined the College of Health Professions in May, bringing 24 years of program directorship experience to the faculty. He is a Certified Athletic Trainer and Fellow in the National Athletic Trainers' Association, as well as a Certified Strength

and Conditioning Specialist and Fellow in the National Strength and Conditioning Association. His primary teaching and research expertise is in the area of athletic injury rehabilitation.



Dr. Bill Holcomb (right) receives his award during the NSCA National Conference in July.

"We are so pleased that Dr. Holcomb has joined Mercer University and are proud of his many accomplishments to date," said Dr. Lisa Lundquist, dean of the College of Health Professions. "He is a leader in the field of athletic training, an accomplished scholar and an experienced program director and teacher. We know that he will continue to advance the education

and clinical training of athletic trainers."

Dr. Holcomb received the award during the 40th Annual NSCA National Conference, which took place July 12-15 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### Alumni Class Notes

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; PEN - 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

William T. Abare Jr., EDU '65, recently retired from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, after 16 years as president and 46 years as an employee with the institution

Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews, PHA '68, received the Bowl of Hygeia award from the Georgia Pharmacy Association's (GPhA) annual convention in June. He was honored for his 44 years of service to Mercer University's College of Pharmacy and to the profession of pharmacy. Selected annually through state pharmacy associations, each recipient of the award is recognized for making unique contributions to a strong, healthy community through service and personal leadership.

Edward G. Simmons. CLA '65, received the 2017 Illumination Gold Medal Award for Spirituality (given by the Jenkins Group) for: Talking Back to the Bible: A Historian's Approach to Bible Study, published in February 2016.

William B. Westwood, CLA '67, was recently honored by the Medical Illustration Graduate Program at Augusta University as its Outstanding Alumnus for 2016. The award is presented annually to an alumnus for professional excellence and outstanding support of the program. He was also honored last year by the international Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI) by being selected as the recipient of the Brödel Award for Excellence in Education This award recognizes and honors a medical illustrator for exceptional educational contributions to the profession of medical illustration.

Linda Ann Fleming White, TIFT '65, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Chowan University, Murfreesboro, North Carolina, for her service to higher education as a university First Lady for 31 years. Her husband Martin Christopher White, CLA '65, is president of Chowan University.

#### 1970s

Franklin Abbott, CLA '73, has released a new album of songs and poems, Don't Go Back to Sleep. It is available on CD or download from CDBaby, Amazon. Tunes and Spotify. Abbott has been a psychotherapist in private practice in Atlanta for more than 30 years. He edited three anthologies on men and masculinity including Boyhood Growing Up Male (University of Wisconsin Press) and is the author of two books of poetry. His papers have been archived in the Women and Gender collection at Georgia State University. He frequently interviews artists and musicians for Atlanta INtown, Khabar and RFD.

S. Hayward Altman, CLA '74, LAW '77, received the District Attorney of the Year Award from the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia during the 2017 Summer Conference sponsored by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia (PAC).

Lt. Col. John D. Barry (Retired), CLA '72, LAW '75. joined Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC as Of Counsel in its Chattanooga Office in April. He brings almost 40 years of practice in tort, contracts, products liability, insurance and casualty defense to the firm.

A. Wavne Johnson, CLA '74, was appointed chief operating officer of Federal Student Aid (FSA) by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Johnson is the founder, chairman and former CEO of First Performance Corporation, a global payment card technology platform company.

R. Howard Jump, CLA '76, LAW '79, served as editor and contributing author for the insurance law section of the 2016 Survey of Law, published annually by the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, He is a past president of the association and practices

Terry J. Mularkey, CLA '78, LAW '79, executive director of development for Nova Southeastern University, has been recertified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), joining more than 5,000 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

The Hon. J. Carlisle Overstreet, LAW '70, retired as chief judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit on Dec. 31, 2016. A portrait made possible by contributions from members of the Augusta Bar Association and friends of the Judge was unveiled in March.

#### Capt. Donna Price, JAGC, USN (Retired);

CLA '76, LAW '79, has relocated her law practice to Charlottesville, Virginia, where she continues to represent individuals in security clearance adjudications and will be building a "family compound."

The Hon. W. Louis Sands, CLA '71, LAW '74, was recognized for Professional Excellence: Lifetime Achievement by the Fulton County Daily Report for his lasting imprint on the legal community of Georgia. Jeanne Van Tyle, PHA '76, recently retired from Butler University after teaching there for more than 40 years. Van Tyle specialized in pharmacokinetics and women's health. She also published articles in various scholarly journals like Pharmacotherapy and Annals of Surgery. She wrote several book chapters for textbooks in pharmacokinetics. For the past 20 years, she has served as a volunteer pharmacist for the Gennersaret Free Clinics, which provides health care for the homeless.

#### 1980s

Steven M. Clement, BUS '82, accepted the position of vice president of business development for Secure Health, a Macon-based healthcare management company, in March. Clement has more than 26 years of experience in healthcare sales, operations, and leadership. He previously served as president of The Georgia Associations of Health Underwriters and as a board of director for a variety of regional/ national health underwriter organizations. In addition, he served on former Gov. Roy Barnes' Executive Task Force that sought to address the needs of the uninsured in Georgia.

The Rev. Carol Grubbs Cook. Tift '81, was appointed senior pastor of Chamblee First United Methodist Church in June.

The Hon. C. Andrew Fuller, LAW '80, was reappointed to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by Gov. Nathan Deal. Fuller is the chief judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit Superior Court in Gainesville.

Anton F. Mertens, CLA '84, LAW '87, was recognized with the prestigious Officer's Cross of the Order of Leopold signed by King Philippe, King of the Belgians, for his 20 years of service for fostering close ties between Belgium and the State of Georgia. The Order of Leopold (Leopoldsorde, Ordre de Léopold) is one of three current Belgian national honorary orders of knighthood and is awarded by royal decree.

J. William Pierce Jr., LAW '82, is listed as leading U.S. attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending by the Chambers USA 2017

guide. Pierce's firm Glankler Brown, PLLC, based in Memphis, Tennessee, is named leading U.S. firm in Real Estate

Jacquelyn "Jackie" Saylor, LAW '83, received the Atlanta Bar Association Women in the Profession Section's 2016 Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for her commitment to excellence in both her professional and personal life, as well as her contributions to empowering women in the legal profession and the Atlanta community. Saylor, a former president of the Atlanta Bar, past chair of the Women in the Profession Committee and one of the Section's founding members, also was elected the 2016-2017 treasurer of the Atlanta Bar's Estate Planning & Probate Section. In 2017, she was again chosen as a Georgia Super Lawyer in Estate Planning & Probate; she earlier was a member of the Top 50 Women Super Lawyers.

Ray S. Smith III, LAW '87, was appointed by Mayor Rusty Paul of the City of Sandy Springs to serve as chairman of the Municipal Court Reform, Judicial Selection & Legal Services.

Andy Kaye Walsh, CLA '83, is one of the 2017 Each Moment Matters Honorees who makes each moment matter through exemplary community and volunteer service. The honorees were celebrated on Sept. 29 at the 2017 Each Moment Matters Luncheon benefiting the Faith Presbyterian Hospice Caring Fund.

The Hon. Christopher Yokom, BUS '86, LAW '89, was appointed associate judge for the Fulton County Juvenile Court on June 9.

#### 1990s

Dr. Kirk Austin, MED '92, was recently named the Doctor of the Year at Carl Vinson VA Medical Center. He is the acting chief of the Urgent Care Clinic and Medicine at the Dublin VA. Austin completed his residency at Memorial Medical Center and is board certified in family medicine. A veteran with 32 years of service with combined active duty and reserve service, Austin retired from the Army National Guard as a colonel in the Army Medical Corp in 2014. He has worked at the VA Medical Center since January 2006.

