

THE

SPRING 2017

# Mercerian

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## AT MERCER, EVERYONE MAJORS IN CHANGING THE WORLD



Cox Named  
Mercer Law  
Dean

Drug Delivery  
Startups  
Launched

Southern  
Studies Center  
Named for King



CUTLER





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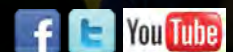
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## In Our Lens

With several thousand people looking on, the Mercer Bears baseball team christened its new home, OrthoGeorgia Park, with a walk-off 6-5 win over the Georgia Bulldogs on Feb. 21. Even though construction on the new stadium was not quite finished, fans got a sneak preview that night of what a great venue OrthoGeorgia Park will be for Mercer baseball. Work resumed the next day after the Georgia game and construction was completed on March 10 in time for the weekend series against the Bradley Braves.



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**MERCER**  
UNIVERSITY

MACON | ATLANTA | SAVANNAH

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

Mercer's Townsend School of Music presented a gala concert on Feb. 19 in New York City's revered Carnegie Hall. See story on page 7.

# CARNEGIE HALL

DCINY  
Presents

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall  
Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 8:00 PM

## MERCER UNIVERSITY AT CARNEGIE HALL



**McDuffie Center String Ensemble**  
Amy Schwartz Moretti, Violin and Director  
Music by Elgar & Mendelssohn



**Mercer Singers**  
Stanley L. Roberts, Conductor  
Music by Whitford, Forrest, Hovav

**John Rutter: Requiem**  
Stanley L. Roberts, Conductor  
Olivia McMillan, Soprano  
Mercer Singers, Alumni & Friends  
McDuffie Center String Ensemble & Friends



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## Young Harris College President Cathy Cox Appointed Dean of Mercer Law School

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE PRESIDENT AND FORMER GEORGIA Secretary of State Cathy Cox has been appointed dean of Mercer University's School of Law, effective July 1. She will succeed Daisy Hurst Floyd, who has served as dean since 2014, after serving in the position from 2004 to 2010.

Cox, a 1986 *magna cum laude* graduate of Mercer Law School, becomes the first alum to lead the School — other than on an interim basis — since William Augustus Bootle, who was dean from 1933 to 1937. Bootle was later appointed to the federal bench and ordered the integration of the University of Georgia.

"Cathy Cox brings to the Mercer Law deanship an uncommon breadth and depth of experience in higher education, public service, and the practice of law," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "We could not be more excited about her accepting this opportunity to return to her alma mater and provide leadership for the state's oldest ABA-accredited law school."

Cox has served as the 21st president of Young Harris since 2007, leading its transition from a two-year college to a four-year institution and overseeing unprecedented growth. Student enrollment has doubled, as has the size of its faculty, and nearly \$100 million in new facilities have been added to the North Georgia campus.

"I am very excited about building on the deep foundation and rich heritage at Mercer's School of Law to educate practice-ready lawyers who want to make a genuine difference for their clients and have a positive impact in their communities," Cox said. "The opportunity to do this at my alma mater makes it even more meaningful."

"I have loved working with phenomenal trustees, faculty, and staff during the past 10 years to transform Young Harris College into a thriving liberal arts college," she added, "and I hope YHC will continue to send some of its

strongest graduates to Mercer's Law School, just like the three who are enrolled there now."

Prior to assuming the Young Harris presidency, Cox served two terms as Georgia's secretary of state, and was the first woman in the state's history to be elected to the post, first in 1998 and again in 2002. As secretary of state, she moved the largest division of her office from Atlanta to Macon and instituted a universal electronic voting system, making Georgia the first American state to do so.

"I am very pleased that Cathy Cox has accepted our invitation to serve as the next dean of Mercer Law School," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "She has provided extraordinary leadership at Young Harris College over the past decade, is well-known and highly respected throughout the State of Georgia, and has a deep affinity for our School of Law and Mercer University. We look forward to great things from Mercer Law School under her leadership."

A native of Bainbridge, Cox began her political career as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, where from 1993 to 1996 she represented Miller, Seminole, Early and Decatur counties. Before being elected secretary of state she served for two years as assistant secretary of state.

After graduating from Mercer Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Mercer Law Review* and a member of the Brainerd Currie Honor Society, Cox practiced law full-time for 10 years in Atlanta and Bainbridge. She has remained an active member of



NICOLE TYLER PHOTOGRAPHY

the State Bar of Georgia, and in 2011 was presented with the Traditions of Excellence Award for General Practice by the State Bar's General Practice and Trial Section.

Cox was a newspaper reporter for three years before entering law school, working for *The Times* in Gainesville and *The Post-Searchlight* in Bainbridge. She earned a degree in journalism, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Georgia in 1980 and is a 2013 inductee to the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication's Grady Fellowship. Cox also holds an associate's degree in agriculture from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton.

A former member of the Mercer Board of Trustees, the Mercer Law School's Board of Visitors, and the Wesleyan College Board of Trustees, Cox was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Mercer in 2007. From January to May of 2007 she held the Carl E. Sanders Political Leadership Chair at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Cox is a 1990 graduate of Leadership Georgia, is active in the United Methodist Church, and is a member of numerous philanthropic and civic organizations. She also serves on the Board of Directors of United Community Banks Inc.

She is married to attorney Mark Dehler.



## Board Elects New Trustees at Homecoming Meeting

**M**ercer's Board of Trustees installed nine new members and elected officers during its annual Homecoming meeting in November.

New trustees who began their five-year terms at the conclusion of the meeting include Cathy Callaway Adams, TIFT '81, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, Kennesaw; Malcolm S. Burgess Jr., president and chairman of the board of Burgess Pigment Company, Macon; Milton L. Cruz, CLA '82, chairman, president and CEO of Medholdings,

De Mercadeo, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; Nancy Grace, CLA '81, LAW '84, television personality, author and former prosecutor, New York and Atlanta; James N. (Dock) Hollingsworth Jr., CLA '84, DIV '08, senior pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta; Genelle Jennings, owner of ComSouth, Hawkinsville; Carolyn Townsend McAfee, vice president of the McAfee family business interests and trustee of the McAfee Foundation charitable trust, Macon; W. Carl Reynolds, CLA '64, LAW '66, senior partner in the law firm Reynolds, Horne and Survant, Macon; and Dr. Joe Sam Robinson Jr., neurosurgeon and business owner, Macon.

Trustees who rotated off the board and were

recognized for their service include Curtis G. (Curt) Anderson of Savannah; Dr. William L. (Bill) Coates of Gainesville; T. Michael (Mike) Crook, CLA '69, of Stuart, Florida; Benjamin W. (Benjy) Griffith III, CLA '77, of Macon; J. Curtis Lewis of Savannah; the Hon. M. Yvette Miller, CLA '77, LAW '80, of Smyrna; William A. (Tony) Moye, PHARM '73, of McDonough; and Richard A. (Doc) Schneider, LAW '81, of Atlanta.

Atlanta attorney Tommy Malone, LAW '66, was re-elected chair of the Board of Trustees, and Atlanta physician Dr. Spencer B. King III, CLA '59, was re-elected chair of the board's Executive Committee.

## University Dedicates Dr. Hugh F. Smisson III Complex

**M**ercer formally dedicated the Dr. Hugh F. Smisson III Complex in a ceremony held Dec. 16 on the Macon campus. The facility, which serves as home of the Mercer Innovation Center, is named for Dr. Smisson, a Macon native and founder of Georgia Neurosurgical Institute, who made a major financial commitment to the Center.

The Mercer Innovation Center, launched in November 2015, is a multidisciplinary effort by the University to advance a culture of innovation and develop a thriving community of entrepreneurs, with a focus on utilizing technology to foster economic growth, create 21st century jobs and attract and retain talent.

The Center is based in the 10,000-square-foot Smisson Complex, which features modern design elements and technology, including 1-gigabit-per-second broadband service, and is strategically located adjacent to Mercer's School of Engineering, School of Medicine and Willet Science Center. It is across the street from the site of Mercer's new \$44 million Spearman C. Godsey Science Center, scheduled for completion in 2017, and is steps away from the Stetson School of Business and Economics.

The University is collaborating with a number of Middle Georgia organizations that support entrepreneurship as part of their programming, including the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, Navicent Health's Center

for Disruption and Innovation, NewTown Macon's SCORE program, and SparkMacon, a downtown makerspace. The Center is working alongside the Greater Macon Chamber of

last July to two startups, HeadNoise and KUDU Safari Braai. Recipients get one year of housing, office space in the Smisson Complex, interns, access to all Mercer facilities and \$20,000 cash.

A 14-member advisory board, composed of business leaders, entrepreneurs and academicians, works with the Center to provide mentoring opportunities and guidance for the programming. The advisory board is charged with assembling and managing a \$2 million venture fund to invest in startups that come out of the Center.

Additional contributors to the Mercer Innovation Center who were recognized at the ceremony included Georgia Pine Level Foundation, Birch Communications, the John S. and James L.

Knight Foundation, the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, the 478 Bibb Fund, the BB&T Center for Undergraduate Research on Public Policy and Capitalism, Mercer trustee and former Coca-Cola executive Jerry Wilson, State Bank and Trust Company, and the Macon Chamber of Commerce.



CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO

**David Field (left) and Calder Clay (right) with Dr. Hugh F. Smisson III at the dedication of the Mercer Innovation Center's Smisson Complex. Smisson, a Macon native and founder of the Georgia Neurosurgical Institute, made a major financial commitment to the Center.**

Commerce on a Young Entrepreneurs Academy, a national experiential entrepreneurship program for middle and high school students that is the first of its kind in the state.

One of the Center's key initiatives is the annual Mercer Innovation Fellowship, a competitive program open to entrepreneurs worldwide that was awarded for the first time

## Dean of the College of Pharmacy to Retire

**D**r. Hewitt W. (Ted) Matthews, senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the College of Pharmacy, recently announced plans to retire at the end of the academic year, and Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis has appointed a search committee to help identify and recruit a successor to Mercer's longest-serving academic dean.

Upon his retirement in 2017, Dr. Matthews will have led the College of Pharmacy for 27 years, the longest tenure for the School since it merged with Mercer in 1959.

The search committee is chaired by Dr. Nader Moniri, associate dean for research and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the College of Pharmacy. Other members of the committee include Dr. Ajay Banga, chair and professor of pharmaceutical sciences and co-director of the Center for Drug Delivery Research; Dr. Susan Miller, chair and professor of pharmacy practice; Dr. Grady Strom, vice chair and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of the College of Pharmacy's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning; Nicole Metzger, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice; Ed Schutter, Mercer trustee, College of Pharmacy alumnus and president and CEO of Arbor Pharmaceuticals; Larry Braden, College of Pharmacy alumnus, former Mercer trustee, current member of the College of Pharmacy Board of Visitors and president of Lacey Drug Co.; and Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, dean of Mercer's Penfield College.

Dr. Matthews began his association with Mercer as a student. After earning a degree

in chemistry from Clark Atlanta University in 1966, he enrolled in Mercer's Southern School of Pharmacy, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees (1971 and 1973 respectively) in pharmaceutical biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he was a National Institutes of Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow and a Fellow of

Pharmacy and assistant provost of the University. After serving for a year as interim dean, he was appointed dean of the School of Pharmacy in 1990. Over the years he has received numerous awards from state and national pharmacy and pharmacy education organizations.

Dr. Matthews was instrumental in establishment of the Mercer Health Sciences Center, and in 2012, was named senior vice

president for health sciences, in addition to his responsibilities as dean of the College of Pharmacy.

"Ted Matthews has been an extraordinary leader in the Mercer community for well over four decades. He has been a visionary leader in the health sciences, launching Mercer's Physician Assistant and Doctor of Physical Therapy programs, leading the University to establish the Mercer Health Sciences Center, and enhancing interdisciplinary education among medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and the health professions," said President William D. Underwood. "Under his leadership, the College of Pharmacy has become recognized as among the nation's finest, with an outstanding Pharm.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

**Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the College of Pharmacy Dr. Hewitt W. (Ted) Matthews (center) will retire at the end of the current academic year, following more than four decades as a student, faculty member and administrator at Mercer.**

the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. His alma mater in the fall of 2015 awarded him with a Citation of Merit, one of the highest awards given by the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He completed postdoctoral work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Hospital Infectious Disease program.

He joined the faculty of Mercer's School of Pharmacy in 1973. His commitment to teaching excellence earned him the Outstanding Teacher Award. Over the next decade, he held a number of administrative as well as faculty positions, including associate dean for the School of

D. program and an internationally recognized research program supported by world-class scientists and talented Ph.D. students preparing for careers in academia and industry.

"Even this does not capture the impact that Ted Matthews has had at Mercer," President Underwood said. "He was on the search committee that brought me to Mercer. He has been a 'Dean of Deans,' helping select and mentor many of his colleagues through the years. His contributions to Mercer are immeasurable. I enjoy working with him, I benefited from his wise counsel, and I am proud to call him my friend."



# OnTheQuad

## Mercer Music at Capricorn Hosts Recording Session at Historic Studio

**M**ercer Music at Capricorn hosted on Dec. 7 a recording session with alumnus and Grammy-nominated producer Steve Ivey and artists Betty Cantrell and Jonathan Wyndham. This was the first official recording session in the historic Capricorn Studios since the building returned to Mercer's ownership.

Partnering with Macon radio station 100.9 FM, "The Creek," Cantrell and Wyndham each recorded a track that has deep associations with Macon. Cantrell recorded Ray Charles' "Georgia on My Mind," and Wyndham recorded the Marshall Tucker Band's "Can't You See."

Cantrell, the Warner Robins native and Mercer student who was crowned Miss America 2016, is currently recording her first country music EP. She will now have the distinguished



CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTOS

honor of being the first artist to record in the Mercer Music at Capricorn studio.

Wyndham is a South Carolina native and former contestant on the hit television

**Mercer Music at Capricorn held its first recording session on Dec. 7. Left: Betty Cantrell sings "Georgia on My Mind." Above: Jonathan Wyndham (left) and Steve Ivey jam during Wyndham's rendition of "Can't You See."**

show "The Voice." He has just completed his first EP and is excited for the opportunity to record a song by a band that helped inspire his musical career.

Ivey has made a name for himself in Nashville as a multi-Emmy, Grammy and Dove award-winner and nominee. His music has been in the Billboard Top 10 sales charts for an astounding 1,000 weeks, with over 10 million units sold, including music he has produced and written. Top artists he has produced music for include Dolly Parton, Aaron Neville, Willie Nelson and Vince Gill, among others.

## Mercer Law School Announces MedLaw Partnership

MERCER SCHOOL OF LAW RECENTLY ANNOUNCED a new partnership between Navicent Health, Georgia Legal Services and the Law School. MedLaw, an interdisciplinary team composed of legal, social and medical workers, will provide free civil legal services to qualified Navicent Health patients.

MedLaw will have one staff attorney, who will work under Georgia Legal Services, and Mercer Law School will provide two externs per semester to work in the office.

MedLaw will serve Navicent Health patients who are low income or over the age of 60 and whose health, treatment or recovery is impeded by a legal need directly related to the patient's health, when the patient has attempted to remedy the situation but has received an adverse response.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this collaboration. As an academic institution, our mission includes both teaching and serving, and this gives us a great

opportunity to fulfill both of those," said Mercer Law School Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd.

"Our goal is to help low-income and elderly Navicent Health patients navigate the sometimes confusing legal system in cases where care may be affected," said Navicent Health President and CEO Dr. Ninfa M. Saunders. "Our desire is to improve the health of our patients by removing barriers to needed health services, in hopes of leading them to a greater level of health and wellness."



# Townsend Music Students, Alumni and Friends Perform in New York City's Revered Carnegie Hall

**M**ercer's Townsend School of Music presented a gala concert on Feb. 19 in New York City's revered Carnegie Hall.

The concert featured three unique musical components: a mostly *a cappella* performance by the Mercer Singers, works for string orchestra by the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings and a performance of the John Rutter *Requiem* for choir and orchestra.

The chorus for the Rutter *Requiem* totaled 175 voices. Joining the Mercer Singers were 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 Chancel Choir of Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Ensemble provided the string section for the full orchestra. The Rutter *Requiem* was under the baton of Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, director of choral studies at Mercer.

The McDuffie Center String Ensemble, composed of Townsend School of Music majors, features the 24 full-scholarship students of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings. The ensemble is led by violinist and McDuffie Center director Amy Schwartz Moretti.

The Mercer Singers, an ensemble of 48 voices, is the University's primary touring choral ensemble. Under the leadership of Dr. Roberts since 1995, they have sung on



PHOTO COURTESY DCINY

The McDuffie Center String Ensemble, Mercer Singers and soprano soloist Olivia McMillan, a native of Centerville, perform John Rutter's *Requiem* on Feb. 19 at Carnegie Hall.

numerous state and regional programs for the American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Educators. The choir has performed throughout the U.S. and experienced six highly successful international tours. This was the choir's first performance in Carnegie Hall.

