ON THE COVER — The 2017-18 women’s basketball season will serve as the benchmark for future Mercer teams. Even though the championship season ended at the NCAA Tournament on March 17 when the Bears lost 68-63 to the No. 18 Georgia Lady Bulldogs, the more than 1,000 Mercer faithful who made the trek to Athens let their presence be known. The AP game story noted “A raucous Mercer contingency matched the Georgia fan base in terms of crowd noise for the final 10 minutes.” On the cover, the Bears celebrate cutting down the nets at the Southern Conference Tournament in Asheville, North Carolina. A season recap of the team that captured the hearts of all Mercerians is on pages 28-31. | Judy Stapleton photo

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Meet the Distinguished University Professors

Mercer’s Enduring International Footprint

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THE MERCERIAN | SPRING 2018

VOTER PARTICIPATION CHAMPIONSHIP

A record-setting 56.4% of students
Mercer claimed the conference championship
voter participation.
Conference launched “SoCon Votes,” the first
of engagement beyond college — the Southern
unequal participation that leads to low levels
democracy’s biggest problems — low and
an attempt to address one of American
voter registration and overall discussion. There was a lot of hard work and energy behind this
Conference’s Inaugural
competition, so I was pleased to hear about the final results and Mercer securing first place.”

President William D. Underwood.

Emily Thompson, Knight Foundation Macon Program Director Lynn Murphey,
associate director of Research That Reaches Out.

Mercer was recognized as part of the
All In Campus Democracy Challenge to increase college student voting. The University received a bronze award for achieving a student voter turnout rate between 50 and 59 percent.

Student participation in elections has increased
during the past few years. A recent report, titled
“Democracy Counts: A Report on U.S. College and
University Student Voting,” from the National Study on Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), an
initiative of Ball State University’s Institute for Democracy in Higher Education, shows that, between the 2012 and
2016 presidential elections, student voting went
from 45.1 percent of eligible voters to 48.5 percent.
The All In Campus Democracy Challenge is a
national award program. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the
habits of active and informed citizenship, and make
democratic participation a core value on their campus.

By joining the Challenge, campuses commit to:
• Convening a campus-wide committee that
includes members from academic affairs, student affairs and the student body, as well as any other
relevant stakeholders.
• Developing and implementing an action plan to
improve democratic engagement.
• Participating in the NSLVE in order to measure
student voting rates.
• Sharing their campus’ action plan and NSLVE
results in order to be eligible for a recognition and/or awards.

More than 300 campuses, enrolling more than four
million students, have joined the Challenge since its
launch in the summer of 2016.

MERGER WINS
HIGHEST STUDENT VOTER PARTICIPATION
IN SOUTHERN CONFERENCE’S INAUGURAL
VOTER PARTICIPATION CHAMPIONSHIP

M Mercer’s Board of Trustees approved two new graduate programs, installed
new members and elected officers during its annual Homecoming meeting
on Nov. 3.

A new Master of Theological Studies will be offered through Mercer’s McAfee School of Theology on the University’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta beginning in fall 2018. The 49-hour, two-year program will allow students to craft their own course of study, in consultation with their faculty supervisor. It will prepare graduates for future advanced and specialized work in religion and theology through teaching and research, church leadership, or community and global ministry.

The course of study allows students to concentrate in one of four broad areas: Bible, history/theology, ethics, and practical theology.

The College of Health Professions will begin offering the Master of Athletic Training degree on the Mercer campus, beginning in June. It will be a six-semester, 70-credit-hour professional program that will prepare students for national certification in athletic training. The College will seek accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

The improvement by students at Mercer reflects what’s possible when leaders on college campuses stand up to support student civic engagement.”

— JOEY WOZNIAK

against SoCon rival Samford University on Nov. 4.

THE IMPROVEMENT BY STUDENTS
SHOW WHAT’S POSSIBLE WHEN
LEADERS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES
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UNIVERSITY RECEIVES ‘ALL IN’ CHALLENGE BRONZE SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT VOTER ENGAGEMENT

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Th e M e r c e r i an | S P R I N G 2 0 1 8

3
GEORGIA RESEARCH ALLIANCE UNIVERSITIES SIGN AGREEMENT TO SHARE CORE FACILITIES

Research leaders from the eight universities in the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding for the shared use of core research facilities at each of their institutions. The agreement means identified core facilities and equipment will be available to researchers at all eight institutions at the same rates and terms offered to internal faculty users.

The GRA includes Mercer University, Augusta University, Clark Atlanta University, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Morehouse School of Medicine and the University of Georgia.

“Being a part of the Georgia Research Alliance shared core facilities agreement provides Mercer with a tremendous expansion of state-of-the-art research equipment and technical expertise support for our faculty,” said Dr. Wayne Glasgow, senior vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies. “Having these resources available provides enhanced opportunities to more effectively address specific research questions and to develop productive research collaborations among GRA member institutions.”

The aim of the partnership agreement is to create a greater availability of research support services for faculty at all the Georgia research universities, to minimize duplication of resources, and to expand and maximize collaborative research opportunities.

“One of the key aims of the Georgia Research Alliance has always been to unite our research universities across the state in increasing biomedical innovation and economic development for the benefit of all Georgia citizens,” said C. Michael Cassidy, president of the GRA. “Sharing these core research facilities, which often include expensive equipment and specially trained personnel, is an ideal opportunity to enhance team science while increasing research efficiency and saving time and money.”

Core research facilities at the eight institutions include imaging, immunotherapy and immune monitoring; chemical and biomolecular syntheses; genomics, proteomics, lipodomics, glycomics and metabolomics; cryo-electron microscopy; cryo-transmission electron microscopy; DNA sequencing; neuroscience (behavioral studies); transgenic mouse and animal models; electron microscopy; cancer tissue analysis; genomics, proteomics, lipodomics, glycomics and metabolomics; immunotherapy and immune monitoring; chemical and biomolecular syntheses; confocal microscopy; flow cytometry; biostatistics; high performance computing; and pathology; cellular imaging; molecular modeling and drug design; clinical microscopy; DNA sequencing; neuroscience (behavioral studies); brain imaging; high containment lab; in-vitro studies; nanotechnology; biomarkers; flow cytometry; histocytometry; high performance computing; and clinical trials.