The Hon, David Lee Cannon Jr., LAW '95, a Blue Ridge Superior Court Judge, served in the Georgia Supreme Court Tuesday, June 20, in place of Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, who recused himself in the appeal of City of Marietta v Summerour regarding condemnation of a man's property. Judge Cannon is serving his second term in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit since 2012.

Dr. Joseph A. Davis, CLA '98, has been appointed assistant specialty medical director for the Northeast Region of Carolinas Healthcare Systems. Davis is a practicing internist for Carolinas Healthcare at CMC Northeast in Concord, North Carolina.

Juanita DeLoach, EGR '92, was one of 10 women named as the inaugural Hidden Figures of Dallas: Top Women of Color in STEM by the National Society of Engineers DFW chapter, DeLoach is an intellectual property lawyer specializing in patent litigation. She holds five degrees including a doctorate in electrical engineering and master's degree in engineering management. Her previous roles include work as a process engineer at Texas Instruments, where she was named inventor on eight patents in semiconductor processing.

Shontelle S. Dodson, PHA '95, joined the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) Board of Directors in July. NPC is a health policy research organization dedicated to advancing good evidence and science and fostering an environment that supports medical innovation in the United States, Dodson is senior vice president and head of Medical Affairs for Astellas.

Jonathan W. Hedgepeth, LAW, '91, a founding partner of the Hedgepeth, Heredia & Rieder family law firm in Atlanta, has been named to Atlanta Magazine's Super Lawyers listing of top Georgia Lawyers for the past four consecutive years. Additionally, Hedgepeth's band "Goat Rodeo" hosted and headlined a major fundraiser for the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in January.

William Alexander Hopkins III, CLA '92. professor of wildlife in the College of Natural Resources and Environment and director of the Global Change Center at Virginia Tech, received the Graduate School's 2017 Faculty Outstanding Mentor Award. Hopkins' research focuses on physiological ecology and wildlife ecotoxicology, addressing pressing questions in both basic and applied science. To date, he has published more than 165 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters on subjects pertaining to environmental stressors, pollution and the physiological ecology of amphibians, reptiles,

John F. Kennedy, CLA '87, LAW '90, was named one of James Magazine's 2017 Legislators of the Year. Kennedy was elected to the state Senate in 2014 to represent six Macon-area counties.

Vincent C. Lefler, CLA '91, was recently promoted to national director of Southeast Multi-Family Capital Markets Group for the Nashville Office of Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL). Previously, Lefler served as senior vice president, advising institutional and private clients in the sales of apartment building properties across the Southeast. In March, he received his second consecutive NAIOP Broker of the Year award at the Nashville chapter of NAIOP, Commercial Real Estate Development Association's annual awards gala. Leanna Kay Linnenkohl, EDN '98, was named Monroe County Schools 2017 Teacher of the Year. She is a third-grade teacher at K.B. Sutton Elementary School in Forsyth.

The Hon. Jeffery N. Osteen, CLA '95, LAW '98, was appointed State Court judge of Liberty County by Gov. Deal to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of The Hon. Leon M. Braun Jr. Osteen, who is the Liberty County solicitor-general, is an attorney with Jones Osteen & Jones in Hinesville.

J. Angela Price, EGR '94, was promoted to construction asset department manager for the collection and distribution department at Spartanburg Water where she has been employed since March 2013. In her previous position, she was regulatory programs specialist and utilities asset engineer

Nancy Ruby, CLA '90, earned a Master of Arts degree in English from Western Illinois University in August 2016. She also earned a graduate certificate in Multicultural and Transnational Literatures in May from East Carolina University, where she is a third-year doctoral student in Rhetoric, Writing, & Professional Communication.

The Hon. J. Christopher Smith, LAW '96, was appointed as judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court by California Gov. Edmund Brown on May 22. Chris Vogler, BUS '94, recently joined BankSouth Mortgage as a new mortgage banker located at the BankSouth branch in downtown Savannah. Prior to joining BankSouth, Vogler worked at Southern Lending Services as vice president and branch manager, and at Bank of America, Countrywide Financial and Wells Fargo as a loan originator.

#### 2000s

W. Benjamin Bryant, LAW '09, was reappointed by Gov. Deal to the Technical College System of Georgia Board on June 30. Bryant serves as associate general counsel for InComm.

Heather A. Calhoun, CLA '02, LAW '05, launched the Aaron's Women's Leadership Network (ALWN) with Brennan Stewart, a fellow corporate counsel. The program aims to attract, develop and retain female talent throughout the company but also raise funds for Atlanta-based Warrick Dunn Charities, which provides housing assistance to women who are single mothers. Calhoun was recognized for professional excellence as in-house counsel by the Fulton County Daily Report.

Liza Chapman, PHA '02, was installed as president of GPhA at its annual convention in June. She received the NCPA Pharmacy Leadership Award, McKesson Leadership Award and Smith Drug Visionary Award for her time and effort given to the profession of pharmacy and to GPhA. She previously was named a fellow of the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management. Chapman also is president of the Mercer University National Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2016-2017.

Tomieka R. Daniel, LAW '02, was promoted to managing attorney of the Macon Regional Offices of the Georgia Legal Services. Daniel started with the Macon Office as a Dan Bradley fellow while a student at Mercer Law School, and was hired in her fifth semester.

**Jeanne Harris Dixon,** BUS '01, was named 2016 Cook County Woman of the Year.

Jonathan T. Edwards, LAW '08, was elected partner at Alston & Bird LLP. Edwards is in the bankruptcy and financial restructuring group at Alston & Bird, serving clients with insolvency related matters in the U.S. and abroad.

Mary Burgin Edwards, CLA '01, an academic health sciences librarian, was awarded tenure at the University of Florida and promoted to associate university librarian.

Charles "Chuck" Efstration, LAW '08, Georgia state representative, was appointed administration floor leader by Gov. Deal. Efstration also serves as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Criminal Justice Reform Council. On March 14, Rep. Efstration led the House of Representatives in welcoming Mercer Law students visiting the State Capitol.

R. Kyle George, LAW '09, was appointed clerk of court for the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia in April 2014 after having served as chief deputy clerk since January 2011.

**Julianne Grow Glisson,** LAW '02, was appointed the Chatham County administrator and guardian in Sayannah.

**Peter J. Harrison,** LAW '09, joined Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, PC practicing in the Estate

#### Jennifer McLean LeMieux, CLA '94, Named Chief Operating Officer of XMI

n July, Mercer alumna Jennifer McLean
LeMieux was named chief operating officer
of XMI, a company based in Nashville,
Tennessee, that provides business
infrastructure platforms. In this role,
LeMieux will be responsible for strategic planning and
management, and identifying business development and
partnership opportunities, and strengthening internal
company teams and company culture.

She joins XMI with more than two decades of experience working with companies to improve business operations and processes. Under her leadership in previous roles, LeMieux forged long-term client relationships that produced process management improvements, higher revenue flows, and growth for client companies. She also has significant experience implementing training programs for employees and developing initiatives to reward top performers.

Prior to joining XMI, LeMieux was chief customer/ operations officer at Gaffey Healthcare and HealthTechS3. Her career has been focused on partnering with growing businesses and supporting them with business process services and outsourcing needs.

LeMieux has bachelor of science degrees in biology and English from Mercer and an executive MBA from Belmont University. She is the co-founder of Elisha's Chariots of Fire, a community organization for families with special needs children. LeMieux also



LeMieux

serves as an officer for both Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society-Tennessee Chapter and the Tennessee chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Planning area. Harrison relocated to Chattanooga last fall after building his estate planning practice for several years in Connecticut. He holds an L.L.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center where he also received his certificate in estate planning. He serves on the board for the Chattanooga Estate Planning Council.

Nathan H. Harwell, LAW '03, joined Rinnai America Corporation as General Counsel in 2015. Harwell established the company's legal department, decreased its legal spending for two consecutive years, and placed a focus on efforts to turn the legal department into a "profit center." Harwell was recognized for his achievement as in-house counsel by the Fulton County Daily Report Professional Excellence Award.