Soprano soloist for the *Requiem* was Centerville, Georgia, native Olivia McMillan. McMillan grew up singing in children's choir at Macon's First Baptist Church and joined

the Mercer University Children's Choir at age 9. She began her classical vocal training at the age of 14 with Marie Jarriel Roberts at Mercer. A graduate of Northside High School, McMillan was named one of the "Top 10 Teens who Changed the World" in 2014 by *Teen Vogue* magazine and received the title of Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2015. Currently, she is in her second year studying vocal performance at the Julliard School where she is a Kovner Fellow.

## Mercer Honored with 2016 Tree Campus USA® Recognition

MERCER IS ONE OF 296 INSTITUTIONS nationally to receive the Arbor Day Foundation's 2016 Tree Campus USA® recognition for the University's commitment to effective urban forest management.

Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor



Day Foundation to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Mercer earned the designation by meeting Tree Campus USA's five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory

committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project.

The Arbor Day Foundation has helped campuses throughout the country plant thousands of trees, and Tree Campus USA colleges and universities invested more than \$46.7 million in campus forest management last year.



## Awards Dinner Recognizes Outstanding Mercerians

**S**everal Mercerians were recognized for their contributions to the University at the second annual Alumni Awards Dinner, held Nov. 4 during Homecoming.

Honorees included recipients of the

Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Meritorious Service Award and the Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award. The Mercer Alumni Association also recognized the newest class of Alumni by Choice honorees and presented alumni chapter awards.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award, given to an individual who serves his or her profession in an outstanding manner and, in doing so, brings honor to the individual and the University, was presented to the Hon. James “Bubber” Epps of Dry Branch.

Epps, who earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education from Mercer, is retired from his family’s construction business and has served since 2009 as the State Representative for House District 144, composed of Bleckley, Twiggs and Wilkinson counties and parts of Bibb, Houston, Jones and Laurens counties. For more than 50 years, he has been a devoted alumnus and personal advocate for the University through his work and his public service.

The Meritorious Service Award, given to an individual who supports the Alumni Association and the University through contributions of time, talents and financial resources, was presented to Robert F. Hatcher of Macon.

Hatcher, who serves as vice president of MidCountry Financial Corp., is the grandson of Eugene W. Stetson, for whom Mercer’s Stetson School of Business and Economics is named. Hatcher has served multiple terms on, and is a former chair of, the University’s Board of Trustees and has been a face and voice for Mercer at the city and state levels, including on Georgia’s Board of Regents. He has provided steady and generous financial support to the University both personally and through his family’s foundation.

The Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award, given to an alum who has graduated within the past 10 years, is no more than 35 years of age and has reached one or more of five stated accomplishments, one of which is demonstration of continuous support of the Alumni Association and the University, was presented to Steuart Botchford of Boston, Massachusetts.

Botchford, who earned his Bachelor of Arts from Mercer, is a founder and managing partner of Ultima Capital Partners, an operator-led private equity firm that specializes in operating small to mid-size businesses. While a student, he was a Mercer Ambassador and president of the Student Government Association. Since graduation, Botchford has remained connected to Mercer, returning often, keeping in touch with classmates and faculty and giving generously to the University as a member of the President’s Club.

The Alumni by Choice awards were created to recognize individuals who did not graduate from Mercer but have demonstrated loyalty to the University over the years. This year’s recipients are Malcolm and Candy Burgess of Macon and Dicky and Kay Saunders of Columbus.

Alumni chapter awards included the New Chapter of the Year Award, which was accepted by leader Taylor Garrett on behalf of the Fort Myers (Florida) Chapter; the Chapter Service Award, accepted by Amy Griswold Martin on behalf of the Atlanta Chapter; and the Most Engaged Chapter Award, accepted by co-leaders Jamie Dickson and Jamie Givens on behalf of the Warner Robins Chapter.

**Recipients of Mercer’s three traditional alumni awards, which were presented on Nov. 4 during Homecoming, included Distinguished Alumnus Award winner the Hon. James “Bubber” Epps (top), Meritorious Service Award winner Robert F. Hatcher (middle) and Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award winner Steuart Botchford (bottom).**





## Limited Mobility Children Get Their Own Wheels

**T**he School of Engineering Honors Program hosted a Go Baby Go event in December to modify battery-powered toy cars for children with limited mobility.

Go Baby Go is a national, community-based research, design and outreach program begun in 2012 at the University of Delaware. Integrating assistive technology, families, clinicians and industry partners, the program helps provide children with disabilities the opportunity for movement, mobility and socialization.

Mercer students built and modified cars to fit the specific needs of children in 10 families. This event received support from Dr. Sybil Keesbury in Mercer's Tift College of Education as well as funding from the University's Research that Reaches Out Quality Enhancement Plan and the Warner Robins Post of the Society of American Military Engineers.

"The Engineering Scholars Track of the Mercer Honors Program is excited about

incorporating Go Baby Go builds as a thread through the track. Freshman, sophomore and senior engineering scholars will participate in builds every year," said Dr. Phil McCreanor, professor of environmental engineering and director of the Engineering Honors Program.

"The nature of Go Baby Go is a great fit for the School of Engineering, which has a history of client-based engineering design projects that serve community needs. Conducting these builds across the various academic levels of the Engineering Scholars Track will provide an opportunity



Mercer students built and modified battery-powered toy cars for 10 families during December's Go Baby Go event.

to show the freshman- and sophomore-level engineering scholars how engineers can use their skills to serve their community and also provide the senior engineering scholars with leadership opportunities as well as a connection back to the beginning of their engineering studies."

## Center for the Study of Narrative Receives \$500K Grant

**T**he Center for the Study of Narrative recently received a five-year, \$500,000 commitment from the Georgia Compassion Project to further the work of the multidisciplinary service and research initiative housed within Penfield College's Department of Counseling.

"The Center for the Study of Narrative offers students and faculty in Penfield College a unique opportunity to combine service, research and presentation in a variety of public forums," said Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, dean of

the College. "We are grateful for the continuing generous support of the Georgia Compassion Project and for Dr. Don Redmond's leadership of Center initiatives."

Launched in 2014, the Center for the Study of Narrative supports narrative-related research agendas of students and faculty. The Center's work draws from a variety of disciplines — including communication, psychology, sociology, human services, literary studies and writing, historical studies, counseling and mathematics — and uses research methods

to study the lives of individuals and cultures, giving students practical education while promoting community outreach and service.

"This grant will allow us to continue building on the early success of our community outreach, service learning and research," said Dr. Redmond, assistant professor of counseling and Center director "Further, the increased annual amount fully funds a doctoral fellowship and will add to our ability to support innovative qualitative dissertation research."

## Obidoa Selected as Population Health Equity Fellow at Harvard

DR. CHINEKWU OBIDOA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of global health in the College of Liberal Arts, was selected as a Population Health Equity Fellow by the Population Health Equity Forum at Harvard University.

The fellowship is awarded to public health professionals who address population health equity issues based on their ongoing academic and professional achievements. Dr. Obidoa is



Dr. Obidoa

one of five fellows selected from a competitive pool of international candidates, and is the only tenure-track professor in the U.S. selected to participate in this inaugural cohort.

As a mixed-methods researcher, Dr. Obidoa focuses on spatial and

social epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, local and global disparities in health and the health of emerging adulthood.

Dr. Obidoa joined the Mercer faculty in 2013. She earned her Ph.D. in public health from the University of Connecticut and also holds master's degrees in geography, public health, and international studies with a concentration in African studies.



## Center for Southern Studies Renamed to Honor Longtime Faculty Member Dr. Spencer B. King Jr.

**T**he Center for Southern Studies in Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts has been named for the late Dr. Spencer B. King Jr., who was instrumental in the program's formation more than 60 years ago. A highly competitive grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) was awarded to Mercer, and the King family has made a major endowment commitment to help underwrite the Center.

"Dr. Spencer B. King Jr. played a vital role in the College of Liberal Arts. As longtime chair of Mercer's History Department, Dr. King introduced many of the courses that became core components of the Southern Studies Program," said Dr. Sarah Gardner, professor of history and Center director. "His colleagues throughout the College, University and across the state acknowledged Dr. King as a respected scholar, author, teacher, and mentor. I can think of no more appropriate person for whom the Center should be named."

"In this age of technologic acceleration, the need for education in the humanities is more important than ever," said Dr. Spencer B. King III, Mercer trustee, alumnus and Dr. Spencer B. King Jr.'s son.

The Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies is home to the Lamar Memorial Lecture Series, founded by Dr. King and Dr. Ben Griffith and now the nation's most prestigious on southern history, literature, and culture, and the recently established Laurie Byington Lectures on the Contemporary South. The Center offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate major that studies the region from multiple perspectives including courses in African-American studies, English, history, political science, and cultural studies. It also offers Southern Semester, a unique opportunity for students from American and international universities to learn about and to experience the people, history, and culture of the U.S. South.

In addition, the Center publishes the *Journal of Southern Religion* and annually

awards the Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature, which recognizes significant career contributions to southern writing. Past recipients include Ernest Gaines, Lee Smith, Elizabeth Spencer, Yusef Komunyakaa and Wendell Berry.

"Mercer University's Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies is one of the premier Southern Studies programs that focuses on the undergraduate experience," said Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "The ongoing support of the King family will allow the College to further enhance



### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

#### *Spencer B. King, Jr., Center for Southern Studies*

the Center's national reputation and build on the legacy of Spencer B. King Jr. We are very grateful for this investment in the future of Southern Studies at the University."

Dr. King joined the Mercer faculty in 1947 and retired in 1973. During his tenure he developed a series of new courses focused on Southern history and culture, including the history of the Old South and New South and the history of Georgia. Dr. King was also widely recognized for both his historical scholarship and his

ability to share history with a popular audience. His emphasis on primary sources and social history resulted in many titles, including *Ebb Tide*, *The Wartime Journal of a Georgia Girl*, *Darien*, *Georgia Voices: A Documentary History to 1872*, as well as the standard school textbook, *The History of Georgia*. During the Civil War's Centennial, Dr. King wrote a series of articles for the *Macon Telegraph*, which were collected as *Sound of the Drums* and published by Mercer University Press in 1984. As a scholar, Dr.

King's research and writing was expansive in its coverage of the South, but special attention was always focused on Georgia. He also made significant contributions to understanding the history of Baptists in Georgia and served as president of the Southern Baptist Historical Society.

In 2015 the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies a \$500,000 challenge grant to support establishment of an endowment for programming and outreach activities. NEH challenge grants are capacity-building grants, intended to help institutions and organizations secure long-term support for their humanities programs and resources. Through these awards, recipients have been able to increase their humanities capacity and secure the permanent support of an endowment.

## Center for Southern Studies Hosts Inaugural Byington Lecture on the Contemporary South

THE SPENCER B. KING JR. CENTER FOR SOUTHERN Studies hosted its inaugural Laurie Byington Lecture on the Contemporary South on Jan. 19, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hank Klibanoff. Klibanoff directs the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project, both a class and an ongoing historical and journalistic exploration of the Jim Crow South in which Emory undergraduate students examine Georgia history through the prism of unsolved or unpunished racially-motivated murders that occurred in the state during the modern civil rights era.

The Laurie Byington Lecture Series on the Contemporary South was established by Madge Byington in honor of her

daughter, Laurie Leigh Byington, who graduated with a degree in psychology from the College of Liberal Arts in 1992. Laurie Byington loyally served the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board of Directors from 2008 to 2011, where she was instrumental in the development of the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board of Directors Scholarship. Like her father, Frank Edward "Buddy" Byington, a 1958 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, Laurie has generously committed her time and resources to her beloved alma mater. This gift assisted the University in meeting its National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant for the 2015-16 reporting year.



# OnTheQuad

## FACULTY ROUNDUP

### Gardner Selected as Brown Foundation Scholar by Sewanee

Dr. Sarah Gardner, professor of history and director of the Center for Southern Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, was selected as a Brown Foundation Scholar at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, for the current spring semester.



Dr. Gardner

As a Brown Scholar, Dr. Gardner is teaching teach a four-credit-hour course titled "The Muse of War," is engaging with students outside of class time, participating in new faculty orientation and offering at least one public presentation related to her research. She will also continue work on her current book project, *Reading During Wartime*, which explores the reading habits, practices and choices of the American people during the Civil War.

"Dr. Gardner is a first-rate scholar in Southern history, and this honor reflects the respect she has earned from colleagues in her field," said Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Her leadership in Mercer's Center for Southern Studies has elevated it to become one of the premier undergraduate programs of

its kind in the country."

Dr. Gardner studies the intellectual and cultural history of the American South, specializing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In addition to being named a Brown Scholar, in the past year alone, Dr. Gardner has received fellowships from the New York Public Library, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute for American History, and the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

She has previously received Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowships from the Virginia Historical Society and from the Huntington Library, an Earhart Foundation Fellowship from the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan and a Harrison Institute Fellowship in American Literature from the University of Virginia, in addition to several other highly competitive fellowships and research grants from the William R. Perkins Library at Duke University, the Institute for Southern Studies at the University of South Carolina, the Newberry Library and the Harry Ransom Center for the Humanities at the University of Texas, Austin.

In addition to history, Dr. Gardner teaches courses in Africana studies, women's and gender studies and the Great Books Program. She also directs the Lamar Lectures, the most prominent lecture series on Southern history and culture in the U.S.

### French, Lackey Named to All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team

The Southern Conference named its All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team in December, with Emily French and Dr. Laura Lackey serving as Mercer's representatives to be recognized by the league. French formerly served as coordinator of sports operations in the Athletic Department, while Dr. Lackey is a professor and senior associate dean in the Biomedical and Environmental Engineering Department in the School of Engineering.



French



Dr. Lackey

The recipients all shared the common characteristics of demonstrated service to the institution and contributions to campus life and the local community. Faculty members selected have a proven record of high scholastic achievement among students and/or recognition for a research project or written academic piece, while staff members may be from the instructional/teaching ranks or the non-instructional ranks and are recognized for bringing out the best in others and creating conditions for success.

### Mercer Faculty Author New Books

NEW BOOKS RECENTLY AUTHORED BY UNIVERSITY FACULTY:

**Dr. James Eric Black**, Schumann Endowed Professor in Writing for Media and assistant director of the Center for Collaborative Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *Walt Kelly and Pogo: The Art of the Political Swamp*, McFarland.

**Dr. Wallace Daniel**, Distinguished University Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *Russia's Uncommon Prophet: Father Aleksandr Men and His Times*, Northern Illinois Press.

**Dr. John Marson Dunaway**, professor emeritus of French and interdisciplinary studies in the College of Liberal Arts, authored a translation of Vladimir Volkoff's *Le Tortionnaire/The Torturer*,

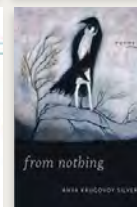
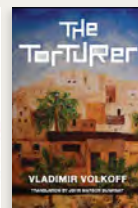
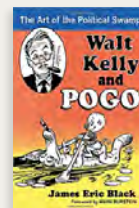
Mercer University Press.

**Dr. Matthew Harper**, assistant professor of history and Africana studies in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *The End of Days: African American Religion and Politics in the Age of Emancipation*, The University of North Carolina Press.

**David Hricik**, professor of law in the School of Law, co-authored *Patent Ethics: Prosecution (Fourth Edition)*, Matthew Bender.

**Dr. Richard Leighton**, professor of internal medicine in the School of Medicine, authored *Dear Folks: A Memoir From 500 Letters*, Litfire.

**Dr. Anya Krugovoy Silver**, professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts, authored *From Nothing*, LSU Press.





## Southern Studies to Award Lanier Prize to Gilchrist

**M**ercer's Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies will award the 2017 Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature to novelist, short story writer and poet Ellen Gilchrist on April 22. The prize honors significant career contributions to Southern writing in drama, fiction or poetry.

"Ellen Gilchrist has been writing since she was 4 years old. Over a career more than seven decades long, she has written candidly about her own life, about the lives of Southern women and about the changing South. Her work is a vital chronicle of Southerners and the South," said Dr. David A. Davis, chair of the prize committee and professor of English at Mercer.

Gilchrist was born near Vicksburg, Mississippi, on Feb. 20, 1935. She has authored 23 books, which include a variety of short stories, poetry and fiction, and has received numerous awards as well as a National Endowment for the Arts Grant in Fiction.

She attended Vanderbilt University, where she earned a B.A. in philosophy, and Millsaps College, where she earned a second bachelor's degree while studying under famed Mississippi writer Eudora Welty. After postgraduate study in creative writing at the University of Arkansas, she undertook various writing and journalism jobs and served as a contributing editor for New Orleans's *Vieux Carre Courier* from 1976 until 1979, when her first book of poetry, *The Land Surveyor's Daughter*, was published.