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS
OFFERING A DIVERSE SEASON OF BOOKS IN HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, MEMOIR, POETRY, FICTION, AND RELIGION

Mercer University Press continues to acquire diverse scholarship from a variety of authors and offers 17 new books for the Spring/Summer 2018 season. Highlighted titles include: Tommy Jordan, The Light Show Through The Guiding Hand Shaping One of America’s Greatest Trial Lawyers by Vincent Coppola, a biography of Albany, Georgia’s, “rebel with a cause” and longtime Mercer trustee; When In The Course of Human Events: 1776 at Home, Abroad, and in American Memory, a collection of essays from Mercer’s 2016 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas, edited by Mercer professor Dr. Will R. Jordan; Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes by Matthew Jennings and Mercer professor Dr. Gordon Johnston, an interdisciplinary guide to the national monument located in Macon, Georgia, which includes history, archaeology, native cultures, and creative nonfiction; The First Same Award for Fiction winner, Dixie Luck: Stories and in American Memory, a collection of essays from Mercer’s 2016 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas, edited by Mercer professor Dr. Will R. Jordan; Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes by Matthew Jennings and Mercer professor Dr. Gordon Johnston, an interdisciplinary guide to the national monument located in Macon, Georgia, which includes history, archaeology, native cultures, and creative nonfiction; The First Same Award for Fiction winner, Dixie Luck: Stories and in American Memory, a collection of essays from Mercer’s 2016 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas, edited by Mercer professor Dr. Will R. Jordan; Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes by Matthew Jennings and Mercer professor Dr. Gordon Johnston, an interdisciplinary guide to the national monument located in Macon, Georgia, which includes history, archaeology, native cultures, and creative nonfiction; The First Same Award for Fiction winner, Dixie Luck: Stories and in American Memory, a collection of essays from Mercer’s 2016 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas, edited by Mercer professor Dr. Will R. Jordan; Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes by Matthew Jennings and Mercer professor Dr. Gordon Johnston, an interdisciplinary guide to the national monument located in Macon, Georgia, which includes history, archaeology, native cultures, and creative nonfiction; The First Same Award for Fiction winner, Dixie Luck: Stories and co-founder of the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding for the shared use of core research facilities at each of their institutions. The agreement means identified core facilities and equipment will be available to researchers at all eight institutions at the same rates and terms offered to internal faculty users.

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For its 2018 edition, U.S. News ranked online MBA programs using five categories: student engagement, admission selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. In its seventh year of collecting data from online degree programs, U.S. News assessed 1,490 programs that offer 100 percent online classes needed to complete the degree.

MERCER AMONG KIPLINGER’S 300 BEST VALUE COLLEGES FOR 2018

MERCER APPEARS IN THE TOP THIRD OF KIPLINGER’S 100 BEST COLLEGE Values for 2018, coming in at No. 129.

This ranking places the University among the top 40 private universities in the nation.

Introduced in 1998, Kiplinger’s rankings now combine public schools, private universities and private liberal arts colleges into a single, comprehensive list. The company also provides a ranking of the 100 best values in each category.

Kiplinger’s analysis is based on objective measurements of academic quality and affordability, not subjective criteria.

MACEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AMONG 2017-18 CLASS OF SEMINARIES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

MERCER’S JAMES AND CAROLYN M. McAfee School of Theology has been recognized as a “Seminaries that Change the World” for 2017-18 by the Center for Faith and Service, based out of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

For each of the past five years, the Center has identified a select group of seminaries and divinity schools offering innovative courses, programs and opportunities for students seeking to engage in social justice and service work while in seminary.

McAfee’s recognition as a “Seminary that Changes the World” reflects the School’s ongoing work to influence racial reconciliation, foster interfaith dialogue, address community development and launch well-rounded ministerial leaders.

The Center for Faith and Service is an organization that works to help seminaries, service programs, denominations and local congregations connect faith with service and social justice work.

Mercer is also ranked No. 83 among the publication’s Best Colleges for Veterans due to the University’s enrollment of and benefits for veterans and active-duty service member.

ONLINE MBA AMONG U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT’S BEST ONLINE PROGRAMS

MERCER’S ESQUIRE W. STETSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS is featured in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Online Programs Rankings, released on Jan. 9.

The School’s Online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program tied for No. 133 in U.S. News & World Report’s national universities rankings, released in September, tied with six others, including large, flagship institutions such as the University of Florida, the University of Houston and the University of Kentucky.

Last year, due in part factors such as an increase in research expenditures and doctoral programs, Mercer was elevated to the national universities category following 17 years as a top 10 regional university in the South.

Mercer, Emory (tied for No. 21), Georgia Tech (tied for No. 54), the University of Georgia (tied for No. 54) and Georgia State University (tied for No. 225) are the only institutions in the state to be ranked in the publication’s top tier of national universities.

Additionally, Mercer is ranked by the magazine as the No. 10 best value among the 31 national universities, coming in one spot ahead of the University of Southern California.

Mercer and Emory are the only two Georgia institutions ranked among the top 50 best values in this category.

The 303 institutions ranked as national universities are evaluated based upon factors such as peer assessment, freshman retention, graduation rate, class size, student-faculty ratio, academic profile of entering class, acceptance rate and alumni giving.

The best value rankings take into account an institution’s academic quality and the 2016-17 net cost of attendance for a student who received 100 percent online classes needed to complete the degree. The selection process was highly competitive, as Campus Compact received nearly 300 submissions.

The best value rankings are intended to help students and families make informed decisions about the right college or university for them.

For its 2018 edition, U.S. News ranked online MBA programs using five categories: student engagement, admission selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. In its seventh year of collecting data from online degree programs, U.S. News assessed 1,490 programs that offer 100 percent online classes needed to complete the degree.

MERCER RECEIVES ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION’S TREEPALS™ AWARD RECOGNITION

MERCER IS ONE OF 144 INSTITUTIONS NATIONALLY TO RECEIVE THE Arbor Day Foundation’s 2017 Tree Campus USA recognition of the University’s commitment to effective urban forest management.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Tree Campus USA honors colleges and universities not only for effective campus forest management but also for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Mercer earned the designation by meeting five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for the campus tree program, an Arbor Day celebration, 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 have invested more than $48 million in campus forest management last year.

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The scholarship is worth between $30,000 and $60,000, depending on the exchange rate. It covers all University and College fees in addition to a living allowance and reimbursement for travel and associated fees.

The Churchill Foundation also offers the possibility of a Special Research Grant of up to $3,000. This grant may cover travel for presentations at international conferences, short courses, workshops or university or institute for special research, and other activities.

“Mercer students are among the most accomplished young scientists and engineers in the country,” said Dr. Michael Morey, executive director of the Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States. “The Foundation seeks institutions that are able to nominate competitive candidates on a regular basis. The Churchill Scholarship is often called applying for a ‘second interview’ of the most challenging of the prestigious U.K. scholarships, so this is an easy task. Scholarship winners typically have compiled a resume that would be impressive for advanced graduate students, even though they apply as undergraduates. On a recent visit to Mercer, the Foundation was impressed by the quality of the science and engineering facilities, the enthusiasm of the faculty and the achievements of the students. We look forward to receiving nominations in the years to come.”