April Yvonne Herbert, LAW '07, recently joined the Macon Circuit District Attorney's Office. Herbert was previously with the Georgia Capital Defender in Brunswick

Joshua Kinsey, PHA '05, clinical assistant professor and director of the Community Pharmacy Residency Program, was elected president of Region 5, covering DeKalb, Forsyth, North Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale counties.

Darryl W. Lunon, II, LAW '08, joined The Pennsylvania State University as assistant general counsel supporting the Defense Related Research Units, which include the Applied Research Laboratory and the Electro-Optics Center in July. Lunon was most recently with the United States Navy Office of General Counsel, where he served more than four years as assistant counsel for the Naval Facilities and Engineering Command. Mid-Atlantic.

**George T. Major Jr.,** LAW '08, has been named partner at Oliver Maner LLP. Major has been with the

firm since 2009 and focuses his litigation practice in the areas of plaintiff's personal injury, wrongful death and products liability litigation and the defense of medical malpractice cases.

**Donna Maye,** EDU '07, retired after more than 32 years of teaching service. After graduating in 2007, she published her first children's book entitled, *I Can Do My Ballet* (2008), by Olivia D'Josef (penname), which is in circulation at the Henry County Library (Fairview Branch). She is enrolled in the Ph.D. Curriculum and Instruction program at Mercer. **Michael Mayo,** CLA '06, LAW '09, was recently named a partner in the Macon law firm of Martin

lan M. McMullen, LAW '09, joined Waddell & Associates in Milledgeville in September 2015.

Leah Fiorenza McNeill, LAW '09, was recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star in Bankruptcy for 2017

Snow LLP

Dave Meek, LAW '09, won second place for his story *Skyspawn* in the Science Fiction and Fantasy category of the 2017 Zebulon Fiction Writing Contest. Meek is an attorney with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Washington. D.C.

David L. Mincey III, LAW '03, was appointed as Superior Court Judge of the Macon Judicial Circuit by Gov. Deal to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of The Hon. Tripp Self to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

**Patrick M. Mincey**, LAW '08, received an AV Rating through Martindale-Hubbell in March.

Farooq Mughal, CLA '00, managing partner at MS Global Partners, LLC was selected to serve on the Global Atlanta Advisory Panel of The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

Anne C. Myers, LAW '09, was appointed senior attorney advisor at the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Roanoke. Virginia.

M. Cayce Myers, LAW '09, along with his Virginia

Tech colleague, Wat Hopkins, published a book Mass Communication Law in Virginia, 4th edition.

Clanitra Stewart Nejdl, LAW '00, will receive the 2017 Minority Leadership Development Award from the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Stewart Nejdl, a reference and instructional services librarian at the David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library at Northern Illinois University College of Law, was recognized at the 110th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference held in Austin, Texas, in July.

Brooke C. Obie, LAW '09, won the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Literary Award at the National Conference of African American Librarians in Atlanta on Aug. 10 for her debut novel Book of Addis: Cradled Embers. Her novel also received the Phillis Wheatley Book Award for First Fiction, an award previously won by Maya Angelou, Sonia Sanchez, Gordon Parks and Terry McMillan. Matthew O. Riddle, LAW '07, has been named a partner at Young Clement Rivers LLP. He practices primarily in the firm's workers compensation groups. Del Schwalls, EGR '00, was re-elected to a second one-year term as vice president of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association.

Lindsey R. Stewart, CLA '06, LAW '09, joined Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law as the assistant director of Career Services in 2016.

Jason W. Swindle, Sr., LAW '01, was appointed by Gov. Deal to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board on June 30. Swindle is the senior partner at Swindle Law Group PC.

Beth Terry Walford, MED '02, an accomplished pediatric surgeon at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida, was mentioned favorably in a recently published book, *Juniper*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas French and his wife, Kelley, a Pulitzer finalist. Walford was one of the surgeons who helped save the life of the authors' baby.

Arthur R. York, LAW '09, joined Apolinsky & Associates in Decatur

#### 2010s

**Ashley A. Akins,** LAW '13, has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an attorney in the Atlanta office where she will practice with the School and University Law group.

Natasha S.L. Banks, LAW '16, joins the labor and employment law firm Fisher Phillips Atlanta office. Banks, who clerked for Fisher Phillips in the summer of 2015, represents clients in all areas including employment discrimination and retaliation claims, wage and hour disputes, and employment policies and procedures. Additionally, Banks is part of the firm's global immigration practice group.

Candice Branche, LAW '10, was named the deputy chief assistant district attorney for the Newton County office in the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. She has also taken a position as a faculty trainer for the National Drug Court Institute.

Nathanael D. Brantley, LAW '13, was named partner at the law firm of Dover Miller Karras & Langdale PC in Valdosta. Brantley joined the firm in 2009 as a real estate assistant/law clerk and was promoted to associate after earning his J.D. He focuses his practice in the areas of commercial litigation, creditor's rights representation and bankruptcy, real estate and personal injury.

Janene Browder, BUS '09, LAW '12, joined the Office of General Counsel of the Georgia Department of Community Health. Browder recently co-authored an article in the spring edition of The YLD Review titled Building Change From the Ground Up.

A. Alexandra Brown, LAW '10, announced the merger of the Law Office of A. Alex Brown and the Law Office of John R. Thigpen Sr. to form the firm of Brown & Thigpen, PC located in Waycross. Brown serves as managing partner. January 2017 also marked the second year that Brown served as chairwoman of the board of directors of the Okefenokee Humane Society, located in Waycross. Janet Cantrell, LAW '16, joined the Eichholz Law Firm PC in August 2016. Cantrell

Janet Cantrell, LAW '16, joined the Eichholz Law Firm PC in August 2016. Cantrell practices in the areas of plaintiffs personal injury, workers' compensation and long shore workers' compensation.

**Elizabeth Lambert Cox**, LAW '15, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

**Dustin E. Davies,** LAW '11, was named a Georgia Super Lawyer Rising Star in Personal Injury for the fourth year. He was also named an associate fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America (LCA), an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers. Fellows are selected based upon excellence and accomplishment in litigation and superior ethical reputation.

**Emily L. Evett,** LAW '16, joined Carver & DeBord, P.C. in Canton, as an associate. She practices criminal defense, probate and juvenile law.

Mary-Margaret Fill, MED '11, an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer for the Centers for Disease Control, presented her research on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) at the 66th Annual EIS Conference in Atlanta in April. For the past 18 months, she has worked in Tennessee investigating the educational outcomes of children born with NAS, a constellation of symptoms that occur when newborn babies experience withdrawal after being exposed to opiates in the womb. Fill's research is the first to discover a link between NAS and educational disabilities in the United States.

**Kristen Nicole Grush,** CLA '05, LAW '11, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

Johnathan Hamrick, PHA '10, received the MalT. Anderson Award for Outstanding Region President at the Georgia Pharmacy Association's annual convention in June. Hamrick served as Region 5 president, serving metro Atlanta.

Harold E. Heck, LAW '14, is the new director of academic success for the University of Idaho College of Law in Boise, Idaho. Heck was previously an academic success lecturer at Charlotte School of Law

Hannah Crook Hensley, LAW '16, joined the Piedmont Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office in June. She previously served as judicial clerk in the Toombs Circuit Superior Court.

**Jennifer M. Howard,** LAW '14, joined Joseph Law Firm, PC a full-service immigration law firm based in Aurora, Colorado, on March 13.

Norbert Daniel Hummel IV, LAW '12, was selected in March by the Fulton County Daily Report as one of 30 Attorneys On the Rise. He was also selected as one of the 2017 On the Rise Lawyers under 40 who are making a difference in the community. He joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Atlanta on April 24, where he is practicing general liability. Hummel was elected as the next secretary of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division for 2017-18.

**Alexandra E. Landis,** LAW '11, started as assistant general counsel at Maryland-based Textron Systems in January.

Bryce Linden, LAW '16, joined Hartley, Rowe & Fowler, P. C. as an associate attorney and graduated from the George Washington University Law School with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) specializing in Environmental Law.