Her first collection of short stories, *The Land of Dreamy Dreams* (1981), sold more than 10,000 copies in its first 10 months and

attracted tremendous critical acclaim. Her first novel, *The Annunciation* (1983), was followed by National Book Award-winning story collection *Victory Over Japan* (1984). This early success led to a one-year stint as a commentator on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*. Her commentaries were later published as *Falling Through Space: The Journals of Ellen Gilchrist* (1987).

Among Gilchrist's other well-known works are *The Anna Papers* (1988), *Net of Jewels* (1992), *The Age of Miracles* (1995), and *I, Rhoda Manning, Go Hunting with My Daddy, and other Stories* (2002).

She has taught creative writing at the University of Arkansas since 2000. She later wrote her first memoir, *The Writing Life* (2005), in which she discusses overcoming alcoholism, the challenges of teaching students the art of writing and balancing artistic pursuits with family life. Her most recent works include the novel *A Dangerous Age* (2008), story collection *Acts of God* (2014) and autobiographical essay collection *Things Like the Truth: Out*



Gilchrist

*of My Later Years* (2016).

The Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature, first awarded in 2012, is named for the 19th-century Southern poet born in Macon. Lanier wrote "The Song of the Chattahoochee" and "The Marshes of Glynn." Using his name recognizes Middle Georgia's literary heritage and long, often complicated, tradition of writing about the South.

## Education Alumni Earn GASSP Principal of the Year Awards

The Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals recently named Tift College of Education alumni as both its 2018 Principal of the Year and Middle School Principal of the Year.

Dr. Tommy Welch (EDU '15), principal of Meadowcreek High School in Gwinnett County, was named Principal of the



Dr. Welch

Year from a pool of five statewide finalists and will represent Georgia in the competition for National Principal of the Year, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy from Mercer.

Dr. Tiffany Taylor (EDU '06, EDU '09), principal of



Dr. Taylor

Carver Road Middle School in Spalding County, was named Middle School Principal of the Year in addition to being one of the five finalists for Principal of the Year. She earned both her Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy from Mercer.

The Principal of the Year program recognizes principals who excel in educational leadership, resolving complex problems, developing self and others, and community service.



# OnTheQuad

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### ■ Two Students Win Awards at AMWHO Conference

The University sent seven students to the third annual American Model World Health Organization (AMWHO) conference, held at Emory University in November.

Two students earned awards at the conference, including senior Anna Cizek from Naperville, Illinois, for Best Delegate in the Africa region, and sophomore Daniel Crum from Atlanta, for Best Position Paper in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

In addition to Cizek, an international affairs and global health studies double-major, and Crum, an international affairs major, Mercer's delegation included junior international affairs major Sterling Conyers, junior global health studies major Kaitlyn Koontz, senior women's and gender studies and neuroscience double-major Anna Johnson, junior global health studies major Ashila Jiwani and senior global health studies and anthropology double-major Nora Darling.

AMWHO was created in January 2014 to simulate the proceedings and procedures of the World Health Organization. The annual international conference is open to undergraduate and graduate students, and each year, it is centered on a different health issue. These issues have included health in times of conflict, universal health coverage and antimicrobial resistance.

Mercer students have won awards at each of the three national AMWHO conferences.

### ■ Mondaizie Named 2016 Griffith Scholar

Freshman Kaylor Mondaizie, an honor graduate of Bibb County's Howard High School, was named Mercer's 2016 Griffith Scholar.

The Griffith Scholars program is funded by Mercer trustee, alumnus and Macon businessman Benjamin W. "Benjy" Griffith III. The scholarship enables gifted graduates

of Bibb County high schools with demonstrated financial need to obtain the premier education available at Mercer.

Mondaizie plans to pursue a career in medicine with a concentration in neuroscience. Her interest in health care is rooted in her aspirations to serve others and positively affect her community.

As senior class president and president of the National Honor Society, Mondaizie demonstrated excellence in academic and extracurricular activities. She was recognized as an Advanced Placement Scholar and Georgia Merit Scholar. Her extracurricular pursuits included serving as drum major for the Howard High Marching Huskies and performing as a violinist in the chamber orchestra and as a clarinetist in the wind ensemble. She was also captain of the mock trial team and was awarded Best Attorney at the Georgia Mock Trial Competition.

The Griffith Scholars program was launched in 2010, with the inaugural recipient entering Mercer in the fall semester of 2011. As part of the program, the University matches each scholarship dollar awarded from the fund. Given the match by the University, the effect of this partnership between Griffith and the University is the equivalent of a \$5 million endowed scholarship fund.

A Griffith Scholars candidate must be a senior who is progressing toward successful graduation from an accredited high school in Macon-Bibb County. The student must reside in the district and have been enrolled at a school in Macon-Bibb since at least ninth grade, have a minimum high school GPA of 3.25 and have demonstrated need.

Mondaizie

AMY MADDOX PHOTO



### ■ Penfield College Student Wins National Leadership Award

Keith J. Myers, a recent graduate of Penfield College's doctoral-level counselor education and supervision program, received the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award.

Myers received the national award at the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) regional meeting Oct. 6-8 in New Orleans.

The award honors a graduate student member who has provided outstanding leadership to counselor education and the counseling profession. Leadership activities could include state-, regional- or national-level activities that are directly relevant to the advancement of counselor education, ACES, and the counseling profession; assuming leadership positions in university organizations related to counselor education and counseling; working on innovative research, publication activities or professional presentations directly related to counselor education; participating in professional organizations; and modeling leadership for current and future ACES members for the



# OnTheQuad

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

sake of developing future leaders in ACES and the counseling profession.

"I'm honored and pleased to receive this leadership award from ACES," said Myers. "This division devotes itself to the development of counselor educators and supervisors, and I'm proud to be a member of this active association as I continue my journey as a counselor educator."

Myers serves as an ad hoc reviewer for the *Counseling and Values Journal* published by the ACA's Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling and as an editorial board member for the *Journal of Military and Government Counseling* published by the ACA's Military and Government Counseling Association. He is a graduate student representative for ACA Georgia State Branch Executive Council, former co-chair for the ACA Ethics Committee, and was recently appointed to a four-year term on the ACA Editorial Board. He is the author of 13 publications, seven of which are peer-reviewed, and has given around two-dozen presentations. He is currently under contract by Cognella Academic Press to write a textbook on counseling the veteran population.

He regularly works as a trauma therapist and veteran's advocate specializing in combat post-traumatic stress disorder and other veteran issues.

### ■ Debaters Finish Top Two in State for Third Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year, Mercer's debate team has the top two speakers in the Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association (GPDA).

Junior Kyle Bligen was awarded first-place speaker at the GPDA state competition Feb. 25-26 in Valdosta, while fellow junior Jaz Buckley finished second. Mercer is the first institution to hold the top two individual speaker awards at the state level for three straight years.

Additionally, sophomore Keanu Lowo finished fourth, freshman Taylor Cole was

**Mercer Debate Team, from left, Dr. Vasile Stănescu, Taylor Cole, Kyle Bligen, Jaz Buckley, Keanu Lowo and Daniel Alvarez**

eighth and junior Daniel Alvarez was 10th.

The teams of Bligen and Buckley advanced to the finals, while Alvarez and Lowo reached the semifinals and sophomore Cassie Malcolm and Cole reached the quarterfinals.

This year's debaters made history both in the number of teams that reached the elimination rounds and in the number of individual awards won. "Mercer debaters consistently win because they work incredibly hard," said Dr. Vasile Stănescu, assistant professor of communication studies and director of debate. "The entire team is grateful to the faculty who supported and encouraged these students. We could not do it without you. A win for the debate team is a win for Mercer."

Also at the state competition, Dr. Stănescu was elected the new president of the GPDA.

### ■ Phi Eta Sigma Receives One of Three National Capstone Awards

Mercer's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society received one of only three Capstone Awards granted by the national office for the 2015-2016 academic year.

In addition to the Capstone Award, Mercer was one of 16 chapters nationwide to earn a Pyramid Award by meeting specified requirements for consistency in new member inductions, appropriate communication with the national office, proper reporting of activities and participation in the national scholarship program.

Each year, a subcommittee of Phi Eta Sigma's Executive Committee selects three elite chapters among the Pyramid Award



recipients to receive Capstone Awards.

Capstone Award recipients must meet additional requirements such as service or leadership events/projects and participation at the national level.

Founded in 1923, Phi Eta Sigma is the nation's oldest and largest honor society for first-year college and university students in all disciplines. Mercer's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma was established in 1932.

### ■ Binary Bears Take Second in Regional Programming Contest

Mercer's computer programming team, the Binary Bears, brought home the second-place trophy from the annual Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC) programming competition held last fall on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Mercer's top team was composed of senior Brady Bretin from Peachtree City, senior Andrew Buff from Sharpsburg, senior Tyler Burnham from Milledgeville and senior David Vorreiter from Fisherville, Kentucky.

The CCSC contest is held each year among smaller schools without graduate programs in computer science.

Mercer holds seven CCSC titles and has had more success than any other institution in the Southeast over the last 20 years.

## MUP Announces Inaugural Civil War Authors and Writers Symposium for Fall 2017

**T**he Inaugural Mercer University Press Authors and Writers Symposium will be held Sept. 29-30 in Cecil B. Day Hall on Mercer's

Atlanta campus. Marine veteran, football coaching legend, athletic director, and sports personality Vince Dooley will be keynote

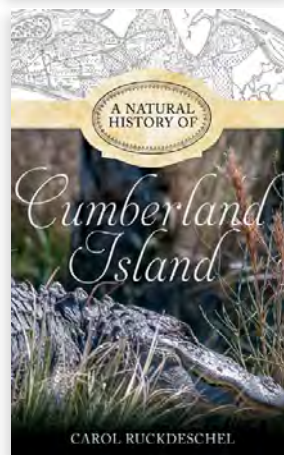
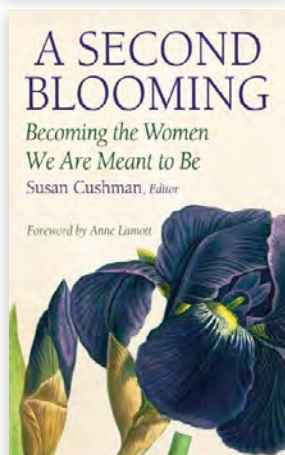
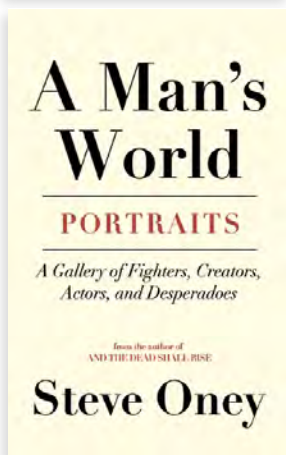
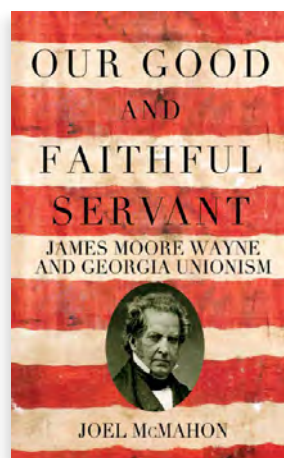
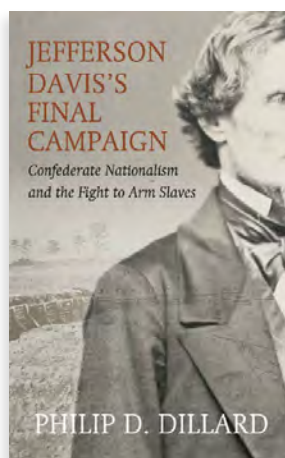
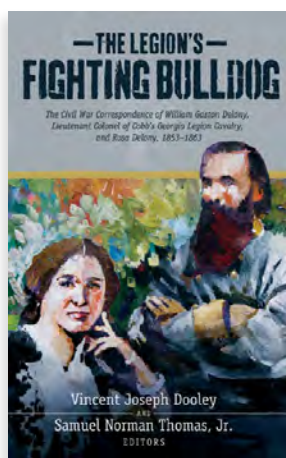


**Dooley**

speaker for the event. Dooley serves as chairman of the Georgia Historical Society and trustee of the Civil War Trust. Official registration begins July 1 with a \$75 registration fee. A detailed schedule will

be announced late spring.

Mercer University Press continues to acquire strong scholarship from a variety of authors from across the country and offers 17 new books for the spring/summer season. Highlighted titles include: *The Legion's Fighting Bulldog: The Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Delony, Lieutenant Colonel of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Delony, 1853-1863*, edited by Vincent J. Dooley and Samuel N. Thomas Jr., which chronicles the story of a young UGA graduate on the cusp of a promising law career in the 1850s, who became known for his "commanding presence, bulldog courage, and superb generalship"; *Jefferson Davis's Final Campaign: Confederate Nationalism and the Fight to Arm Slaves* by Philip D. Dillard, who explores Davis's call on Congress to create a new Confederate identity based in the experience of war rather than in the shadow of the Old South; *Our Good and Faithful Servant: James Moore Wayne and Georgia Unionism* by Mercer professor Joel McMahon, a biography of a U.S. Supreme Court Justice from Georgia who remained loyal to the Union throughout his lifetime; *A Man's World: Portraits*, a collection of 20 award-winning



profiles of fascinating men (Harrison Ford, Robert Penn Warren, Gregg Allman, Herschel Walker) by author and magazine writer Steve Oney; *A Second Blooming: Becoming the Women We Are Meant to Be*, a collection of 20 essays written by women authors, edited by Susan Cushman, with a foreword by Anne Lamott; and *A Natural History of Cumberland Island, Georgia*, by Carol Ruckdeschel, who has lived on the island for more than 40 years and provides the most comprehensive picture of the island's flora, fauna, geology, and ecology to date.

Visit [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org) to see a complete listing of titles or to download the catalog. Books are available from favorite independent bookstores, major online retailers, or wherever fine books are sold. Order from Mercer University Press directly and receive a 40 percent Mercer alumni discount by calling (478) 301-2880. Shipping charges and taxes will apply.

To be added to the Civil War mailing list or learn more about the Civil War Authors and Writers Symposium, email [mupressorders@mercer.edu](mailto:mupressorders@mercer.edu) or call for details.



# WHERE EVERYONE MAJORS IN CHANGING THE WORLD

## **Mercer Incorporating Higher Education, Global Service in Innovative, Award-Winning Ways** By Kyle Sears

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**I**N HIGHER EDUCATION, as in many industries, clever marketing taglines are a dime a dozen. Perhaps because they often reflect more style than substance, the shelf life of these slogans is usually brief — that is, if they catch on at all. On rare occasions, however, a tagline — because of its authenticity — transcends marketing and becomes embedded in the culture of the institution it represents.

Several years ago, the University introduced a new slogan: “At Mercer, everyone majors in changing the world.” Still today, this phrase can be seen on banners across Mercer’s campuses and Centers and is often heard repeated by faculty and students.

Increasingly, incoming students cite the opportunity to make a positive impact on local and global communities foremost among their reasons for choosing Mercer. Recent national accolades, such as the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, support the notion that the University is a national leader in service. Internationally, the prime minister of Vietnam recently referred to Mercer as the most effective nongovernmental organization (NGO) operating in the country.

Mercerians are changing the world, and the world is taking notice.

### **A National Leader in Global Service**

**E**arly last year, Mercer was ranked No. 11 on a new list from Princeton Review of “The Top 25 Best Schools for Making an Impact.” These institutions were recognized for their efforts across a variety of areas, including community service opportunities, student government, sustainability initiatives,

on-campus student engagement and alumni who reported having highly meaningful jobs.

The University twice has been recognized among the fewer than 400 institutions to receive the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which not only takes into account community service efforts but also adherence to best practices in service-learning, such as teaching students cross-cultural awareness and ethical standards of service.

Additionally, McAfee School of Theology is routinely selected by the Center for Faith and Service as one of its “Seminaries that Change the World” — yet another of the numerous accolades Mercer has received over the last decade that illustrate the University’s commitment to providing students with meaningful opportunities to effect positive change.

Most notable among these recognitions was the most recent President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll,





Engineering Honors Program students, guided by Dr. Michael MacCarthy, participate in a manual drilling exercise that can be replicated in areas with limited resources to achieve low-cost groundwater development.



announced last October. Mercer was one of the most decorated institutions in the country, as the sole Finalist for the Presidential Award in the Economic Opportunity category and earning Honor Roll with Distinction in both the General Community Service and Education categories.

The Honor Roll, compiled by the Corporation for National and Community Service, recognizes higher education institutions whose community service achieves meaningful impact in their communities. It is the highest federal recognition that colleges and universities can receive for service-learning and community service.

During the period under consideration for the 2015 Honor Roll, Mercer students contributed more than 400,000 hours of service, translating to a dollar value of nearly \$10 million. Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning, estimates that the University is on track to reach half a million hours of service during the current academic year.