The Churchill Scholarship was established at the request of Winston Churchill in order to fulfill his vision of U.S.- U.K. scientific exchange with the goal of advancing science and technology on both sides of the Atlantic, helping to ensure future prosperity and security.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, either native born or naturalized, and must be a senior who is enrolled in one of those institutions participating in the scholarship program and is the only participating institution in the Southern Conference.

The program has resulted in 15 scholarships for the current academic year. Approximately 500 Churchill Scholars have been awarded.

Since 1963, approximately 500 Churchill Scholarships have been awarded. The Churchill Scholarship is one of the most highly competitive awards in the world, as only 24 to 32 students are selected each year from nearly 1,000 American citizens with foreign language and international experience.

The Churchill Scholarship program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.
Mercer selected to host American Center for Mongolian Studies

Mercer’s Department of International and Cross-Cultural Studies, a nonprofit educational organization established in 2004 to advance academic research, training and exchanges in Inner Asia, provided the new host for the American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS). ACMS, director of ACMS, professor of international business at Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia, and visiting professor at the Management Institute in Innsbruck, Austria. "Previous hosts have included Austin College, Western Washington University, the University of Wisconsin and the Pennsylvania State University." ACMS began operations at Mercer on Oct. 1. Additionally, Dr. Jonathan Maddox, who serves as an adjunct professor of international and global studies, was appointed the new executive director of ACMS, providing U.S.-based strategic direction and support for the organization’s office in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. ACMS sponsors a library, conferences, lecture series and other programs in Mongolia.

As a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), based at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., ACMS is part of a network of 25 similar centers, including "water insecurity" in Egypt, Jordan, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and elsewhere.

Dr. Addison joined Mercer’s faculty in January following a 34-year career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer that included assignments as U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia from 2003-2012 and USAID Mission Director in Mongolia from 2001-2004. "It is both an honor and an opportunity for Mercer University to host ACMS and become part of the broader CAORC network," added Dr. Addison. "My hope is that this affiliation will further strengthen Mercer’s international connections."

Funding for ACMS programs related to Mongolia come from several sources, including the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development. Maddox serves as assistant chief engineer for Georgia Public Broadcasting. He is licensed by the FCC and certified by the PCC and the Peyton Anderson Foundation, the Center for Collaborative Journalism is a unique partnership between Mercer’s Journalism and Media Studies Department, McClatchy-owned The Telegraph of Macon and Georgia Public Broadcasting. The print, digital students, faculty and veteran journalists together in a joint newsroom located in Mercer Village. From left, William Maddox, Kenyon Weplo and Tony Green.
At this past November’s Homecoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mercer President William D. Underwood announced the appointment of Dr. Sarah E. Gardner as Distinguished University Professor of History.

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

With Dr. Gardner’s appointment, Mercer has six Distinguished University Professors on the faculty in the areas of biomedical engineering, chemistry, Christian ethics, history and music.

Who are Mercer’s Distinguished University Professors?

Robert McDuffie

Robert McDuffie (left) is a Grammy-nominated violinist who has played with many of the world’s foremost orchestras. He founded the Rome Chamber Music Festival in Italy, as well as Mercer’s Robert McDuffie Center for Strings in his hometown of Macon.

He plays one of the world’s greatest violins, known as the “Ladenburg,” which was made by Giovanni Guarneri del Gesù in 1735 and is valued at approximately $10 million.

He has appeared as violin soloist with most of the major orchestras of the world, including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Chicago, San Francisco, National, Atlanta, Houston and Toronto Symphonies, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie in Bremen, the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Orleans Orchestra in Orleans, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Orchestra della Scala in Milan, the Venice Baroque Orchestra, the Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome, the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, and all of the major orchestras of Australia.

McDuffie has been a Distinguished University Professor of Music since 2004, when he first joined the faculty at Mercer.

“It’s an incredible honor to be a Distinguished University Professor,” he said. “I am immensely grateful to the University for allowing our Center for Strings to push back against outdated norms in classical music higher education.”

In 2006, he founded the Center for Strings, a special institute within the University’s Townsend School of Music, dedicated to the honor of his alma mater, College Street. He sought to provide a learning environment for musicians where they can also study other disciplines, such as business and law, while enrolled at the University.

“I strive to create an environment whereby exceptionally talented students will come to Mercer, instead of New York, and to Mercer, instead of Julliard, to realize their full potential,” he said.

One of the most gratifying aspects of his career is seeing the evolution of students during their time in Macon.

“What is something your students may not know about you?”

As a student in New York City, McDuffie, a Macon native, took time out of his busy schedule to cheer on his favorite home team. “While I was at Julliard, I once called in sick to a performance because the Atlanta Braves were playing on TV,” he said.

“Who are Mercer’s Distinguished University Professors?”

By Drew Davis

arto McDuffie (left) and R.E.M. bassist Mike Mills perform Mills’ Concerto for Violin, Rock Band and String Orchestra at McDuffie’s 2016 Rome (Italy) Chamber Music Festival. McDuffie and Mills met in Macon in middle school and have been friends ever since.
David Gushee, Ph.D.

David P. Gushee, Ph.D., joined the Mercer faculty as Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics in 2007 and serves as founding director of the Center for Theology and Public Life, which organizes events and courses to advance quality conversations about major issues arising at the intersection of theology, ethics and public policy.

“I am a Christian ethicist with special interest in social ethics; that is, major public issues to which Christians need to give serious attention,” he said. “I have written a lot about the moral teachings of Jesus and what they mean for us today.”

Dr. Gushee is the author or editor of more than 20 books, as well as hundreds of publications, and has lectured on every continent. He accompanies his scholarly production with church work, activism, board service and domestic and global media consultation.

Widely considered one of the leading moral voices in American Christianity, Dr. Gushee enjoys the opportunity to share his knowledge with students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

“I get to teach students who are at very different stages of life and pursuing very different vocations. I deeply appreciate the environment of total academic freedom because it is a fragile thing in many schools,” he said. “It has been exciting to watch the student body get more and more diverse, and more and more sharp, as my time has gone by at Mercer.”

Dr. Gushee has dedicated his life to service and educating the world at large on how Christianity should be interpreted today.

“It has been immensely meaningful to be named a Distinguished University Professor,” he said. “I am honored and humbled by the appointment,” Dr. Gardner said. “This recognition affirms Mercer’s commitment to the humanities at a time when, across the country, the value and importance of core disciplines is questioned.”

Sarah Gardner, Ph.D.

Sarah E. Gardner, Ph.D., has taught at Mercer since 1996. Last November, President Underwood and the Board of Trustees announced her appointment as Distinguished University Professor of History, an honor that also marked her 22nd year at the University.

