

THE Mercerian

SPRING 2019

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BIG DATA'S GROWING INFLUENCE

PLUS

Research Uncovers
Untold Stories through
Slave Records

New Mercer Medicine
Clinic Redefines
Rural Health Care

Women's Hoops
Wins Back-to-Back
SoCon Titles

THE MERCERIAN, SPRING 2019

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InOurLens

The Macon-Bibb County Superior Court Clerk's Office, Mercer University Library and the Department of Africana Studies have teamed up on an ambitious project to digitize historical documents from 1823 to 1865 related to slavery. The project got off the ground last summer, when funding from the University's Research That Reaches Out Office allowed for the employment of two student researchers — Tiffany Alexander and Addison Robinson — who spent 10 weeks reading records and taking notes at the courthouse. The project's partners are focusing on Bibb County first but hope to later expand the project to other counties in Middle Georgia. FULL STORY ON PAGE 10. (Bekah Howard photo)

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MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO

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MOYE MAKES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT TO FUND NEW

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY BUILDING

President William D. Underwood recently announced a multimillion-dollar commitment to the University from Mercer College of Pharmacy alumnus William A. “Tony” Moyer, retired pharmacist and founder of Moyer’s Pharmacy in McDonough.

The gift represents the largest financial contribution in the College’s history and will help fund the construction of a new building for the College of Pharmacy and other health sciences programs on Mercer’s Atlanta Campus. The new building will bear Moyer’s name.

“Tony Moyer is a devoted alumnus and ardent supporter of Mercer

who has been extraordinarily generous in honoring the role Mercer played in preparing him for success as a pharmacist,” said Underwood. “Tony’s gift demonstrates his confidence in the College of Pharmacy, and I am grateful for his investment in the College’s future and the future generations of students who will benefit from a pharmacy education at Mercer.”

Since the College of Pharmacy relocated to the Cecil B. Day Campus in northeast Atlanta in 1991, enrollment has nearly doubled without seeing a significant increase in available classrooms. The \$20 million construction project will provide 60,000 square feet of new teaching space, student study areas and faculty offices.

“Mercer is very important to me. My experience at Mercer gave me a strong foundation for success in my profession, and I am privileged to be able to make a contribution that will continue to attract and prepare future pharmacists and other health professionals for success,” Moyer said.

“As I’ve become friends with Tony, I’m inspired by his passion for Mercer, the College of Pharmacy, our student pharmacists and the profession,” said Dr. Brian L. Crabtree, dean of the College of Pharmacy and a 1980 graduate of the College. “His gift will enable us to

continue to provide the best possible educational experience to prepare graduates to make a difference in the communities where they serve.”

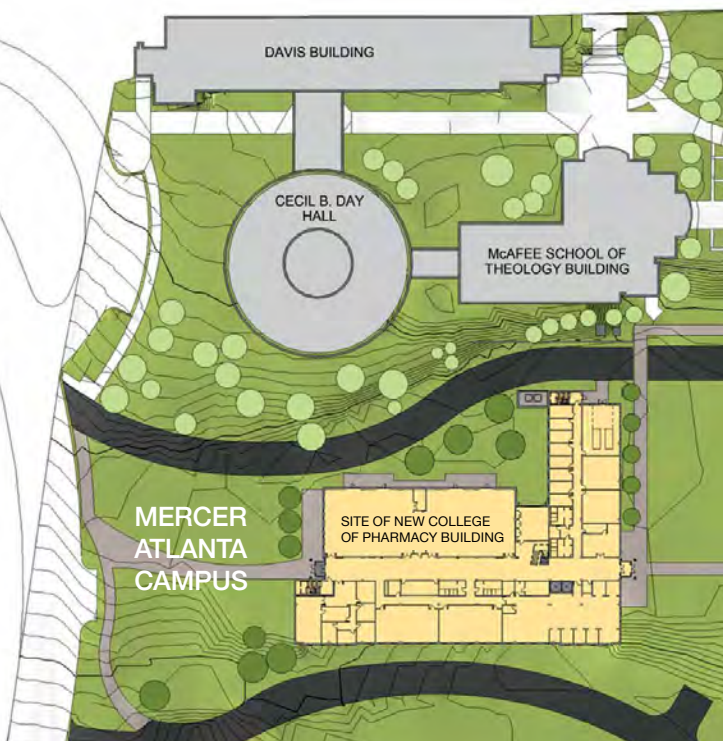
Moyer received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree from Mercer in 1973. In 1977, he established Moyer’s Pharmacy and Home Health Care, which today includes six community pharmacies and one durable medical equipment store, along with a home health care division, which operates under the name Mobility Warehouse.

Through the years, Moyer has been a loyal supporter of Mercer and the College of Pharmacy. He is a member of the Board of Trustees, currently serving his fourth term and chairing the board’s Executive Committee. He also served on the College of Pharmacy’s Board of Visitors and its Alumni Association Board of Directors, of which he served as president, and worked as a preceptor. In addition to the endowed scholarship he established for deserving pharmacy students, he and the current owner of Moyer’s Pharmacy, Loren Pierce, who received his Pharm.D. degree from Mercer in 1991, also endowed the College’s Pharmacy Practice Laboratory.

A native of Henry County, Tony is married to Nancy, a retired media specialist for the Henry County public school system. Currently a member of the advisory board of the south metro United Community Bank Board of Directors, Moyer also received the Bowl of Hygieia national award from the American Pharmacists Association. The Moyers are members of McDonough Presbyterian Church and affiliate members of First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, North Carolina.

In addition to his pharmacy degree from Mercer, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of West Georgia, which he received in 1970.

Tony Moyer, center, with wife Nancy and President William D. Underwood at the 2018 Homecoming football game, played in Mercer’s Five Star Stadium, located in Moyer Athletic Complex.





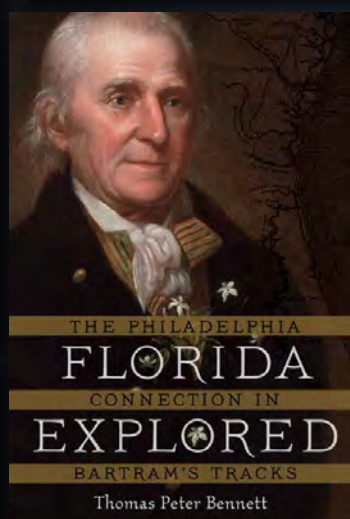
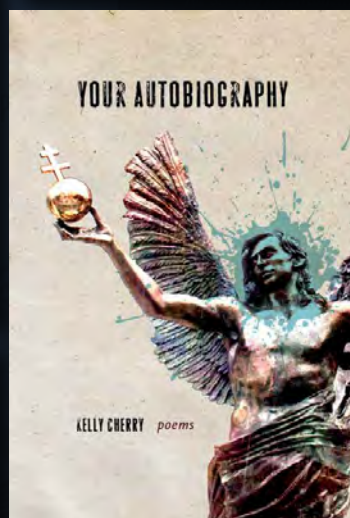
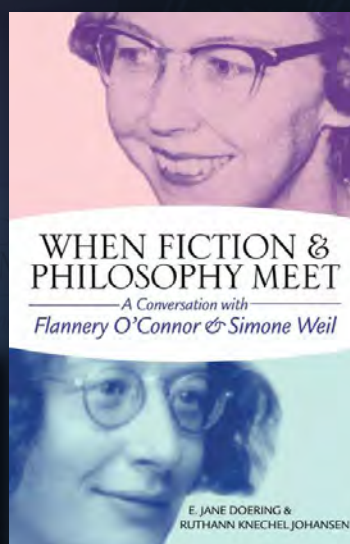
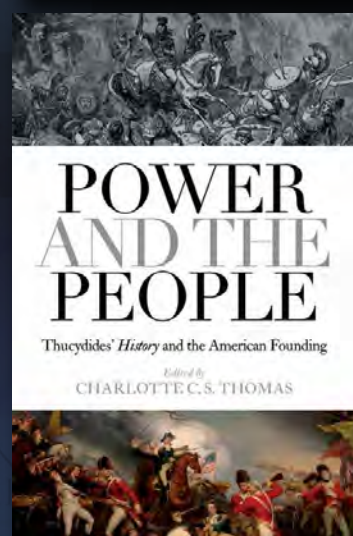
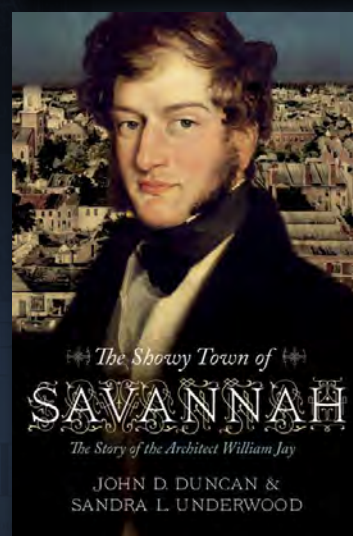
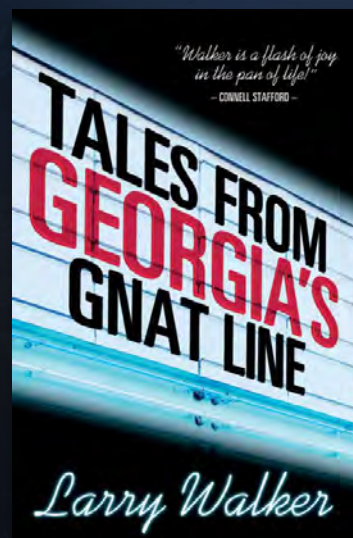
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40 YEARS OF
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Mercer University Press offers a new season of books rich in Southern history, literary criticism, philosophy, religion and more. Highlighted titles include: *Tales from Georgia's Gnat Line* by Larry Walker, a collection of essays on the South; *"The Showy Town of Savannah": The Story of the Architect William Jay* by John D. Duncan and Sandra L. Underwood, a biography of an Englishman and his influence on the early 19th-century South; *Power and the People: Thucydides' History and the American Founding*, a collection of essays from the 2017 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas at Mercer University, edited by Mercer professor Charlotte C.S. Thomas; *When Fiction and Philosophy Meet: A Conversation with Flannery O'Connor and Simone Weil* by E. Jane Doering and Ruthann Knechel Johansen, a cross-disciplinary study of the intersecting thought of a French philosopher and an American fiction writer; *Your Autobiography* by Kelly Cherry, poetry which takes the reader on a journey of self-introspection and self-examination; and *Florida Explored: The Philadelphia Connection in Bartram's Tracks* by Thomas Peter Bennett, a group biography of the most eminent American natural scientists of the 19th century who discovered and collected unknown plants, animals, fossils and artifacts of ancient peoples.

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RIGGS WARD SELECTED TO PLAN, DESIGN AND INSTALL MERCER MUSIC AT CAPRICORN® INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS

Mercer has selected Riggs Ward Design of Richmond, Virginia, to plan, design and install interpretive exhibits at Mercer Music at Capricorn®, which the institution is renovating into a multi-purpose music education, production and tourism venue in downtown Macon. The University is planning a Dec. 3 dedication, which will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of Capricorn Records and the Allman Brothers Band.

The University's vision is to put the historic Capricorn Sound Studios in downtown Macon — credited by many as the birthplace of Southern Rock — back to work, not as just a museum, but as a tool to advance a more vibrant music scene in Macon and leverage Macon's music heritage to shape Macon's music future.

Mercer Music at Capricorn® will feature a two-story interpretive area that tells the story of Capricorn Records and Macon's music heritage through historic artifacts, static exhibits and interactive digital kiosks featuring photos, music, video and other memorabilia.

Capricorn Sound Studios is most closely associated with the Allman Brothers Band, which recorded significant portions of three albums there, as well as Gregg Allman's solo album *Laid Back* in 1973 and Dickey Betts's solo album *Highway Call* in 1974. Others who recorded at Capricorn include the Marshall Tucker Band, the Charlie Daniels Band, Wet Willie and Elvin Bishop.

In addition to more than 1,200 square feet of static and digital interactive exhibits, Mercer Music at Capricorn® will feature a music incubator with 13 rehearsal spaces for aspiring young musicians; a restored historic recording studio; offices, co-working space and conference rooms for nonprofit arts organizations; and venues for small concerts and special events. Mercer Music at Capricorn® will also offer educational programs through Mercer's Townsend School of Music.

Over the past 20 years, Riggs Ward Design has provided exhibition and interactive design, strategic master planning, research, content analysis and storyline development for established, new and emerging museums,

visitor centers and cultural institutions. Among the company's clients are the Library of Congress, the George W. Bush Presidential Library, the Smithsonian Institution, the Atlanta History Center, the National Park Service, the University of Texas, the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech.

Serving as Mercer's project liaison to Riggs Ward is Jared Wright, who researched and wrote the interpretive plan for Mercer Music at Capricorn®. Wright has previously worked as an archivist for the Otis Redding Foundation, the Allman Brothers Band Museum at the Big House and the Atlanta History Center, and as a curator at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Wright has an undergraduate degree in history from Mercer and earned his Master of Arts in history from the University of West Georgia with specialties in public history and museum studies.

More information on Mercer Music at Capricorn® is available at capricorn.mercer.edu.

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MERCER MUSIC AT CAPRICORN®

Proposed entrance murals
by Riggs Ward Design



MERCER, ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE RENEW EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Mercer and Robins Air Force Base held a formal signing ceremony in September on the University's Macon campus to renew their existing Educational Partnership Agreement.

"This partnership is central to the University's mission of preparing men and women for lives of service," said President William D. Underwood. "We

are especially proud to partner with an organization committed to defending not only our lives and property, but defending the timeless ideals on which this nation is founded, the ideals that have sustained us as a people for more than 200 years."

The working relationship between the two entities predates the founding of Mercer's School of Engineering in 1985. More than three decades later, this

renewal agreement seeks to establish the partnership between the University and Robins Air Force Base as the model for collaboration between a higher education institution and a military installation.

“WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD TO PARTNER WITH AN ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO DEFENDING NOT ONLY OUR LIVES AND PROPERTY, BUT DEFENDING THE TIMELESS IDEALS ON WHICH THIS NATION IS FOUNDED.”

"Those of us who wear the uniform have the privilege of being stationed at different places across the country, and I can guarantee you that Educational Partnership Agreements are signed all over," said Brig. Gen. John C. Kubenic, commander of Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex. "But I would venture to say that we don't have these kinds of elected officials and senior leaders in the community who want to come out and be a part of a signing ceremony like this. That's how special this relationship between the Air Force and Mercer is to Middle Georgia and how important Robins Air Force Base is to the DNA of Middle Georgia."

In 1983, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WRALC) Commander Maj. Gen. Cornelius "Newt" Nugteren and Mercer's then-President Dr. R. Kirby Godsey developed a plan to remedy a shortage of engineers on base by providing a local source of engineers and engineering research.

Mercer and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce jointly sponsored a five-month study of current and projected needs for various types of engineers. The results supported Nugteren's view that the region did not have the educational programs to meet the needs of the base, nor the needs of other industries targeted for economic development.

In December 1984, Mercer's Board of Trustees approved plans for an engineering school, and the University welcomed its first class of engineering students in the fall of 1985. Less than two years later, Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC), the applied engineering and research arm of the University, opened in Warner Robins.

To date, Mercer has awarded more than 2,000 degrees to engineers in a variety of fields, and MERC has received nearly \$500 million in contracts, including support for 20 different models of U.S. Air Force aircraft and one Navy submarine.

The School of Engineering has provided more entry-level engineers to Robins Air Force Base than any other school, and nearly half of the School's living alumni reside in Middle Georgia.

Currently, the relationship between Mercer and Robins Air Force Base goes well beyond the School of Engineering and MERC.

In 2012, Mercer's Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics launched

a cohort-based Master of Business Administration degree program specifically for engineering and technical management coded positions at the WRALC. The program is still operating today, and more than 100 MBA degrees have been awarded since its inception.

Mercer's Penfield College, which serves post-traditional learners, is currently providing leadership training to the 78th Air Base Wing's (ABW) Comptroller Squadron with plans to expand to other functional areas of the ABW.

The Department of Computer Science in Mercer's College of Liberal Arts and the Mercer Innovation Center are aiding in the development of a new Air Force Innovation Hub at the base.