Mercer students contribute these hundreds of thousands of service hours despite there being no service requirement for graduation, nor a large endowment for community engagement, a luxury that is available to a number of the University's peer institutions. Currently, 72 percent of undergraduates take at least one service-learning course, and of these students, 50 percent take two or more. Furthermore, one-third of students across all 12 schools and colleges at all of Mercer's campuses and locations take at least one course with a service-learning component.

Dr. Morgan was appointed the University's first senior vice provost for service-learning in 2008, underscoring Mercer's commitment to service. This administrative position was created to coordinate faculty development in the pedagogy of service-learning and promote its use on campus.

Dr. Morgan, who joined Mercer's faculty in 1997, has served as an advocate for social justice both on campus and in the community, initiating projects to raise awareness about

issues such as violence against women, sex trafficking, poverty and racial inequality. In 2013, she was a finalist for the national Campus Compact Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award. She was co-principal investigator on a \$500,000 planning grant from the U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhood Program, as Macon was one of only 15 communities in the nation and the only one in the Southeast to receive funding to create pipelines of support and empowerment in high-poverty neighborhoods. She was also instrumental in the development of United Way of Central Georgia's Read2Succeed Program, which received a \$225,000 challenge grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation to expand its efforts to nine Macon-Bibb County elementary schools.

Hannah Vann, who serves as Mercer's coordinator for community engagement, has a strong background in service leadership as well. In 2010, Vann — then a Mercer student — received the Gulf-South Summit Award for Outstanding Student Contributions to Service Learning in Higher Education for her service efforts, including launching an anti-sex trafficking movement in Middle Georgia and hosting a national conference on human trafficking on the Macon campus. She went

on to earn a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Indonesia. In 2014, she returned to the University to work alongside one of her mentors, Dr. Morgan, to oversee Macon campus community outreach, including developing volunteer and service-learning partnerships and placing community-based work study students.

Guided by the likes of Dr. Morgan and Vann, the University — from the administration to the faculty to the students



CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO

**Senior Vice Provost for Service-Learning Dr. Mary Alice Morgan (center) and Coordinator for Community Engagement Hannah Vann (right) play integral roles in Mercer's community service efforts.**

— is going above and beyond to ensure that serving and empowering others is seen as an integral part of a Mercer education.

## 'Changing the World Starts at Home'

**M**ercer's longstanding focus on lending a helping hand to its local communities permeates the University culture — from work being done by institution-wide offices such as Vann's Center for Community Engagement to innovative outreach in faculty-led courses to community programs led by student organizations.

"Changing the World Starts at Home" is the new slogan recently adopted by MerServe, which coordinates many of the University's domestic service projects through a student-run board.

Many critical areas of need in Macon-Bibb County, for instance, are being touched by the efforts of Mercer students. The Center for Community Engagement is holding poverty simulations for local organizations. Engineering students are helping to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of Habitat for Humanity blight remediation efforts. Law students are partnering with Navicent Health to provide Medicaid advocacy. Business students are offering volunteer income tax assistance. Spanish language students are organizing a healthcare fair to increase access to services in the Hispanic community. Marketing students are promoting





their own unique brand, Traffick Jam, aimed at eliminating sex trafficking from Middle Georgia. And these are just a few examples.

“Our service-learning students can demonstrate that they’ve not only done service but that they’ve developed valuable skill sets and had a clear, demonstrable impact,” said Dr. Morgan. “At a lot of institutions, the service



experience is more along the lines of ‘I held this position in a student organization’ or ‘I participated in this service event.’ At Mercer, whole projects have been brought to completion by students.”

“We’re very focused on reducing duplication of services,” added Vann. “Instead of a bunch of tiny little projects or initiatives that never really go anywhere, students are able

**As a student in 2009, current Coordinator for Community Engagement Hannah Vann helped organize a national conference on human trafficking, “STOP Sex Trafficking: A Call to End 21st Century Slavery,” at Mercer.**

to take new or existing projects and grow them to increase capacity and impact on the community.”

Over the past several years, the Mercer Service Scholars have been involved in a variety of these types of projects in Macon.



The program, launched in 2007 as part of the University Honors Program, focuses on creating a skilled corps of student leaders whose passion is service. She calls them “the spark plugs” that run the engine of community service on campus. In 2012, the Service Scholars began an alternative spring break program. While many institutions send students to other regions of the country to perform service during spring break, the Service Scholars elected to address the high needs of the low-income community in Macon.

Internationally, this year, sophomore Service Scholars are partnering with the Center for Collaborative Journalism to create instructional videos for the University of Cape Town’s medical school documenting the healthcare access and needs of township residents in Cape Town, South Africa.

The continued growth and future of domestic service at Mercer is rooted in the model of the Anchor Institution. Anchor Institutions, a term brought into fashion over the past several years by organizations such as the Association of American Colleges and Universities and Campus Compact, are schools that are committed to the community in which they’re located to such a degree that they make it a part of their mission to use the university’s resources of research, expertise and outreach to help the community flourish.

“Anchor Institutions become so immersed in the community that they drive economic development, educational development and, in our case, health and medical development, as well as with initiatives such as the College Hill Corridor, downtown and arts development,” said Dr. Morgan. “We’re distinctive in that we work to address so many sectors of the community.

In Macon-Bibb County, Dr. Morgan noted examples of Mercer-driven community development such as the University’s role in encouraging United Way of Central Georgia to refocus its efforts from being a funding agency to being a “community impact” agency.

One key focus at the local level has been improving literacy. Currently, the University has some 500 students providing tutoring in the Bibb County School District. More than 200 of these students tutor in local elementary schools, as reading proficiency by the third grade has been identified as the most important predictor of high school

graduation and career success. Some 70 percent of prison inmates cannot read above a fourth-grade level, and 90 percent of welfare recipients are high school dropouts. Mercer has partnered with United Way’s Read2Succeed Program, and, along with the efforts of local retirees, teachers and administrators, children have dramatically improved, in many cases doubling their reading proficiency.

“Our outreach is not a one-time thing,” Dr. Morgan said of following the Anchor Institution model. “We want to be there consistently in a sustainable and high-impact way.”

## Mercer On Mission

**T**he most widely known example of impactful global service at the University is Mercer On Mission Vietnam. One of the flagship programs of Mercer’s unique hybrid of service-learning and study abroad, faculty and students first traveled to Vietnam in 2009 to fit amputees with biomedical engineering professor Dr. Ha Vo’s patented Universal Socket Prosthetic, which costs less than \$250 to produce and is provided and fitted at no cost to patients.

The son of a U.S.-trained non-commissioned officer in the army of the Republic of Vietnam, Dr. Vo

saw firsthand the devastating consequences of unexploded ordnance and land mines left over from the Vietnam War. There are more than 100,000 amputees in Vietnam with 2,000 additional men, women and children losing limbs each year largely because of the estimated 2.2 million of these deadly devices that remain scattered throughout the countryside.

A major grant from the Macon-based Sheridan Foundation, as well as gifts from individuals, organizations and companies, have allowed the University to greatly increase



**More than 200 Mercer students currently tutor in local elementary schools, as reading proficiency by the third grade has been identified as the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.**

production of prostheses in Vietnam. To date, the program has fit 6,500 amputees and grown its capacity to fit as many as 3,200 new patients per year. Production is only limited by the amount of money the University can raise for materials and labor.

In June 2015, the program was issued a Certificate of Operation, which officially acknowledged the Vietnamese government’s approval of its work and made several allowances for the University to more easily operate clinics in several locations across the country. Former Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng called Mercer On Mission the most effective NGO operating in the country. The prosthetics program has been recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative and its leaders have engaged in discussions

with the United Nations and other international organizations about expanding its efforts into additional countries.

The future of Mercer On Mission’s international service efforts is the Centers of Strength model, which is being piloted in Ecuador, where in recent years chemistry professor Dr. Adam Kiefer has led a team focused on reducing mercury pollution among local gold miners.

Mercury poisoning is a worldwide problem, and artisanal and small-scale gold mining converge to form the primary source of mercury pollution in the world. Due to its ease of transport, mercury travels freely

**MERCER ON MISSION**  
*Crossing cultures. Changing lives.*

A boy arrives at a Mercer  
On Mission clinic in  
Vietnam this past  
December to be fitted  
with one of Dr. Ha  
Vo's Universal  
Socket Prosthetics.





## Missy Angalla, DIV '15 Refuge and Hope International Kampala, Uganda

MISSY WARD ANGALLA, DIV '15, uses her passion for service to help refugee women in Uganda. She is director of Refuge and Hope International's Ansani Sasa—a women's and children's ministry in Kampala, Uganda. There, she assists families and women who have experienced severe trauma and abuse. The ministry includes a recovery shelter, vocational training, and social work programs for families in crisis, as well as a school sponsorship program for at-risk children.

Angalla said she has always been interested in helping refugee women. She learned about Refuge and Hope through McAfee School of Theology's study abroad internship program, where she volunteered to teach English for Refuge and Hope families. "During that semester, I was really inspired to see [Refuge and Hope's] holistic approach to ministry and their passion for ministering to and empowering refugees and East African people," she said. "I also had students who were experiencing gender-based violence or had been

through severe trauma and violence and were vulnerable to further abuse and exploitation. As their teacher and advocate, I sought out resources for them in Kampala, but there weren't any."

After she completed her internship, Angalla continued working with Refuge and Hope. "Even though I was still in school at McAfee, I began having conversations about starting a new program that helped refugee women who had been trafficked, were being abused, and had experienced high levels of trauma," she said. "In 2012, I was appointed and commissioned with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as partner-funded field personnel. During the fall semester of 2012, I fundraised for the program that I would start in 2013. I moved to Uganda in 2013 to begin the Amani Sasa program with Refuge and Hope."

Angalla said Mercer's commitment to service gave her the opportunity to follow her passion. "[The semester abroad] had a profound impact on my life and allowed me to begin to envision the program that I direct now," she said. "I appreciated that McAfee's programs had a broader scope and assisted in training people who had a desire to work outside of the church."



through the atmosphere and does not go away, resulting in major health, economic and ecological concerns on a global scale. Mercer has been working with Argonne National Laboratories and U.S. government agencies on a technologically simple but very effective mercury capture system that will be installed and tested this summer through Mercer On Mission.

Centers of Strength will address the additional challenges faced by the community of Zaruma, Ecuador, that cannot be solved by simply reducing mercury pollution in the area. Locals need support in areas such as economic diversification, health care and education, so in addition to science and

engineering students, Mercer will be sending economics, public health and Spanish students to address these multiple layers of challenges.

"We're trying to be aware of that fact that problems like mercury poisoning don't happen in a vacuum. They happen in a community where there are lots of unintended consequences," said Dr. Craig McMahan, dean of chapel and University minister who oversees Mercer On Mission. "If you address just one problem in a community, you may not have created enough momentum to make a difference. As long-held problems are solved, new beginnings develop, and with them, new challenges."

Mercer On Mission is looking into developing additional Centers of Strength in South Africa and the Dominican Republic. This model, Dr. McMahan said, will allow the program to bring in the liberal arts and humanities in ways they have not been able to function as freestanding members of past teams. Additionally, it will dovetail with the new Global Development Studies major in the College of Liberal Arts, which will prepare students for careers in this type of international work through nonprofits and NGOs.

Since 2007, Mercer On Mission has sent in excess of 1,200 students to more than 100 sites in 34 counties. This summer alone, 240



## **Samuel Johnson, CLA '13** **My Vision for Refugees Inc.** **N'zerekore, Guinea**

SAMUEL JOHNSON, CLA '13, left Africa as a refugee of the Liberian Civil War but returned as a philanthropist with a passion to help orphaned children. Johnson is director and founder of My Vision for Refugees, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of the children of Guinea.

Johnson understands the plight of the orphaned refugee. His father was killed in the war before his family fled to N'zerekore, Guinea, from Liberia, and his mother died right before he and his four siblings were resettled to Atlanta in 2007 by the United Nations' refugee program.

At Mercer, Johnson majored in French, political science, international relations, and women and gender studies. Before he earned his degree in 2013, he returned to Africa. "I went back for the first time in 2012, and I visited the refugee camp I used to live in and saw that it had broken down into little villages and was in a deplorable state," he said.

He noticed that the people who lived there were sick from poor drinking water, so when he graduated, he used the money he received as graduation gifts to build a well to serve the villages. He also donated books, soccer jerseys, and balls for the children. "I decided to come back to the U.S. and gather more support to make a bigger impact back in Guinea, and that's how My Vision for Refugees Inc. was birthed," he said.

The organization was registered as a corporation in 2015. Home of Hope, the organization's orphanage, was established December 2015 in N'zerekore. It serves 16 kids, eight of whom live at the orphanage with the remaining eight children living with host families. All of the children receive financial support, which covers the cost of school, food, clothing and medical bills.

Johnson said he values the relationships he formed with several of his professors at Mercer. "I met a lot of great professors who inspired me, encouraged me, and supported me during my education. Dr. (John) Dunaway was my biggest supporter and still is. He's been like a father to me, supporting, encouraging, and advising me all through Mercer and even now."



students will travel to 19 sites around the world to work on economic development, education, health screenings and water quality projects, among many others.

"Our first year or so, we didn't really do anything very technically difficult. We distributed mosquito nets in Kenya and worked with orphans in Guatemala and street kids in Brazil. Now, we're talking about designing prosthetic legs and mercury capture systems, and continuing to do increasingly more targeted and sophisticated work that really requires the expertise of the University to pull off," said Dr. McMahan. "In order to distinguish ourselves from other groups that do mission service trips, we want to be

focused on bringing to real-world problems the kind of research and expertise that only university-trained students and faculty can provide."

### **Service First**

**A**s a result of Mercer's service-driven ethos, graduates are not only leaving with a greater sense of purpose but, in many cases, with prestigious postgraduate fellowships and scholarships.

Service First, a program based within the University's Institute of Life Purpose, provides graduates with the opportunity to

travel overseas and participate in a year of service prior to entering graduate school or the workforce. The program has sent 113 graduates to 13 countries over the past seven years.

The one-year break that Service First provides "gives students a global perspective beyond what study abroad provides," said Dr. Scott Walker, director of the Institute of Life Purpose, and also "serves as a really good opportunity for students to strengthen their portfolios."

Service First alumni have gone on to attend graduate programs, law and medical schools at Mercer and numerous other institutions, including Oxford University, the



London School of Economics and Political Science, New York University, the University of Pennsylvania, Florida State University, Louisiana State University, the University of Tennessee and Emory University. They also include recipients of Fulbright Awards, Boren Fellowships, Robertson Fellowships, Phi Kappa Phi Scholarships, a Marshall Scholarship finalist and several appointments to the Peace Corps.

Lena Hamvas and Precious Patterson, Mercer's two Fulbright recipients last year, each taught English in Thailand through Service First.

"A year spent teaching English in Phichit, Thailand, was an experience that prepared me to understand the foundation of cross-cultural interactions and living abroad," said Hamvas, who is serving as an English Teaching Assistant in Jordan through the Fulbright Program. "The new culture demanded my attention and unlocked compassion I never knew I had."

Patterson, who is pursuing a Master of Science in Renewable Energy, Enterprise and Management at Newcastle University in England, was inspired by her year of service to pursue a career path focused on global sustainable living.

"I was assigned to teach in Bamnet Narong, Thailand, a rural village that values clean energy," said Patterson. "I passed by solar farms on my way to class everyday, and one day, the idea of getting involved in renewable energy policy crept into my head. The more I thought about it, the more my passion for the subject grew, and I decided that I had found something worth pursuing."

## 'Research that Reaches Out'

**A**s Mercer's recent efforts to change the world have grown, both domestically and internationally, they have been guided by another marketing tagline that has taken hold at the University.

"Research that Reaches Out" was developed to guide Mercer's five-year Quality Enhancement Plan, or QEP, which is a requirement for the University's accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Launched in fall 2015, this initiative is specifically designed to equip students in the University's



Hamvas

traditional residential undergraduate program with the skills required to engage in sophisticated research aimed at solving real-problems facing humankind.

"Research that Reaches Out" is helping us to support and expand current initiatives and to cultivate new ones," said QEP Director Dr. Bridget Trogden, who also serves as associate professor of chemistry and co-director of the Service Track of the University Honors Program. "One of my favorite things about this initiative is how it empowers students. When they talk about issues that concern them, I like to ask back, 'What do you want to do about it?' We then work together to determine what has already been done and to carve out their niche for research and determine a strategy to improve the issue. I have long believed in the human capital of our Mercer student population, but I am often both surprised and impressed by what they can do when we stoke their passions and support their dedication to improve the lives of others."