“What is something your students may not know about you?”

“I read classic novels, travel as much as possible with my wife, Jeanie, watch Braves games and play with my grandson,” he said. “I love baseball to my core. I was on a Little League baseball team in 1974 that was just a few games away from the Little League World Series.”

Although she works in Georgia, Dr. Gardner resides in Pennsylvania. When she is not working, she enjoys spending her time relaxing and enjoying her favorite pastimes. “I do most of my writing while listening to jazz. I watch a lot of British mysteries. And I am a diehard baseball fan. Alas, my heart is broken every single season. I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Need I say more?”

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Adam Kiefer, Ph.D.

Adam Kiefer, Ph.D., joined the University’s Chemistry Department in 2008. He is a trusted mentor to many students at Mercer and a pioneer in his field of study, helping to tackle an environmental crisis that affects the entire world.

“In the field of artisanal and small-scale gold mining, many miners use mercury, some use cyanide, and there are environmental and human health consequences as a result of that,” he said.

Last spring, Dr. Kiefer was appointed Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry for establishing a program that exemplifies Mercer’s emphasis on “Research That Reaches Out.”

“One of the most important things that the award has done for me is give verification that the work I do is important,” he said. “As professors, we have a balance between doing good work and providing students with the opportunity to see the world through a different lens.”

Small-scale gold mining is one of the world’s largest contributors to man-made atmospheric mercury contamination. Because of his groundbreaking efforts, Dr. Kiefer has collaborated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to deal with this emerging crisis.

“Approximately 20 to 40 percent of the world’s gold is mined by people who are independent miners. We take a look at the pollution from not only these chemicals but also some of the pollutants that are released through the mining process and how they affect the world around us,” he said.

Being a faculty member at Mercer has given Dr. Kiefer what he considers to be a unique opportunity to both educate and challenge his students, not only in the classroom and lab, but also on a much larger scale.

“Although there are a lot of great schools out there, there are very few schools that provide the faculty with the opportunity to work at the level with the students that we do,” he said. “It is a blessing to allow our students the chance to participate in projects that can create a much broader impact.”

What is something your students may not know about you?

Dr. Kiefer enjoys Macon’s rich music heritage, which affords him the chance to have a deeper connection with one of his favorite bands. “I saw the Allman Brothers Band 36 times in concert,” he said.

Wallace Daniel, Ph.D.

Wallace L. Daniel has been at Mercer since 2008, originally serving as provost of the University. With more than 30 years of teaching and administrative experience at Baylor University and Mercer, Dr. Daniel stepped away from his administrative role to join the faculty as a professor in 2012. That same year, he was appointed Distinguished University Professor of History to pursue his research interests in the Soviet Union, contemporary Russia and society.

While serving as provost, I had the opportunity to get to know the faculty, staff and students across the University,” he said. “Presently, as a faculty member, I am profoundly grateful for this honor. It is humbling to be recognized as part of such a distinguished group.”

Dr. Daniel received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in Russia, and has been awarded Fulbright-Hays Fellowships to Russia and the former Soviet Union three times.

He has dedicated a large part of his career to the study of Russian history, including the Orthodox Church, civil society, human rights and freedom of conscience. His most recent project is an intellectual biography of Father Aleksandr Men, a Russian Orthodox priest who was murdered.

“The books and articles I have written deal with men and women who have offered fresh and creative ways of thinking and living in difficult circumstances,” he said.

In his administrative role, Dr. Daniel saw how the University promotes its mission. As a faculty member, he now sees the tangible impact the mission has on its students.

“The academic environment at Mercer encourages students to be interdisciplinary learners while at the same time allowing them to develop a moral conscience towards the betterment of humankind,” he said. “Both of these commitments are part of Mercer’s heritage, and I see them lived out repeatedly in the classroom and on campus.”

What is something your students may not know about you?

When he is not in the classrooms, Dr. Daniel enjoys watching sports and listening to music. “I am a rabid basketball fan, and I also love to listen to classic rock ‘n’ roll music, like Little Richard, Buddy Holly, the Platters and many others,” he said.
Ha Van Vo, M.D., Ph.D., DPM (left), is internationally recognized for his work helping thousands of amputees who live in developing countries. Through his research, he developed a patented universal socket technology to provide prosthetic legs to thousands of people living in impoverished regions around the world.

Last spring, Dr. Vo, who has been a member of Mercer’s faculty for the past 12 years, was appointed Distinguished University Professor of Biomedical Engineering for his groundbreaking efforts in his field. “This is perhaps the highest honor a professor can receive at Mercer,” he said. “There are so many outstanding professors here, and I am very honored to be selected for this recognition.”

Dr. Vo’s areas of teaching and research include orthopedic biomechanics, injured mechanics, orthopedic rehabilitation, bone fracture mechanics, biomaterials and prosthetics and orthotics.

There are an estimated 100,000 amputees currently living in his home country of Vietnam, many injured by land mines and unexploded bombs left during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Vo’s prosthesis has been used to fit over 8,000 amputees in Vietnam. He has led Mercer On Mission programs to the country since 2009, providing an affordable and highly-effective alternative to otherwise costly prostheses.

The Clinton Global Initiative University programs recognized the University for its commitment to engaging the world and taking on global challenges. Dr. Vo’s prosthetic leg project was one of only three programs recognized by former President Bill Clinton.

“The prosthetic we have developed costs around $150,” Dr. Vo said. “Through the Mercer On Mission Orthopedic Prosthetic Program, I have had the opportunity to interact with students and provide a hands-on learning experience. This program, and the effects it has had on both students and amputees, is one of the most rewarding parts of my career thus far. To see a man who had not walked in 30 years take his first steps is an amazing experience. Even more amazing is to see the look on our students’ faces when they realize that they were the ones who used their learning, skills and hard work to make that happen.”

The success of Dr. Vo’s prosthetic leg project has inspired him to turn his attention in a new direction. He has recently completed the design of a prosthetic hand. During this summer’s Mercer On Mission program, the Mercer team will fit at least 50 of these devices on upper extremity amputees in Vietnam.

What is something your students may not know about you?

Dr. Vo is passionate about helping those in need, even if it means providing them with a simple meal. “One fact that few people may know about me is that I am a chef at a Thai restaurant,” he said. “It is great to have a chance to pursue multiple passions.”

To teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower, to serve — in 2006, Mercer President William D. Underwood tasked University Minister and Dean of Chapel Dr. Craig McMahan with creating a program that would allow students and faculty to carry the University’s mission beyond the borders of Bibb County, the state of Georgia or even the United States. >>
Mercer On Mission

Mercer On Mission’s prosthetics program in Vietnam began in 2009 when Dr. Ha Van Vo, Distinguished University Professor of Biomedical Engineering, realized a dream. As a young boy growing up in South Vietnam after the Vietnam War, he hoped to someday make a difference for his fellow citizens who lost limbs primarily from unexploded ordnance left after the war. Today, it is estimated that there are more than 100,000 amputees in an economy that depends heavily on jobs, such as farmers and day laborers, that are difficult — if not impossible — to fulfill without the use of both legs. On the first trip almost 10 years ago, a team of Mercer students and faculty visited the country with a prosthetic leg that Dr. Vo had begun to design and fit about 10 people in the town of Phung Trai.

“What’s been at the heart of this program is this prosthetic leg that Dr. Vo designed,” said Dr. McMahan. “It’s an incredible piece of equipment. It is very light and durable, and it’s a very comfortable prosthesis. It weighs less than two pounds so the amputees find it to be very comfortable and functional.”

At first Dr. Vo and his students were making the prosthetics in his lab on the Macon campus and carrying them in their suitcases to Vietnam. But the program soon outgrew this modest mode of production and transportation. Thanks in large part to the generosity of Macon businessman Chris Sheridan, who through a family foundation contributes $250,000 per year to the program, prosthetics are now being produced in Vietnam. Mercer On Mission now operates clinics in four locations around the country and trains local doctors and technicians to fit Dr. Vo’s patented prosthetic year-round in the absence of University faculty and students.

Mercer On Mission currently operates clinics in four locations. Throughout Vietnam and South Africa, doctors and technicians fit Dr. Vo’s patented prosthetic year-round in the absence of University faculty and students.

Mercer On Mission is changing the world through programs that are having an impact even when students and faculty are no longer in these countries. The University’s involvement is not just two to three weeks at a time during Mercer On Mission’s annual summer trips. The work continues year-round through regular communication and faculty visits, the hiring and training of local personnel, and additional steps to ensure that the solutions the University is offering to medical, environmental, educational and many other issues can be carried out on an ongoing basis.

Specifically for its prosthetics program, Mercer On Mission has been recognized by former President Bill Clinton and called the most effective nongovernmental organization in Vietnam by the country’s prime minister. Programs such as this, as well as efforts to curb mercury contamination in Ecuador and Peru and to improve education in the Dominican Republic and South Africa are prime examples of Mercer’s enduring global footprint.

In June 2007, Mercer On Mission launched with 38 students and six faculty members traveling to Kenya, Guatemala and Brazil to hand out mosquito nets and work with at-risk children.

In the almost 12 years since, international service has become increasingly integral to the Mercer experience, and the University has taken on an increasing role as a difference-maker around the globe. Mercer is changing the world through programs that are having an impact even when students and faculty are no longer in these countries. The University’s involvement is not just two to three weeks at a time during Mercer On Mission’s annual summer trips. The work continues year-round through regular communication and faculty visits, the hiring and training of local personnel, and additional steps to ensure that the solutions the University is offering to medical, environmental, educational and many other issues can be carried out on an ongoing basis.

“Many of our amputees that receive the prosthetic go out and ride bicycles; some go out and play soccer; some of them dance. Some are able to carry heavy buckets of water on their shoulders; some now can lift brick, doing all kinds of things that they haven’t been able to do before. It’s just an amazing transformation.”

— DR. McMahan

The lasting impact in one sense is that we are helping people become fully human, functional persons again,” said Dr. McMahan. “In another sense, we are creating opportunities for work by our orders for prosthetic legs.” Yet another enduring impact is on the students who participate in the program, who, Dr. McMahan says, often aren’t the same after they’ve played a role in giving a fellow human the opportunity to walk.

“There’s something that happens deep in your soul that makes this an impactful experience,” he said. “So many of our students want to go back, and many of them reframe what they might want to do with their lives.”

M

Vietnam

Ecuador/Peru

Guatemala

Brazil

South Africa

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Ecuador/Peru

Gold, artisanal and small-scale
gold mining is the leading source of mercury pollution.

In these operations, mercury is used to purify gold from ore in a process called amalgamation. The mercury is burned off and turns to vapor, which transmits freely through the atmosphere and does not break down in the environment. Mercury toxicity affects the nervous system, gastrointestinal and renal organ systems.

Dr. Adam Kiefer, Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry, first took Mercer On Mission teams to Minasgordia in 2009 and 2011 to assess mercury pollution in the environment and mercury poisoning of gold miners. The program shifted to Ecuador in 2012, where faculty and students have been working to assess and map polluted areas.

During the last two years, the team collaborated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the development and construction of a mercury-capture system to trap exhaust fumes from burned amalgam.

Six weeks before arriving in Ecuador in 2017, the country’s government outlawed the burning of mercury. Ecuadorian officials allowed for one day of burning to test the new system, which successfully extracted 85 percent of Mercury vapor during amalgamation. With the burning of mercury remaining illegal in Ecuador, Dr. Kiefer and his team will relocate this summer’s efforts to Peru, where the practice is still commonly used.

At Mercer On Mission and Ecuadorian officials developed a working relationship over the past five years. Local expressions about other issues on the horizon for the gold-mining community in the country’s El Oro Province. In addition to the harmful effects caused by the chief industry in the area, there was a limited supply of gold that would eventually run out. Other industry would need to stabilize the economy in the near future.

In response, Mercer developed the “Centers of Strength” model, a multidisciplinary approach to serving international communities. In recent years, Mercer On Mission has brought in not only chemistry and engineering students to assess mercury pollution, but also education students to work with children, business students to consult with industry leaders and entrepreneurs, public health students to perform health assessments and Spanish students to serve as translators.

“We bring students in from so many different backgrounds, and they have their own stories to share,” said Dr. Kiefer. “By bringing everybody together, we are able to work with communities in very unique ways.”

A student on one of these trips, current senior Shane Buerster, had his life and the lives of numerous Ecuadorians impacted by a chance encounter with a man named Arturo who had worked in the coffee industry for 50 years.

“I encountered many incredible Ecuadorians, and I realized just how hard they work. I realized that the average farmer’s son doesn’t complete primary school. I realized the average farmer’s daughter doesn’t complete the sixth grade,” said Buerster. “This bothered me. I have always had the opportunity to chase my dreams. I cannot help but worry about food being on the table. I know that I cannot create equal results for the farmers, but I can create an equal opportunity for them.”

Last August, Buerster, an economics, Spanish and marketing triple-major from Pooler, purchased the first 4,000 pounds of Ecuadorian coffee from a local company. Z. Beach, which was founded with the mission to create sustainable solutions for impoverished Ecuadorian farmers through fair-trade importation methods.