"We envision vast new opportunities for collaboration, and we're building on a strong foundation as this partnership grows and develops," said Dr. Penny Elkins, senior vice president for enrollment management at Mercer. "We really envision here a national model of collaboration between an institute of higher education and a military installation."

"Mercer Engineering is synonymous with Robins Engineering," added Thomas M. Fischer, director of engineering and technical management/services for the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and a member of Mercer's National Engineering Advisory Board. "A graduate of Mercer Engineering is technically ready to join the workforce on the first day, ready to join the engineering profession, is a leader dedicated to a life of service, mission-focused, innovative, and inspires and grows others. That's the kind of people we want to hire."

In addition to the signing of the renewal agreement, the University unveiled a portrait of Nugteren that will be displayed in the lobby of the Science and Engineering Building.

"As we reflect upon the relationship between Mercer and Robins, I am convinced that no person, no commander, no leader contributed more forcefully to the transformation of that relationship than Maj. Gen. Cornelius Nugteren," said Dr. Godsey, who currently serves as University chancellor. "In every respect, Newt was a game-changing leader, a make-things-happen sort of individual."

Nugteren died Aug. 24, 2017, at the age of 89, following a distinguished military career of nearly four decades that included his tenure as commander of WRALC from 1982 to 1988 and his vital role in establishing the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins and Mercer's School of Engineering in Macon.

He served on the University's National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB) and was named a NEAB Fellow in 2001. In 2004, he was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, and he later received the Order of the Sword, bestowed on him by the men and women of the enlisted corps.

Nugteren retired from military service in 1988 and later became senior adviser to MERC from 1996-2015.

DR. THOMAS KOBALLA APPOINTED DEAN OF TIFT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Thomas R. Koballa Jr., currently dean of Georgia Southern University's College of Education, has been appointed dean of Mercer's Tift College of Education, effective July 1.

"Tom has a long history, both as a department chair and dean, of building teacher education programs that meet the needs of a constantly evolving classroom," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "Among his strengths are student success and faculty development, which are both critically important to an institution like Mercer. We are looking forward to his leadership of our College of Education."

Dr. Koballa has served as dean and professor of education at Georgia Southern since 2010, following faculty and administrative appointments at the University of Georgia and the University of Texas at Austin for the previous 28 years. His teaching and research interests focus on science teacher learning and mentoring.

Dr. Koballa earned his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in science education from Pennsylvania State University. He also holds a Master of Education in science education and a Bachelor of Science in biology, both from East Carolina University. Additionally, he participated in the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard University.

His early-career research on science educators' attitudes led to better understandings of the relationship between educators' dispositions and their classroom practice. More recently, his research has involved greater collaboration with preschool-through-12th-grade school and community partners and university faculty in a host of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. It has expanded to include investigations of educator mentoring, examinations of the influence of case-based pedagogy and studies of conference participation on the thinking and practice of STEM educators.

Dr. Koballa is past president of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, former president of the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and a recipient of the Association of Science Teacher Education's Outstanding Mentoring Award. He also holds membership in the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Educational Research Association, National Science Teachers Association and Georgia Science Teachers Association.

His work has been published in refereed journals such as the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, the *International Journal of Science Education* and the *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*. He has authored and edited numerous books and textbooks, and published chapters in multiple books, including the *Handbook of College Science Teaching* and the *Second International Handbook of Science Education*.

He served as principal investigator of the Georgia Teacher Quality Grants Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, and has received additional external funding from organizations such as the National Science Foundation and the Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles Foundation.



Brig. Gen. John C. Kubenic (second from left), commander of Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, signs a new Educational Partnership Agreement with Mercer on Sept. 10 in LaTorre Family Plaza on the Macon campus.

CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

MERCER, SHORELIGHT EDUCATION ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Mercer and Shorelight Education held a formal signing ceremony in October to announce a new partnership that will expand the number of students from abroad pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees on the University's Macon and Atlanta campuses.

Mercer Global, a groundbreaking new partnership, will provide international students the opportunity to pursue degrees at Mercer's two major campuses and will offer the technology-enabled support services and resources they need to thrive.

The undergraduate accelerator program and postgraduate programs will expand the University's global footprint and its efforts to educate top students from around the world in a wide range of fields including science, technology, engineering, math and business.

"We are pleased to join with Shorelight to share our commitment to liberal learning, professional knowledge and discovery with top international students from across the world," said President William D. Underwood. "We welcome this opportunity to bring even more diverse and global perspectives into our classrooms and laboratories and on our vibrant campuses in Macon and Atlanta."

"Mercer University is an exemplary partner for Shorelight. Its world-class academic offerings are in high demand globally, and its university culture welcomes international students with open arms," said Shorelight Co-Founder and CEO Tom Dretler. "Our team is excited to use our global reach to further introduce Mercer to the world and ensure that international students choosing Mercer for their studies are supported and successful throughout their academic journey."

Mercer Global will combine intensive English language instruction with coursework and additional support to help international students adjust academically and socially to the University and the broader communities of Macon and Atlanta.

In addition to extensive undergraduate offerings, the graduate programs will include the M.S. in Business Analytics, M.S.E. in Computer Engineering, M.S.E. in Electrical Engineering, and MBA degree programs. It is anticipated that the first students will enroll in fall 2019.

President William D. Underwood and Shorelight Co-Founder and CEO Tom Dretler shake hands Oct. 30 in the Presidents Dining Room, kicking off a new partnership to expand the number of international students at the University.



DR. JEFFREY WALDROP APPOINTED DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Dr. Jeffrey A. Waldrop, currently associate provost and director of the David Allan Hubbard Library at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, has been named dean of the University Library at Mercer, effective July 1.

"Our search committee, led by Dr. Anita Gustafson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, did an excellent job in bringing forward a strong candidate to lead the University Library," Mercer Provost Dr. Scott Davis said. "Dr. Waldrop has an excellent track record as a scholar and library administrator, and he embraces Mercer's mission. I believe he will reinforce the University's tradition of superior library and research support."

Dr. Waldrop has held various leadership positions at Fuller's library since 2007, and has been director since 2015. He also serves as assistant professor of church history at Fuller. Prior to joining Fuller, he served as library circulation supervisor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Library in Mill Valley, California.

Dr. Waldrop earned his Ph.D. in church history and theology from Fuller in 2012. He also holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from San Jose State University, Master of Theology and Master of Divinity degrees from Golden Gate Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. He has held faculty positions at Nepal Theological Academy, Colorado Christian University and Golden Gate Seminary.

Dr. Waldrop has written numerous articles and essays and is author of the book *The Emergence of Religious Toleration in 18th Century New England: Congregationalists, Baptists, and the Contribution of John Callender*.

CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO; JONATHAN STONER PHOTO

MIC ANNOUNCES NEW FELLOWS, COMPANIES-IN-RESIDENCE

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

These seven promising new and developing companies will maintain operations in Macon, with two relocating from Atlanta.

The annual Mercer Innovation Fellowships are open to entrepreneurs, 18 and older, from across the world, in addition to current Mercer students. Fellows receive a prize package that may include up to \$20,000 in funding, parking on Mercer's campus, office space and MIC membership for a year, paid student interns, access to Mercer facilities, access to local investors, and coaching and mentoring by the Center's advisory board.

This year's three fellows — Z Beans Coffee, Send Mammogram and Soundcollide — bring the total number of fellowship recipients to nine over the first three years of the program. Past fellows include KUDU Safari Braai, HeadNoise, Hygeia, MedaSol, Ultimental and 43 Tech.

"This year's pool of fellowship applicants was the most competitive to date, and we are excited to support this group of incoming startups," said Stephanie Howard, deputy director of the Mercer Innovation Center. "One of the goals of the Mercer Innovation Center is to help entrepreneurs launch sustainable businesses, which ultimately impacts the Macon-Bibb County economy."

Z Beans Coffee, founded by Mercer alumnus Shane Buerster, is a micro-lot importer of Ecuadorian coffee. The company's mission is to create sustainable solutions for impoverished Ecuadorian coffee farmers through fair trade importation methods by creating an unmatched and unprecedented coffee experience. It opened its first retail location in Mercer Village last fall and will be adding a second retail location in downtown Macon this year.

Send Mammogram, founded by Tillata Gibson, aspires to empower women with a mobile and website solution to request prior mammograms for comparison, before breast cancer screening, anytime and anywhere. The company's vision is to become the leading online service for women to request prior mammograms and the leading enterprise mammography information system with blockchain verification.

Soundcollide, founded by Robert Hatcher, is an online recording studio that allows users to discover new artists, record and collaborate live remotely from multiple locations. The platform helps collaborators save time and expenses while developing an album and utilizes blockchain technology for music authentication.

Four additional fellowship applicants were selected as companies-in-residence and will receive support from the MIC. They include luxury natural hygiene company Lux Lenois, founded by Mercer business professor Dr. Ania Rynarzewska; gourmet Virginia peanut company Bear Food Co., founded by Mercer junior Mac Brydon; e-commerce brand for outdoor enthusiasts Traveler Camper, founded by recent Mercer graduate David Doleman; and handcrafted leather goods company Kingfisher Leatherworks, founded by Mercer freshman Luke Kolbie.

Z Beans Coffee, founded by Mercer alumnus Shane Buerster (center, left), is one of three Mercer Innovation Fellows this year. The company opened its first store in Mercer Village last August with the support from Mercer Innovation Center, Macon-based Central Piedmont Investment Group and other investors.

“THIS YEAR'S POOL OF FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS WAS THE MOST COMPETITIVE TO DATE, AND WE ARE EXCITED TO SUPPORT THIS GROUP OF INCOMING STARTUPS.”



RESEARCH PROJECT AIMS TO UNCOVER THE UNTOLD STORIES OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

By Andrea Honaker

A

12-year-old girl named Harriet. A 5-year-old boy named Nathan. They are written into the pages of Bibb County historical deed books, right beside the sale of land and horses.

These black children are among more than 400 records of slave transactions that Mercer researchers have discovered so far in just seven volumes. They still have 10 more deed books to go through at the Bibb County Superior Court Clerk's Office, followed by

collections on chattel mortgages, chain gang records and plantation maps.

The clerk's office, Mercer University Library and the Department of Africana Studies have teamed up on an ambitious project to digitize historical documents from 1823 to 1865 related to slavery. They are focusing on Bibb County first but hope to later expand the project to other counties in Middle Georgia.

A chilling discovery

Bibb County Superior Court Clerk Erica Woodford, who earned bachelor's degrees in African American studies and political science at Mercer, said she discovered slave records within the deed books during her inventory after taking office in January 2013. Soon after, she shared her findings with Dr. Chester Fontenot Jr., director of Mercer's Africana studies program and Baptist Professor of English.

"It was very interesting just to see the actual conveyance of a human, a slave, in writing right here in Bibb County," Woodford said. "We learned about it in school, and we all know and were taught that it happened, but to actually see it in writing in the office ... I knew that it was important to give access to these documents to the public."

These historical documents, stored in the mezzanine area of the records vault at the Superior Court Clerk's Office, are already available to the public for viewing, but the project will preserve the collections in their entirety in a digital format, she said. In addition, a separate, searchable database and narrative component will be created for the slave records, Dr. Fontenot said. Long-term plans include creating a curriculum and lesson plans around the latter portion of the project.

"Typically, online resources don't provide all that extra material. It's not just that we want to put this stuff out there, but we want to also make it so that people can engage with it," said Research Services Librarian Adam Griggs. "In my mind, it's about making it stand out. The prospect of making something that people can discover is really what motivates me."

The project got off the ground in summer 2018, when funding from the

University's Research That Reaches Out Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Office allowed for the employment of two student researchers — Tiffany Alexander and Addison Robinson — who spent 10 weeks reading records and taking notes at the courthouse, Griggs said.

"It helps to create narratives to the history that we do already know, but it also collects the history that was either taught wrong or wasn't taught at all," said Robinson, an Africana studies major and journalism minor who is set to graduate in May. "I just feel like going back to these documents is showing respect and bringing these people to life who otherwise we would have never known about."

This semester, the two students are continuing this work as their senior seminar research project. They spend two hours a week at the courthouse, in addition to working on a series of podcasts. The podcasts focus on the project's findings and importance, said Alexander, a double-major in Africana studies and media studies.

"This is part of history that is extremely sugarcoated sometimes. A lot of times, we don't

have adequate access to the truth. This project allows people to get first-hand experience of looking at what happened," Alexander said. "I've been extremely grateful to be a part of it, and I can't wait to see where it goes."

They presented a poster on the project at the library in early fall. They will exhibit their research at the University's BEAR Day in the spring and have applied to take it to conferences this academic year. The team hopes to be able to involve more students and is looking into grant funding to propel the project forward.

Forgotten chapters

"Essentially what we're doing is building a digital database ... that literally paints a portrait of what life was like for African-Americans during that era in Bibb County," Dr. Fontenot said. "Throughout the country, you don't have many projects like this."

It's rare to have these records on hand, since many courthouses lost their historical documents to fires or floods, Woodford said. The research team is lucky to have a superior court clerk on board who recognizes the value of this research and has made the records so accessible, Dr. Fontenot added.

This is cutting-edge research, nationally, for Africana studies. The field doesn't have the historical collections that other subject areas do, and this online database would provide a vital resource that's currently missing. These documents provide proof that things happened in Middle Georgia just

like they did in other parts of the South, which people sometimes don't realize, Dr. Fontenot said.

"There's so much history that's been covered up and forgotten, and that's kind of what we're hoping to do ... uncover those things," Griggs said.

"The human toll, the human cost, it is right there in those documents. This was out in the open. This was legal. It was normal. It is shocking, but also not surprising at the same time. It's what you would expect to see, but it is beyond distressing to actually see it."

A project by Dr. Matt Harper, assistant professor of history and Africana studies, and Dr. Michele Prettyman Beverly, assistant professor of media studies, to tell the stories of slaves who worked at the historic Jarrell Plantation in Jones County will be incorporated into this larger digitization project.

"There were 38 slaves, but we didn't really know who they were or what happened to them or what contributions they had made to the area," Dr. Harper said. "We're hoping that in working with the plantation historic site and working with this larger project of digitizing black life in Middle Georgia we'll find the right avenues to get those stories out to the general public."

While the larger project is finding stories through the close examination of a few kinds of records, the Jarrell Plantation project takes a different approach by using a variety of records to tell the story of people at one particular site. Mercer students have pulled together documents from the county courthouse, state archives, census records and interviews and shared their reports with the plantation site.

"We've got the digital tools that can not only make the archiving and research easier, but it can also make it accessible to people," Dr. Beverly said.

"Part of our job is to add something to what Dr. Fontenot's larger project is, and that's to give people a much broader sense

of what life was like in this region, going back through slavery, reconstruction and more contemporary context."

Meaningful research

It's important for future generations to be able to look back on the history of what happened in Macon, Woodford said. These digitized resources will make it easier for people to learn about their families and heritage, trace their property or see just what life was like back then. Bibb County residents and Mercer students, as well as people outside the city, state and country, will be able to access these records in a convenient format.

"I am nervous that some people won't receive it as well as I did, but I'm equally excited because I feel like the impact that will be made will be greater than the criticism," Robinson said. "I want whoever it reaches to feel as impacted and as moved by this whole initiative as I was."

The project is a huge endeavor that is going to take a while, Dr. Fontenot said. The team hopes to complete the first phase of the project — on the property deeds collection — within the next three years. The database "will be a living, breathing thing we can continuously update," Griggs said.

This work is already generating buzz outside Bibb County. Dr. Fontenot said the Library of Congress has expressed interest, and he has received calls and emails from people around the country who want to know more about what the project entails and how it's being done.

"The kind of people, the kind of resources that we've been able to marshal is very unique, and speaks well of the kinds of things that Mercer wants to do and promotes itself as. Yes, we want to do research, but we want to do research that means something," Dr. Fontenot said. "In terms of scholarship, it's probably the most meaningful research that I've ever developed and worked on."



BEKAH HOWARD PHOTO

FACULTY HONORS & RECOGNITION

DEBBIE BLANKENSHIP NAMED DIRECTOR OF CCJ

DEBBIE BLANKENSHIP, who has served as interim director of Mercer's Center for Collaborative Journalism (CCJ) since July 2017, was named director of the Center on Jan. 25.