**Lauren Gay Lopez,** EDU '16, was named executive director of assessment and effectiveness at Clark Atlanta University in April.

**Tyler D. Mashburn,** LAW '14, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

**Collier W. McKenzie**, LAW '11, was named partner at Jones Cork & Miller, LLP effective Jan. 1.

John M. McMichael, LAW '12, joined James Bates Brannan Groover LLP as an associate attorney in the practice of estate and asset protection planning. Hays B. McQueen, LAW '10, joined James Bates Brannan Groover LLP as of counsel for the firm's corporate and transactional practice group in April. Bryan William Miller, LAW '16, announced the formation of The Miller Institute for Public Policy in January. The Miller Institute is designed to preserve the legacy of former Gov. Zell Miller, promote bipartisan solutions to critical issues facing Georgia, and inspire stakeholders to work together to achieve results. Miller serves as chairman of the board and

Daniel J. O'Connor, LAW '12, was appointed as associate Municipal Court judge for the City of Vidalia by Mayor Ronnie Dixon effective July 13. While serving in this part-time judgeship, O'Connor will continue to practice law with the Law Offices of Bryant & Cook PC in Vidalia.

executive director of The Miller Institute

Elizabeth Pool O'Neal, LAW '11, was named partner at Smith, Welch, Webb & White, LLC. O'Neal has been with the firm since she graduated in 2011 and focuses her practice in the areas of family law, adoption, general civil litigation, and juvenile law.

Kyle C. Owenby, LAW '16, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

Alkesh B. Patel, LAW '12, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

Ashley N. Pruitt, LAW '12, joined Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers in Atlanta as an associate in their general civil litigation section. Pruitt was previously with a national insurance company where she litigated first and third party automobile liability claims.

**Rahul Sheth,** LAW '12, joined Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young LLP in Atlanta.

**Grant S. Tall,** LAW '12, joined Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin, LLC in March as a member of the workers' compensation litigation department.

Wesley Thompson, DIV '14, recently published a book, *In Sickness and In Health: A Story of Love, Strength, and Faith*, detailing the experience of his wife developing a rare brain disorder caused by their first pregnancy. Thompson is a former admissions representative for the University's Stetson School of Business and Economics on the Atlanta campus. His book is available for purchase on Amazon.

Randi Adkins Warren, LAW '12, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy, and was elected to a one-year term on the YLD Representative Council. Warren is an attorney in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice at Taylor English.

**Matt Wetherington,** CLA '07, LAW '10, was named partner for The Werner Wetherington Law Firm. He has gained national recognition for his efforts to protect consumers from dangerous products and predatory corporate practices.

#### Marriages, Births, Anniversaries

#### 1970s

J. Calvin Webb, CLA '77, and his wife Lynda celebrated 50 years of marriage on March 18. Calvin has served as pastor of First Baptist Church Brookshire (Texas) since 2008. Previously, he served as pastor of White Oak Baptist Church in Lilburn (1985-1998) and Ardsley Park Baptist Church in Savannah (1998-2008).

**Jonathan A. Weintraub,** LAW '79, married Amy Ratoosh Simon on July 9, 2016.

#### 1990s

Brett McDaniel, BUS '94, married Donna Duke McDaniel, CLA '00, on April 29 at Quail Branch Lodge in Lake Park. Donna is employed by Duke Energy and Brett is employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The couple resides in Valdosta.

#### 2000s

**Kristi Marshall Bond**, CLA '05, and her husband Jeremy announce the birth of their son, Kaison Jeremiah Bond, on Aug. 2, 2016.

**Barbara Ellen Cini,** CLA '08, announces the birth of her son, Parker Brooks Morse, on Feb. 7.

Melissa Coone Cornett, BUS '09, and her husband Adam Cornett, CLA '10, announce the birth of their second child, Nicholas Allen Cornett, on May 9. Stephen D. Delk, LAW '08, and his wife Suzanne announce the birth of their daughter, Vivian ("Vivi") Whitley Delk, on March 15.

**Vera Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield,** LAW '03, married William Lindsey on March 18 at the Meldrim Woods Plantation in Brooklet.

Melissa Durand Faulkner, CLA '05, and her husband announce the birth of their first child, a son, on Nov. 8, 2016. They are expecting their second child to arrive in March 2018.

**Lee Ann Feeley,** LAW '09, welcomed her son, Augustus (Gus) Victor, on Jan. 24.

**Gould B. Hagler II,** CLA '06, and his wife Amy announce the birth of their son, Gould B. Hagler III, on Feb. 7

**Sandra Watts Harvey,** CLA '03, DIV '07, and her husband David welcomed their third child, Nathan Dennis Harvey, on Jan. 23.

Kasey Robinson Harvill, CLA '09, and her husband Andrew announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Eloise Harvill, on May 24.

Donna Duke McDaniel, CLA '00, married Brett McDaniel, BUS '94, on April 29 at Quail Branch Lodge in Lake Park. Donna is employed by Duke Energy and Brett is employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The couple resides in Valdosta.

The Hon. Kathryn L. Powers, LAW '09, and Stephanie Gallagher were married on April 8. Julia Riggs, CLA '06, married Anthony Chatfield on Feb. 18.

**Katherine Miller Tucker,** LAW '08, and her husband Chad announce the birth of their son, Jackson Miller Tucker, on Feb. 22.

Jason M. Wilbanks, CLA '08, LAW '11, and Judy J. Wilbanks, BUS '08, announce the birth of their second son, Isaac Nathaniel, on April 20.

#### 2010s

Roshanna McNeely Beard, EDU '11, and Jason Beard, CLA '11, announce the birth of their daughter, Raquelle Naomi-Gail Beard, on March 25.

**Ellen Begley,** CLA '13, LAW '16, married Preston Rvan Weaver on June 3 in Atlanta.

Adam Cornett, CLA '10, and his wife Melissa Coone Cornett, BUS '09, announce the birth of their second child, Nicholas Allen Cornett, on May 9.

**Tiffany Garrett Gardner,** LAW '10, and her husband Ross anounce the birth of their third child, Evan Kenneth Gardner, born on March 18 in Atlanta.

Norbert Daniel Hummel IV, LAW '12, married Christina Hoover on May 20 in Atlanta. Kayla Godwin O'Neal, CLA '13, CHP '16, married

**Kayla Godwin O'Neal,** CLA '13, CHP '16, married Daniel Joseph O'Neal on June 3 at the First Baptist Church in Bainbridge.

Justin Wayne Peterson, CLA '10, MED '14, and Meredith Wood Peterson, CLA '10, announce the birth of their son, Hiram Graham Peterson, born on Jan. 17. Jessica Garcia Stevens, EDU '14, and her husband Keith announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Marin Stevens. on June 3.

**Ailya Zaidi,** LAW '12, and husband Hasan announce the birth of their son, Zameer, on Jan. 5.

#### In Memory

#### 1930s

**Grace Bryan Holmes**, TIFT '39, of Decatur, April 21.

**Martha Connally Caldwell Power,** TIFT '38, of Greenville, South Carolina, April 13.

William Taylor Quarles, CLA '35, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Nov. 16, 2016.

#### 1940s

**Gloria Woods Barker,** TIFT '49, of Bradenton, Florida, April 2.

**Ben Taliferro Bowdre Jr.,** CLA '43, of Macon, June 15, 2016.

**Vera Leona Campbell-Gallatt,** TIFT '42, of Fairburn, March 15, 2016.

Elsie Hutchings Chaffin, TIFT '45, of Macon, May 27.

**Charles Barton Clark,** CLA '44, of Houston, Texas, June 22.

**Lucille Minchew Comish,** TIFT '47, of Macon, Feb. 12.

Margy Fowlkes Costner, CLA '49, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, April 15. Thomas Fisher Craft, CLA '45, of Decatur, June 15.