Buerster has set up office space in the Mercer Innovation Center and is currently supplying his four coffee shops in the Southeast, six small locations and a dream business in Macon. He hopes to supply the breakrooms of another 40 local businesses by the end of the current academic year.

“This is my calling,” he said. “I plan to create a global platform for the farmers to sell their products.”


dominican republic

Mercer’s McDonald Center for the Advancement of Global Education in the Dominican Republic is primarily a model that can be carried on to the K-12 learning environment. “The professors at Mercer have done an outstanding job,” said McDonald. “They have developed close relationships with the Dominican people. They have been innovative in their work, and they are always building on what we’ve accomplished and thinking of ways we can improve. I think the work has been very meaningful for them.”

This summer, Tift College faculty, led by Dr. Justin Ballew, and STEM students from Oconee and Effingham counties, will be going to the Dominican Republic to follow up on their work and also set up to sell a 1-acre plot at one of the schools that will be used as an aquaponics garden. Local high-schoolers will be taught how to fish and vegetables in the garden while also learning science and math concepts.

“The bottom line is that we all share the mutual focus of improving the quality of instruction for students,” said Dr. Sherah Carr, associate professor in the Tift College of Education. “We have shared many lessons learned from this project with my students. I want them to have a sense of the benefits of international work through teaching and learning and how we can approach differences from an asset versus a deficit perspective. My goal now is to add more Mercer students as active participants in these incredible projects.”

Additionally, Mercer On Mission hopes to become increasingly involved with the McDonald Center’s work. In an unrelated project, the men’s basketball team traveled to the country last June to build a water system in an area while locals do not have access to clean drinking water. Organizers are looking into how projects such as these could be linked to a new “Center of Strength” in the Dominican Republic.

South Africa

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Kiley Alice Morgan, senior vice provost for service-learning, and Dr. Eimad Houry, professor and chair of international and global studies, have compared studies on Mercer On Mission trips to South Africa, a country still navigating its way out of decades of institutionalized racism prior to the end of apartheid in 1994.

The running theme throughout those trips has been service to education. Teams have worked on projects, such as creating an instructional video on social health determinants, providing research and support to a local housing project and acting as interim administrators with a goal of empowering and inspiring impoverished communities.

For me personally, having grown up in the American South when it was...
was still segregated, anything that could be done to help manage the recovery from that sort of social engineering was something I wanted to be a part of,” said Dr. Morgan.

South African activist Anwar Parker has served as a liaison to the Mercer On Mission team, connecting it with local organizations that need help. He has also begun bringing to Mercer students at an intern as they help with community outreach efforts year-round.

“Working with us several times, Anwar recognized that Mercer is committed to making a lasting impact with the organization and the individuals we’re working with,” said Dr. Morgan.

One project, in particular, that stands out is the development of a drama club at an under-resourced and marginalized school in a township that had recently been created from a squatter camp. The Mercer On Mission team provided local students with copies of plays written during apartheid, but the students weren’t content to act out these plays; they wanted help to write and perform their own.

Students referred to struggles, not only with racism, but with other issues, such as hunger, which they encountered on a daily basis at a school of 600 with only enough government funding to feed 300 students each day.

They selected and performed a play, called “The Hot Seat: Untold Stories of a South Africa Township,” for the first time in front of their school and families, and in the fall, after the Mercer On Mission team had left, they entered a local competition and won first place.

They went on to regional and provincial competitions — and won first place in each of those, as well, against schools with many more resources. The play served as a “stepping stone” for many of the students to pursue college and careers.

“One of these issues is inequality and the degree to which it can stifle motivation and aspirations in people. We have experienced that firsthand for ourselves,” said Dr. Houry. “One of those issues is inequality and the degree to which it can stifle motivation and aspirations in people. We have experienced that firsthand for ourselves,” said Dr. Houry. "I realized that mercy is committed to making a lasting impact with the organization and the individuals we’re working with," said Dr. Morgan.

South Africa internship program as a great opportunity to combine the two," said Payne. "I had an incredible experience living in Cape Town, a city with a very complex and interesting history and culture. I was also pleased to get to know my South African coworkers very well and have a rewarding work experience."

"Our work in South Africa not only embodies Mercer’s mission of social engineering was something I wanted to be a part of," said Dr. Morgan.

Meet Jayla Moody, ’19

Global Development Studies Minor

Campus Involvement: Admissions Special Events Team, AWARE, The Cluster, Greek Life, Leadership Mercer

Get a glimpse of Mercer this summer at Bears On Deck June 8 • July 13

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When you’re making your visits, pay attention to these 3 Important factors:

1. Atmosphere. How welcoming and open are the students and staff? The kinds of people you’re going to be working with and becoming friends with have a huge impact on your college experience!

2. Distinctive Features. These might include accelerated master’s degree programs, scholarship opportunities, internship opportunities, research and study abroad programs, etc. These things can make a difference in just receiving a degree and graduating from college ready to take on the real world.

3. Fit. Picture yourself living in the residence halls, eating in the dining hall, cheering at sporting events, studying in the library and being a part of the organizations on campus. Make sure you can see yourself thriving for the next four years.

I visited a few schools during my freshman and sophomore years of high school, and that helped me figure out what kinds of schools I was really interested in. From there, I made a few more visits and discovered that Mercer is the perfect fit for me!

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Journalism and French Double Major

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SAVE THE DATE!

Unite with classmates and relive memories at Homecoming 2018. Remember the past and see how bright the future looks at Mercer!

Be here for our annual events, including:
- 7th Annual Alumni Career Speakers Series
- 4th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner
- 50-Year Reunion - Class of 1968
- Friday Night Pep Rally
- Half Century Club Celebration
- Tailgating galore to get you into the Mercer spirit
- Football vs ETSU Bucs
  ...and much more!

Watch your mail, email and social media for more information.

Registration begins in late summer at HOMECOMING.MERCER.EDU
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL RECORDS NUMEROUS MILESTONES DURING CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

On March 5, 2017, at approximately 2 p.m., women’s head coach Susie Gardner, her staff and team dejectedly exited the U.S. Cellular Center in Asheville, North Carolina, after a devastating two-point, 61-59, loss to the Chattanooga in the Southern Conference Tournament Championship. The Mocs moved on to the “Big Dance,” the NCAA Tournament, while the Bears would head to Tuscaloosa to play the University of Alabama in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament.

Over the next 365 days, each returning member of the women’s team and coaching staff pledged to diligently work overtime in the off season and, beginning in November, play the next play, win the next possession and garnish the next victory. Over the 2017-2018 season, only two teams on the schedule would be able to derail the Bears. One of those, the Georgia Lady Bulldogs, was a top 25 team headed to this year’s NCAA Tournament and the other is NCAA Tournament qualifier Western Kentucky, who edged the Bears by five points at a Thanksgiving tournament in Atlanta. The Bears would not lose again over the next 100 days.