Blankenship is the CCJ's second director, following Tim Regan-Porter, who accepted a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year at Stanford University and was named editor for McClatchy's South Region in June 2018.

As interim director, Blankenship managed media partnerships with Georgia Public Broadcasting and *The Telegraph* in Macon and integrated new partner 13WMAZ into the Center's programming. She was also tasked with meeting the requirements of \$2 million in new funding from the John S. and James. L Knight Foundation, which was received by the CCJ in July 2017 to expand the Center's efforts.

Blankenship previously served as visiting assistant professor and journalist-in-residence at Mercer since 2013. Prior to that, Blankenship served for nearly eight years as a congressional aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Marshall and for more than three years as a reporter at *The Telegraph* focusing on the courts and criminal justice system.

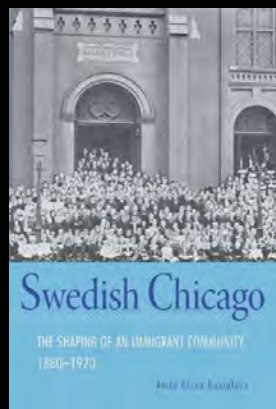
She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in graphic communications from Clemson University. She went on to earn her master's degree in mass communication from the University of Georgia, where she also served as news editor of *The Red & Black*.

Established in 2012 with \$5.7 million in funding from Knight Foundation and the Peyton Anderson Foundation, the Center for Collaborative Journalism is a unique partnership between Mercer's Journalism and Media Studies Department, *The Telegraph*, GPB and 13WMAZ.

MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



Dr. Carolyn Yackel, professor of mathematics, served as chief editor of *Figuring Fibers*, American Mathematical Society.



Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, authored *Swedish Chicago: The Shaping of an Immigrant Community, 1880-1920*, Northern Illinois University Press.

DR. DAVID DAVIS AWARDED 2018 EUDORA WELTY PRIZE

DR. DAVID A. DAVIS, associate professor of English, was awarded the Eudora Welty Prize during the 30th annual Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium held Oct. 18-20 at Mississippi University for Women.

Dr. Davis won the prize — which honors an outstanding book of scholarship on women's studies, Southern studies, modern letters or some combination of these areas — for his book *World War I and Southern Modernism*, published by University Press of Mississippi in November 2017.

"Mississippi University for Women and University Press of Mississippi were very pleased to award David A. Davis the Eudora Welty Prize for 2018," said Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, director of the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium. "His study, *World War I and Southern Modernism*, is a solid work of scholarship and is particularly timely this year, given the centenary of the end of that war. Davis's presentation was highly informative and accessible and was well received at the symposium."

Pinpointing World War I as the catalyst, Dr. Davis argues Southern modernism was not a self-generating outburst of writing, but a response to the disruptions modernity generated in the region. He examines dozens of works of literature by writers, including William Faulkner, Ellen Glasgow and Claude McKay, that depict the South during the war.

Topics explored in the book include contact between the North and the South, Southerners who served in combat and the developing Southern economy. Dr. Davis also provides a new lens for this argument, taking a closer look at African-Americans in the military and changing gender roles.

Each year, Mississippi University for Women and University Press of Mississippi collaborate to present an award to honor the late short story writer and novelist Eudora Welty, who is the university's most famous alumna.

DR. CHINEKWU OBIDOA PARTICIPATES IN CARNEGIE AFRICAN DIASPORA FELLOWSHIP IN KENYA

DR. CHINEKWU OBIDOA, assistant professor of global health in the College of Liberal Arts, was selected for the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program

(CADFP) this past summer and traveled to Kenya, where she co-developed an undergraduate curriculum in gender and climate change for Egerton University.

Additionally, Dr. Obidoa created two-week and six-month certificate programs in gender and climate change for Egerton University aimed at students who are unable to complete the three-year undergraduate diploma program.

As an important structural response to the impact of climate change, Dr. Obidoa and her collaborators intend for these academic programs to increase awareness about the gendered effects of climate change in the local community and in the entire region and foster research and scholarship on the impact of gender on climate change in Kenya.

Dr. Obidoa also delivered a presentation on gender and climate change at the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) planning meeting held June 19-21 in Naivasha, Kenya, and co-prepared the IPACC gender and climate change strategy.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, now in its fifth year, is designed to increase Africa's brain circulation, build capacity at the host institutions, and develop long-term, mutually-beneficial collaborations between universities in Africa and the United States and Canada.

A total of 335 African Diaspora Fellowships have been awarded for scholars to travel to Africa since the program's inception in 2013. Fellowships match host universities with African-born scholars, individually or in small groups, and cover expenses for project visits of between 21 and 90 days.

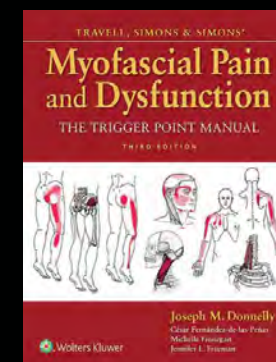
DR. HELEN GRADY FIRST TWO-TIME RECIPIENT OF IEEE'S SCHLESINGER AWARD

DR. HELEN M. GRADY, chair and professor of technical communication in the School of Engineering, received the Emily K. Schlesinger Award for Outstanding Service to the Professional Communication Society (PCS) from the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The award, presented since 1995, is named in honor of Schlesinger, a longtime member and former president of PCS and senior member of IEEE. Dr. Grady is its first-ever two-time recipient, having previously received the award in 2006.

Dr. Grady is a senior member of IEEE and served on the IEEE PCS Board of Directors as chair of the editorial advisory board from 2005-2017. In this capacity, she managed the 2008, 2010 and 2015 searches for editor-in-chief of the Transactions on Professional Communication. For 10 years, she coordinated selection of Joenk Award recipients for best transactions paper and served as vice president of PCS for three years.

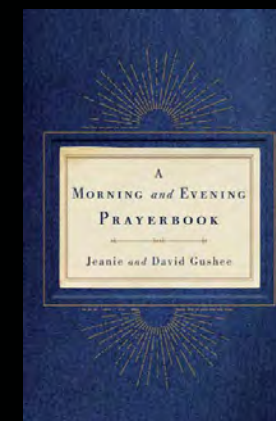
She also was instrumental in establishing the Wiley/IEEE Series on Professional Engineering Communication and hired its first editor in 2010.



Dr. Joseph Donnelly, clinical professor of physical therapy, and Dr. Jennifer Freeman, adjunct clinical assistant professor of physical therapy, co-edited *Travell, Simons and Simons' Myofascial Pain and Dysfunction: The Trigger Point Manual*, 3rd edition, LWW.



Dr. Thomas B. Slater, professor of New Testament studies, authored *Afrocentric Interpretations of Paul and the Pauline Tradition: Things That Black Scholars See That White Scholars Do Not See*, Edwin Mellen.



Dr. David Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics, and his wife, Jeanie Gushee, co-authored *Morning and Evening Prayerbook*, Thomas Nelson.

Dr. Grady has played an active role in 12 PCS conferences, serving on program committees, as a technical reviewer, as proceedings co-chair, and as program chair and conference co-chair for the 2005 and 2015 conferences in Ireland.

DR. HA VO RECOGNIZED WITH HEALTHCARE HERO AWARD

Distinguished University Professor of Biomedical Engineering DR. HA VAN VO received the Healthcare Hero award on Sept. 8 from the Vietnamese American Healthcare Professional Association of Georgia (VAHPAG).

VAHPAG gathered in the Atlanta History Center to honor Dr. Vo with the award for his work with amputees through Mercer On Mission's Vietnam prosthetics program.

Dr. Vo, who also serves as an associate research scientist in the School of Medicine, has done groundbreaking work in designing and deploying low-cost artificial limbs in third-world countries, including his native Vietnam.

He and University Minister and Dean of Chapel Dr. Craig McMahan have organized Mercer On Mission trips to Vietnam since 2009.

On the first trip, a team of Mercer faculty and students fit about 38 people in the town of Phung Hiep. Last summer, 10 years after that inaugural trip, representatives from the University fit the 10,000th Vietnamese amputee with Dr. Vo's patented leg prosthetic.

Dr. Vo grew up in South Vietnam hoping to someday make a difference in his home country for his fellow citizens who lost limbs as a result of land mines remaining from the Vietnam War. Today, it is estimated that there are more than 100,000 amputees in the country.

Mercer On Mission operates clinics in four locations around the country and trains local doctors and technicians to fit the prosthetic year-round in the absence of Dr. Vo and his team.

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

TWO PENFIELD COLLEGE PROFESSORS SELECTED TO SERVE ON APLU COMMITTEES

Penfield College faculty members DR. CHARLES ROBERTS, associate professor of mathematics, and DR. ZIPANGANI VOKHIWA, associate professor of science, were recently selected to serve on two Association of Public Land Grant Universities' (APLU) Network of STEM Education Centers (NSEC) committees.

Dr. Roberts will serve a two-year term on the NSEC Steering Committee, and Dr. Vokhiwa, who recently

completed a term as president of the Fulbright Association's Georgia Chapter, will serve a two-year term on the NSEC Conference Planning Committee.

To advance education in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, APLU obtained a National Science Foundation grant to create a national Network of STEM Education Centers. NSEC currently links 201 STEM education centers at 163 institutions.

NSEC committees, including the Steering Committee and Conference Planning Committee, provide support to the STEM education centers to promote student success throughout campuses and in local committees.

NASH, TESSMER NAMED TO ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FACULTY AND STAFF TEAM

The Southern Conference named its All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team in December, with DR. R. SCOTT NASH and JIM TESSMER serving as Mercer's selected representatives.

Each member of the All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team was presented a plaque and honored at a home basketball game at his or her institution.

Dr. Nash is Columbus Roberts Professor of New Testament in the Roberts Department of Religion and director of the Mercer On Mission program in Greece. After earning his undergraduate degree in religion and political science from Centre College, he earned master's and doctoral degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Nash, who has done additional study at the University of Kentucky, Brown University, Harvard Divinity School and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece, received the Spencer B. King Jr. Distinguished Professor Award in 2002.

Tessmer joined the University's athletics staff in 2006 and currently serves as the department's event coordinator. His work contributes to developing a positive experience for Mercer student-athletes in their athletics competitions.

Tessmer has served as a front office staffer for minor league baseball team affiliates of the Reds, Red Sox, Pirates, Yankees and Braves.

An ardent supporter of Mercer student-athletes, Tessmer, who along with his wife, Melissa, has adopted five children, was selected by the school's Student Athlete Advisory Committee as Mercer's staff representative on the All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team.

MIC'S HOWARD ACCEPTS PARTNER IN PROGRESS AWARD FROM NEWTOWN MACON

MERCER INNOVATION CENTER was named by Newtown Macon as one of its 2018 Partners in Progress.

Each year, Newtown Macon recognizes businesses, organizations and individuals who have

demonstrated exceptional passion and commitment to the revitalization of downtown Macon.

Awards are given in 11 categories: Leadership, Community Service, Growing Jobs, Increasing Residents, Creating a Sense of Place, 360 Degrees, Special Recognition, Emerging Partner, Emerging Leader, Downtown Ambassador and Spirit of Cooperation.

Mercer Innovation Center was recognized as an Emerging Leader during this year's Partners in Progress Awards, held Nov. 8.

NewTown Macon was established in 1996 with support from the Peyton Anderson Foundation as a nonprofit, public-private partnership focused on restoring and reestablishing downtown Macon as a thriving center of economic, cultural and social activity.

DR. MELANIE PAVICH AWARDED NEW GRANT FOR PROJECT TO DOCUMENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN COASTAL GEORGIA

DR. MELANIE PAVICH, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies and history in Penfield College, has been awarded a grant of nearly \$2,000 to support continuing research and service by Mercer students and faculty focused on preservation of African-American heritage and heritage sites on the Georgia coast.

The grant was awarded by Georgia Humanities, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, through funding from the Georgia General Assembly.

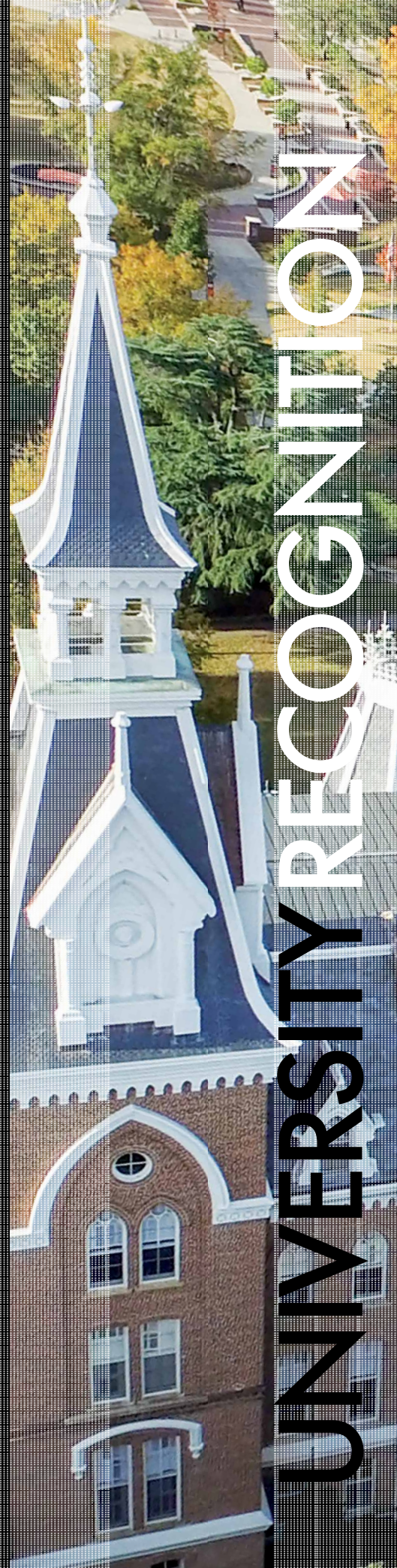
This is the second Georgia Humanities grant that Dr. Pavich has received for her seven-plus-year, research-based, service-learning project, and it will assist in the funding of an upcoming public presentation by Mercer students and faculty members, titled "This is My Dirt: Stories of Saint Simons Island," based on oral history interviews conducted by students with residents of the island located off Georgia's coast in Glynn County.

Dr. Pavich earned her undergraduate degree in history from Agnes Scott College, her master's degree in history from Clemson University and her Ph.D. in social foundations of education from the University of Georgia.

Her research is focused on race and gender in the South during the 19th and early 20th centuries and includes the study of African-American education and teachers. She has developed research-and-service-learning-based courses for undergraduate students centered on the study of African-American communities and schools in Georgia.

She is the author of *Anna: The Letters of a St. Simons Island Plantation Mistress, 1817-1859*, published by the University of Georgia Press, and is currently working on a biography of Martha Schofield, a teacher of African-Americans in South Carolina from 1865 to 1916.

MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO



MERCER RECLASSIFIED BY CARNEGIE AS DOCTORAL UNIVERSITY WITH HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY

IN THE LATEST ADJUSTMENT TO THE CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION® of Institutions of Higher Education, Mercer has been moved to the second-highest level of doctoral research universities in the country.

The Carnegie Classification® is the basic way that colleges and universities are categorized in the United States. The more than 30 categories range from institutions granting associate degrees up to doctoral universities with very high research activity (R1).

Mercer is now categorized as a Doctoral University with High Research Activity (R2).

In the previous reclassification that was released in 2015, Mercer was moved from the Master's Colleges and Universities category to the Doctoral Universities with Moderate Research Activity (R3).

The R1 and R2 categories include 259 institutions that conferred at least 20 research/scholarship doctorates and reported a minimum of \$5 million in total research expenditures through the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development survey.

"Mercer's reclassification to the second-highest Carnegie category recognizes the University's growing research profile," said President William D. Underwood. "Research and creative activity are central to our mission to teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower and to serve. Our ultimate goal in expanding research activity at Mercer is to discover new knowledge and solve problems that lead to improvements in the human condition."

The most recent University 10-year strategic plan, adopted by the Board of Trustees last April, calls for Mercer to achieve R2 status by 2028 and to achieve \$60 million in annual research activity as defined by the NSF. Mercer currently generates about \$35 million in annual NSF research funding, twice the amount it did a decade ago.