**L. Andrew Cumbie,** CLA '46, of Leesburg, Virginia, Feb. 27.

**Charles Herschel Darsey,** CLA '48, of Albany, March 21.

**Daniel R. Eden,** CLA '48, of Augusta, Sept. 11, 2016.

Myrtice Alford Edwards, TIFT '45, of Eastman, March 5.

Jo Beth S. Flanagan, NUR '41, of Griffin, May 10.

Marion P. Gilbert, CLA '49, of Macon, July 13.

**Thalia Lifsey,** TIFT '48, of Prattville, March 19.

**Annie Price Long,** TIFT '45, of Rocky Ford, March 22, 2016.

**Laura Lowe,** NUR '46, of Savannah, Dec. 30, 2016.

**Caroline Poland Phillips,** CLA '45, of Warner Robins, Feb. 24.

**John C. Register,** PHA '41, of Blackshear, March 8.

Benjamin L. Robertson Jr., CLA '47, of Byron, July 12. Jesse McDowell Sellers, LAW '49, of

Jacksonville, Florida, April 2. **Betty F. Benson Shepard,** TIFT '45, of

Thomaston, June 29. **Hugh A. Snow,** CLA '49, of Winston

Salem, North Carolina, May 3.

Otis Richard Thompson, CLA '49, of
Winston Salem, North Carolina, April 24.

Loveniar Almand Williamson, TIFT '45,
of East Point, April 9.

#### 1950s

Marion Martin "Bunny" Ayers, CLA '58, of Macon, June 7, 2016.

Cyndia Sartin Beattie, CLA '55, of

Augusta, Feb. 27.

**Gene M. Black,** CLA '54, of Thomasville, Oct. 22, 2016.

**Saralue Wood Boercker,** CLA '55, of Greenacres, Washington, July 2.

James F. Bray, CLA '51, of Augusta, March 26.

**Oleeta Danner Britt,** EDU '55, of Tifton, Feb. 22.

**Harold E. Brown,** CLA '52, of Arcadia, Florida, July 8.

Robert E. Burks, CLA '51, of Clemson, South Carolina, May 28.

Wilbur E. Bush, CLA '52, of Macon, May 11.

Nancy Joanne Fortson Buttemere, TIFT '59, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, March 1. Shirley W. Canady, CLA '57, of Keystone

Heights, Florida, March 16. **Dimple B. Casey,** NUR '50, of Atlanta,

Nov. 29, 2016.

Ann Hardin Chambless, CLA '59, TIFT

'75, of Forsyth, March 31. **Sallie W. Cook,** PHA '53, of Decatur, March 6.

**Thedessia "Sis" Heys Dorminey,** TIFT '58, of Fitzgerald, May 13.

Mary Jane Estes, CLA '59, of Marietta, May 13.

Virginia A. Evans, TIFT '54 EDU '87, of Macon, March 27.

Mary P. Hardy, CLA '57, of Burlington, North Carolina, Feb. 24.

**Wallace L. "Bill" Harris,** CLA '54, of Decatur, June 3.

Nancy L. Herring, CLA '53, of Valdosta, July 21.

Jerry H. Homes, CLA '55, of North Augusta, South Carolina, March 22. Mildred Horton, NUR '56, of Gainesville. Feb. 25.

Ruth A. Reece Jeffries, TIFT '58, of Menifee, California, June 7. James E. Leonard, CLA '54, of Brasstown, North Carolina, April 1, 2016. Joe Frank Lowe, CLA '57, of Ormond Beach, Florida, May 16.

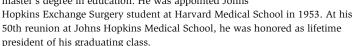
Carolyn Anne Martin, CLA '54, of Tiger, May 19.

**Leonora "Elizabeth" Mosheim Martin,** CLA '51. of Dalton, April 24, 2016.

#### Former Faculty Member

#### Waldo Emerson Floyd Jr., M.D.

aldo Emerson Floyd Jr., M.D., former professor in the School of Medicine, died on April 20. Born in Statesboro on Oct. 29, 1929, Floyd graduated with honors from Statesboro High School at age 16. He attended Virginia Military Institute and graduated from Emory University in 1950, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. After graduating from Emory, he married Helen Joann Peterson in Ailey. They attended Johns Hopkins, where he received his M.D. in 1954, and she a master's degree in education. He was appointed Johns



Floyd was the first orthopaedic surgery resident in Georgia, training at Georgia Baptist Hospital and at the Medical College of Georgia. Subsequently, he served as Lt. Cmdr. in the U.S. Navy at Charleston Naval Hospital. He



Dr. Floyd

taught at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He moved to Macon in 1961, establishing his practice of orthopaedic and hand surgery which is now known as OrthoGeorgia. Floyd pioneered reconstructive hip and hand surgery in Georgia. His two sons are orthopaedic surgeons.

Floyd was a diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the American Association of Hand Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons, also the Society of Colonial Wars, the St. Andrews Society of Savannah, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Macon Rotary Club, the Idle Hour Country Club, the Highlands Country Club, the Gideon Society, the Ailey Methodist Church, and the First Presbyterian Church of Macon. He was a Freemason.

Floyd was president of the Georgia Orthopaedic Society, and he was president and a founding member of the Georgia Society for Surgery of the Hand. He served on the Board of Councilors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons for six years. He was honored by the Bibb County Medical Society as Doctor of the Year in 2008. Instrumental in the school's founding, Floyd was a Professor of Surgery at Mercer School of Medicine and served on the admissions committee. His son, John Floyd, M.D., graduated from the School of Medicine in 1999.

#### MERC Senior Advisor and School of Engineering Pioneer

#### Maj. Gen. Cornelius "Newt" Nugteren, USAF (Ret.)

ajor General Cornelius "Newt" Nugteren, pioneer and forebearer for the School of Engineering, passed away on Aug. 24. Gen. Nugteren was born on Feb. 7, 1928, in Colton, South Dakota. After graduation from high school in Marion, South Dakota, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 1951. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in January 1952 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in March 1953, through the aviation cadet program. In 1956,



Nugteren

Gen. Nugteren married the love of his live, Liane Albrecht.

Among the highlights of his distinguished military career, Gen. Nugteren served as the commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center from 1982 to 1988. During this time, he was also instrumental in building a Museum of Aviation. Additionally, Gen. Nugteren helped to establish the Mercer School of Engineering. His idea of creating a university engineering program in central Georgia to provide talent to Robins Air Force Base and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center was the seed that Dr. Kirby Godsey and the late Dr. C.B. Gambrell grew into the Mercer School of Engineering.

He served on Mercer's National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB) and was named a NEAB Fellow in 2001. In 2004, Gen. Nugteren was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, and later most proudly received the Order of the Sword, bestowed on him by the men and women of the enlisted corps. He retired from service in 1988 and later became the senior advisor to the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) from 1996 until 2015. He was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Warner Robins.

#### CLASS**NOTES**

William Leroy McMurray Jr., LAW '50, of Atlanta. April 13.

**Seab H. Miller,** CLA '52, of Hahira, March 23.

**Sybil Stevens Miller,** CLA '53, of Richmond, Kentucky, July 13.

Patsy Ann Nutt, CLA '58, of Albany, July 27.

**Dorothy Claudia Wiley Parker,** TIFT '52, of Covington, March 8.

Margaret Holland Peek, EDU '56, of Starke, Florida, June 12.

**Clifford L. Powers Jr.,** CLA '55, of Cumming, Feb. 21.

**Faye Williams Powers,** CLA '56, of Cumming, May 27.

**Harold R. Pullen,** CLA '54, of Pavo, April 29.

**William E. Rayburn,** EDU '53, of Brunswick, June 5.

Wilber Eugene "Gene" Roach Jr., CLA '57, of Jesup, May 24.