The Bears would not only go unbeaten in conference play to nail their third consecutive Southern Conference regular season championship but on March 4, 2018, the now No. 25 (AP) Mercer women’s basketball team would win its first Southern Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament title. The Bears defeated East Tennessee State University, 68-53, behind a game-high 29 points from...
BAGROU
FIRST SOCCER PLAYER IN SCHOOL HISTORY TAKEN IN SUPER DRAFT

Mercer senior Will Bagrou was selected by Sporting Kansas City in the second round with the No. 10 overall pick in the 2018 Major League Soccer SuperDraft. Bagrou’s selection marks the first time in school history that a men’s soccer player has been drafted in the SuperDraft. Bagrou joins four former Bears who are currently playing professional soccer: Carl-Douglas Anderson (New York Cosmos), Vincent Azee (Club Austria), Richard Pefoeke (Club Deporlta Planter) and Greg Ramsburgh (Louisville City FC).

"For Will to be drafted is a testament to his hard work and determination," said Mercer Head Coach Brad Ruzzo. "The most decorated player in Mercer’s history, he will do well to see above any individual accomplishment he has earned. We dream of this opportunity, as he will go down as one of the best attacking players in the Southern Conference and Mercer soccer history. He has all the physical and mental tools to succeed at the level and I can’t wait to follow his professional career." Bagrou departs Mercer as one of the most decorated student-athletes in school history. The forward is a three-time All-South Region honoree, 2017 SoCon Male Athlete of the Year, four-time All-Southern Conference First-Team honoree and two-time All-Southern Conference Tournament Team member. The Georgia native was named MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist and SoCon Player of the Year during the 2018 season, while being tabbed to the NSCAA All-Southeast Region and Second Team.

MEN’S SOCCER ADVANCES TO NCAA TOURNAMENT

The men’s soccer team advanced to the 2017 NCAA Men’s Soccer Tournament where they dropped a tough 1-0 overtime decision to No. 23 College of Charleston in the opening round at CUU Soccer Stadium in Conway, S.C.

The trip to the NCAA Tournament highlighted another banner year for Head Coach Brad Ruzzo’s squad. Mercer claimed the 2017 Southern Conference title for the second consecutive season, posting a program-best record of 12-4-2. The Bears ended the conference play unbeaten and were tabbed to the AP Top 25 Poll for the first time since 1998, coming in at No. 25. The Bears were also ranked 23rd in the USA Today Coaches Poll, tabbed No. 3 in the ESPN/Coaches Poll and ranked third in the CollegeSoccer.com Top 25 rankings.

The Bears posted four players on the SoCon All-Tournament Team as Avery Means and Amanda Thompson garnered a spot on the second team, while Jeffreys and Lawrence were slotted on the first team. Lawrence was tabbed as the SoCon Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

At the close of the SoCon Tournament, the Bears were first in the conference in 11 team statistical categories for the season and first in eight individual rankings. Senior point guard Means was not only first in the conference in assist/turnover ratio but was first in the nation with 244 assists and only 55 turnovers for the entire season. Calloway, a junior, set the SoCon single-season three-point record with 99 triples on the season and also became Mercer’s all-time three-point leader with 219 career three-pointers.
In addition to being one of the world’s leading experts on rattlesnake antivenom, Dr. Alexander Garrard, Pharm.D., has traveled across the globe using his knowledge and expertise to help educate and respond to emerging crises.

"A 2008 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, he was director of the Washington Poison Center before recently transitioning to a UK-based pharmaceutical company, BTG, where he serves as the North American medical affairs scientist, focusing on rattlesnake antivenom."

"For the past three years, I’ve been the clinical director of the Washington Poison Center," he said. "I unexpectedly stepped up into this role when a new role was created to help ensure access to a medical affairs scientist who could work 24/7."

"I am a rural farm veterinarian developed for North America pit venoms. Dr. Garrard spends part of his time traveling across the country to regions where snakes are most prevalent, from the Southeast to Colorado.

"Dr. Garrard is one of the world’s leading experts on rattlesnake antivenom. According to the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, approximately 8,000 venomous snakes occur in this U.S. each year. Proper education is important, but it is also a critical tool for venomous bite prevention and treatment for those who come in contact with snakes.

"While at the Washington State Poison Center, Dr. Garrard was the only Pharm.D. eligible to travel with the Drug Enforcement Agency to attend a conference in Labrador on the emerging drug crisis in Central Asia."

"He is very influential in the field of how healthcare systems operate on a global scale. The apparatus that runs the U.S. and the administration is run in very different parts of the world."

While studying in the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Garrard was aware that he wanted his presence in pharmacy was essential to working with organizations that help lead his development, regional national, and global perspective on civic management.

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Homer Drake, Professor of Bankruptcy Law at Mercer, Institute, and was the first chair of the Georgia State affiliation with the NCBJ. In 2007, he moved to Baldwin County in August. Holder began her career as a state certified general real property appraiser through 2022.

Drake Recipient of Distinguished Service Award

In October 2017, the Hon. W. Homer Drake, CLA '54, LA W '56, received the Mercer Law School Alumni Association, past chairman of the Mercer Law School Board of Visitors and a Life Trustee of Mercer University. In 2002, he formed the Mercer F. Smalley Award for Christian Stewardship in recognition of his years of service.


2010s

In October, the Ben. W. Homer Drake, CLA '54, LA W '56, was honored as president of the NBBA. From 1972 to 1977, he was the founder of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law. Standing ovation for the Mercer Law School. The first chair of the Mercer State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section, the Mercer, which became an Endowed Chair in 2007. He is a giant faculty at the Mercer Clinic for the College of Health Sciences. He is also a leader in corporate bankruptcy and corporate governance, a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a fellow of the American Law Institute, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

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**In Memory**

**1930s**

**1940s**
- Marlone Brannen, NUR '41 of Atlanta, Georgia, died Dec. 27, 2017.
- Shirley McGowin Carden, CLA '47 of Athens, Georgia, died April 4, 2017.

**1950s**
- Michael "Mike" McRae, CLA '59, of Redding, California, died Aug. 17, 2017.
- Donna "Dodie" Meier, PHA '59, of East Point, Georgia, died July 26, 2017.

**1960s**
- Donald C. "Buddy" Nelson, NUR '60, of Tifton, Georgia, died Oct. 12, 2017.

**1970s**
- Alphonso Hines "Buddy" McWhorter, CLA '71, of Tifton, Georgia, died March 14, 2017.
- Margaret "Peggy" Sue Hall, PHA '72 of Columbus, Georgia, died Dec. 28, 2017.