The Carnegie Classification® has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education for the past four-and-a-half decades.



MERCER AMONG PRINCETON REVIEW'S 'BEST COLLEGES' FOR 16TH STRAIGHT YEAR

MERCER IS FEATURED AMONG THE NATION'S BEST INSTITUTIONS FOR undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review's 2019 edition of its college guide, "The Best 384 Colleges."

Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges are profiled in the book, published annually since 1992. The guide contains detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores in eight categories, as well as ranking lists of the top 20 schools in 62 categories. All of the ranking lists are based on The Princeton Review's survey of 138,000 students attending the colleges.

"We picked the 384 'best' colleges for our book primarily for their outstanding academics; we highly recommend each one," said Robert Franek, editor-in-chief of The Princeton Review.

"However, we know applicants need far more than an academic rating or ranking to find the college that will be best for them. We created our 62 ranking lists to help narrow that search. They are based entirely on data we gather beyond academics that gives insight into what the schools' enrolled students say about their professors, administrators, school services, campus culture and student life. In the end, it's all about the fit."

In its profile on Mercer, The Princeton Review praises the University as a school that provides "boundless opportunities for its undergraduates." Student surveys indicate that Mercer's "small size and focus on research and leadership enables students to quickly get involved in both academic pursuits with professors, as well as leadership positions in the extracurricular of their choice" and that the University "aims to produce graduates who will endeavor to 'make positive changes in their local community and the world.'" Faculty are lauded



for being "genuinely invested in their students," and the campus community is described as a place where "everybody here is so accepting of people's differences and so open-minded."

In a "Survey Says" sidebar in the book's profile, The Princeton Review takes note of Mercer's "great" financial aid packages, as well as student interest in community service, intercollegiate athletics and intramural sports.

U.S. NEWS RANKS MERCER IN TOP TIER OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES, AMONG BEST VALUES

MERCER IS AGAIN RANKED IN THE TOP TIER OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual America's Best Colleges issue. The magazine also ranked Mercer the No. 35 best value among the more than 300 institutions in the National Universities category.

Two years ago, because of its reclassification from a Regional Master's University to a National Doctoral Research University, Mercer was elevated to the magazine's National Universities category following 17 years as a top 10 Regional University in the South.

Mercer and Emory are the only Georgia institutions among the top 50 Best Value schools.

The 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 previous year's net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid. The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal.

Mercer School of Engineering's undergraduate program, which is consistently ranked among the nation's top programs that have bachelor's or master's as their terminal degrees, is tied for No. 30 — up eight spots from 2017 — based on surveys of engineering deans and senior faculty at accredited programs.

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AGAIN RECOGNIZED AS 'SEMINARY THAT CHANGES THE WORLD'

MERCER'S MCAFFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A "Seminary that Changes the World" for 2018-19 by the Center for Faith and Service, based out of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

For each of the past six 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.

The School's recognition as a "Seminary that Changes the World" reflects its mission to form Christian leaders



whose practice and scholarship, empowered by their passion for God and neighbor, change lives and transform communities.

McAfee gives its students opportunities to engage with a diverse array of local and global communities on outreach efforts, including teaching in a Certificate for Theological Studies program at Arrendale Prison for Women, participating in an annual international Mission Immersion Trip and hosting programs promoting interfaith dialogue and peace, such as the recent "Interfaith Harmony Celebration: Turn Toward Your Neighbor" and an interfaith peace rally called "We Refuse to Be Enemies."

Furthermore, this past year, the School sent students and faculty on a Mercer On Mission trip to Aligarh, India, and started its new Interfaith Certificate as well as its Certificate in Community Transformation.

"Since its founding, McAfee has held firm to the vision of forming ministers to engage the church for the work of God," said Dr. Greg DeLoach, interim dean. "It is an honor to be recognized yet again as part of the 'Seminaries that Change the World.' It fits into the larger vision of Mercer to change the world one student at a time."

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

ALUMNUS KYLE BLIGEN WINS PRESTIGIOUS RANGEL FELLOWSHIP



MERCER ALUMNUS Kyle Bligen was recently awarded a 2019 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship following a highly competitive nationwide contest. The Rangel Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University, supports extraordinary individuals who want to pursue a

career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

"Kyle's commitment to promoting positive change and his outstanding academic and professional background deeply impressed our selection panel. We are proud that he will be a 2019 Rangel Fellow and are confident that he will effectively represent both Georgia and the United States as a U.S. diplomat. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in his career," said Patricia Scroggs, director of the Rangel Program.

Bligen is a native of Peachtree City and graduated *magna cum laude* from Mercer in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in politics, philosophy and economics.

He served as captain of the University's debate team and developed his communication skills by researching domestic and international issues and crafting communication strategies for competition. He and teammate Jaz Buckley became the first African-Americans to win the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship in 2018. Since August, he has served as assistant director of debate at Mercer.

Bligen plans to attend either the Harvard Kennedy School of Government or Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs for graduate school, pursuing a master's degree in public policy and administration, in addition to international finance and economic policy.

The Rangel Fellowship will support Bligen through a two-year master's degree in international affairs and provide extensive professional development opportunities, including internships, mentorship and skills training.



Kyle Bligen



Caitlyn Patton



Fabian Kopp



Elise Young

As part of the Rangel Program, he will work for a member of Congress on issues related to foreign affairs this summer. In the summer of 2020, the U.S. Department of State will send him overseas to work in a U.S. Embassy to get hands-on experience with U.S. foreign policy and the work of the Foreign Service.

JUNIOR CAITLYN PATTON NAMED UNIVERSITY'S FIRST IEEE POWER AND ENERGY SOCIETY SCHOLAR



JUNIOR CAITLYN Patton is among 174 students nationwide selected as this year's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Power and Energy Society (PES) Scholars.

Patton is the first Mercer student to receive this scholarship from IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

The IEEE PES Scholarship Plus Initiative provides funding and real-world experience

to undergraduates who are interested in power and energy engineering careers.

The scholarship provides \$2,000 per year and is renewable for each undergraduate year. PES will also assist award-winners in finding professional experiences over the summer. Winners also receive a complimentary membership to PES and access to their library of literary journals.

A native of Durham, North Carolina, Patton is an electrical engineering major enrolled in the School of Engineering's 4 + 1 Integrated Master of Science Program. She hopes to pursue a career focused on alternative energy sources and energy-efficient power delivery systems.

Patton presented preliminary research at the ninth annual IEEE International Symposium on Power Electronics for Distributed Generation Systems (PEDG) in Charlotte, North Carolina, in June. She also interned with the Transmission Engineering Division of Duke Energy in Raleigh, North Carolina, this past summer.

RECORD TEN STUDENTS AWARDED GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY OR INTERN ABROAD THIS SUMMER



AN UNPRECEDENTED 10 MERCER students are among the 395 American undergraduate students from 152 colleges and universities across the U.S. selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad during the summer of 2019.

This total is a record number for the University for a single application cycle and matches its total number of Gilman Scholarship recipients for the previous academic year. The recipients include:

- Isis Barnes, a sophomore biology major who will participate in an internship in Kenya
- Lauren Caggiano, a senior international relations major who will participate in a Mercer On Mission trip to Guyana

- Pearlle Do, a junior psychology major who will participate in a Mercer On Mission trip to Vietnam
- Zara Gabriel, a junior psychology major who will study abroad in Spain
- Adayah Glymph, a sophomore pre-nursing major who will participate in an internship in South Africa
- Madilyn Harrell, a junior journalism major who will study abroad in Morocco
- Pamela Johnson, a sophomore pre-nursing major who will participate in an internship in South Africa
- Nishi Patel, a junior public health major who will participate in an internship in South Africa
- Jaleighya Townsend, a sophomore pre-nursing major who will participate in an internship in South Africa
- Johna Wright, a junior psychology major who will study abroad in Sweden

Additionally, an 11th student — freshman biology major Damangeliz Martinez Lugo — was selected to study abroad in Bangkok, Thailand, during the upcoming spring semester.

"The Gilman Scholarship presents a phenomenal opportunity for students with financial need to have a transformative study abroad



ASHLEY BUCHANAN PHOTO

experience," said Dr. David A. Davis, director of fellowships and scholarships and associate professor of English. "I am excited for these students, and I am grateful to Dr. Ashley Buchanan in the Office of International Programs for her work with these students."

The Congressionally funded Gilman Program broadens the U.S. student population studying and interning abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduate Pell Grant recipients.

Since the program's establishment in 2001, more than 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent more than 28,000 Gilman scholars to 145 countries around the globe.

JUNIOR FABIAN KOPP SELECTED FOR QATAR EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



JUNIOR FABIAN KOPP, A MACON NATIVE majoring in international affairs and minoring in ethics, leadership and service, was among 20 students and faculty from across the United States selected in 2018 for the competitive, one-year Qatar Exchange Fellowship sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

Participants had to be nominated by their professors and previously involved in the Model Arab League, a diplomatic simulation program sponsored by the National Council that gives students insight into the Middle East. Kopp, a member of Mercer's chapter of the program since his freshman year, said the club piqued his interest in the Middle East and pushed him to take his knowledge of international affairs further.

Kopp is the sixth Mercerian to be chosen for fellowship programs of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and the third Mercer student selected specifically for the Qatar program.

JUNIOR ELISE YOUNG RECEIVES PHI KAPPA PHI STUDY ABROAD GRANT



JUNIOR ELISE YOUNG RECENTLY was awarded a Study Abroad Grant from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

The grants are designed to support undergraduates, both members and nonmembers from campuses that have Phi Kappa Phi chapters, as they seek expanded knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad.

Young, an electrical engineering major from Lawrenceville, is one of 25 students nationwide to receive the award. She will use the \$1,000 grant to study abroad at the University of

Aizu in Aizuwakamatsu, Japan.

Young, who was an Honorable Mention selection for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship last spring, conducts research in the lab of Dr. Makhin Thitsa, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, where they have investigated the inherent presence of state dependent time delay in internet traffic congestion problems, as well as developed control strategies for optimizing the coordinated control of signalized traffic intersections.

Young plans to earn her master's degree through the School of Engineering's 4 + 1 integrated Master of Science program, obtain a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and work in a national laboratory.



THE BIG IDEA BEHIND BIG DATA

HOW MERCER IS PREPARING STUDENTS FOR DATA- INTENSIVE CAREERS

By Jamie Dickson, CLA '05



Earlier this year, Mercer alumna Amy Griswold Martin (EGR '05) planned to sell an item her son outgrew, and in order to figure out how much she should charge for it, she headed to Amazon to compare prices. “Now I’m getting all kinds of ads for baby products on Facebook,” she said, “but there’s no baby here!”

This is just one small example of big data in action — a rapidly growing digital power tool changing the way nearly every industry operates.

B

IG DATA is a term most experts use to describe inconceivable amounts of information gathered from a variety of sources, including smart phones, internet searches, barcode scans, electronic health records, social media usage, online purchases, debit and credit card swipes, smart watches and more. If a device is connected to the internet, it's most likely sharing information, which is then stored in databases too large for typical data software and computational systems to handle. >>

BEKAH HOWARD PHOTO; BING.COM IMAGE; STEVE MOSLEY PHOTO

W

hen it comes to big data, “big” is an understatement. In its sixth edition of “Data Never Sleeps,” DOMO — a leading cloud-based operating system provider — reports more than 2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created each day, and, according to the same report, “90

percent of the world’s data was produced in the last two years.”

Mercer recognizes big data’s significance, which is why data science, data analytics and big data are being explored in a variety of disciplines. In the College of Liberal Arts, the Computer

Science Department is currently developing a data science program where students will learn how to gather insights from big data. The department is also growing its cybersecurity program, which provides security knowledge for maintaining big data.

But the buck — or byte — doesn’t stop there. Students across several disciplines, including business, health informatics, biology, pharmacy and medicine, are exposed to the subject matter.

Dr. Craig Byron, associate professor of biology and assistant chair of the Biology Department, said he uses R — a computer programming language that analyzes big data — in his coursework. In 2017, he started Mercer’s R Users Group, where faculty members meet once a month to share how they’re using R in their classes.

Even students in the Center for Collaborative Journalism are introduced to big data. In a course titled “Hacking the Media,” future journalists and media professionals learn the techniques used to process and analyze data as it relates to reporting.

At the graduate level, the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics as well as Penfield College offer master’s degrees that prepare students for careers involving data.

“*Worldwide, big data market revenues for software and services are projected to increase from \$42 billion to \$103 billion in 2027, attaining a compound annual growth rate of 10.48%.*”
— *Forbes*

Dr. Awatef Ben Ramadan, assistant professor of health informatics in Mercer’s Penfield College, provides her classes online.



PAULA HELLER PHOTO; BING.COM IMAGE

Students in the Master of Science in Health Informatics program learn how data impacts health care, said Dr. Awatef Ben Ramadan, assistant professor of health informatics in Penfield College. “We are teaching them about the U.S. healthcare system and how health information should be managed and utilized,” she said.

Big Data and Health Care

Penfield College’s M.S. in Health Informatics focuses on how to use data in order to improve the patient experience. “Health informatics is about acquiring, storing, retrieving and using healthcare data — big data — to foster better collaboration among patients’ various providers,” said Dr. Ben Ramadan.

Healthcare data can be acquired from a variety of sources, such as electronic medical records, sensors, medical devices, telehealth and mobile-home health technologies, to name a few.

When an entire population’s healthcare data is combined, it creates society profiles that can have a transformative effect on patient care in areas such as risk assessment, accessibility, policy development and budgeting.

“These profiles can be used to define the high-risk people of specific diseases or health events and could be used to guide public health professionals and policymakers in developing new initiatives to help improve accessibility to specific services, reallocate resources and reduce health, social and economic disparities, which in turn can improve the health of people,” Dr. Ben Ramadan said.

When made public, the findings from big data analyses can be used to educate and inform. “All of this will affect the lives of community members in a positive way, especially if the data will be presented to the public with adequate explanations and supplemented with acceptable recommendations,” she added.

Dr. Samuel K. Peasah is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice and director of the Center for Clinical Outcomes, Research and Education in Mercer’s College of Pharmacy. He said big data is invaluable in pharmacy research.

His interests include health economics, and he said big data can help researchers determine the cost of specific diseases as well as help decision-makers — including pharmacists on pharmacy and therapeutics committees — plan formularies or inform them about the best drugs to include in their hospitals.

“Maybe I want to research the cost of diabetes, for example. The cost is much more than just the cost of the drug,” he said. “Big data could help me know how many people visited the doctor’s office while diabetic, how many people were admitted to the hospital due to diabetes and how much they spent on medication in a given year.”

Dr. Peasah said pharmacy students get exposure to big data through courses such as the “Managed Care Pharmacy” elective as well as research electives where they work one-on-one with faculty members who have access to big data.

Dr. Silky Beaty is a 2005 graduate of the College of Pharmacy and works as the scientific and real world data alliances lead for the Neurology Patient Value Unit at UCB Inc. She handles big data professionally and said she believes it has streamlined healthcare.

“Before [big data], we had a very disjointed healthcare system,” she said. “And with the disjointed system, where we

Mercer Degrees Related to Big Data

Bachelor of Science in Informatics

Mercer’s Bachelor of Science in Informatics program combines solid grounding in computer programming and statistics with the study of human factors, and the ethical and social science aspects of complex information systems. Students gain a strong foundation of the knowledge necessary to design and develop data-driven and human-centered systems, and evaluate the next generation of information technology tools for different disciplines. The program emphasizes effective decision theory and project management. Hands-on, problem-solving courses lead to capstone work on a real world project.

For more information: penfield.admissions@mercer.edu

Master of Science in Business Analytics

The Master of Science in Business Analytics is a 15-month program for students who want to pursue or advance their career in the field of business analytics. Business analytics focuses on understanding the performance of an organization through data and statistical methods. Students learn to become effective analysts and informed users of data by developing a deep understanding of data, including statistical modeling, data management, visualization, information security, optimization, online analytical processing (OLAP) and fact-based management to drive decision-making.