**Betty Ann Slaton,** TIFT '59, of Washington, July 1.

**James Glenn Spivey,** CLA '59, of Columbus, May 6.

**Ann Johnson Stultz,** NUR '52, of Rock Spring, June 20.

**Sylvia Moak Turner,** NUR '56, of Clayton, May 20, 2016.

**Ronald G. Warnock,** CLA '58, of Mineral Bluff, July 27.

**Andriette Bouchelle Weeks,** CLA '57, of Eatonton, Dec. 2, 2016.

**Urban Ivan West,** CLA '53, of Dallas, North Carolina, Dec. 23, 2016.

James Cullen Williams, CLA '57, PHA '62, of Lake Wales, Florida, Dec. 19, 2016.

**Gladys Earl Stogner,** NUR '55, of Hamlet, North Carolina, Sept. 24, 2016.

#### 1960s

Raye Lynn Cheatham Allen, TIFT '60, of Winter Haven, Florida, March 19. Julin A. Archer, CLA '61, of Roanoke, Virginia, April 8.

**Gaston Elton Barton,** EDU '60, of Tifton, May 24.

**Reginald Foster Braddock III,** CLA '67, of Arlington, Tennessee, March 23.

**Grady A. Chance Jr.,** CLA '67, of New Orleans, Louisiana, April 5.

**Johnny M. Curry,** CLA '61, of Cookville, Tennessee, March 21.

**Hugo M. Davis Jr.,** CLA '62, of Covington, July 4.

**Joyce Ivey Dennard,** TIFT '64, of Soperton, July 26.

**Nora Bishop Dent,** CLA '60, of Cartersville, Feb. 24.

**Harry E. Estes,** CLA '62, of Marietta, May 6.

**Jack L. Fowler,** CLA '65, of Atlanta, July 25.

**Charles T. Galloway Jr.,** LAW '62, of Covington, July 24.

**Sherry Glenn,** NUR '61, of Tifton, Feb. 23.

Richard Kittrell Gully, CLA '69, of Woodstock, June 27.

**Margaret Virginia Ivey,** NUR '63, of Deepstep, June 21.

**George A. Kelly Jr.,** CLA '63, of McDonough, May 19.

**Pam Ella Koob,** NUR '67, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, April 8. **Martha Hackney Livengood,** CLA '60, of Nashville, Tennessee, March 25.

Charles Deaton Maddox, CLA '62, of Arden, North Carolina, June 14. Luther R. Mills, CLA '60, of Asheville,

North Carolina, May 1. **Joe Grady Musick,** PHA '62, of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, June 14.

Sue Buck Padgett, TIFT '63, of Martinez, April 22.

**Stanley J. Self,** CLA '62, of Rome, April 24.

Marsha Rottgering Stone, CLA '69, of Peachtree Corners, Feb. 23.

**Jeanie Gaskill Sutton,** TIFT '65, of Fernandina Beach, Florida, Jan. 18, 2016.

Ernest Wayne Wallhausen, LAW '68, of Naples, Florida, Aug. 9, 2016.

Patricia P. Walshe. CLA '63, of Tucker.

**Patricia P. Walshe,** CLA '63, of Tucker, March 20.

**Nathan Lynn Yokum,** PHA '60, of Melbourne, Florida, April 4, 2012.

#### 1970s

Terry Harris Brown, BUSA '77, of Birmingham, Alabama, Feb. 23. James J. Daly Jr., LAW '74, of Kathleen, July 4.

**Donald B. Douthit,** PHA '70, of Marietta, Feb. 18

**Laura Ann Fletcher George Durand,** TIFT '78, of Thomaston, June 21.

**Nancy Durden,** NUR '72, of Tucker, June 5, 2015.

**Merton A. Hollister,** LAW '75, of Green Cove Springs, Florida, Feb. 28.

James Michael Hutcherson, CLA '71 EDU '83, of Fayetteville, June 1. Wilma Sightler Jenkins. NUR '72, of

Glenwood, July 31. **Linda Diane Goodman Kirk,** NUR '75, of

**Linda Diane Goodman Kirk,** NUR '75, of Covington, July 30, 2016.

David Mell Langford, LAW '79, of Atlanta, March 21.

Ronald Carey LeSueur, LAW '73, of Tallahassee, Florida, July 18.

John F. McEachern, CLA '72, of Savannah, May 9.

#### Alumnus and Generous Supporter

#### Cecil Burke Day Jr., CAS '76

ecil Burke Day Jr., alumnus and generous University supporter, died on March 5. Born April 12, 1954, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, to Cecil Burke Day Sr., CLA '56, and Marian Uldine (Deen) Smith, CLA '55, HON '80, he was the eldest of five children.

His father, Cecil B. Day Sr., founder of Days Inn, brought him into the family business after high school, helping to dig the foundation of the first Days Inn on Tybee Island. Day would later go on to author the book, *Day by Day*, telling the story of his late father's

success in the hospitality industry. Day met his high school sweetheart Sally at Peachtree High in Dunwoody and married her at Dunwoody Baptist Church where he grew up. Day and his wife had three sons.

He studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC and Mercer



Day

University in Atlanta. He began building homes in Atlanta and then Tybee Island, where the family would move in 1991. Day and his wife joined Chapel by the Sea Baptist Church. He ran for the city council on Tybee and served two terms. In 1994 he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives and served for 16 years. During his tenure, Day served on the Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Veterans Affairs committees, as well as 16 years on the Public Safety & Homeland Security committee where he served as chairman the last five years. In 2007, he participated in The International Conference on Counterterrorism in Israel. The Stephens-Day Homestead exemption was one of many pieces of legislation authored by Day. He retired from public office in 2010, but became POST certified serving the State of Georgia as a chaplain for law enforcement officers and their families. The City of Tybee Island honored Day with the dedication of the Burke Day Public Safety Building in 2015.

In recognition of the Day family's generous support for the University, the College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta was named the Cecil B. Day College of Arts and Sciences in 1984. In 1991, the University's Atlanta campus was re-designated as the Cecil B. Day Campus in honor of Day's father. His son, Daniel Day, graduated from the College of Liberal Arts in 2009.

#### Emeritus Professor

#### Bruce J. Innes, M.D.

ruce Jeremy Maitland Innes, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the School of Medicine, died on July 6. Innes was born in Hartfield, Virginia, on May 1, 1934. He received his medical degree from McGill University, and completed his surgical residency at Montreal General Hospital. He received further training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Bellevue Hospital and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Innes moved to Norfolk, Virginia, in 1969 where he began his career as a pioneer in adult and pediatric cardiovascular surgery.



Dr. Innes

During his career, he held professional and academic appointments at the University of Virginia, Old Dominion University, Eastern Virginia Medical School, University of Florida, Mercer School of Medicine and Trinity School of Medicine. He was a founding faculty member of Eastern Virginia Medical School where he was named Chief of Surgery. He joined the faculty at Mercer School of Medicine as clinical professor of surgery in 1981, and in 1994 was appointed director of undergraduate surgical education where he was the clerkship director for 20 years. He was the assistant dean of clinical affairs at Trinity School of Medicine at the time of his death.

Innes was a dedicated surgeon, professor, historian, philosopher, father and grandfather, who never passed up an opportunity to teach those with a strong sense of curiosity. Memorials may be designated to the Bruce Innes Memorial Fund at the Mercer School of Medicine.

#### Distinguished Alumna

#### Mamie Mae Mercer Krewer, NUR '44

amie Mae Mercer Krewer, distinguished alumna, died on May 3 on St. Simons Island. Krewer was born in Omega, where she grew up with her parents and seven brothers and sisters. She graduated from Norman Park High School and went on to attend Georgia Baptist School of Nursing in Atlanta. While in nursing school, she graduated number one in the class of 1944 and received the Loving Cup Award. She served her country as a registered nurse in the United States Navy where she met her husband of 57 years, Joseph William Krewer. Working as a nurse throughout her life, Krewer and her husband and four children settled on Jekyll Island in 1968. She was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in



Krewe

Brunswick and volunteered at St. Vincent DePaul Society Thrift Store. Consistent with her life of generous giving, she donated her body to science at the Medical College of Georgia. Krewer was the last living member of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Class of 1944.