**1980s**
- James "Jim" Hedges, NUR '80, of Tifton, Georgia, died Sept. 16, 2017.
- Jo Ann "Joanne" Lee Brown, CLA '82, of Greenville, South Carolina, died Oct. 15, 2017.

**1990s**

**2000s**
- Stacey "Stacy" Duke, CLA '03, of Athens, Georgia, died April 18, 2017.
- Jennifer "Keely" Olszewski, PEN '03, of Macon, Georgia, died Oct. 23, 2017.
- William E. Pelham, PEN '03, of Atlanta, Georgia, died Sept. 30, 2017.
- Roseann Swiergosz, PEN '03, of Eastman, Georgia, died Oct. 13, 2017.

**2010s**
- John Wesley Dukes, CLA '10, of Atlanta, Georgia, died Dec. 30, 2017.
- Emily Catherine "Em" Adkins, CLA '16, of Greenville, South Carolina, died Jan. 19, 2017.
“SPIFF UP THE T”

IN MARCH, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MAIN LEVEL OF TARVER LIBRARY WERE COMPLETED WITH A GENEROUS GIFT FROM THE MARGARET AND JACK TARVER FOUNDATION.

HAGGARD MAKES $1 MILLION COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL OF LAW

In December 2017, W. Andrew “Andy” Haggard, LW ’67, made a $1 million commitment to create the Haggard Scholars Program for the School of Law. Haggard will be recognized as a Life Member of the Mercer University President’s Club in April.

The Haggard Scholars Program will provide a full-tuition scholarship to a student enrolled in the School of Law, with first preference given to students who have a demonstrated commitment to trial practice. Additional preference will be given to students who graduated from Florida State University.

“A GOOD ATTORNEY, AND PERSON, GIVES BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THEIR LAW SCHOOL.”

“...as a lawyer, as a man... I want for them to find what I found: mentors, lifelong friends and success.”

Haggard received his B.A. from Florida State University in 1964 and his J.D. from Mercer in 1967. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1967 and served as an assistant state attorney in the 11th Judicial Circuit, as well as chief prosecutor, trial counsel and military judge in the Judge Advocate General’s office (JAG) of the United States Air Force from 1968-1971. He was the youngest military judge ever selected in the field of trial litigation.

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He practiced from 1972 to the present in the field of personal injury, wrongful death, negligence, security and liquor liability and has tried more than 150 jury cases.

The “Spiff Up the T” renovation project began in the fall with a kick-off event on Nov. 1. The improvements were planned with input from students and included items such as ergonomic computer tables and chairs, more mobile white boards, soft and comfortable seating areas, more power outlets for mobile devices and laptops, technology enhanced study rooms, and more media areas, including “maker space” for 3D printing and media production.

Photos and archival information for 50-75-100 Years Ago assembled by Laura Botts and the Tarver Library Special Collections staff.
UNIVERSITY RECEIVES GIFTS FROM MEMORIAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

In 1996, Mercer established a clinical relationship with Memorial Health in Savannah to provide instruction for third- and fourth-year medical students at Mercer University School of Medicine. The School of Medicine established the full four-year M.D. program on the Savannah Campus in 2008. Since 1996, Memorial Health University Medical Center has served as a teaching hospital for the School of Medicine, and Mercer has been the sponsoring institution for the residency program, officially called the Mercer University School of Medicine (Savannah) Program. Its growing research and service programs have been recognized nationally and internationally.

In January, the non-profit Memorial Health Inc. was purchased and became the newest partner of the for-profit HCA Healthcare. Under the deal, the Memorial Health Foundation, the fundraising arm of Memorial Health, was dissolved. The division, Mercer received seven funds totaling over $5.8 million in endowment to be used for research and scholarships.

With the purchase, Memorial becomes the 11th hospital in HCA’s South Atlantic Division serving communities in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. The division is headquartered in Charleston and is part of HCA’s 179-hospital group nationally.

Moving forward, the health system will continue to operate under the name Memorial Health, the hospital at Memorial Health University Medical Center and its employed physicians as Memorial Health University Physicians. All will take on a new logo — the Caring Star — which represents the critical link between team members, physicians, patients and community.

Dr. Frank Bonner Jr., chairman of the Chatham County Hospital Authority and current board member of the Mercer University School of Medicine Board of Governors, said that HCA has committed to maintaining major services at Memorial Health, including pediatrics, neonatal care/level II nursery, Level I trauma, and the residency education program.

Since the educational program for the M.D. degree began in Savannah in 1996, the programs have grown 50 percent to an averaging class size of 60 with a total of 240 medical students, matching the number of medical students on the Macon Campus. In 2015, the School of Medicine dedicated the Medical Education and Research Building. With exceptional clinical partners, Savannah medical students receive a superb clinical education and are exposed to a diversity of clinical experiences in supportive learning settings that allow for close interaction with medical residents and expert clinical faculty. Through its ongoing partnership with Memorial Health, the School of Medicine anticipates continued growth and success of the Savannah program as it fulfills its founding mission of providing primary care doctors for rural and medically underserved Georgia.

MERCHANT UNIVERSITY’S FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WILL BENEFIT FROM NEARLY $4.4 MILLION IN ESTATE GIFTS FROM THREE GENEROUS AND DEVOTED ALUMNI

Dr. Kay W. Shurden and Dr. Walter B. Shurden have devoted their lives to teaching and ministry, encouraging their students to make a difference in the lives of others. The Shurdens believe Mercer On Mission is one of the best service-learning opportunities available to Mercer students and have supported the program since its beginning in 2007. “Mercer On Mission impacts the lives of the students, faculty, and the people they serve,” said Dr. Kay Shurden. “It broadens their world and allows them to make a difference even in actions they’d never have thought possible.”

Last fall, through a six-figure commitment, the Shurdens established The Kay Wilson Shurden and Walter B. Shurden Mercer On Mission Endowed Fund to provide financial assistance for students participating in the program. It is their dream that Mercer On Mission will one day be fully endowed so that any student who wants to participate will have the opportunity.

Dr. Kay Shurden, a retired professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Mercer University School of Medicine, is a noted author and maintains a practice in counseling and supervision. Dr. Walter Shurden, a retired Christianity professor and nationally renowned church historian, is the founding executive director of the Center for Baptist Studies and a minister at large for Mercer.

For more information on Mercer On Mission, visit mom.mercer.edu. To learn more about how you can support Mercer On Mission, contact Dr. Craig McMahan, University Minister and Dean of the Chapel, at (478) 301-2902 or email MercerOnMission@mercer.edu.
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