Students come from diverse backgrounds such as financial services, marketing, communications, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, education and IT. Graduates of the program are prepared for positions such as credit analyst, data scientist, quantitative marketing analyst, web analyst, social media strategist and more.

For more information: business.admissions@mercer.edu

Master of Science in Health Informatics

Health Informatics involves the acquiring, storing, retrieving and using of healthcare information through computing and communication technologies to foster better collaboration among a patient’s various healthcare stakeholders. Professionals in this field improve patient care and outcomes through the integration of information systems and healthcare.

For more information: penfield.admissions@mercer.edu

weren't sharing information, it made it very hard for a physician to have all the information needed to make the best decision. The more data our providers have, the better they are able to manage our diseases."

Big Data, Big Business

When Martin noticed advertisements for baby products on her Facebook page, she knew exactly what was happening, because she uses big data professionally. She graduated from Mercer with a degree in technical communication and now works in marketing as an associate account director for IBM. There, she provides strategic guidance on marketing best practices to clients and teaches them how to use IBM's marketing automation platforms. "Data collection helps marketers reach you where and when you're most likely to engage," she said.

In the 14 years since Martin graduated, Mercer has incorporated big data into several disciplines, including the School of Business, where there are currently a number of courses that approach data on some level.

Dr. Ania Rynarzewska, professor of sports marketing and analytics, teaches research, analytics and marketing courses in the business school and is a former director of its Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) program.

"The spring of [2018] was the first year I taught marketing analytics for undergrads here at Mercer," Dr. Rynarzewska said. "It's a new course, and now it's become part of our regular offering."

Jeff Gilbert, associate professor of economics in the School of Business, currently directs the MSBA program. In its fourth year, graduate students in the program learn the business aspects of big data, including how to analyze data and manage big data programmers. "We teach students how to talk to the programmers and explain what they need and how to present the data," he said.

Dr. Rynarzewska said her students graduate knowing how big data can help them understand consumer

"The number of jobs in computer and information technology occupations will increase by 13% by 2026, adding more than 557,000 new positions."
— Bureau of Labor Statistics

behavior and spending patterns. She said businesses use data to improve operations and become more efficient.

"From a strategic perspective, [businesses] are able to better make decisions on how to meet customer needs," she said. "They can literally analyze [decisions] in real time and make a change if it doesn't work. It reduces loss of any resources, both time and money, and helps safeguard from making really bad decisions."

Gilbert said big data is also used to help set and even customize prices. "When you go to a retailer's website, they have algorithms — using all the data they've collected — to determine how sensitive you are to price, and then they adjust the price based on your habits," he said. "[Big data] is great for businesses, because they are able to charge higher prices for people who are willing to pay it."

Consumers, not just businesses, are reaping the benefits of big data. It can lead to more accurate search results and improved customer experiences. "Our goal as businesses or marketers is to build relationships with customers," Dr. Rynarzewska said. "Thanks to data, I think we have almost taught customers to expect more from us."

But with the convenience of connectivity and big data comes some downsides, including what seems to be disappearance of consumer privacy. "Every time you go on your computer and go on the website of a retailer or an airline, they're gathering information on you," said Gilbert. "They know the computer you use. They know your locations. They'll go to your cookies to see what you've bought in the past or what websites you've visited, so they know a lot about you."

Martin's professional experience has led her to be more cautious about what she shares. "Since I work in the industry, I find it fun to see how data is being used," she said, "but I am very cautious about what information I share and with what brands."

Big Data or Big Brother?

At the beginning of each semester, Jody Blanke, Ernest L. Baskin Jr. Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Law in the School of Business, requires students in his "Legal and Ethical Issues Affecting Big Data" course to read the privacy policies of Apple, Google, Facebook and Amazon.

He has written several journal articles on the topic of privacy in the digital space and said his exercise is an eye-opening experience for his students. "About 90 percent of the students are somewhere between surprised and shocked," he said. "A few of them had suspicions that something strange was going on, but to the vast majority of them, it is a revelation."

Blanke said most people assume privacy policies protect consumers, but actually the opposite is more often true. As soon as consumers click or tap "agree" they are signing over their information, and whether they like it or not, everything from their location, to what they buy, to their musical tastes, to health vitals is being collected, stored, interpreted and even sold. Consumers have become the buyers and the products.

"Every time you click 'ok,' you're entering into a contract giving [companies] permission to use the data however they want to," Blanke said.

In January, a Motherboard investigation found major cell phone companies, such as T-Mobile, Sprint and AT&T, are selling their customers' location data to third parties. Eventually, this information can end up the hands of individuals not authorized to have it, including bail bondsmen and bounty hunters, to name a couple.

Right Patient, Right Medicine

How College of Pharmacy Alumna **Dr. Silky Beaty** Uses Big Data to Improve Access and Affordability

Growing up, College of Pharmacy alumna Dr. Silky Beaty (PHA '05) wasn't like most kids her age. While other children were pretending to be doctors, she was reading "The Pill Book" — a consumer guide to medications. "It was like my Bible," she said.

Her interest in pharmacy was due in part to her chronically ill mother. "As the attentive middle child, I was her acting pharmacist to help her identify medications, monitor her adherence and counsel her on side effects," Dr. Beaty said.

This experience eventually led her to study pharmacy, where she wanted to make a difference in health care. "Growing up, I saw the struggles that my family had with just getting quality health care and getting access to medications or even doctors."

Dr. Beaty now works for UCB Inc. as the scientific and real world data alliances lead for the Neurology Patient Value Unit. There, she uses big data to understand the patient journey and impact of medication access and affordability on clinical and economic outcomes.

"We basically use data to demonstrate the value and importance of access, affordability and time to treatment for patients with epilepsy, while also

emphasizing disease state awareness, so that payers understand the burden of this specific disease," she said. "Our goal is to get the right patient the right medication at the right time."

Broadly, Dr. Beaty said big data is utilized in a variety of ways in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. "Data is used to drive benefit plan designs. It's used to determine what segment of a population would benefit most from a particular drug. It's used to design analytics and touch points for improving adherence in the overall patient experience, because we know the more adherent you are to a medication, the better your outcomes are," she said.

Mercer's clinical approach, as well as her involvement with several student pharmacy organizations, such as the University's chapter of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research and the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, helped inform her decision to work with big data professionally.

"I began learning about research at Mercer and that sparked my interest to complete a fellowship and to obtain my Master of Science in Public Health and Certificate in Clinical Epidemiology," Dr. Beaty said. "Mercer gave me a solid clinical foundation. I was introduced to research as an elective and during my fourth-year rotations, where I completed a chart review study while on my psych rotation."

She said she chose to attend Mercer after visiting the campus with her mother. "My final tour was with Mercer, and I fell in love at first sight," she said. "The campus was beautiful ... the professors were engaging, and the current students were welcoming and spoke very highly of their experiences."



BING.COM IMAGE; PAULA HELLER PHOTO

And it's not just retailers using this information. Last summer, National Public Radio reported that health insurers mine data for information about patients, including personal interests and hobbies, in order to set rates.

Dr. Vikraman Baskaran, assistant professor of health informatics in Penfield College, said while big data can be used for good — especially in healthcare — consumers should also know their information can be used for nefarious purposes. “When the information is sold to people who might have malicious intent, it becomes much more dangerous,” he said. “It’s unimaginable what kind of damage could happen to individuals. It’s incomprehensible.”

Currently, the European Union has the strictest privacy laws thanks to the 2016 passage of the General Data Protection Regulation, which gives EU citizens tighter control of their personal data.

The U.S. is lagging significantly behind the EU when it comes to digital privacy due in part to lobbyists who promote self-regulation among private industries, said Blanke. While there is currently no formal legislation on a federal level regulating the use of consumer data, he does see signs that privacy winds might be shifting in the U.S. thanks to momentum in law, business and evolving societal norms.

“All ... is not doom and gloom,” Blanke wrote in his *Idaho Law Review* article titled “Top Ten Reasons to Be Optimistic About Privacy.” “While technology and societal changes have radically altered the environment in which privacy must survive, the same basic human needs and values continue to transform it into a new shape.”

For example, in June 2018, California passed a digital privacy law giving its citizens more control over their digital information. According to *The New York Times*, the legislation, which will go into effect in 2020, is one of the most substantial data collection regulations in the country.

Professor Blanke also said companies are beginning to consider privacy protections in their business

models, and of the four big tech companies — Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple — Apple is the most pro-privacy. “I think we’re reaching a point where not only are people calling for this, but businesses are realizing this is something people care about,” he said.

What can consumers do to protect their information in the meantime? Dr. Baskaran said social media is a big source of big data. “Anything you post — whether it’s text-based, photos or videos — can all be analyzed by computers,” he said. “Keeping a low profile should be your objective.”

More broadly, concerned citizens should consider supporting legislation that protects consumer privacy, Blanke said. “Georgia is not very proactive with [privacy] legislation, but states such as California and New York ... will likely be the ones passing legislation. We will be the beneficiaries of some of it,” he said, noting some companies will most likely opt to change their policies on the whole instead of having separate rules for different states.

Looking Ahead

Big data isn’t going away. By 2020, a predicted 1.7 megabytes of data will be generated every second for each person on the planet, according to DOMO.

Due to this enormous amount of growth, Mercer is continually evaluating ways to incorporate data science and big data into curricula across the University. There are currently nearly 70 courses dispersed among seven of Mercer’s 12 schools and colleges that explore big data or data analytics in some way, with more being considered regularly.

Dr. Rynarzewska said Mercer stays on the cutting edge of big data not only to attract students, but also to ensure current students are prepared for the future. “We are on top of innovation,” she said. “We want to be competitive not just to gain students but to help students to be competitive in the market and provide them with the newest knowledge and newest strategies and tools they need to succeed when they graduate.”

Dr. Ania Rynarzewska, professor of sports marketing and analytics, teaches research, analytics and marketing courses in the business school.



BING.COM IMAGES; LEAH YETTER PHOTO

“Atlanta is home to more than **200** **health IT companies** employing more than **16,000** professionals.”
— **Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce**

Redefining Rural Health Care

Residents Say Mercer Medicine's Pilot Clinic in Plains Was 'the Highlight of 2018' for the Community

By Jayla Moody

In March of 2018, the only primary care medical center in Plains, Georgia, the hometown of President Jimmy Carter, closed.

Nearly 800 residents in the City of Plains and hundreds others in surrounding communities lost access to a local physician and services that would dramatically improve the quality of health care in their community.



For a small rural town in South Georgia, not being able to easily access basic healthcare services was a burden.

“While Plains and its surrounding community has a population of only about 1,500, the people there have the same healthcare needs that you would find in a big city suburb,” said Kimberly Kennedy, head pharmacist at Plains Pharmacy. “Plains is more like a large family than a small town, and we treat our customers as we would members of our own families.”

President Carter, a Mercer Life Trustee, saw a need in this tight-knit community where he was born, raised and still resides, one that he felt the University’s School of Medicine (MUSM) could fulfill.

After all, MUSM’s mission is to prepare physicians to practice in rural communities, serving the underserved throughout Georgia. MUSM is working to address the need for rural health in every possible way. The School’s accelerated track program allows students to graduate in three years with a commitment to practice primary care in rural Georgia, and its Nathan Deal Scholars Program covers up to full tuition for students who commit to rural primary care in the state.

Mercer Medicine Plains, the University’s first rural clinic of its kind, is yet another example of MUSM’s innovative programming aimed at carrying out its mission. Such clinics provide the perfect opportunity for these accelerated track graduates and scholarship recipients to learn the art of rural primary care and, hopefully, one day join the effort to change the climate of rural health care in Georgia and beyond.

“Our role, in a big sense, is to provide a service to the community,” said Charles Duffey, chief operating officer of Mercer Medicine, the University’s primary care practice and division of MUSM’s faculty practice. “We’re a model of what we’re asking our medical students to do — go into a rural community and meet the needs there.”

Duffey said that nearly a year ago University and MUSM leaders began a conversation about how they could better help underserved areas. The conversation resulted in Mercer Medicine Plains being decided upon as the pilot for future primary care clinics in rural and underserved Georgia.



“It’s not just a clinic, it’s a Mercer clinic.”

“These clinics would give our students experience and also give us an avenue to really practice what we preach,” he said. “We can be a part of the solution by setting these clinics up and have a place for our students to practice in the future.”

So far, the Plains clinic has been a rewarding opportunity for both Mercer and the community.

“Having Mercer as part of the team, with the caliber of the University, is a huge plus,” said nurse practitioner Betty Jo Songer, FNP. “It’s not just a clinic here. It’s a Mercer clinic. That says so

much more about the quality of care and also the specialties available.”

Director of Plains Better Hometown Program Ruth Sanders said the clinic is the best thing that could’ve happened to the community.

“We are in a very low income area,” Sanders said. “We have many people here who don’t have transportation or the funds. Having Mercer here is huge.”

Duffey said that the University and the School of Medicine are able to provide Mercer Medicine Plains with a number of resources that a standalone clinic would have to provide for themselves.

“We can set up a clinic in Plains and handle a lot of the business here in Macon,” he said. “By taking those burdens off, we make the physician happier and more able to focus on the community’s needs.”

With four exam rooms and on-site services including X-ray, echocardiograms and ultrasound, the clinic has been accepting patients at 107 Main St. in downtown Plains since July.

“Day one, we had more patients than we had slots available for patients, which is amazing and really speaks to the need for the clinic,” Duffey said. “We were scheduling patients



into October and November before we even opened the doors.”

Feedback from the Plains community and the patients who have been served has been positive. Plains City Councilman Eugene Edge said he visited the clinic and came away impressed.

“We didn’t have a doctor here, and we really needed one,” Edge said. “I think the clinic is going to grow significantly as more people learn about it. As the word spreads, the clinic will sell itself.”

Songer — who along with physician Michael Raines, M.D., are the primary providers at the clinic — has had the opportunity to interact with the majority of the people who utilize the services in the clinic and also attests to the satisfaction of the patients.

“We haven’t just replaced having a clinic, we’ve brought a higher level of quality of care,” she said.

Duffey said Mercer’s objective wasn’t simply to go into Plains and provide medical services, but to redefine how to practice medicine in a way specific to the community’s needs.

“When we set up this clinic, we were very intentional about becoming a part of this community,” Duffey said.

One of the biggest needs in the community was walk-in availability.

“We were able to provide slots without appointment availability,” Duffey said. “That’s

something that would’ve been difficult to know if you weren’t communicating with the community on a daily basis.”

Mercer hired contractors and used resources from Plains to build and staff the clinic, investing in people who had an interest in the community beyond the clinic. Having a staff that consists mostly of Plains residents has created a welcoming and trustworthy environment for patients, Duffey said.

“For me, it is so rewarding to be at home serving my hometown people,” said Songer. “We make a phenomenal hometown team.”

Mill Simmons, chairman of the board of Plains Better Hometown, said the community appreciates Mercer for coming in and recognizing that local people could contribute to the clinic rather than bringing in outside contractors and employees.

“Having local people there means that it will be successful,” Simmons said. “These individuals are going out of their way to spend time with their patients and to get to know them.”

Mercer Medicine Plains has also brought new services into the community that have contributed to the increased quality of care, Songer said.

“We’ve never had X-ray services here, so it’s going to be huge that we have that here now,” Songer said.

Another new resource to the Plains community is telemedicine. Telemedicine technology, supported by the Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth, provides additional access to cardiologists, pulmonologists, endocrinologists and all other specialists offered at Mercer Medicine’s main clinic in Macon.

“We have 28 physicians here that can connect via telehealth,” Duffey said.

“The physician in Plains won’t feel isolated medically in that community.”

In addition to telehealth, Mercer has called upon many of the University’s resources to support the Plains clinic and ensure that a sense of isolation, which can be a barrier for physicians who would like to set up a rural practice, is not an issue.

MUSM’s Department of Community Medicine conducted a community health assessment to inform operations of the clinic.

School of Medicine faculty participate in provision of care in the community, and the medical school will also begin offering a rural rotation for its students in Plains.

The University’s Georgia Baptist College of Nursing will add two dedicated family nurse practitioner student rotations at the clinic to work alongside other nurse practitioners and members of the healthcare team.

The College of Pharmacy has added two rotations for Doctor of Pharmacy students at the Plains Pharmacy, and the College of Health Professions, which educates physical therapists, physician assistants, public health professionals, clinical psychologists and athletic trainers, plans to participate in care, research and training at the clinic.