### Alumnus and Generous Supporter Billy Lee Thomas, CLA '51

illy Lee Thomas, an alumnus and generous University supporter, died on May 21. Thomas graduated from Boys High in Macon in 1944. He proudly served in the military during World War II, with a tour in the Philippines. Upon returning, he attended and received a degree in business administration from Mercer.

In 1948, Thomas and his brothers formed Thomas Packing Company in Griffin, a meat processing plant that, among many items, provided shelf-cured hams to families for generations. They also provided hot dogs for the Kiwanis Club's infamous 'fair korn dogs.' Thomas remained active in the business until it was sold in 2004,



**Thomas** 

having served the area for more than 50 years. Thomas was a member of the Griffin Historical Society, Capital City Club, Coffee Club, the Kappa Alpha Order and Rotary Club, where he was both a Paul Harris and Will Watt Fellow. He was a member and past president of the Southeastern Meat Packers Association and served on the board of the National Independent Meat Packers Association. He was a member of First Methodist Church.

A generous supporter of the University, Thomas was a Lifetime Member of The President's Club, the Jesse Mercer Heritage Club, and the Executive Forum in Atlanta. A scholarship in the McAfee School of Theology was established in his honor.

#### Alumna and Generous Supporter

#### Elizabeth Merritt Peavy Murdock, CLA '54

lizabeth "Betsy" Merritt Peavy Murdock, an alumna and generous University supporter, died on June 4. Murdock was born on July 27, 1933. After graduating from high school, she attended LaGrange College, Mercer and Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina, where she graduated *magna cum laude*. Murdock married her husband Bob in 1953, and they had two daughters. They settled in Stone Mountain in 1965. She was founding president of the DeKalb College Women's Club at DeKalb Junior College where her husband taught physical education and coached athletics. An accomplished pianist, Murdock taught piano lessons for many years and later worked as a reading tutor in the public schools. The couple



Murdock

returned to Byron by 1982. Murdock served as the founding president of the Byron Area Historical Society and sang in the choir at Byron United Methodist Church. She was a generous supporter of various educational institutions, medical research and charitable organizations.

Jayne Tallent McGarey, PHA '74, of Dayton, Tennessee, June 16.

**Richard G. Nadler,** LAW '72, of Warner Robins, March 27.

**Michael Paul Noell,** CLA '73, of Pensacola, Florida, March 7.

**Kathy M. Kennedy Rodenbaugh,** TIFT '76, of Macon, March 31.

**Esther Bridger Rogers,** CLA '71, of Forsyth, May 23.

**Charles W. Summerlin,** CLA '71, of Vidalia, May 31.

**Fan R. Wilcox,** EDU '70, of Buena Vista, March 4.

#### 1980s

**Rose Marie Brantley,** CLA '81, of Tallahassee, Florida, May 7.

**Bonnie Leah Brinson,** MED '89, of Perry, July 24.

**Gary E. Brown**, LAW '85, of Live Oak, Florida. Feb. 13.

**James David Cantrell,** BUS '80, of Cumming, May 19, 2016.

Mark Alexander Clayton, BUS '86, of Winter Park, Florida, March 24. Ray F. Criswell, EDU '81, of Watkinsville,

May 16.
Albert Kirven Gilbert III, LAW '83, of

Atlanta, June 13.

**Deborah Mood Hardeman,** EDU '86, of Macon, Feb. 4.

**Sheri L. Ledford,** CAS '82, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Feb. 22.

**Gary E. Mann,** CLA '85, of Macon, July 27.

Mara McRae, LAW '83, of Atlanta, March 14.

**Judy Storey Payne,** TIFT '85, of Thomaston, July 7.

**Jon P. Pensyl,** LAW '80, of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, April 5.

**J. Edward Philman,** LAW '81, of Bell, Florida, May 17.

**Patricia Jenkins Miller Shipman,** TIFT '84, of Forsyth, June 5.

Sherri Gilliland Sutter, NUR '82, of Marietta, April 7.

**Richard Stewart Stone,** EDU '84, of Hazelhurst, June 17.

**Janice Harville Watson,** TIFT '85, of Milledgeville, June 28.

**John Allen Yarborough**, CLA '80, of Clermont, July 11.

**Robert L. Zwald,** CLA '84, of Cumming, July 1.

#### 1990s

Henry Joseph Balach Jr., ENG '90, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, March 21. Elizabeth Paige Bethea, PHA '97, of Radford, Virginia, July 28, 2015. Richard A. Block, BUSA '95, of Tampa, Florida, Feb. 6.

**Karen Louise Brown,** EDU '94, of Salem, Virginia, June 1.

**Louis V. Caruso**, CLA '90, of Helena, Alabama, June 23.

Robert B. Garcia, BUSA '93, of Acworth, May 1.

**Cecil Paul Major Jr.,** MED '91, of LaGrange, March 9.

**Kathryn Shelby Morrison,** MUS '94, of Macon, July 8.

Julie Ellen McLean Beasley Smith, EDU '96, of Guyton, July 25.

**Michael Norman Soucy,** LAW '98, of Alpharetta, April 1.

**Elsie Mae Redden Stevens,** BUS '95, of South Fulton, June 7.

#### 2000s

**Gregg Leemann Ballew,** PEN '04, of Newnan, March 26.

**Cathy Echols,** PEN '08, of Covington, July 20.

**Mary Shauna Lunsford,** EDU '07, of Avondale Estates, April 4.

William E. Pelham, PEN '03, of Gainesville, Aug. 2, 2016.

Michael David Sorkey, LAW '03, of Columbus, July 20.

Jamie Ponder Woodard, CLA '00, LAW '03, of Atlanta, June 26.

#### 2010s

**Gregg Allman,** HON '16, of Richmond Hill, May 27.

**Ryan Phillip Carter,** DIV '15, of Dandridge, Tennessee, July 20.

Xavier D. Davis, EDU '12, of Macon, March 8.

**Cathy Ann Miller,** NUR '10, of Monroe, Feb. 14.

#### Friends, Former Faculty & Former Staff

Warren L. Berry, of Atlanta, May 24. J. Alan Biegeleisen, former dean, Stetson School of Business, Atlanta, of Sylvania. July 20.

Harold L. Carr, of Macon, Feb. 11.

James H. Cook, of Atlanta, June 17.

William McKenzie "Mack" Dallas Jr..

of Thomaston, Feb. 27. **Robert J. Friel,** Former Faculty, of Decatur, March 17.

Jessie Ray Grant, of Forsyth, March 13. Clifford J. Grum, of Diboll, Texas, Dec. 23, 2016

Barbara C. Keith, of Macon, March 2. John B. Lyle, of Marietta, Dec. 1, 2016. Willie Earl "Bill" Massey Jr., of Atlanta, July 27.

**Pauline Ferguson Miles,** of Macon, Aug. 9.

Mildred H. Murphy, of Roswell, April 6. Catherine Naylor, of Bainbridge, July 12

Nola Mae Pursiful, of Macon, Feb. 8. William Bradley "Bill" Turner, of Columbus, July 31.

Wallace Worthington, of Argon, Feb. 15. Robert A. Wynn, former faculty, of Savannah, March 28.

## 50-**75-100 Years Ago...**

Photos and archival information for 50-75-100 Years Ago assembled by Laura Botts and the Tarver Library Special Collections staff.



1917 (Above) The 1917-18 Orchestra Club of Tift College included students who played the violin, piccolo, kettle drum, bass drum, mandolin, ukulele and guitar. They were directed by Gustave E. Von Hofe of Tift's School of Music, Art, and Expression, who accompanied them on the cello.







1942 Wartime rationing affected student organizations on campus. In the fall of 1942, the Glee Club announced that "there will be no trips, due to the gas and tire shortage," but they planned to feature weekly radio broadcasts instead. Among the singers was freshman Olive Ann Burns, who later became famous for her novel, Cold Sassy Tree. Pictured here from the 1943 Cauldron is a subset of the Glee Club making up the Chapel Choir.