The "Research that Reaches Out" Office, under the leadership of Dr. Trogden, is responsible for organizing programming to meet its goals. One such example is the



Visionary Student Panel, held each fall, which allows students and student groups to present ideas and earn funding to address local, national or global issues. Thus far, eight projects — including efforts to address Hispanic healthcare needs in Middle Georgia, harness energy from rainfall, develop new prosthetics, support the local children's hospital and educate the community regarding sexual assault — have received more than \$7,000 in funding.

The office works hand in hand with the Office of Service Learning, MerServe, the Office of Undergraduate Research, Mercer On Mission, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and others on campus to enhance student learning through service-focused research and to







GRANT BLANKENSHIP, GPB MEDIA PHOTO

foster a culture of civic engagement through scholarship and service.

“The best thing about Mercer is that there aren’t hard lines between our offices. We all collaborate. We’re all mission driven. I’ve never seen anything like it anywhere else,” said Dr. Morgan. “‘Research that Reaches Out’ has enabled us to create courses and have models for students that include responsible and ethical research. It makes a difference in

their understanding of moving from theory to practice. They understand the implications of what they’re learning more. They often hold themselves more accountable than if they were simply turning in a paper or doing a project, because they know that what they’re doing could actually matter in the community. They’re beginning to think of their academic work as being more connected to changing the world.”

**School of Engineering students have partnered with Habitat for Humanity to research alternatives to traditional demolition that would be more cost effective and efficient in addressing blight.**

The more students see their research being connected to changing the world, the more the slogan becomes reality at Mercer, where everyone majors in changing the world.



# 2017

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# MERCER UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

## Save the Date!

Homecoming 2017 is a chance to reconnect with friends and rekindle your fondness for the Mercer you remember.





# Registration begins in late summer at [homecoming.mercer.edu](http://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](http://homecoming.mercer.edu).



# MEN'S SOCCER'S BAGROU Semifinalist for Nation's Top Honor

**M**ercer junior forward Will Bagrou was one of 15 men's semifinalists for the Missouri Athletic Club's (MAC) Hermann Trophy, as announced by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

The Dacula, Georgia, native is the first player in program history and the first Southern Conference player since Elon's Chris Thomas (2012) to be named a semifinalist for the award. Bagrou was the only player from the state of Georgia among this year's 15 semifinalists.

The MAC Hermann Trophy serves as college soccer's equivalent to the Heisman Trophy and is presented annually to the top male and female players in the country.

Bagrou, the SoCon Player of the Year, led the Bears to a 13-7-1 record and their first NCAA Tournament berth since 2001 with a dynamic offensive year. He totaled 20 points, eight goals and four assists, all of which ranked among the top marks in the league and became the third player in conference history

to earn Freshman of the Year and Player of the Year distinctions in a career.

The three-time All-SoCon First Team honoree owned two of the three fastest goals by a SoCon player this season (0:26 and 1:30) while notching a pair of two-goal performances and two game-winning goals. Bagrou is also the SoCon's active career leader in points (63) and game-winning goals (9) while ranking second in assists (13) and third in goals (25).

## OTHER POST-SEASON HONORS

Bagrou continued his postseason awards haul as he was named an All-American by College Soccer News on Dec. 19, marking his second All-America nod of the season.



MERCER SPORTS INFORMATION

Bagrou earned All-America Third Team honors by the online publication, following his recognition by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) as a second teamer a week prior. He is the first player in program history to receive All-America honors from any organization.

Bagrou was the lone Southern Conference player to be recognized on any of College Soccer News' three All-America teams.



CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO

## LEWIS PRESENTED 2016 GOLDEN SPIKES AWARD SIGNIFYING NATION'S BEST COLLEGE BASEBALL PLAYER

Kyle Lewis returned home on Feb. 4 to the Macon Campus for a well-deserved day of recognition. The All-America baseball player visited Hawkins Arena for the Golden Spikes trophy presentation and to sign autographs before the men's basketball game against Wofford. At halftime, he made his way to center court where he was officially presented the Golden Spikes Award, the top honor a collegiate baseball player can be awarded.

An 11th overall pick by the Seattle Mariners in the 2016 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft, Lewis batted .395 and belted 20 home runs on his way to being named to six All-America teams last season. He had a 48-game on-base streak, compiled 27 multi-hit performances in 2016 and ranked fourth nationally in walks while setting a school record with 66.

Lewis received a standing ovation (left), accompanied by President Underwood and his parents, Charles and Ruth Lewis.

AMY MADDOX PHOTO

## Mercer Places SoCon-Best 52 Student-Athletes on Fall Academic All-Conference Team

**M**ercer placed a Southern Conference-best 52 student-athletes on the Fall Academic All-Conference Team. The announcement marked Mercer's third consecutive fall semester in which it has led the conference in academic all-conference selections.

The 52 student-athletes to earn Fall Academic All-SoCon honors are Mercer's most since joining the league in 2014 and bests Mercer's past two fall marks of 50 and 40 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.



Each fall athletic program at Mercer placed at least two student-athletes on the academic all-conference team: football (18), women's soccer (13), volleyball (8), men's soccer (6), women's cross country (5) and men's cross country (2). Of those figures, Mercer led the SoCon in football, women's soccer and volleyball selections.

The Bears also paced the conference with three of the nine total student-athletes who maintained perfect 4.0 cumulative GPAs: Courtney Czerniak

(women's cross country), Corey Lockett (football) and Tori Penrod (volleyball).

To be eligible for the academic all-conference team, student-athletes must carry at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA entering the fall season and were required to compete in at least one-half of their teams' competitions during the recently concluded campaign. 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.





## Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Welcomes Inaugural Class of D2D Scholars

MERCER'S COLLEGE OF NURSING welcomed 20 newly admitted Bachelor of Science in Nursing students to its inaugural class of D2D (Dedicated to Diversity) Scholars last fall.

**T**he D2D program, supported by funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, aims to increase the diversity of the nursing workforce in order to meet the healthcare needs of patients. This multifaceted program is consistent with the College of Nursing's strategic plan and demonstrates a strong commitment to promote diversity among its student body, faculty and the nursing profession. Funding for the program was secured through a highly competitive process led by Lanell M. Bellury, Ph.D., RN, AOCNS, OCN, associate professor and primary investigator for the grant project. "This has been an incredibly rewarding journey as all the programing we envisioned last fall has become reality," said Dr. Bellury. "The D2D faculty and students are engaged

and excited by this opportunity — the first of its kind in the College of Nursing."

The students began the academic year early with a two-day intensive, immersion experience to promote their success in the College's rigorous BSN program. In addition to academic and financial support, the D2D Scholars are provided opportunities for professional empowerment, social support and service learning.

"Our nursing program is strongly committed to improving the retention of our diverse nursing student population," said Linda Streit, Ph.D., RN, dean of the College. "Our community of scholars and leaders are committed to facilitating the education of all students in order to create a highly productive workforce."

The interdisciplinary collaboration of the D2D program incorporates faculty in the College of Nursing and College of Health

Professions. Nursing faculty include assistant professor Tammy Barbe, Ph.D., RN, CNE; professor and Piedmont Healthcare Endowed Chair of Nursing Laura Kimble, Ph.D., RN, FNP-C, FAHA, FAAN; associate professor and associate dean for the undergraduate program Cindy Rubenstein, Ph.D., RN, CPNP-PC; assistant professor Jennifer Bartlett, Ph.D., RN-BC, CNE, CHSE; clinical assistant professor Natasha Laibhen-Parkes, Ph.D., RN, CPN; and assistant professor Mary Garvin-Surpris, Ph.D., RN. College of Health Professions faculty include professor and director of the Department of Public Health Huey Chen, Ph.D.; and assistant professor Cheryl Gaddis, DrPH, MPH, CHES.

The D2D Scholars program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing's inaugural cohort of Dedicated to Diversity Scholars

SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



## Medicine Encourages 4-H'ers to 'Set Sights on Medical School'

Mercer School of Medicine and Georgia 4-H joined forces last fall to offer a unique experience for 4-H'ers interested in medical careers.

"Setting Your Sights on Medical School" is one of several initiatives being developed through a new partnership between the School of Medicine and Georgia 4-H.

Twenty-four Georgia 4-H'ers from across South Georgia attended the pilot event. They participated in interactive stations to explore rural health needs and medical school resources. They also spent time with medical school faculty, staff and students and learned about basic requirements to apply to medical school.

The event was coordinated by Jean Sumner, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, and Laura Bland, director of community outreach and population health, as well as Lee Anna Deal, Southeast District 4-H program development coordinator, Brandi McGonagill, Bleckley County 4-H agent, and Abby Smith, Effingham County 4-H agent.

## CHP Faculty Member Receives National APA Award

Mark "Tony" Stillman, Ph.D., associate professor of clinical medical psychology in the College of Health Professions, received the 2016 American Psychological Association (APA) Early Career Achievement Award last fall.

The award is designed to increase representation of early career members at the APA's annual convention and recognizes individuals based on achievements and demonstration of astute leadership in the field of psychology.

Dr. Stillman joined the College of Health Professions as a full-time faculty member



Dr. Stillman

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



**Twenty-four 4-H'ers from across South Georgia participated in the School of Medicine's first "Setting Your Sights on Medical School" program last fall.**

in August, after serving for two years as an adjunct professor.

Much of his work has focused on developing a curriculum for psychologists who work in integrated care settings. Working with APA Division 38, Dr. Stillman developed a freely available introductory curriculum as a resource for graduate training programs and affiliated clinical training sites.

He is editor of the *Journal of Psychology: Open Access*, an editorial board member of the *International Journal of Psychology and Counseling*, a peer reviewer for the *American Journal of Bioethics* and a member of the Society for Health Psychology Integrated Primary Care Committee.

## Pharmacy Partners with AMR to Offer New Research Opportunities

The College of Pharmacy recently partnered with the Alpharetta-based Institute for Advanced Medical Research, a private clinical research organization, to provide new patient-centered research opportunities for students. Students seeking the Pharm.D. degree or the Pharm.D./Ph.D. clinical scientist degree will be able to participate

in a wide range of Phase 1-4 clinical trials addressing various diseases.

"Through the College's partnership with the institute, pharmacy students can practice hands-on clinical and translational research, bridging the gap between bench and bedside," said Nader Moniri, Ph.D., associate dean for research in the College of Pharmacy. "This partnership brings the clinical scientist track to fruition, as well as providing a value-added experience to our Pharm.D. students."

The new Institute for Advanced Medical Research at Mercer, housed on the University's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta, is led by Angelo Sambunaris, M.D., an expert on the treatment of anxiety, depression and insomnia who has conducted more than 200 clinical trials. Faculty from the College of Pharmacy, as well as from other schools within the Mercer Health Sciences Center, will be able to work with Dr. Sambunaris and his team on clinical studies.

"As one of the nation's first such collaborations, our partnership will help shape the future of patient-based health care delivery and discovery," said H.W. "Ted" Matthews, Ph.D., dean of the College and senior vice president for health sciences at Mercer. "Our new clinical research setting promotes greater skills in the areas of leadership, critical thinking and problem-solving, making our graduates more effective practitioners."



## Startups Launched to Commercialize Promising New Drug Delivery Systems

TWO STARTUP COMPANIES have been launched at Mercer University to commercialize promising new drug delivery systems developed in the labs of University research scientists.

**S**ynPloid LLC, formed by Dr. Edward Perkins and Dr. Amy Greene, associate professor and assistant professor, respectively, in the Mercer School of Medicine, is focused on bioengineering solutions for complex biological problems using a synthetic chromosome system. One application of this new system allows for delivery of genetic material, including multiple encoded chemotherapeutic agents, in a targeted manner to directly attack tumor cells while not harming healthy normal tissue. Dr. Perkins' lab is currently focused on applying this new gene/drug delivery technology in treatment of certain forms of breast cancer as well as orphan genetic diseases.

Dr. Perkins' research program is currently funded by two grants from the National Institutes of Health and a Department

of Defense Advance Research Program Award (DARPA). The DARPA award represents a collaborative partnership to develop further new applications for the synthetic chromosome gene/drug delivery system.

The Perkins research program has completed a Phase I DARPA award, which provided proof of concept for engineering of multiple, large genetic payloads onto the synthetic chromosome. It is now in the Phase II DARPA process, which provides funding for the company startup, expansion of the gene/drug delivery system applications and development of commercialization strategies.

DD Therapeutics, formed by College of Pharmacy researchers Dr. Kevin Murnane, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Dr. Ajay K. Banga, chair and professor of pharmaceutical sciences and co-director of the Center for Drug Delivery Research, and Dr.

Martin D'Souza, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and co-director of the Center for Drug Delivery Research, is developing new transdermal and nanotechnology-based delivery systems that will provide more stable and sustained dosing with less fluctuations and variability in drug levels and improved drug delivery to the central nervous system.

Potential therapeutic applications include improved treatment in a variety of neurological diseases such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, substance dependence, narcolepsy and appetite suppression.

Patent applications for these new drug delivery technologies have been filed, and DD Therapeutics is now a startup company focused on development and commercialization of these technologies. DD Therapeutics has submitted a Georgia Research Alliance Ventures Phase One proposal and also is pursuing grant applications with the National Institutes of Health, including Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer awards.

In another business development to come out of Mercer research labs, the University has entered into a licensing agreement with Kiromic Inc., a biotechnology company based in Houston, Texas. The licensing agreement is centered on the patented vaccine and drug delivery technologies developed in the research lab of Dr. D'Souza.

Dr. D'Souza has developed novel biodegradable nanoparticle vaccine and drug delivery systems. The systems contain potential cancer vaccines to stimulate a patient's own immune system to recognize developing cancers as foreign molecules and eradicate the cancer cells before they grow into tumors. The vaccines also are being tested to treat infectious diseases.





# AlumniClassNotes

**Key to Mercer Schools and Colleges** — **BUS** — Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics; **CAS** — College of Arts and Sciences; **CLA** — College of Liberal Arts; **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

### 1950s

**Claire Underwood Hertzler**, CLA '57, authored the fall 2016 release of *The High Sheriff of Greene*, the true story of legendary lawman L.L. Wyatt of Greene County, Georgia. Mercer University's founding is mentioned in the book, available for purchase at Deeds Publishing on Amazon.

### 1960s

**Tommy Malone**, LAW '66, was re-elected chair of the Mercer Board of Trustees at its annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**W. Carl Reynolds**, CLA '64, LAW '66, was installed as a new member of the Mercer Board of Trustees at its annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**Joel C. Williams**, LAW '67, joined Taylor English Duma LLP as counsel in the firm's Corporate and Business Practice Group. Williams will serve clients in general corporate, international trade, and regulatory and legislative matters.

### 1970s

**William "Keith" Baker**, CLA '78, commander, United States Navy (Retired), was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in Chaffee County, Colorado, in November. His two terms on the Buena Vista, Colorado, town council ended in April 2015.

**David F. Sipple**, LAW '72, of Hunter Maclean in Savannah, was selected for *Best Lawyers in America* in 2017 for admiralty and maritime law.

**Flora W. Tydings**, EDU '79, was appointed chancellor of the Board of Regents system in a unanimous vote by the Tennessee Board of Regents on Dec. 27, 2016. She has served as president of Chattanooga State Community College since July 2015. Prior to that, she worked for 19 years in the public Technical College System of Georgia and was president of Athens Technical College from 2003 to 2015. She assumed her new duties Feb. 1.

### 1980s

**Patrick Dawson**, LAW '88, became a partner in the Cheeley Law Group LLC. Dawson teams with Bob Cheeley, with whom he worked from 1990 until 1996. The firm will handle talcum powder ovarian cancer cases, other products liability cases and torts. Dawson wrote an article, "Slaves, the Law, and the Banality of Horror," which was recently published in the *Journal of Southern Legal History*.

**Nancy A. Grace**, CLA '81, LAW '84, began a new five-year term as a member of Mercer Board of Trustees at its annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**J. William Pierce**, LAW '82, was named to *Best Lawyers in America 2017* for real estate law.

**Sharon Sherrer**, PHA '84, of Marietta, was awarded the 2015-2016 Albert E. Rosica Jr. Memorial Award by The American College of Apothecaries at the College's 2016 Fall Pharmacy Conference at the Marriott St. Louis Grand in St. Louis, Missouri.

**W. Scott Sorrels**, BUS '81, was awarded the prestigious Justice Robert Benham Award for

Community Service by the State Bar of Georgia. The award was presented during a special ceremony on Feb. 28 at the offices of the State Bar of Georgia. Sorrels is a partner with Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP.

**Jeffery L. Thompson**, CLA '82, LAW '87, of Atlanta-based firm Constangy, Brooks, Smith and Prophete LLP was named to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* for employment law management and litigation in labor and employment.

**The Hon. Jan Alison Wheeler**, LAW '88, was appointed chief juvenile judge for the Appalachian Judicial Circuit in September 2016. Before her recent appointment, she was associate juvenile court judge since January 2014, serving Pickens, Gilmer and Fannin counties.