“The fundamental premise behind this clinic is that folks in rural Georgia put food on our table. They’re the backbone of our state, and they deserve the same access to quality health care as everyone else in the state of Georgia. That’s the mission of our medical school, and this clinic in Plains represents part of a broad-ranging initiative by the University to transform access to health care in this state,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood at the grand opening of Mercer Medicine Plains last August.

“It’s truly an honor for Mercer to work with the good people of Plains and President and Mrs. Carter to increase access to quality health care in this area,” added MUSM Dean Jean Sumner, M.D. “Successful rural communities are a testament to leadership, partnership and a commitment to service. Mercer Medicine Plains is an example of this community’s leadership, effective partnerships and a commitment Mercer University School of Medicine made to this state.”

Sanders said she is looking forward to watching the clinic and the partnership between Plains and Mercer grow.

“Mercer has been so incredible to work with,” she said. “The people who have been a part of this from the University have made it easy and very enjoyable to make these things happen. It was definitely the highlight of 2018 for Plains.”

BEKAH HOWARD PHOTO; LEAH YETTER PHOTOS



MERCER UNIVERSITY 2019 HOMECOMING NOVEMBER 8-10

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming 2019 planning is already underway. You will swell with pride when you see all of the change and progress on our Macon campus. Thousands of alumni and friends will converge for one epic weekend and we hope you will be part of it.

Tentative Event Schedule: 8th Annual Alumni Career Speakers Series, 5th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner, 50-Year Reunion – Undergrad Class of 1969, Friday Night Pep Rally and Fireworks, Half Century Club Celebration, Tailgating ... so much tailgating! Football Game – Mercer Bears vs. Wofford Terriers ... and much more! Watch your mail, email and social media for more information. Registration begins in late summer at HOMECOMING.MERCER.EDU.

Winningest Class in Program History Completes SoCon Play Unbeaten With Tournament Championship

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AGAIN HEADED TO NCAA TOURNAMENT



A

t the conclusion of the 2017-2018 women's basketball season, coach Susie Gardner's team had claimed another regular Southern Conference (SoCon) championship but also added a tournament title and, for the first time, advanced to the NCAA Tournament. Not only did last year's team win a school-record 30 games, it

also finished the SoCon regular season unbeaten.

This season, optimism was abundant that this team could battle for a fourth consecutive regular season championship and a second tournament title. However, finishing another season unbeaten in conference play was probably not on the radar for most Mercer fans, especially after the loss of graduating seniors Kahlia Lawrence and Sydni Means, two of the most prolific players in Mercer women's basketball history.

But as the season unfolded, game-by-game it became apparent that this year's senior class of

Amanda Thompson, KeKe Calloway, Rachel Selph, Linnea Rosendal and Ally Welch was destined to achieve a level of success unmatched by any previous senior class.

Not only did they finish the 2018-2019 season unbeaten in conference play again and earned another regular season championship, they also won their second consecutive SoCon tournament championship and earned another trip to the NCAA tournament. This senior class would accumulate 104 wins since they suited up as freshmen and extended their SoCon regular season winning streak to 34 games. These Bears are 53-4 in SoCon play and 104-26 overall since the start of the 2015-2016

season and the winningest four-year class in program history. And for those wondering if Mercer's superior play on the court had garnered the attention and respect of the remainder of the league, consider this. Susie Gardner was again named the SoCon Coach of the Year. Amanda Thompson was named the SoCon Player of the Year by the league's coaches and KeKe Calloway received the same honor from the media. Thompson was Mercer's fifth consecutive player of the year as voted on by the coaches and Calloway was the Bears' fifth consecutive player of the year voted on by the media.

This year's team showed signs of greatness early in the season when they defeated the Florida Gators, 92-82, in Hawkins Arena on Nov. 15. A few days later on the same floor, they came within one point of defeating the nationally ranked Florida State Seminoles, falling 57-56, on Dec. 5.

Going into the SoCon tournament in Asheville undefeated in league play, the Bears would use their suffocating defense to win game one against Western Carolina, allowing the Catamounts only 32 points in a 55-32 win. In game two, sophomore Shannon Titus, who was assigned the defensive task to shut down the league's leading scorer on Wofford's team, would do the highly improbable of also becoming the game's leading scorer herself with 29 points. The Bears prevailed 69-51.

That set the stage for the championship game against No. 2 seed Furman. In a game that contained all of the elements for a March Madness conference championship game, Calloway would show early on that her noteworthy talent of shooting three-point shots would provide the scoring Mercer would need to snatch another title. She finished with 30 points. After falling behind by six in the fourth quarter, the team mounted a furious comeback and claimed a 66-63 win over the Paladins when Furman's last-second three-pointer rimmed out.

Calloway was named the tournament MVP and she was joined on the first team by Thompson and Titus. Selph was named to the second team and Thompson also received the Pinnacle Award for the player on the championship team with the highest grade-point-average.

AMANDA THOMPSON NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SENIOR forward **Amanda Thompson** was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America First Team.

Thompson is one of five NCAA Division I players to earn All-America First Team honors, joining Texas Tech's Brittany Brewer, South Dakota's Ciara Duffy, Idaho's Mikayla Ferenx and Drake's Sara Rhine. A total of 15 student-athletes were named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America first, second and third teams.

To be eligible for the academic All-America teams, student-athletes must be starters or important reserves with at least a 3.30 cumulative grade-point average. Candidates must also compete at least one full academic year at the nominating institution and be at least sophomores athletically.

Thompson has accomplished a career year with the Bears, having been named the Southern Conference Player of the Year while leading Mercer to its second consecutive SoCon Tournament title and NCAA Tournament berth. The senior has started all 31 games and is averaging 13.1 points and 10.7 rebounds per game.

The Hayesville, N.C., native and electrical engineering major was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District IV Team each of the last two years. Thompson has started 129 of a possible 130 games in her career and has been a part of 104 victories as a member of the Bears' four consecutive SoCon regular-season title teams.

Twelve different Mercer student-athletes have been named Academic All-Americans 15 different times. They include: Will Emerson, men's basketball (twice – 2004-05, 2005-06); Mike Armstrong, baseball (2005-06); Billy Burns, baseball (2010-11); Will Betts, men's soccer (2012-13); Derrick Workman, baseball (twice – 2012-13, 2013-14); Michael Massi, baseball (2013-14); Ashani Samuels, men's soccer (2014-15); Natalie Shiver, softball (twice – 2014-15, 2015-16); Tee Mitchell, football (2015-16); Hunter Bening, baseball (2016-17); and Charlie Madden, baseball (2016-17).



JUDY STAPLETON PHOTOS

Point Guard Who Guided Mercer to Win Over Duke Has No. 21 Jersey Retired

LANGSTON HALL, one of the most decorated players in Mercer men's basketball history, had his No. 21 jersey retired Feb. 9 during the Bears' game against The Citadel in Hawkins Arena.

The ceremony coincided with the university's recognition of the 2013-14 team that returned to campus over the weekend to be honored for its outstanding accomplishments five years ago.

"Langston is one of the best players I have ever had the pleasure of getting to coach," said head coach Bob Hoffman, who coached Hall throughout his standout career as a Bear. "From the first time I saw him, all the way through the magical games he performed in, he was always the same. Not only was he an outstanding performer in all phases of the

game, he had the uncanny ability of elevating the play of his teammates and making everyone around him better. Relentless worker, fantastic leader and great encourager.

"Langston will forever be remembered for his

With Langston Hall (red shirt) at center court are (from left) his parents, Alda and Fred Hall; Athletic Director Jim Cole; Head Coach Bob Hoffman; and President William D. Underwood.

leadership, his unselfishness and his championship-caliber play. He's a special player that is well-deserving of having his No. 21 jersey retired in Hawkins Arena. Thank you for all you've done to help make Mercer basketball successful."

Hall starred for Mercer from 2010-14, leaving an everlasting mark on the Bears' program. Hall is the school's career leader in assists (633), steals (177) and three-pointers made (256). His 1,759 points rank eighth on the program's all-time scoring list. During Hall's four years as a Bear, Mercer experienced three of its most successful seasons; the Bears won a school record 27 games in 2011-12, 24 games and an Atlantic Sun regular season title in

2012-13 and tied the school record of 27 wins with both an A-Sun regular season and tournament championship in 2013-14.

Hall joined Mercer's program with little to no accolades on his resume following a prep career at Atlanta's Chamblee Charter High School. The standout would later appear in 138 career games with 137 starts for Mercer. He was the A-Sun Player of the Year in 2013-14 after leading the Bears to a 27-9 overall record and a sweep of the conference's regular season and tournament titles as well as a NCAA Tournament appearance. In the NCAA Tournament second round, Mercer, a No. 14 seed, pulled off a stunning upset by knocking off No. 3 seed Duke, 78-71, in Raleigh, N.C. The victory — which is arguably the biggest in the school's athletics history — garnered Mercer's program national attention.

Hall, who averaged 14.6 points, 5.6 assists, 3.1 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game in 2013-14, was the recipient of the Lou Henson Award, presented annually to the nation's most outstanding mid-major player in Division I competition.

Since graduating from Mercer, Hall has been playing professionally overseas in Italy and Greece for the last five years. Hall joins five other Mercer men's basketball players who have had their jerseys retired, including: Glenn Wilkes (No. 13, 1946-50); Tommy Mixon (No. 7, 1951-55); Sam Mitchell (No. 42, 1981-85); Eric Chambers (in memoriam) (No. 24, 1983-85); and Scott Emerson (No. 4, 1999-04).



The Bears Who Bedeviled Duke Receive Warm Reception at Five-Year Reunion

Mercer Bear Nation honored the 2013-14 men's basketball team on Feb. 9 prior to and during the Bears' home game against The Citadel in Hawkins Arena.

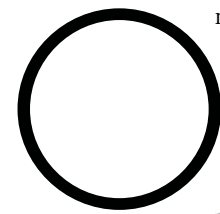
Several members of the 2013-14 team were back on campus and recognized for their accomplishments, most memorably the victory over the

No. 6 Duke Blue Devils in one of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history. March 21, 2019, marked the five-year anniversary of the historic win in Raleigh, N.C.

Coaches and players recognized during halftime of the game were (pictured above) **Bob Hoffman, Matt Brownback, Spencer Wright, Daniel Coursey, Monty Brown, Kevin Canevari, Anthony White Jr., Langston Hall and James Bento.**

In addition to the NCAA Tournament win over Duke, Mercer's 2013-14 team went 27-9 overall (14-4 A-Sun) and won the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament title. Hall (Player of the Year), Coursey (Defensive Player of the Year), Jakob Gollon (Scholar Athlete of the Year) and Hoffman (Coach of the Year) all earned individual A-Sun accolades.

Freshman Martineau Makes Impact for Men's Soccer



In Jan. 21, 2018, the Mercer men's soccer team saw Will Bagrou, its most decorated student-athlete in program history, drafted in the 2018 MLS SuperDraft. Many would question, who would be next to step up and keep the Bears at the top of the SoCon?

The question was answered with the arrival of McKinney, Texas, native **Trevor Martineau**. In just his first week of action, the freshman forward was tabbed SoCon Player of the Week. Martineau became the first true freshman in the SoCon to capture the award since 2016. Martineau was also the first freshman since Bagrou (2014) to garner the award.

On Oct. 16, Martineau became the first freshman in SoCon history to win SoCon Player of the Week three times in a single season.

Martineau made his stamp on a historic freshman season, netting the game-winning goal in double overtime against Furman to clinch the 2018 SoCon regular season title. Martineau was awarded SoCon Player of the Month for October, becoming the first freshman to garner the award since Bagrou in 2014.

Martineau was tabbed SoCon Freshman of the Year, SoCon Player of the Year, SoCon All-Conference First Team and SoCon All-Freshman Team. Martineau became the second freshman in league history to win player of the year, joining Thompson Usiyan of Appalachian State (1977). Martineau finished the season with a league-leading 25 points, nine goals, five game-winning goals and finished third in the SoCon in assists with seven.

Ruzzo Named SoCon Coach of the Year



Men's Soccer Coach **Brad Ruzzo** was named 2018 Southern Conference Coach of the Year after guiding the Bears to a Regular Season Championship. Ruzzo has been awarded SoCon Coach of the Year twice since joining the league, in 2018 and 2014.

In his time at Mercer, Ruzzo has seen: a freshman win both SoCon

Freshman of the Year and Player of the Year (Martineau), coached Will Bagrou to being named SoCon Male Athlete of the Year (2017 and 2018) and guided Bagrou in being drafted in the 2018 MLS SuperDraft.

Since 2010, Ruzzo holds a 92-68-19 record overall for a win percentage of .567. Ruzzo is 4-2-4 in SoCon Tournament play and 29-13-4 in SoCon regular season. Coach Ruzzo has the highest winning percentage in program history among coaches who have coached 20 or more matches.

Ruzzo has led Mercer to four SoCon titles in five years, including back-to-back tournament championships in 2016 and 2017.

At Mercer, Ruzzo has mentored 67 all-conference players, 13 NSCAA/USC All-Region selections and one NSCAA All-American. Mercer has also earned 10 consecutive NSCAA/USC Team Academic awards under his guidance.



SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTOS

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS



NURSING

Mercer Launches 12-month Accelerated BSN Program to Address Georgia's Critical Nursing Shortage

The nationwide nursing shortage is expected to hit critical levels over the next decade, and Georgia is no exception. That's why Mercer is expanding its nursing program to offer qualified students a new, one-year accelerated path to nursing.

Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing is launching an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program in Atlanta. The program is specially designed for students looking

to change careers without starting over.

Students can leverage their existing non-nursing bachelor's degrees to earn a BSN in as few as 12 months through a combination of online coursework, onsite experience at the College of Nursing's state-of-the-art lab and clinical rotations at top area hospitals.

"It is our duty to do everything we can as educators to keep up with the demand by providing excellent nursing education options like our new Accelerated BSN program in Atlanta," said Dr. Linda Streit, dean of the College of Nursing. "We are dedicated to developing knowledgeable, ethical, caring and compassionate nurses who are ready to become the next generation of highly qualified practicing nurse leaders in Georgia and across the nation."

Georgia is projected to need an additional 13,510 registered nurses by 2026 in order to keep up with the demands of a rapidly growing population. That's a little more than 5,000 new nurses each year.

In fact, demand for nurses is so great in the area that *Forbes* recently listed Atlanta as one of 15 great cities for nurses, citing demand and pay as key factors in the magazine's selection of the city.

Mercer's ABSN program has seats available now and offers three start dates each year. The University is currently accepting applications for the program's first start date in May 2019. To learn more, visit absn.mercer.edu or call (844) 319-2108.



PAULA HELLER PHOTO

K Dr. Ashley Horner Receives NIH Grant to Study Neural Mechanisms Related to Drug Addiction

risten Ashley Horner, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology in the School of Medicine, received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) in the

amount of \$462,660 to further investigate the neural pathways that contribute to the development of habitual drug use.

AREA (also known as R15) grants support research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty and students in health professional schools and other academic components that have not been major recipients of NIH research grant funds.

Dr. Horner's project, titled "The Role of Patch Compartment Neurons in Reward and Habitual Behavior," received an R15 grant through the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The primary focus of her project is to delineate whether a region of the brain called the patch compartment, which has been implicated in repetitive behaviors, contributes to the progression of goal-directed drug use to habitual and inflexible drug-seeking behaviors.

Preliminary work on this project was funded by a Navicent Health Foundation research grant that was awarded to Dr. Horner's lab in 2016, allowing her to gather data that she used in her NIH application.

"Support from the NIH will give us the opportunity to further investigate the factors that contribute to addiction," added Dr. Horner. "I would like to thank Navicent Health and the School of Medicine for their support, without which this NIH grant would not have been possible."



MEDICAL STUDENT CONDUCTS RESEARCH IN THE GAMBIA AS BENJAMIN H. KEAN FELLOW

Second-year medical student Malcolm Velasco received a Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship in Tropical Medicine to conduct research in The Gambia in West Africa last summer. He was one of 21 fellows selected this year from medical schools across the

country, alongside recipients from Harvard, Yale and Brown.