1968 The annual Campus Sing competition was held in the chapel on Feb. 21, 1968. Alpha Gamma Delta [A] took first place overall under the leadership of Pam Warwick. Alpha Delta Pi [B] and Kappa Sigma [C] won for the sorority and fraternity divisions, respectively. The Alpha Gams were invited to reprise their winning performance for the Mercer Alumni Association later in the year.

### **Advancement**Update

### Aspire More than Halfway to \$400 Million Goal

IN NOVEMBER 2014, THE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED ASPIRE, THE CAMPAIGN FOR MERCER UNIVERSITY, a \$400 million capital campaign to secure financial resources that will empower Mercer, already emerging among the Southeast's elite private research universities, to become an international leader in deploying its intellectual capital to better serve the needs of humankind.

ercer experienced tremendous success in fundraising during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, receiving nearly \$31.5 million in private gifts. In the last seven years, the number of alumni donors has increased more than 35 percent and the number of total donors has increased more than 28 percent. As of June 30, \$209 million has been received and pledged towards the \$400 million campaign goal. Major gifts received in the most recently-completed academic/fiscal year include:

- \$10 million capital gift from the Robert W.
   Woodruff Foundation for the Spearman C.
   Godsey Science Center
- \$2 million scholarship endowment from the estate of James D. Orr
- \$1.25 million capital gift from the Peyton Anderson Foundation for the Godsey Science Center towards its \$3 million pledge
- \$1 million endowment gift from the Jennings Family Foundation for the McDuffie Center for Strings

 Over \$900,000 in endowment gifts from M. Anthony and Joy Greene for the G. Van and Minta J. Greene Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy

- Over \$550,000 from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation for the Stamps
   Endowment
   Scholarship Program
   Academic
- \$500,000 in endowment gifts from the James T. and Carolyn T. McAfee Foundation for the McAfee School of Theology and the Townsend School of Music
- \$500,000 from the Baugh Family Foundation for Mercer On Mission
- \$500,000 from the Griffith Family Foundation for the renovation of a new Fine Arts building in downtown Macon

Other five- and six-figure gifts were received to support various campaign priorities including OrthoGeorgia Park, the Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies, Mercer Music at Capricorn, the Medical School Scholarship Endowment, the new College of Pharmacy Building in Atlanta, the Mercer Innovation Center, support for the creation of a new endowment in Christian Ethics in memory of Dr. Glen Stassen, the Savannah Education and Research Building and Tarver

Library renovations.

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, etc.) 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).

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

# Campaign Priorities • Endowment • Academic Initiatives & Special Programs • Capital

#### **University Honors New President's Club Life Members**

NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB WERE recognized on April 21, during the University's 52nd annual celebration of its most generous supporters. Members of The President's Club gathered for dinner followed by a dessert reception at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta.

The University's highest level of leadership giving,
President's Club Life Member, is conferred on individuals and
churches who have contributed at least \$100,000 to Mercer.
At this year's event, the following were recognized for achieving
Life Member status: William T. Barnett; Peter Rhea and Ellen
Jones; Winona Saturday Junkin, Tift '54; Homer, CLA '55, and
Kay Nelson; Northside Drive Baptist Church; Bill, CLA '78, and
Kathy Pou; Bill and Lesli Underwood; and Lin Wood, CLA '74.

The President's Club was established in 1964 to recognize alumni and friends who provide a nucleus of support for the University. Friends and alumni of Mercer who contribute \$1,000 or more during the calendar year are eligible for membership in The President's Club.



### **Advancement**Update

### University Advancement Plans Second Annual Day of Giving

n May 3 and 4, the University held its inaugural "Day of Giving, Orange & Black Give Back."

Thanks to generous supporters, the event raised more than \$87,000 from more than 700 donors, surpassing the goal of 500 donors. For 24 hours, students, alumni, faculty, staff

more than 700 donors, surpassing the goal of 500 donors. For 24 hours, students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends came together to make a difference for Mercer by contributing to student scholarships, strengthening academic programs, funding transformational research, and much more.

The University will hold its second annual Day of Giving on Wednesday and Thursday, April 4-5, 2018. If you would like to serve as a Day of Giving Ambassador, contact Andy Carter at *carter\_aw@ mercer.edu* or (478) 301-2924. Visit mugiveback.com to learn more about the Day of Giving.



### McAfee Honored for Support of Music at Mercer



THE UNIVERSITY'S TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC unveiled a portrait of Carolyn Townsend McAfee during a ceremony on Sept. 5 to honor her generous support and service. Mrs. McAfee has served the University with distinction through multiple terms as a member of the Board of Trustees. She and her late husband, James, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees, provided the founding endowment for Mercer's McAfee School of Theology, which was named in their honor. Mrs. McAfee and her son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Julie, later provided the endowment for the University's School of Music, which was named in memory of Mrs. McAfee's parents, Raymond and Sophia Townsend.

Carolyn McAfee at the portrait unveiling with her granddaughters Zoe (right) and Malin (left) and her son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Julie.





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# NERGER BASKETBALL 2017-18 SCHEDULES



### MEN'S

NOV. 10 CENTRAL FLORIDA NOV. 12 TOCCOA FALLS NOV. 14 JACKSON STATE PARADISE JAM • NOV. 17 LIBERTY

• NOV. 18-20 TBD NOV. 26 HIWASSEE COLLEGE

NOV. 29 HIWASSEE GUE
NOV. 29 TENNESSEE
DEC. 2 MEMPHIS
DEC. 9 FLORIDA A&M
DEC. 17 LA SALLE
DEC. 19 ALABAMA

OCC. 28 KENNESAW STATE
DEC. 31 ETSU\*
JAN. 6 FURMAN\*
JAN. 10 WESTERN CAROLINA\*
JAN. 15 CHATTANOOGA\*

JAN. 15 CHATTANOOG
JAN. 18 VMI\*
JAN. 20 UNCG\*
JAN. 24 ETSU\*
JAN. 27 THE CITADEL\*

FEB. 1 FURMAN\*
FEB. 3 WOFFORD\*
FEB. 10 CHATTANOOGA\*
FEB. 12 SAMFORD\*
FEB. 15 VMI\*
FEB. 17 UNCG\*

FEB. 20 WESTERN CAROLINA\*
FEB. 23 THE CITADEL
FEB. 25 WOFFORD
MAR. 2-5 SOCON TOURNAMENT

### WOMEN'S

NOV. 10 CENTRAL FLORIDA NOV. 12 FLORIDA ATLANTIC NOV. 16 GEORGIA SOUTHERN NOV. 19 GEORGIA NOV. 24 WESTERN KENTUCKY

(GSU CLASSIC)

NOV. 26 VCU (GSU CLASSIC)

NOV. 30 CAMPBEL

DEC. 3 DAVIDSON

DEC. 6 GEORGE WASHINGTON

DEC. 10 UNC ASHEVILLE

DEC. 10 UNC ASHEVILLE
DEC. 17 WINTHROP
DEC. 19 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
DEC. 21 HOWARD
DEC. 28 NORTH CAROLINA

DEC. 30 CHARLOTTE
JAN. 4 WOFFORD\*
JAN. 6 FURMAN \*
JAN. 13 SAMFORD\*
IAN. 18 UINCG\*

JAN. 16 UNGG" JAN. 20 WESTERN CAROLINA\* JAN. 25 ETSU\*

JAN. 27 CHATTANOOGA\*
FEB. 1 FURMAN\*
FEB. 3 WOFFORD\*
FEB. 10 SAMFORD\*

FEB. 15 WESTERN CAROLINA\* FEB. 17 UNCG\* FEB. 22 CHATTANOOGA\*

FEB. 24 ETSU\*
MAR. 14 SOCON TOURNAMENT

\* SOCON GAME BOLD FACE - HOME GAME



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