### 1990s

**The Hon. Michael P. Boggs**, LAW '90, Georgia Court of Appeals judge, was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Gov. Nathan Deal. Boggs filled the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Hugh P. Thompson, LAW '69, on Jan. 1.

**Christopher D. Balch**, LAW '92, was elected the new state chair for 2016-2017 for the international Municipal Lawyers Association. Balch will act in an advisory capacity to the IMLA Board on matters of policy, programs and membership.

**Benjamin R. Buckelew**, CLA '99, was promoted to the director of field service for the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America on Jan. 1. Buckelew served successfully as the

assistant director of field service in the council and previously served as field director and senior development director.

**Shobhna Dahyabhai Butler**, PHA '95, was a panelist at the Seventh Annual Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Student Chapter Symposium at the College of Pharmacy in September.

**Ann Hendricks Childress**, PEN '93, recently published her first novel, *A Woman's Choice*, with Tarsus Literary. The novel is a Catholic contemporary romance.

**J. Cameron "Cam" Halford**, LAW '99, was named managing partner of Halford, Niemiec & Freeman LLP. The firm recently announced its merger with the Lake Wylie, South Carolina, offices of Haselden Owen & Boloyan, with Halford, Niemiec & Freeman

## The Honorable Richard H. Mills, LAW '57, Celebrates 50 Years on the Bench

**O**n the first Monday in December 1966, Judge Richard H. Mills was sworn in as circuit judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit of Illinois in the "Lincoln Courtroom" at Beardstown, Illinois — the same courtroom in which Abraham Lincoln tried the famous "Almanac Trial" and got Duff Armstrong an acquittal from the jury trial for murder.

Mills rode the circuit for 10 years, presiding in all eight counties of the 8th Circuit. He was then elected to the Appellate Court of Illinois. Mills served nine years on the Appellate Court, was twice presiding justice, and participated in several hundred opinions.

In the summer of 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed Mills a United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois where he continues to sit as a senior judge.

From 1989 to 2014, Mills sat on eight of the 13 U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal by designation of the U.S. Supreme Court, sitting in New York, Miami, Atlanta, San Francisco, New Orleans, Denver, St. Paul, Pasadena, Seattle, Portland, Jacksonville, Montgomery and Cincinnati.

Mills was born in 1929 in Beardstown, Illinois. He received his B.A. degree from Illinois College and his law degree from Mercer School of Law where he served on the Mercer Law Review. He also received an LLM from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Mills began the practice of law immediately after



**Judge Mills and Mrs. Rachel Mills**

law school, with his uncle, former State Sen. Epler C. Mills, in the office his grandfather and namesake had opened in 1870 in Virginia, the county seat of Cass County. During the next nine years he was a country lawyer, public defender and state's attorney, before being elected circuit judge.

In the Korean War, he served with the 3rd Infantry Division where he received the Bronze Star. He remained in the Army Reserve for 32 years retiring as a colonel. Thereafter, he served as a brigadier general and then major general in the Illinois State Militia. He is a Distinguished Eagle Scout and a 33° Mason.

Judge Mills says that his half-century on the bench has been "A marvelous adventure!"



being the surviving entity now with offices in Rock Hill, Fort Mill and Lake Wylie communities of York County, South Carolina.

**Laura Cowles Hobbs**, PHA '93, completed her 10th year as a post-graduate year one pharmacy residency program director (RPD) at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. In 2014, Hobbs received the Louis P. Jeffrey Award at the Eastern States Conference for Residents and Preceptors given for recognition and appreciation for sustained leadership in the training of pharmacy residents.

**Sherri Jean Jefferson**, CAS '92, received a nod from *Publishers Weekly* in its November/December 2016 edition for her book *Motor City*, which was published under her brand, Sherri Jefferson Publishing. With almost 500,000 books published every year, *Publishers Weekly* chooses about 150 to review under its "Best Buys" and notable reads.

**Claudia E. Meier**, CLA '95, LAW '98, was appointed as the chief for the Office of the Public Defender of the Houston Judicial Circuit effective October 2016. She has served 17 years in the office, with the past 10 years as a senior assistant public defender.

**The Hon. Clyde L. Reese III**, LAW '96, was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals by Gov. Deal. The appointment became effective on Dec. 1, 2016.

**Charles R. Sheffield Jr.**, LAW '91, was named president and chief executive officer of the George C. Woodruff Company effective Jan. 1. Sheffield has spent the past five years working as CEO of the Woodruff Company and has served on the board of directors since 2006.

**Jonathan J. Tuggle**, LAW '98, of Boyd Collar Nollen & Tuggle, was recognized again by *Best Lawyers in America* as a leading lawyer in the area of family law in 2017. He was also selected among *Georgia Trend* magazine's Legal Elite, recognized among leading family law practitioners in the state.

**Scott Alan Turner**, LAW '91, recently published a book titled *99 Minute Millionaire*.

**Ashley Wright**, LAW '96, was reappointed by Gov. Deal to the Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel. She is the district attorney for Augusta-Richmond county and was previously an assistant prosecutor in the county. She sits on the advisory board for the Salvation Army and the Georgia Cancer Center at Augusta University.

## 2000s

**Jonathan Lang Adams**, LAW '02, was elected district attorney for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit in May 2016. Adams was previously an assistant district attorney in the Macon Judicial Circuit.

**Jason W. Blanchard**, LAW '07, joined the Department of Justice as an assistant United States attorney in the Civil Division. He will be stationed at the Augusta branch of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**The Hon. John G. Breakfield**, LAW '01, was sworn in as judge for the State Court of Hall County on Dec. 16, 2016. He won an open seat in a contested election by nearly 20 percentage points. Breakfield, his wife (Astrid), and two sons (Jack & Gage) live in Flowery Branch.

**The Hon. Stephanie D. Burton**, LAW '01, was appointed as the first full-time juvenile court judge for the Oconee Judicial Circuit on Oct. 1, 2016.

**Liza Guy Chapman**, PHA '02, was named a fellow of the American Pharmacists Association's Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management. The honor is given to pharmacists with a minimum of 10 years professional experience who have "demonstrated exemplary professional

Submit your personal accomplishments, marriage/births/anniversary or In Memory announcements for *The Mercerian* in the Alumni Class Notes section to Erin Lones, director of Advancement Communications, at [lones\\_ep@mercer.edu](mailto:lones_ep@mercer.edu).

achievements and service to the profession through activities with APhA and other national, state or local professional organizations." Chapman is GPhA president-elect and a Kroger pharmacist. Chapman serves as president of Mercer's National Alumni Association Board of Directors and is immediate past president of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Jason Thomas Cummings**, LAW '08, became a partner at Morris, Manning & Martin LLP, as of Jan. 1. Cummings represents public and private companies in the firm's Corporate Technology and Securities practice based in Atlanta.

**The Hon. Robert W. Guy Jr.**, LAW '02, was elected Superior Court judge of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit serving Appling, Camden, Glynn, Jeff Davis and Wayne counties in May 2016.

**The Hon. Heather Hendricks Lanier**, LAW '04, was elected Superior Court judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit, which covers the South Georgia counties of Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Mitchell and Grady. She was sworn in on Dec. 20, 2016, and took the bench on Jan. 1. She is the first female judge to hold this position within the circuit.

**Kristin Pollard Kiel**, LAW '08, was named by *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the "Top 10 Black Women Attorneys You Should Know."

**Jonathan Manz**, CLA '02, earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in July 2016.

**K. Heath Martin**, ENG '09, obtained his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering in the field of medical ultrasound from the Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering hosted between the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University.

**Mark Mason**, BUS '04, was promoted to managing director at Atlanta-based risk management firm Sterling Risk Advisors. Mason joined Sterling in 2014 as account executive. He serves in the construction practice, assisting clients with risk transfer and insurance needs. Before joining Sterling, he was a commercial insurance producer for Strawn & Co. He is a member of the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors (CIC) and is pursuing his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation.

**The Hon. Amanda "Mandy" Trimble Meloun**, CLA '98, LAW '04, was appointed Juvenile Court judge for the Western Judicial Circuit, which includes Clarke and Oconee counties. The appointment became effective on Dec. 1, 2016.

**Patrick Melton Mincey**, LAW '08, was named partner in Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP. Mincey, based in the firm's Wilmington, North Carolina, office, serves as chair of Criminal Defense Practice Group.

**James Thomas Mitchell III**, PEN '03, was reappointed by Gov. Deal to the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies. He was previously the chief investigator for the State Court Prosecutor's Office. He is a past president of the Georgia Association of Professional Private Investigators and a member of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals and the American Society for Industrial Security.

## Lynn Creech Murphey, CLA '90, to lead Knight Foundation Investments in Macon

**M**ercer alumna Lynn Creech Murphey, a senior business executive with a strong record of community leadership, joined the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as its Macon program director on Jan. 30.

Murphey was a member of the Cox Communications leadership team for more than 20 years, most recently serving as vice president and market leader for Middle Georgia. Prior to joining Cox, Murphey served in senior positions in government affairs and marketing for the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and as volunteer coordinator for the city of Macon.

Murphey has served on the Knight Foundation Macon Community Advisory Committee since 2012. She worked with Knight on the Connect2Compete pilot, a public-private partnership that successfully promoted digital literacy and broadened internet access in Middle Georgia.

Knight has invested more than \$25 million in Macon over the past 10 years, supporting projects such as the Center for Collaborative Journalism, the redevelopment of the College Hill Corridor and the ongoing Beall's Hill revitalization, which seeks to be a model for mixed-income neighborhood renewal.

A native of Conyers, Murphey has lived in Macon



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Murphey

for 30 years. She is a graduate of Leadership Macon and has served as a community liaison for Robins Air Force Base and as a gubernatorial appointee to the Georgia Commission on Women. In 2015, she was appointed to the Macon Transit Authority and served as co-chair of Macon Terminal Station's centennial celebration in 2016.

Murphey and her husband, J. Clay Murphey IV, live in Macon's Vineville Historic District with their two children.



**Brooke C. Obie**, LAW '09, recently published *Book of Addis: Cradled Embers*, the first in the *Book of Addis*, a three-part literary fiction series, with For the People Press. Her thesis for The New School's MFA in Fiction program, which became *Book of Addis*, was a finalist for the Fulbright Fellowship. She attended a writing workshop with Columbia University in Paris, France, and attended the Callaloo Journal of African Diaspora Arts & Letters workshop at Oxford University in July 2016.

**Brandon L. Peak**, LAW '04, partner at Butler Wooten & Peak LLP, was elected president of the Columbus Bar Association.

**The Hon. Amanda Smith Petty**, LAW '05, was sworn in as Superior Court judge for the Ocmulgee Circuit on Dec. 22, 2016. She was elected in May to take the seat vacated by the retirement of The Hon. Judge Hugh Wingfield, LAW '82.

**Richard Alan Phillips**, LAW '09, was promoted to partner at Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP.

**Kathryn L. Powers**, LAW '09, was appointed by Gov. Deal to judgeship in Clayton County effective Jan. 4, 2016.

**John William Rodman**, LAW '08, announces the formation of Cox, Rodman, & Middleton LLC, a litigation firm practicing criminal defense, personal injury, business formation, and contract, family, and employment law on Jan. 4 in Savannah.

**Jason Rollins**, BUS '09, was recently hired as director of brand communications for InterContinental Hotels Group in Atlanta.

**Vernon M. Strickland**, LAW '06, joins Wargo & French LLP as of counsel in the areas of complex commercial litigation and intellectual property. Strickland was formerly with Holland & Knight.

**Quentin A. Stubbs**, BUS '01, received his Ph.D. in geographical sciences from the University of Maryland, College Park, on Dec. 21, 2016. Stubbs graduated from Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone. He earned an MPA from Columbia University, New York, New York, and is a member of the American Association of Geographers, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and the National Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc. He is employed as a land use analyst with U.S. Geological Survey in Annapolis, Maryland, and teaches World Cultural Geography at The University of District of Columbia Community College in Washington, D.C.

**Lauren Pierce Thomas**, LAW '04, joined Amazon as senior HR manager for finance in December 2016. She was previously the senior vice president of TMX Finance.

**Major Nathan A. White**, LAW '05, joined Moore and Van Allen's Charlotte office and practices with the Litigation Group's International Regulatory Affairs Team. Nathan previously served in the Air Force JAG Corps for 10 years.

**Christy Williams**, CHP '01, was named chief executive officer of Elevanta, a professional services firm, in January. Elevanta is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Franchise Association, an association of Burger King franchisees. In addition to managing many of Elevanta's program and service offerings, Williams serves as executive director for Franchise Business Services Inc. (FBS). FBS is a national association representing the Buffalo Wild Wings franchisee community.

**Kathleen L. Wright**, LAW '02, a partner at Gentry Locke in Roanoke, Virginia, has been recognized in the 2017 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for litigation-municipal law.

## 2010s

**Andrieka J. Austin**, PEN '16, recently published a book titled *Secrets of A Socialprenista*.

**Wesley B. Beamon**, LAW '16, was sworn in as assistant judge for Schley County Magistrate Court, effective Jan. 1.

**Peter John Bigham**, LAW '16, passed the North Carolina State Bar exam.

**Whitney Boyer**, ENG '11, is co-owner of one of Macon's newest bars, The Reboot Retrocade & Bar. The bar is located on Cherry Street and features vintage arcade games, a console game lounge, up to 70 board games, table games and an indoor lawn where patrons can play croquet, bocce ball and more.

**S. Jake Carroll**, LAW '14, joined Freeman, Mathis & Gary, in Atlanta. His practice areas include construction law, commercial general liability and business liability. Prior to joining the firm, he clerked for the Hon. Charles H. Weigle, U.S. Magistrate judge in the Middle District of Georgia.

**Dallas C. Cox**, LAW '15, became an assistant district attorney for Fulton County. He was previously an assistant district attorney for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit.

**Falen Cox**, LAW '10, announces the formation of Cox, Rodman, & Middleton LLC, a litigation firm practicing criminal defense, personal injury, business formation, and contract, family, and employment law on Jan. 4 in Savannah.

**Karsten Derendorf**, BUS '11, was promoted to senior accountant in the Gainesville office of James Moore, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants. Derendorf will be responsible for directing and reviewing the audit work of associate accountants and staff accountants and will participate in various phases of compilation and review engagements, including budgeting and planning. Derendorf joined the firm in August 2013.

**Fabiani Duarte**, LAW '16, was selected for the 2016-2017 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Emerging Leaders Program, having just concluded his term as national chair of the ABA Law Student Division.

**Richard Flournoy**, LAW '10, was named deputy administrator for product management at the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency.

**Pamela C. Gipson**, CLA '11, accepted a new position as a cyber security specialist with the United States Department of State in January.

**Reuben J. Gresham**, EDU '10, recently received the "Exemplary Educator" award from the National Career Academies Coalition. He is principal of Lanier High School in Gwinnett County.

**The Hon. Amanda N. Heath**, LAW '10, was appointed for a four-year term to serve the Juvenile Court of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, effective Oct. 1, 2016. Judge Heath is the first African-American female judge to serve in this position and is the youngest sitting judge in the Augusta Judicial Circuit. Judge Heath was previously a solo practitioner in private practice with a focus on criminal law and family law.

**Margaret E. Heinen**, CLA '08, MUS '08, LAW '11, was elected chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Georgia in July 2016. In September 2016, she became the editor of *What's the Decision?*, a members'-only publication of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers that summarizes recent important decisions of Georgia's state and federal appellate courts.

**Stacy Jenkins**, PEN '15, is the founder and program director of Macon Magnolias, a non-profit organization in Macon that serves as an enrichment program to mentor young women ages 13-18. The program provides opportunities for college tours, social activities, cultural experience, volunteerism and more. Jenkins recently hosted the city's first Girls' Day at Macon's City Hall. The event was a city-wide forum for young women to discuss issues that are facing their generation in the city of Macon.

**Jonathan Reid Johnson**, MUS '11, recently practiced his tenure as a fellow of the A.J. Fletcher Institute of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, pursuing a Master of Music and Professional Artist Certificate. In the 2014-2015 Lyric Opera of Chicago season, Johnson performed in *Capriccio* and *Il trovatore*.

**Keith A. Johnston**, LAW '13, joins Spivey Pope Green and Greer in Macon as an associate practicing in the areas of business litigation, general civil litigation and corporate law.

**Elizabeth "Lizzie" Lambert**, LAW '15, recently joined Scroggin & Company PC in Roswell as an associate and will work in the firm's estate and business practices. Lambert most recently graduated from the University of Florida Master of Laws in Taxation program.

**Adam Miller**, LAW '14, joined GrayRobinson PA as an associate in the insurance defense practice group.

**Matthew H.V. Nguyen**, PHA '13, was one of the featured speakers at the Seventh Annual Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Student Chapter at the College of Pharmacy in September. The title of his talk was "What is Managed Care?"