Velasco worked with pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Toby Candler of the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on a project titled "Inter-generational risk factors for obesity: a path to prevention in low and middle-income countries based on a modifiable epigenetic signature in the POMC gene."

This research investigates how epigenetic modifications of the gene responsible for producing the protein proopiomelanocortin (POMC) may affect weight regulation in areas where seasonal fluctuations in food supply are common. Previous research has shown that POMC methylation is linked to maternal nutritional status around conception.

Velasco primarily assisted with data collection, traveling to rural villages and working with an MRC team and village liaison to collect nutritional status data on project participants from 32 different villages. Data points measured included the bioimpedance, skin fold thickness, height, weight, and mid-upper arm-circumference of the women and their children.

Velasco earned his undergraduate degree in history from Emory University and developed an interest in medicine while employed as a paramedic for Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

He served as a Peace Corps health volunteer in The Gambia for two years working with mothers and community health nurses to monitor the nutritional status of children. Upon returning to the U.S., he applied and was accepted to Mercer School of Medicine, where he is currently enrolled on the Savannah campus.



CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO
OPPOSITE PAGE: PAULA HELLER PHOTO; JOHN AMIS PHOTO

Dr. Martin D'Souza Awarded NIH Grant to Advance Possible First-ever Gonorrhea Vaccine



For years, researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and at pharmaceutical companies have tried unsuccessfully to create a gonorrhea vaccine. Clinical trials have been disappointing and potential vaccines have not generated an immune response. Researchers do know that the immune memory response does not last long in people who have been infected with gonorrhea, as they easily get re-infected.

Gonorrhea typically is treated with antibiotics, but Neisseria gonorrhoeae bacteria have become increasingly resistant to them, and drug options have dwindled. In 2006, the CDC had five recommended antibiotics for gonorrhea. Now only one option remains for effective treatment in the United States, where there are 400,000 reported cases of gonorrhea each year.

Now a "superbug" gonorrhea strain has emerged that is drug-resistant, making the need for a vaccine more important. While a number of researchers are working on developing a vaccine, Mercer pharmaceutical scientist Dr. Martin D'Souza has developed an innovative gonorrhea vaccine candidate that takes a novel approach.

Dr. D'Souza's research team conducted a preliminary study of this potential vaccine on mice infected with gonorrhea. All of the mice that received a one-time vaccine

dose survived and generated a very strong antibody response to the vaccine.

He recently received a \$464,658 grant over three years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to support further studies to see if the vaccine provokes a long-term memory response.

In addition, Dr. D'Souza has also designed a spray-dried particulate vaccine for ovarian cancer, which also was funded by the NIH. This vaccine is expected to enter Phase I trials in early 2019 and will be the first ovarian cancer vaccine to reach clinical trials. Dr. D'Souza is working with the Houston, Texas-based Kiomic Biopharma, which will oversee the trials at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Patients will take the vaccine by capsule.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DR. JOSEPH DONNELLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

Dr. Joseph Donnelly, clinical professor of physical therapy in Mercer's College of Health Professions, was recently elected president of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy.

His three-year term initiated with an address to Academy membership on Jan. 26 at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Washington, D.C.

The Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, the largest academy of the American Physical Therapy Association, has more than 20,000 members. Celebrating its 45th anniversary this month, the Academy provides

resources in practice, education, research and advocacy for physical therapy practitioners who manage patients and clients with musculoskeletal conditions.

Dr. Donnelly joined the faculty at Mercer in 2009 and serves as director of postprofessional programs in the Department of Physical Therapy, consisting of residencies in cardiovascular and pulmonary, neurologic and orthopaedic physical therapy, and a fellowship in orthopaedic manual physical therapy.

Dr. Donnelly earned his Bachelor of Science from Daemen University, Master of Science in orthopaedic physical therapy from the University of Pittsburgh and Doctor of Health Science in orthopaedic physical therapy from the University of Indianapolis.

He is recognized as a Board-Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and is an Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists.



50-75-100 YEARS AGO

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

75 YEARS AGO

(Right) During World War II, Mercer employed separate dietitians for male and female students. Ann R. (Mrs. Charles A.) Nickerson, RN, (top photo) was the Girls' Dietitian and Nurse, feeding students in Mary Erin Porter Hall. Her counterpart, Ida R. (Mrs. E.A.) Durham (bottom photo), served as the Dietitian for Male Students. Campus food was rationed, as this writer in *The Mercer Cluster* opined: "All sorts of similar complaints reach the ears of the dietitian — Why can't I have bacon on my eggs? When are we going to get some more jelly? What d'ya mean I can't have two pieces of butter?"



100 YEARS AGO

(Above) This photograph from the 1919 *Cauldron* yearbook features the officers and non-commissioned officers of Mercer's Student Army Training Corps, Company A. The SATC was formed in the summer of 1918 when more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide entered into contracts to train 150,000 young men for the war. Mercer inducted 240 such students who received military instruction under the command of First Lt. K.J. Huttlinger as they completed university coursework.



50 YEARS AGO

Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's classic, "The Threepenny Opera," was the University's spring musical in April 1969. Described as "lustful, ribald and quite entertaining," the play was directed by Ed Williams and featured the acting and singing talents of the Mercer Theater Company.

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

William Mayes Dobbins, EDU '50, (deceased Nov. 7, 2003) was posthumously honored with the naming of The William Mayes Dobbins Sports Complex. Montgomery County Schools dedicated the athletic complex on Sept. 8, 2017. Dobbins was a former Montgomery County High School Eagle teacher, coach, and MCS school board member.

1960s

The Hon. S. Phillip Brown, LAW '67, was awarded lifetime achievement in the field of law by Continental Who's Who in recognition of his role as a newly appointed senior superior court judge. Brown has more than 50 years of experience and has served in the Macon Judicial Superior Court since 1996.

1970s

Jack G. Angaran, LAW '75, managing partner at Georgeson Angaran, announced that his firm joined the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Reno, Nevada, in November.

The Hon. Thomas C. Bobbitt III, LAW '78, was reappointed to the board of commissioners of the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia by Gov. Nathan Deal, LAW '66. Bobbitt is the chief magistrate judge of Laurens County and has served as a municipal judge for 37 years.

John C. Carbo III, LAW '79, retired after 29 years on the State Court bench in Clayton County. Carbo now serves as a senior judge, filling in Superior Courts and State courts throughout metro Atlanta.

The Hon. Daniel J. "Danny" Craig, LAW '79, earned a Master of Theology Degree from St. Leo University in August 2017. After five years of formation, he was ordained to the permanent diaconate of the Roman Catholic Church for the Savannah Diocese in May. Craig is a Superior Court judge in the Augusta Circuit. He and his wife Crystal have three children and seven grandchildren—all living in Augusta.

Jim Dirmann, LAW '70, received the Sarasota County Bar Association's C.L. McKaig award for his work recruiting lawyers to engage in pro bono legal services for veterans.

Sigsbee Duck, PHA '77, was elected president of the 2018-19 Triological Society. The Society is committed to research and related scholarly activity, through dissemination at scientific meetings and through publication of its scientific journals, *The Laryngoscope* and *Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology*.

Richard E. Hyer Jr., CLA '66, EDU '74, has been appointed to serve on the University of Georgia College of Education alumni board. Hyer is also

coordinating a Rotary-UGA library project to benefit elementary and secondary public schools in Georgia. The project is a joint effort by Georgia Rotary Clubs and the UGA College of Education Literacy Program.

Kenneth A. Jones, LAW '75, was named among The Best Lawyers in America for 2019 in the areas of eminent domain and condemnation law. Jones practices with Roetzel & Andress in Fort Myers, Florida.

Dr. Matthew L. Mancini, MED '74, was named president of the Tennessee Medical Association, the state's largest professional organization for doctors. As president, Dr. Mancini will serve as the public spokesperson and official representative for TMA's more than 9,000 members. He will also hold a seat on the TMA board of trustees.

The Hon. Arch W. McGarity, LAW '77, retired as the chief judge of the Superior Court of the Flint Circuit, Henry County, on Sept. 30. Judge McGarity has requested that Gov. Deal appoint him senior judge of the Superior Court so he may continue to serve the state in that capacity.

Terry Mularkey, CLA '78, was named chief of staff at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), a newly created position. He previously served as executive director for development and community relations at NSU. Mularkey, who was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, also has a master's in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle.

G. Keith Murphy, CLA '70, LAW '74, published his first novel *Where Long Beards Grow: Untold stories of full-timbered men, Spanish Florida 1819*.

Robert M. Ott, LAW '76, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Monterey, California, was appointed president of the Episcopal Church Province 8 (Ecclesiastical) Court of Review which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Utah, Hawaii and Micronesia.

David F. Sipple, LAW '72, was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2019 in the area of admiralty and maritime law. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in this area consistently since 1995. Sipple is a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

1980s

Henry "Chip" Bachara, LAW '86, was reappointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to serve the 4th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission until July 1, 2022. Bachara has been a member of the commission since 2011 and served as chair in 2012. Bachara is the managing partner of Bachara Construction Law Group in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Hon. Lovett Bennett Jr., LAW '83, was appointed Superior Court judge for Ogeechee Judicial Circuit by Gov. Deal. Bennett was recently the Municipal Court judge for the cities of Brooklet and Register.

Dan Drechsel, BUS '85, joined BIP Capital as senior vice president. BIP Capital is recognized as one of the most active and successful venture investors in the Southeast, serving entrepreneurs, investors and operators to grow the emerging company ecosystem.

Retired Gen. Benjamin Griffin, BUS '81, was inducted into the Army Materiel Command Hall of Fame at the close of the semi-annual Commanders Forum on Oct. 24 at AMC headquarters. The induction recognized his 38 years of military service and his significant contributions as commander of AMC during a time of growth and transformation.

Jerlena Griffin-Desta, CLA '83, was named chief of staff and associate vice president for strategic initiatives and diversity at Sonoma State University on Jan. 28.

Michael D. Grindstaff, PHA '89, published his first novel *Moon Over Knoxville*, a pharmaceutical mystery.

Debbie Grove, CLA '86, was featured by Goodwill of Middle Georgia, the CRSA and Wesleyan College during an artist reception on Sept. 27. Grove is co-owner of Doodles-N-Stitches, home décor for babies and kids. Her art was featured from Sept. 22 through Oct. 24 and consisted of palette knife art, including "Sleepy Creatures," food paintings, bridal bouquet portraits, florals and animals — all things that have personal meaning to her.

Sarah Stevenson Harris, LAW '86, judge of the Probate Court of Bibb County, was sworn in as the current president of the Georgia Council of Probate Court Judges and as a member of the Judicial Council of Georgia.

Raymond Mayer, LAW '82, a retired Georgia prosecutor, has published his

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.

first book, *From Valor, Triumph*, a work of military historical fiction.

Othniel "Buddy" McGehee Jr., CLA '80, joined the Georgia Employers' Association as executive director in July. McGehee is a career HR professional with broad international experience in the manufacturing, service, and government contracting industries. Most recently, he served as U.S. human resources manager for Ricoh Americas Corporation. Previous positions include senior HR manager for ARINC Inc. and management positions with YKK (USA) Inc.

REMEMBERING...

Friend and Generous Supporter

Harriet Adams Newton

Harriet Adams Newton died July 23 at the age of 89. Born in Macon on July 20, 1929, Newton attended

Wesleyan College and graduated from The Barmore School in New York City.

She was an active member of Ingleside Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school for many years. She participated in the Junior League of Macon, Macon Town Committee of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Town and Country Garden Club and the former Bibb County Medical Auxiliary. Newton was also active in many other civic and community events and organizations.

Newton and her husband of 59 years, the late Dr. Ralph George Newton Jr., were Life Members of the University's President's Club and were ardent supporters of medical education and athletics at Mercer.

In 2005, the Newtons helped establish the Ralph G. Newton Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship in memory of Dr. Newton's father, and, in 2006, they established the Mallie Adkin Clark Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. Newton's grandfather. Both funds provide scholarships for Mercer medical students.

In 2011, Newton funded the Ralph G. Newton Jr. Memorial Endowed Fund with the School of Medicine to honor the memory of her late husband.

Newton served on the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board from 2013 to 2015. In 2014, she was the recipient of one of the University's inaugural Alumni by Choice awards presented annually to individuals who did not graduate from Mercer but have demonstrated loyalty to the University over the years.



Vickie S. McWaters, LAW '84, was sworn in as chief magistrate for Troup County on Dec. 21. McWaters was first elected to office in 1986 and was unopposed in the last election. **Zachery Mitcham**, BUS '80, received the CISO award by the EC-Council, an organization of information security professionals. Mitcham is the chief information security and compliance officer of North Carolina Central University. **Arthur R. "Richard" Thompson**, BUS '86, and **Traci Adcock Thompson**, BUS '06, established Silk and Such in 2002. Out of 1800 vendors, the company was named top holiday home décor artist of 2017 by Christmas Made in the South, a national show promoter. In early 2018, the company experienced the largest and highest sales in the company's history. The top items sold by the company are heirloom snow globes and music boxes imported from the Far East. **Jill Anderson Travis**, LAW '86, was named executive director of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Travis previously served as deputy legislative counsel with the Office of Legislative Counsel. **Pamela White-Colbert**, LAW '87, was sworn in as chief civil and magistrate judge for Macon-Bibb County on Dec.

28. White-Colbert is the first female and first African-American to hold the office. She served as an assistant district attorney for 30 years. **Lori Wilson**, CLA '86, was appointed the head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of North Georgia in August. She previously served as the director of the forensic science program and chaired the chemistry department at Eastern Kentucky University. She also served as an associate professor at East Tennessee State University and adjunct faculty at its Quillen College of Medicine. She worked as a National Research Council associate on the crystallization of proteins at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, from 1990-1992. Wilson earned her doctorate in analytical chemistry with a focus in physical and biochemistry from Georgia Tech.

1990s

Troy Brooks, BUS '93, joined Conway Regional Health System as its chief financial officer in October. **David R. Coxon**, BUS '96, was elected to serve a two-year term as a board member of the Georgia Bankers Association. Coxon joined Georgia Primary Bank in February 2012 as president and CEO.

The Hon. Victoria Spear Darrisaw, LAW '93, was appointed Superior Court judge for the Dougherty Judicial Circuit in July by Gov. Deal. Darrisaw was formerly chief judge of the Dougherty County State Court in Albany. **Shontelle S. Dodson**, PHA '95, was appointed senior vice president, Health Systems of Northbrook-based Astellas. **Vickie Cox Edmondson**, BUS '91, published a new book *The Thinking Strategist: Unleashing the Power of Strategic Management to Identify, Explore and Solve Problems* which promotes the strategic management process as a way to identify, explore and solve problems. It succinctly provides useful advice and practical tools to strengthen decision making and problem solving skills to accomplish organizational goals, exceed objectives, and gain support from top management and other key stakeholders. **The Hon. Kevin M. Farmer**, LAW '96, was elected judge for the Fulton County Superior Court in a runoff that was held on July 24. Farmer was senior assistant district attorney for Clayton County in Jonesboro. **The Hon. James Freeman**, CLA '96, LAW '99, was appointed chief judge for the City of Perry Municipal Court.

Rebecca Liles Grist, LAW '94, has been named the 2018 Solicitor-General of the Year by the Georgia Association of Solicitors-General at the Prosecuting Attorneys Council Annual Meeting in July. **Brian Hawkins**, BUS '95, was named senior vice president and chief financial officer for the Credit Union of Georgia in Woodstock. **Cheryl Ann Hodge (nee Cooper)**, BUS '93, was recognized as a recipient of STEP Ahead Awards for excellence in manufacturing. Launched by The Manufacturing Institute, the STEP Ahead Awards honor women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry. Hodge was recognized alongside 129 other women at a STEP Ahead Awards reception in Washington, D.C., on April 10. **Dr. Zachary Kilpatrick Jr.**, MED '98, opened a private practice in Columbia, South Carolina. Kilpatrick attributes his professional success to hard work and great background training in his fellowship and medical school. **Lawrence "Larry" Lefler**, CLA '92, was appointed to the 13th Circuit Court, replacing Judge Claudia Isom. The 49-year-old from Tampa is a Hillsborough County Court judge. He received his law degree from Texas Southern University. **Renea Kirkland McCall**, EDU '92, was named the 2019 Appling County School System Teacher of the Year. McCall earned a master's degree from Georgia Southern University and is a special needs teacher.