**Kyle Owenby**, LAW '16, has joined the Macon law firm of Bushway & Waystack, as an associate working in criminal defense, domestic relations and civil litigation.

**Dhwani Patel**, CLA '16, was chosen for the second class of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows. The highly competitive program recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math — the STEM fields — and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools.

**J. Nick Phillips**, LAW '12, recently joined Bloom, Sugarman LLP as an associate to counsel corporate and individual clients in civil litigation in federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels.

**Michael A. Rivera**, LAW '11, joined the Office of the Public Defender of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in October 2016. Rivera was previously with the Houston County Public Defender's Office.

**Natalie Fears Sundeen**, LAW '12, was appointed as the associate judge of Jackson's Municipal Court on Jan. 3. She has served as a public defender in Locust Grove's municipal court, as a juvenile conflict attorney in the Towaliga Judicial Circuit and as director of continuing legal education for Mercer's Law School.

**Sara Stover**, CLA '16, was chosen for the second class of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows. The highly competitive program recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math — the STEM fields — and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools.

**Dinh Tran**, LAW '12, recently formed a partnership with Sherrod Seward and opened Queen City Immigration Law in Charlotte, North Carolina, focusing on providing immigration solutions for employers, investors and individuals.

## Marriages, Births, Anniversaries

### 2000s

**Rachel Finley Cosme**, CLA '07, and her husband announce the birth of their son, Robert Finley Cosme, on Aug. 22, 2016.

**Heidi Schulteis Fraser**, MUS '04, and **Rhett Fraser**, CLA '05, LAW '08, announce the birth of their son, Raleigh Garrett Fraser, on June 8, 2016.

**Darrell L. Sutton**, LAW '03, and his wife Meredith announce the birth of their second child, Wilson Shaner Sutton, on Dec. 1, 2016.

**Carrie Keel Trivett**, CLA '06, and **Eric Trivett**, CLA '05, LAW '08, announce the birth of their second child, William Bradley, on Aug. 20, 2015.

### 2010s

**Sarah Barker Cook**, EDU '10, and **Joshua Cook**, BUS '10, announce the birth of their daughter, Evangeline Clare Cook, on June 5, 2016.

**Emily Evett Cooper**, LAW '16, married Tyler Cooper on Oct. 16, 2016.

**Richard Flournoy**, LAW '10, and wife Michelle announce the birth of their daughter, Alice Josephine Flournoy, on Sept. 5, 2016.

**Heather Bishop Logan**, LAW '16, married Matt Logan at Little Farms in Alpharetta on Aug. 27, 2016.

**Courtney Bodie Patrick**, LAW '12, associate attorney at Klosinski Overstreet LLP, married Matthew Patrick on June 4, 2016.

**Laura Kivi Reid**, BUS '11, and **Eric Reid**, ENG '12, announce the birth of their son, Ellis Matthew Reid, on Aug. 3, 2016, in Savannah.

**Ruslyn Daves Ruby**, LAW '16, married Jeffrey Ruby at Wolf Mountain Vineyards and Winery in Dahlonega on Nov. 5, 2016.

**Natalie Fears Sundeen**, LAW '12, and her husband Chris announce the birth of their second child, a son, Maverick Christopher Sundeen, on Sept. 18, 2016.

**Jennifer Terry**, LAW '12, and her husband Josh announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, Winifred Anne, born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on June 28, 2016.

**Lauren Rohwer Toves**, CLA '10, married John D. Toves II, on July 9, 2016.

**Rebecca White Tucker**, CLA '06, PEN '15, DIV '15, was married to James Steven Tucker Jr., on Dec. 3, 2016. The couple resides in Evans.

**Emily Thai Vickery**, PHA '12, married **Adam Vickery**, CLA '06, PHA '12, in Lilburn on June 11, 2016. Both are practicing in metro Atlanta hospitals.

**Jessica Canedo Wallace**, LAW '16, married **Donovan Jacob Wallace**, LAW '16, at Oakhurst Farm on Oct. 15, 2016.



# In Memory

## 1930s

**Audrey Jacoby Hensley**, CLA '39, of Decatur, Dec. 12, 2016.

## 1940s

**The Rev. L. Clyde Allen**, CLA '44 of Hodgenville, Kentucky, Jan. 14.  
**Martha Rhodes Barr**, TIFT '45, of

Cedartown, Aug. 22, 2016.  
**Doris W. Bleckley**, EDU '46, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Sept. 20, 2016.  
**Cena L. Carswell**, TIFT '44, of Lake Aswego, Oregon, Aug. 1, 2016.  
**Hugh W. Cheek**, CLA '47, of Atlanta, Dec. 6, 2016.  
**Alice Dean Felton**, TIFT '41, of Atlanta, Jan. 20.  
**Wayne Grady Frey**, CLA '43, of Roswell, Sept. 14, 2016.

**Anita Stephens Harrison**, TIFT '45, of Atlanta, Jan. 20.  
**Solon D. Morgan**, CLA '41, of Orelan, Pennsylvania, Nov. 1, 2016.  
**The Hon. William J. Neville**, LAW '49, of Portal, Sept. 15, 2016.  
**Ben B. Ross**, LAW '49, of Lincolnton, Dec. 30, 2016.  
**Deanie Roberts Springmire**, CLA '48, of Rochelle, Illinois, Jan. 16.

**Luther B. Thigpen**, CLA '49, of Asheville, North Carolina, Aug. 11, 2016.  
**Mary S. Tolleson**, CLA '46, of Perry, Oct. 26, 2016.  
**Glen Gunter Waldrop**, CLA '45, of Atlanta, Jan. 18.  
**Jane Allgood Waller**, TIFT '48, of Mooresville, North Carolina, Sept. 5, 2016.  
**Calvin C. Woods**, PHA '43, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, Oct. 18, 2016.

## 1950s

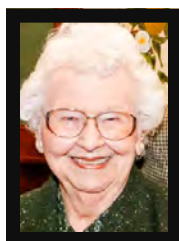
**Joanne Paul Allison**, NUR '58, of Nashville, Tennessee, Jan. 25.  
**William A. Anglin Jr.**, PHA '59, of Buford, Oct. 23, 2016.  
**Anne Miller Avirett**, CLA '51, of Macon, Sept. 4, 2016.  
**Dorothy Saggus Ballew**, TIFT '51, of Atlanta, Aug. 13, 2016.  
**The Rev. S. Roger Benton**, CLA '52, of Moultrie, Sept. 11, 2016.

## Generous Supporter and Honorary Graduate Emily Fisher Crum, HON '01

**E**mily Fisher Crum, a generous University supporter, died on Nov. 28, 2016. Crum was born on Oct. 4, 1914, in Toccoa, to Thomas Orr Fisher and Bess Ayers Fisher. She moved with her parents from Toccoa to Atlanta when she was four-years-old and lived in Inman Park in the old Candler home. At age 10, her family moved to LaGrange where she graduated from LaGrange High School.

Crum attended Shorter College as a freshman and graduated from the University of Georgia, where she excelled in speech and drama. She was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and remained active as an alumna until age 100. She studied drama in New York City following college graduation.

After returning home to LaGrange to teach school, she met the love of her life, Remer Crum. They married on his birthday, Feb. 11, in 1939 and remained married until his death in 2009. He was employed by the Callaway



Crum

Family as an engineer to survey what became Callaway Gardens. Following the Dec. 7, 1941, bombing of Pearl Harbor, he received a telegram from the Department of the Navy requesting that he go to Honolulu as a civil engineer to help in the rebuilding of Pearl Harbor. Emily Crum joined him in 1941 where she also worked for the Department of the Navy as a personnel clerk in communications. She wrote a book for servicemen's wives to orient them on military life and their duties.

The Crums returned to Atlanta in 1950 and Emily Crum became involved in numerous civic and religious activities. She was a member of the Dogwood Embroiderers' Guild and did needlework that she generously gifted to family and friends. She was chairperson of the designing and needle pointing of the kneelers at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. She and Remer Crum later joined Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. She served in numerous capacities in her churches and was known for her devout faith and her eloquent, animated and sincere religious teaching. After moving to Lenbrook Square, she continued to give back by knitting scores of baby caps for Grady Hospital.

The Crums were longtime supporters of higher education and were lifetime members of The President's Club. Emily Crum was awarded the Doctor of Laws from Mercer in 2001 and a Doctor of Philanthropy from LaGrange College in 2002. She was chairperson of the Fisher-Crum Foundation until her death.

## Generous Supporters & Founding Dean Dr. C.B. Gambrell Jr. and Olive Katherine White Gambrell

**C**arroll Blake "C.B." Gambrell Jr., founding dean of Mercer's School of Engineering, died Nov. 17, 2016, at the age of 91. He was born on Dec. 1, 1924, in Birmingham, Alabama. He studied engineering at the University of Alabama, where he participated in the ROTC program and enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve.

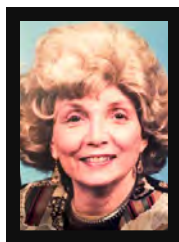
He was called to active duty in April 1943 and sent to Yale University to continue his engineering education, after which he served in the combat engineers in Europe during World War II, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and received the Purple Heart for combat duty in Central Europe and the Remagen Bridge. On April 10, 2013, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal for his service in World War II.

Following the war, Gambrell earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Clemson University, Master of Science in Engineering from the University of Florida and Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Purdue University.

He served as an adviser and consultant to three secretaries of the Army while on the Army Scientific Advisory Panel and the Defense Science Board. He retired from the Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in the corps of engineers.



Dr. Gambrell



Mrs. Gambrell

Gambrell was a faculty member at Purdue University and Arizona State University and served as vice president of academic affairs at Florida Technological University (now the University of Central Florida), before becoming dean of Mercer's School of Engineering upon its establishment in 1985.

While at Mercer, he was named the first Georgia Kaolin Industry Endowed Chair in Engineering in 1987 and helped establish the Mercer Engineering Research Center in Warner Robins, which he also directed from 1987-1995. He retired as dean emeritus of the School of Engineering and as vice president of research for the University in 1997 and was named a Mercer National Engineering Advisory Board Fellow in 2000.

Gambrell was a longtime member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the American Society of Engineering Education, and was a registered professional engineer in four states. He served on the boards of Winter Park Hospital and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, as well as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), on which he conducted more than 40 accreditation visits in the U.S. and abroad. He was named a Fellow of ABET in 1989.

Olive Katherine White Gambrell died on Jan. 9. She earned her bachelor's degree in education with a minor in Library Science at Arizona State University graduating magna cum laude. She was a musician and studied piano at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Gambrell was instrumental in the development of the Florida Technological University Women's Club (now the University of Central Florida).

Born on June 8, 1924, in Anniston, Alabama, she lived in Birmingham, Alabama, during her childhood years and married her high school sweetheart during WWII. The Gambrells were married for 72 years.

The Gambrells were dedicated members of Macon's Highland Hills Baptist Church during their years at Mercer.



**Peggy Brown**, NUR '57, of Smyrna, Nov. 25, 2016.  
**June Smith Chambers**, CLA '58, of Milledgeville, Aug. 23, 2016.  
**Henry T. Clay**, CLA '51, of Macon, Dec. 12, 2016.  
**Henry O. David**, CLA '55, of Albany, Oct. 21, 2016.  
**Joseph H. Davis**, LAW '51, of Atlanta, Aug. 13, 2016.  
**Anne Wood Galloway**, CLA '52, of Evans, Dec. 3, 2016.  
**Janet Guertin**, NUR '54, of Ft. Myers, Florida, Sept. 10, 2016.  
**Terry T. Hadaway**, EDU '58, of Thomaston, Aug. 29, 2016.  
**Cloyd K. Hall**, CLA '57, of Macon, Oct. 6, 2016.  
**Patricia Peeples Hazouri**, TIFT '54, of Kingsland, Oct. 4, 2016.  
**George K. Hinton**, CLA '57, of Dahlonaga, Aug. 20, 2016.  
**Shirley Harden Hobby**, CLA '58, of Milledgeville, Sept. 15, 2016.  
**Mitchel P. House Jr.**, LAW '59, of Macon, Sept. 6, 2016.  
**Tenella Fretwell Howell**, CLA '55, of Jackson, Dec. 2, 2016.  
**William F. Jenkins**, CLA '56, of Glen

Ellyn, Illinois, Jan. 29.  
**Allie Callaway Kilpatrick**, CLA '54, of Milledgeville, Oct. 17, 2016.  
**Annie Mae Kirk**, TIFT '50, of Porterdale, Dec. 17, 2016.  
**Joe D. Lister**, CLA '51, of Burlington, North Carolina, Nov. 24, 2016.  
**L. Dayton Malone Jr.**, CLA '58, of Hillsboro, January 13.  
**Jackson C. Moore Sr.**, CLA '57, of Macon, Aug. 27, 2016.  
**Gervaise W. Perdue**, EDU '59, of Macon, Aug. 14, 2016.  
**Jeff S. Pierce Jr.**, CLA '57, of Warner Robins, Sept. 1, 2016.  
**Cleo Hendricks Plant**, NUR '55, of Stone Mountain, Dec. 5, 2016.  
**Leland L. Pool**, CLA '50, of Gainesville, Nov. 25, 2016.  
**Robert L. Pulliam**, CLA '56, of Savannah, Oct. 26, 2016.  
**Cubbedge Snow Jr.**, LAW '52, of Macon, Dec. 4, 2016.  
**Geraldine W. Thomson**, CLA '58, of Alpharetta, Aug. 9, 2016.  
**Mary Ann Thomas Thurman**, CLA '51, of Fort Valley, Dec. 7, 2016.  
**Mildred M. Toler**, NUR '54, of Downers Grove, Illinois, January 27.

**Fran Watson Torbert**, TIFT '50, of Thomaston, Dec. 19, 2016.  
**William P. Tyson Jr.**, LAW '50, of Potomac Falls, Virginia, Dec. 1, 2016.  
**W. Brantley Weems**, CLA '57, of Peachtree City, Nov. 25, 2016.  
**S. Wayne Wheeler**, CLA '57, of Florence, Alabama, Nov. 19, 2016.  
**H. Reginald Wilkes**, CLA '55, of Conyers, Aug. 23, 2016.  
**Joanne Forrester Williams**, TIFT '50, of Adel, Sept. 5, 2016.  
**J. Franklin Wyatt**, PHA '54, of Powder Springs, Nov. 7, 2016.

## 1960s

**Donald A. Barkley**, CLA '60, of Atlanta, Aug. 23, 2016.  
**M. Joseph Berman**, PHA '63, of Alpharetta, Jan. 23.  
**Walter L. Bowers**, CLA '65, of Macon, Nov. 2, 2016.  
**Jimmy F. Breedlove**, PHA '63, of Conyers, Dec. 6, 2016.  
**Julie McMahan Brown**, EDU '64, of Jonesboro, Jan. 2.  
**Miller G. Edwards III**, CLA '62, of Macon, Aug. 10, 2016.

**Jean Pridgen Gower**, NUR '60, of Jonesboro, Jan. 25.  
**William C. Harper**, PHA '69, of Tucker, Sept. 2, 2016.  
**Edward J. "Jerry" Harrell**, LAW '69, of Macon, Sept. 5, 2016.  
**Eugene Highsmith**, LAW '60, of Brunswick, Aug. 12, 2016.  
**Lillian Bloodworth Jenkins**, EDU '68, of Saint Simons Island, Dec. 26, 2016.  
**Thomas C. Johnson**, CLA '60, of Stone Mountain, Sept. 16, 2016.  
**The Rev. Marvin B. Kelly**, CLA '61, of Canton, Sept. 8, 2016.  
**Ronald C. Norris**, PHA '64, of Athens, Dec. 5, 2016.  
**Elias R. Rigsby**, EDU '63, of Camilla, Oct. 21, 2016.  
**Carol Ann Avery Rodgers**, CLA '62, of Summerville, South Carolina, Jan. 24.  
**Daniel P. Trexler**, PHA '69, of Milledgeville, Dec. 29, 2016.  
**Susannah Walker**, CLA '60, of Decatur, Jan. 16.  
**Harold L. Watson Jr.**, CLA '62, of Milledgeville, Nov. 10, 2016.  
**Joseph Melvin Weaver**, CLA '62, of Byron, Jan. 13.

## 1970s

**Joy Freeman Allen**, TIFT '72, of Forsyth, Dec. 28, 2016.  
**Michael A. Branca**, CAS '77, of Young Harris, Dec. 29, 2016.  
**Christopher Bruni**, CLA '75, of Macon, Jan. 13.  
**James D. Buie Jr.**, PHA '72, of White Oak, Aug. 6, 2016.  
**Jimmie C. Burns**, CLA '73, of Chandler, Arizona, Sept. 4, 2016.  
**Hallie Atchison Caldwell**, EDU '78, of Richmond Hill, Sept. 5, 2016.  
**Donald W. Eaker**, EDU '76, of Apopka, Florida, Aug. 13, 2016.  
**Dottie Beall Hulett**, TIFT '71, of New Prague, Minnesota, Nov. 12, 2016.  
**Shirley Lee Jackson**, EDU '73, of Macon, Sept. 2, 2016.  
**Beverly Dean Kruse**, TIFT '73, of Carrollton, Feb. 3.  
**C. David Mixon**, PHA '77, of Atlanta, Nov. 8, 2016.  
**Susan Zellner Strong**, CLA '71, of Bainbridge, Nov. 9, 2016.  
**Clinton M. Templeton Jr.**, PHA '75, of Summerville, South Carolina, Sept. 28, 2016.

## Founding Dean, Beloved Faculty Member Harriett Anne Hathaway

**D**r. Harriett Anne Hathaway died on Dec. 4, 2016. A native of Sunbury, Gates County, North Carolina, Hathaway was born on Dec. 2, 1948, in Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia. After graduating from Gates County High School in Gatesville, North Carolina, she attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Hathaway held various teaching positions in public education before beginning her career in higher education. At Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina, she was Department of Education coordinator; an associate professor of education and director of Teacher Education Division



Dr. Hathaway

of Social Sciences; and the founding dean of the College of Education. At Mercer, Hathaway was an associate professor of education; acting chair of the Department of Education; interim dean of the School of Education; the founding dean of Tift College of Education; professor, Middle Grades and Mathematics Education, Tift College of Education; assessment coordinator; and most recently, director, Ph.D. Programs, Tift College of Education.

Hathaway presented on local, state, regional, national and international levels. She was published in textbooks/curriculum materials, book chapters, journal/magazine articles, and was author/writer of other educational materials. She was a researcher, principle and co-investigator, and co-author of grants/funded projects. She designed and re-designed courses at Tift College of Education. Among her many professional and academic association memberships, she was a member of the National Council of Teachers for Mathematics, Delta Kappa Gamma, and Phi Kappa Phi. Hathaway was the 2016 recipient of the Cathryn Futral Excellence in Teaching Award as an inspirational and exceptional professor in the Tift College of Education.

## Distinguished Alumnus Hewlette Collier Connell, CLA '53

**H**ewlette "Hew" Collier Connell died on Jan. 7 in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he lived with his beloved wife of 37 years, Marty K. Connell. He was born on Aug. 16, 1932, in Barnesville, the only child of Doris Collier and George Boyce Connell, vice-president of Mercer from 1946 to 1953 and University president from 1953 to 1959.

Connell graduated from Lanier High School in 1949 and from Mercer in 1953. During college, he enrolled in ROTC, played on the golf team and was president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Connell graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1957. Shortly



Dr. Connell

thereafter, he married the late Patricia Dowell of Raleigh, North Carolina, whom he met as a fellow student at Mercer and whose grandfather, Spright Dowell, was the school's president when Connell's father arrived as the University's vice-president.

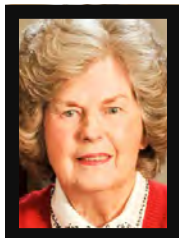
He served two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, completing his service in 1960 and entering into general practice in Erwin, North Carolina, until 1964, when he began the first ever residency in radiation oncology at Duke University. He served at Duke Medical Center as a practitioner and professor. He was among the first 100 board certified radiation oncologists in the nation.

In 1971, Dr. Connell returned to Macon as a member of a rapidly growing practice. In 1982, he returned to North Carolina and assumed the oncology practice at Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount. He remained in that position for almost 10 years until his retirement and moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, in 2000. In retirement, he continued his work of caring for cancer patients through locums practice in West Virginia, New Mexico, the Dakotas and Nebraska for another six years. Finally, he served as a part-time member on staff at Virginia Oncology Associates in Hampton, Virginia, until May 2007.

## Alumna and Generous Supporter Pearl Traylor Raines, CLA '48

**P**earl Traylor Raines, an alumna and generous University supporter, died on Nov. 26, 2016. Raines graduated from Mercer in 1948 with a B.A. She earned an M.Ed. degree from Auburn University in 1962. Raines was a career educator, teaching for 11 years before serving as the vocational office training coordinator for Troup High School in LaGrange. After leaving LaGrange, she taught in Peach County Schools until her retirement. Raines and her husband, Warner J. Raines, EDU '50 and '51, former superintendent of Peach County Schools, were married for more than 60 years when he died on Feb. 10, 2012.

As career educators who valued education, Raines and her husband established several endowed scholarships to benefit future educators in Mercer's Tift College of Education. Mr. and Mrs. Raines were named Lifetime Members of The President's Club in 2011.



Raines

## Former Trustee G. Othell Hand

**D**r. G. Othell Hand, a former University trustee, died Aug. 13, 2016. He was a graduate of Mississippi College at Clinton, Mississippi, and earned his doctorate degree at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

He taught religion for five years at the University of Richmond and pastored churches in Jacksonville, Florida, and Hickory, North Carolina, before becoming pastor of First Baptist Church of Columbus in 1962.

After spending 11 years leading First Baptist, he joined AFLAC as director of motivation. AFLAC gave him the opportunity to minister through motivating and counseling individuals across the country. He represented AFLAC in Washington, D.C., where he became AFLAC's goodwill ambassador to the nation's presidents, senators and congressmen.

Hand served on the Mercer Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1985.



Dr. Hand

## Notable Alumnus W.J. "Bill" Usery Jr., CLA '56

**W**.J. "Bill" Usery Jr., former U.S. secretary of labor, died Dec. 10, 2016. Throughout a long career in labor-management relations, he was widely recognized during his working life as the nation's top mediator.

Usery was appointed assistant secretary of labor for Labor-Management Services by President Nixon in 1969. From 1973-76, Usery was national director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, serving as the government's chief mediator in national labor-management disputes. He was secretary of labor under President Gerald Ford (1976-77) and served as special assistant to the president for labor management negotiations in the administrations of President Ford and President Nixon.

From 1977 to 2004, Usery was president of Bill Usery Associates Inc., a Washington, D.C. firm, and in 1985 established the Bill Usery Labor Management Relations Foundation. He was also the founder of the W.J. Usery Jr. Center for the Workplace at Georgia State University.

Usery was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Georgia State University, the University of Louisville, North Alabama State University and Southeastern University. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Georgia Military College in 1971. Born in Hardwick, Usery attended Georgia Military College and Mercer University. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served in the Pacific Fleet in World War II.



Usery

**Purcell Whitsel**, CLA '75, of Macon, Sept. 25, 2016.

**Jon S. Whitt**, PHA '72, of Rutledge, Tennessee, Oct. 18, 2016.

**Dale L. Wiggins**, CLA '71, of Pensacola, Florida, Oct. 26, 2016.

**Kenneth A. Wilborn**, CLA '74, of Naples, Florida, Aug. 11, 2016.

**Judith Smith Wright**, EDU '72, of Naples, Florida, Sept. 15, 2016.

**Harold D. Zwald**, CLA '71, of Decatur, November 1, 2016.

## 1980s

**H. Thomas Arthur II**, LAW '82, of Camden, South Carolina, Feb. 3.

**Charles E. Bagley Jr.**, LAW '88, of Atlanta, Oct. 5, 2016.

**Belinda Sue Beck**, BUSM '83, of Warner Robins, Aug. 7, 2016.

**Carlton W. Brooks**, CAS '86, of Sharpsburg, Nov. 1, 2016.

**Montez Smith Carr**, CLA '81, of Macon, Nov. 14, 2016.

**George H. Carswell Jr.**, LAW '80, of Monticello, Florida, Dec. 27, 2016.

**The Hon. Nathan C. Lee**, LAW '83, of Hopewell, Virginia, Jan. 1.

**Donna Green Fennell**, CLA '87, of Macon, Nov. 14, 2016.

**Amy E. Hamby**, CAS '88, of Chamblee, Dec. 2, 2016.

**Myrtle B. Jones**, CLA '81, of New Port Richey, Florida, Sept. 17, 2016.

**Abram D. Lawson**, CAS '82, of Eatonton, Oct. 2, 2016.

**The Hon. Nathan C. Lee**, LAW '83, of Hopewell, Virginia, Jan. 1.

**Marion Wendy McGlinn Lockwood**, MED '89, of Huntsville, Alabama, Oct. 5, 2016.

**Scott A. Marshall**, CLA '87, of Franklin, Tennessee, Aug. 3, 2016.

**John Russell Mayer**, LAW '81, of Decatur, Jan. 6.

**William M. Peterson**, LAW '89, of Warner Robins, Dec. 6, 2016.

**Suzanne L. Yaeger**, CAS '87, of Atlanta, Dec. 13, 2016.

## 1990s

**Carolyn R. Baker**, PEN '91, of Darien, Aug. 3, 2016.

**Donald B. Carter**, BUSA '93, of Grovetown, Dec. 21, 2016.

**Jackie T. Corey**, BUSA '99, of Townsend, Jan. 4.

**William B. Fallin**, CLA '90, of Newnan, Aug. 11, 2016.

**Samuel W. Lokey**, PHA '98, of Ashburn, Nov. 12, 2016.

**Monica McKnight Lovett**, EDU '98, of Newnan, Oct. 3, 2016.

**Kent Nolen**, PEN '95, of Chicago/Illinois, Aug. 16, 2016.

**John E. Stiltner**, BUS '90, of Ellijay, Oct. 19, 2016.

**Leslie Brittain Williamson**, EDN '91, of Alpharetta, Oct. 24, 2016.

**Walter C. Willis**, CAS '91, of Atlanta, Aug. 7, 2016.

## 2000s

**Matthew Ryan Barton**, MED '09, of Webster Groves, Missouri, Jan. 23.

**Gary W. Bumgarner**, PHA '02, of Homewood, Alabama, Sept. 13, 2016.

**Allison L. Cameron**, PHA '05, of Algood, Tennessee, Jan. 5.

**Keith C. Hopkins**, LAW '04, of Rome, Aug. 13, 2016.

**Kristin Lynley Lee**, EDN '00, of Macon, Sept. 22, 2016.

**Harold L. McManus Jr.**, BUS '04, of Macon, Sept. 14, 2016.

**Victoria R. Stanford**, CLA '03, of Hinesville, Sept. 4, 2016.

## 2010s

**Courtney Benedict**, CLA '13, of Bonaire, Oct. 28, 2016.

**Angela Ross**, PEN '15, of Macon, Nov. 20, 2016.

## Friends, Former Faculty & Former Staff

**Jon Appleton**, of Athens, Nov. 27, 2016.

**Thomas L. Bass**, of Macon, Nov. 3, 2016.

**Jill Bigler**, of Peachtree City, Sept. 27, 2016.

**Martha B. Boynton**, of Sharpsburg, Oct. 23, 2016.

**Doris A. Cable**, of Macon, Dec. 5, 2016.

**Nancy H. Calhoun**, of New Orleans, Louisiana, Oct. 8, 2016.

**James K. Champion**, of Marietta, Sept. 25, 2016.

**Thomas H. Conley**, of Atlanta, Aug. 25, 2016.

**J.T. Ford**, of Atlanta, Dec. 23, 2016.

**Max Gardner Jr.**, of Alpharetta, Nov. 8, 2016.

**Byron W. Grant**, of Macon, Dec. 16, 2016.

**Martha A. Jones**, of Macon, Nov. 13, 2016.

**J. Loyd Landrum**, of Macon, Oct. 7, 2016.

**John L. Lawrence**, of Raleigh, North Carolina, Nov. 30, 2016.

**Mary Alice J. Lewis**, of Macon, Nov. 12, 2016.

**Charles T. Linch**, of Fayetteville, Feb. 3, 2016.

**Martha Livingston**, of Macon, Aug. 31, 2016.

**Martha Looney**, of Atlanta, Oct. 5, 2016.

**May F. McMillan**, of Macon, Sept. 29, 2016.

**Fred B. Miller Jr.**, of Jacksonville, Florida, Nov. 6, 2016.

**Wells Riley**, of Roswell, Jan. 16.

**Joseph Larry Todd**, of Humboldt, Tennessee, Aug. 26, 2016.



# 25-50-100 Years Ago ...

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

**1917** (Right) Rufus Carrollton Harris is pictured here in his senior portrait from the 1917 *Cauldron*. After receiving two degrees from Yale, he returned to Mercer as dean of the law school in 1923. He then served as dean of the law school at Tulane University before becoming president of the New Orleans institution, a role he held from 1937 until 1960. Harris returned to his alma mater and was Mercer's president and chancellor until his death in 1988. Among his most notable accomplishments at Mercer were the integration of the student body in 1963 and the acceptance of federal grants beginning in 1969.



**1942** (Above) "Every year the [Tift College] Senior Class reenacts the ceremony of King Arthur and his Round Table.

Dressed as knights and ladies and led by Arthur, their class president, they take the Table Round and with it all the privileges and responsibilities of Seniorhood. They are assisted in this ceremony by their sister class, the Sophomores." — 1942 *Chiaroscuro*

**1967** Students participated in the annual Penfield Pilgrimage/Founders' Day ceremonies in April 1967. The day included an address by Dr. William H. Geren, a memorial service for the University's founders and a barbecue lunch.





# AdvancementUpdate

## Three Mercerians Meet in Austria

HENRY SAULS, CLA '53, MET EDWARD ATKINSON, MUS '10, AND ALEXANDER LOCKE, CURRENT JUNIOR in the Townsend School of Music, at the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) held in Graz, Austria in July and August. Dr. Sauls is director of operations and finance for the AIMS program, Atkinson was a participant in the 48th annual AIMS Vocal Institute, and Locke was a member of the viola section of the AIMS Festival Orchestra.

AIMS is a summer study and performance program for singers and instrumentalists whose mission is to provide pre-professional training

for a career in classical music. The faculty consists of both American and European teachers and conductors. The participants are selected by audition from applicants in the United States and other countries. The orchestra performs symphonic works and accompanies the performances of the singers in a series of concerts in and around Graz, Austria. The program is held in Austria to draw on the strong cultural history of the region, which was the residence of the greatest composers of classical music, and continues to be a preeminent location for performance of opera, operetta, symphonic and other forms of classical music.

Sauls, currently living in the Sarasota, Florida, area, has been a volunteer staff member for the program each summer since 1993 and co-director since 2003. He also is a member of the AIMS Board of

Directors. Atkinson, of Bloomington, Indiana, a participant in the Vocal Institute, was one of the leading tenors in the orchestra concerts and other recitals presented to Graz audiences. Locke, a native of Columbus, Ohio, and current member of Mercer's McDuffie Center for Strings, performed with the orchestra in seven concerts, presenting both traditional and modern symphonic works and accompanying numerous operatic and operetta arias performed by the singers.

"This is the first time Mercerians have attended the AIMS program and both were outstanding representatives of the school," said Sauls. "We hope to have more attend in the future. The AIMS program offers a unique international study opportunity, and I hope to provide scholarships for all worthy participants. I have assured David Keith [dean of the Townsend School of Music] that any Mercer musician who qualifies for admission will be supported."

**Henry Sauls (center) with Alexander Locke (left) and Edward Atkinson at the AIMS program in Austria last summer.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY SAULS

## Center for Strings Dedicates Jennings Salon

THE UNIVERSITY'S ROBERT MCDUFFIE CENTER FOR Strings dedicated the salon of the historic Bell House, home of the McDuffie Center for Strings, in honor of Mansfield and Genelle Jennings on Dec. 12.

Through their investments and service to the Mercer University Board of Trustees, both Mansfield and Genelle Jennings have provided special support to the University's Robert McDuffie Center for Strings, where they endowed the Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Chair, held by violinist and Center Founder Robert McDuffie. The University celebrated the generosity and service of Mansfield and Genelle and honored them in perpetuity through the naming of the Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Salon. The Jennings Salon is a 60-seat performance hall used for student recitals, master classes and chamber concerts.

Portraits of Mansfield and Genelle Jennings, which hang in the salon, were unveiled during the dedication. The portraits were painted by artist Yvonne Gabriel.



**Robert McDuffie and President Underwood pose with members of the Jennings family beside the portrait of Genelle Jennings that was unveiled during the dedication of the Jennings Salon.**

MARY ANN BATES PHOTO



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# MERCER

## B E A R S

### 2017 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



**AUG 31**  
JACKSONVILLE



**SEP 9**  
WOFFORD



**SEP 16**  
AT AUBURN



**SEP 23**  
AT ETSU



**SEP 30**  
VMI



**OCT 7**  
AT THE CITADEL



**OCT 14**  
CHATTANOOGA



**OCT 21**  
AT FURMAN



**NOV 4**  
SAMFORD  
HOMECOMING



**NOV 11**  
AT WESTERN CAROLINA



**NOV 18**  
AT ALABAMA

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