The Hon. Maxine C. "Cindy" Morris, CLA '80, LAW '84, was appointed to the State Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Deal. Morris is a Superior Court judge for the Conasauga Judicial Circuit and the presiding judge for its Domestic Violence Accountability Court. **Dana Nichols**, CLA '97, was named vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Highlands College. She will oversee the deans in each academic area as well as directors for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Academic Success and New Student and Retention Programs. **The Hon. Joy R. Parks**, LAW '93, was appointed Superior Court judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit by Gov. Deal. Parks was recently the chief magistrate of the White County Magistrate Court. **Bryan D. Scott**, CLA '95, LAW '98, has stepped away from his law practice to launch a retail business named 'Worthwhile Pursuits' that has produced a popular hide-and-seek game for kids called *Find Me Funzy the Fox*. **Anthony J. Snipes**, CLA '92, city manager of Missouri City, Texas, was appointed to serve on the national board of the Institute for Building Technology and Safety. Snipes's career spans more than 20 years and includes achievements in strategic initiatives that involved budgeting and performance management, public/private partnerships and organizational development.

Jeff Stanley, PHA '92, joined Cavalier County Memorial Hospital on Dec. 17 as the new CEO. **The Hon. Amanda E. Meloun Trimble**, CLA '98, LAW '04, is serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. Trimble is a founding partner at Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle in Atlanta. **Jonathan J. Tuggle**, LAW '98, was listed as Best Lawyers for 2019 in the area of family law. This is his sixth recognition in this area from Best Lawyers. Tuggle is a founding partner at Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle in Atlanta. **Dr. Linda Walden**, MED '92, received The Distinguished Service Medallion during the 125th anniversary for the Georgia State Medical Association Annual (GSMA) Convention and Scientific Assembly at Hilton Head, South Carolina. The award is the highest honor bestowed to a member and was given for her many years of exemplary leadership service, commitment and dedication. Walden is the GSMA immediate past president and board chair.

2000s

Jason T. Allen, LAW '06, was appointed to the Florida Elections Commission by Gov. Rick Scott for the term that began on Aug. 24 and ends on Dec. 31, 2020. Allen is a partner at Bass Sox Mercer in Tallahassee, Florida. **The Rev. Brett L. Baddord**, DIV '06, and his wife Sarah spent five months at the South Pole and will spend 10 months in Antarctica. The South Pole Station where the Baddords lived and worked is one of three stations operated by the National Science Foundation. The site supports unique projects ranging from cosmic observations to seismic and atmosphere studies. His wife served as the station's physician, while Baddord served as the logistics person and unofficial chaplain for the 46 people at the station. He lead the station's church service every Sunday morning. **William K. Boddie**, LAW '03, was elected as House Minority Whip for the Georgia House of Representatives. Boddie serves as representative for Georgia District 62. **R. Ross Burris**, LAW '01, is a shareholder in the healthcare litigation group at Polsinelli PC in Atlanta. Burris and his wife Meredith have two children, Ben (7) and Caroline Faye (5). **Liza Guy Chapman**, PHA '02, is the vice president of partnership development of the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. **Matthew P. Cutchen**, LAW '05, was promoted to commander in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. He previously served in the Pentagon and as adviser to the Justice Center in Parwan, Afghanistan. He currently supports the strategic deterrence mission at Submarine Group Ten. **Shannon Haynes Daniel**, EDU '08, was hired as the principal of Stark Elementary School in Jackson in June. Daniel previously worked at the Flippen Elementary School in Henry County,

where she started as a teacher in 2011 and served as assistant principal the past four years. **Darryl Davis**, LAW '09, was recognized as the Safe and Stable Homes Volunteer of the Year by the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) at the Atlanta Bar Association Luncheon held on Oct. 19. **Susan Dehnad**, MED '03, accepted a position as obstetrician-gynecologist at Memorial Health University Physicians Women's Care Pooler in October. **Jason E. Downey**, LAW '03, joined the Law Offices of Nancy W. Phillips, Staff Counsel for Allstate, Encompass and Esurance Insurance Companies as senior trial attorney. **Shane Gottwals**, CLA '06, was named Outstanding Young Business Leader for 2018 by the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce at their annual Salute to Business luncheon on Nov. 13. **Bradley M. Harmon**, LAW '02, was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2019 in the area of litigation-construction. This is his second consecutive year to be listed as best lawyer in this practice area. Harmon serves as managing partner of HunterMaclean in Savannah. **Robert E. Harshman**, EGR '91, '01, announced that his company Forensic Science & Engineering, LLC celebrated its five-year anniversary in 2018. The business specializes in the root cause determination of fire, explosion, mechanical and structural failures. Since starting the company, the business has been involved with losses occurring in 24 countries on four continents. **Chad C. Hastings**, LAW '01, is a partner at Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith practicing personal injury. Hastings completed his term as the chair of the Martin County United Way and serves on the Martin County Chamber of Commerce leadership board as well as the legal aid of Martin County board. He lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. **Eddie Kelly**, BUS '07, retired in July as division manager for Mississippi Power's Meridian Division after more than 35 years with Mississippi Power's parent company, Southern Company. Kelly, a Marine Corps veteran, started his career with Mississippi Power in the warehouse and went to college at night. After receiving a bachelor's degree in accounting from William Carey University, he was offered a job in the accounting department. Kelly worked in Meridian twice — from 2002-2005 and from 2013 to present. After working at several Mississippi Power locations throughout the state, Kelly relocated to work for Georgia Power Company from 2005 to 2013. In February, Kelly was named The Meridian Star's Citizen of the Year for his work in numerous community organizations. In 2016, he helped form Meridian's Minority Business Alliance. **The Hon. Rachel Ross Krause**, LAW '01, was appointed by Gov. Deal to serve as judge on the Fulton County Superior Court, effective Jan. 7. Krause was most recently a partner with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Atlanta.

REMEMBERING... Tift Alumna and Generous Supporter

Anne Fargason Gardner, TIFT '46

Sara Anne Fargason Gardner, TIFT '46, died Nov. 14, one day shy of her 94th birthday. Gardner graduated from Bessie Tift College with a degree in English.

After serving briefly as a secretary at Baptist churches in Macon and Cartersville, she married the late Robert G. Gardner, former pastor, religion professor and historian/archivist, on Dec. 18, 1947.

While devoting most of her time to her home and family, she worked in the libraries of Duke University and Shorter College, volunteered in the library of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, volunteered in the Memorabilia Room at Shorter College, provided counsel in beautifying the Shorter campus, edited her husband's publications and served as chauffeur when her husband traveled to conduct research.

In 1997, Gardner and her husband established The Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Fargason and Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Gardner Endowed Scholarship Fund to honor the memory of their parents. The fund provides scholarships for students enrolled in Mercer's McAfee School of Theology.

In 2012, they established the Robert G. and Anne F. Gardner Endowed Fund for Baptist History and Research with the Mercer University Library. Gardner made arrangements to donate her body to the Mercer University School of Medicine. Memorial gifts can be made to the Robert G. and Anne F. Gardner Endowed Fund for Baptist History and Research.



all five military services. **Charles W. Wills**, LAW '09, and his father, John P. Wills, recently formed Wills Law Firm LLC with offices in Thomson and Augusta. The attorneys in the firm have more than 40 years combined legal experience focusing in the areas of bankruptcy, real estate, timber law, estate planning and probate, and general civil litigation.

2010s

Randi Adkins-Warren, LAW '12, joined Atlac as corporate counsel. Adkins-Warren was also selected as a 2019 Georgia Rising Star. **Ashley Akins**, LAW '13, was recognized with the Award of Achievement for Service to the Bar by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 8. **Morgan Akridge**, CLA '17, began teaching seventh grade life science at Monroe County Middle School in August. **Natasha Sarah-Lorraine Banks**, LAW '16, joined Gordon & Rees Scully Mansukhani as a member of its employment practice group in Atlanta. Banks was most recently with Fisher Phillips. **James F. Banter**, LAW '16, completed a two-year federal clerkship with Federal Magistrate Judge Charles Weigle. In

September, Banter joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP working in the commercial litigation and financial institutions practice groups. **LaToya Simone Bell**, LAW '13, was named one of *Georgia Trend's* "40 Under 40" for 2018. Bell is assistant public defender with the Houston County public defender's office. **Brittany Spornhauer Bennett**, LAW '16, opened her own practice, Bennett Law & Mediation Services LLC in Warner Robins, focusing on business law. Bennett was previously with Sell & Melton in Macon. **Thomas E. Branch III**, LAW '11, was named president and chief executive officer of Pineland Paper Company. **Matthew Brantley**, DIV '15, was commissioned with the Air Force as a chaplain and will be stationed in Nebraska. **Jacqueline R. Bretell**, LAW '11, was named Top 40 under 40 in Nevada by the National Trial Lawyers and was also listed as 2018 Rising Star by Super Lawyers. Bretell is a partner at Bighorn Law in Las Vegas, Nevada. **Walter Lee Booth Jr.**, LAW '13, joined classmates Matthew Jones, LAW '13, and Minerva Steele, LAW '13, to establish Jones, Steele, and Booth, a law firm focusing in the practice areas

of plaintiffs' personal injury and workers' compensation, and wills and probate matters. The firm celebrated its one year anniversary in September. **Ebony J. Brown**, LAW '16, joined the Southern Center for Human Rights as a staff attorney in its Impact Litigation Unit in Atlanta in fall 2018. Brown most recently served as a clerk for The Hon. Leslie J. Abrams, United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia, Albany Division. **Jason Caine**, DIV '16, PEN '16, accepted a call to be senior pastor at one of the campuses of Bayside Church in Sacramento, California. **T. Alec Chappell**, CLA '12, LAW '16, was appointed career clerk for The Hon. Edward J. Coleman III, chief judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia. **Christopher D. Childress**, LAW '17, founded Childress Law LLC in Zebulon, on June 1. The firm practices Criminal Defense, Construction Law, and Personal Injury. Childress was elected as vice-chair of Pike County Parks and Recreation. **J. Daniel Cole**, BUS '07, LAW '12, was appointed to the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Division for the 2018-2019 year and is serving another year on the Young Leaders Council for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta.

REMEMBERING...

Alumnus and Generous Supporter

Charles Y. Massey, CLA '50

Charles Young Massey of Tifton passed away Sept. 13 at the age of 92. Born in Barwick on March 26, 1926, Massey moved to Tifton with his parents in 1938.

He graduated from Tift County High School in 1943 and attended North Georgia College until joining the U.S. Army Air Forces in September of 1944. Following World War II, he enrolled at Mercer and later graduated from Florida State University. He achieved his Charter Life Underwriter designation in 1961.

Massey worked with State Farm Insurance Companies for 47 years. He believed in the integrity of the company and watched it grow from a small company to a giant. He played a role in its success by first serving as an agent and then a district manager, appointing and training more than 35 agents.

On June 18, 1961, Massey married Carolyn Bell, who faithfully remained by his side for 57 years. Massey loved the church, taught Sunday school classes for teenagers, college students and adults, and served as a deacon.

Massey was a generous supporter of religious education. In 1996, the Masseys helped establish the Joseph M. and Gladys H. Bell Memorial Scholarship in honor of his wife's parents. The fund provides scholarships for students enrolled in the McAfee School of Theology.



Vinton K. Copeland, DIV '16, preached at the mid-winter board meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. in January.

Le'Roy Dow-Porter, DIV '16, is the new program coordinator for the Thrive Scholars program at Mississippi State University. He is working to help students from foster homes thrive in the university. **Robert A. Divis**, LAW '17, founded Divis Law LLC in Macon. Divis is a participant of the Middle Georgia Access to Justice Small Practice Incubator Program.

Lavette Dow-Jones, DIV '14, BUS '15, was hired as the new director of finance at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

Nathaniel E. Edmonds, LAW '13, joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP's General Litigation practice group as an associate. Edmonds and his family live in Macon.

Mary-Margaret Fill, MED '11, authored a study, titled "Educational Disabilities among Children Born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome," that was published in the September 2018 issue of *Pediatrics*.

Dallas Flippin, DIV '13, accepted a call to be the pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

Angela Fields, DIV '12, was named the new executive director of Family Promise, a homeless shelter for children and their families in Flemington, New Jersey.

Mary Susan Wood Fitzgerald, LAW '11, was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. Fitzgerald lives in Savannah and was previously employed by the Chatham County District Attorney's Office.

Hillary L. Freesmeier, LAW '16, joined Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP in Atlanta as an associate in their labor and employment practice group. Freesmeier previously served as clerk to The Hon. Thomas Q. Langstaff, U.S. Magistrate judge, in the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia.

Jonathan S. Futrell, LAW '12, graduated with an LL.M. in environmental and land use law from Georgia State University College of Law in May 2018. In July, Futrell joined the City of Atlanta administration as assistant city attorney in its infrastructure and real estate group.

M. Elizabeth "Beth" Gilchrist, LAW '16, was selected to serve on the editorial board of the *Atlanta Lawyer Magazine*.

Gilchrist is an associate at Hill & Watchko in Alpharetta.

Michael S. Gilly, LAW '16, joined the Tennessee Department of Children's Services as assistant general counsel in its Knoxville office on July 30.

J. Travis Griffin, LAW '12, was named partner at the new Hogue Hogue Fitzgerald & Griffin LLP in Macon. Griffin focuses his practice entirely on criminal defense.

Rachel Hall, DIV '18, was named the director of family ministries at Connecting Point Church.

Zandra V. Hall, LAW '15, joined Mohawk Industries in Calhoun as employment and litigation legal associate in July 2018. Hall was formerly with the Department of Education in Atlanta.

Heather Kennedy Hudson, LAW '11, was named equity partner of the firm Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC in Panama City, Florida. Hudson also earned the recognition as a board-certified specialist in education law by the Florida State Bar.

Lee A. Hughes, LAW '16, JAGC, USN, LT, is serving as the sole legal assistance attorney for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, providing support for service

members, their families, DoD contractors and civilian personnel.

Wes Hunter, DIV '10, was called as the senior pastor at Masonboro Baptist Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. **Marcus Johnson**, DIV '14, founded Your Soul Care Community, a global collective of enlightened individuals who experience spirituality and fellowship in non-traditional and unorthodox ways located in Atlanta.

Eleanor deGolian Kasper, LAW '13, joined the United States District Court in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as law clerk to The Hon. Kathleen Tafoya. Kasper was most recently with Alston & Bird in Atlanta.

Matthew Jones, LAW '13, joined classmates Walter Lee Booth Jr., LAW '13, and Minerva Steele, LAW '13, to establish Jones, Steele, and Booth, a law firm focusing in the practice areas of plaintiff's personal injury and workers' compensation, and wills and probate matters. The firm celebrated its one year anniversary in September.

Whitney C. Kenner-Jones, LAW '14, opened Kenner Jones Law LLC in Atlanta in February. The firm focuses on family law. Kenner-Jones previously practiced employment law at Portland State University in Oregon.

Laci P. Kyles, LAW '16, joined the Fulton County Public Defender's Office on Dec. 28. Kyles was previously employed with the Carroll County Public Defender's office in Carrollton.

Justin Lancaster, MED '14, accepted a new position as a physician at Optim Sports Medicine in Savannah.

Ashlee Smith Lane, EGR '01, was named one of the "40 Under 40" by *Tampa Bay Business Journal*. Lane was also named one of the Emerging Technology Leaders by Tampa Bay Tech.

Jacob S. Langley, LAW '18, joined Buzzell, Welsh & Hill LLP, a personal injury firm in Macon.

Alston Waldrip Lyle, LAW '16, and **Christopher J. Lyle**, LAW '16, moved from Gainesville to Columbus to merge with solo practitioner Don Morgan to create the firm Morgan & Lyle PC. They specialize in general business law, estate planning, and commercial litigation.

Nicole E. McQuiston, LAW '16, joined Thomas Quinn LLP in its Houston, Texas, office as a first-year associate, Federal Workers' Compensation defense. McQuiston was formerly with King & Spalding in Atlanta.

Allison C. Moneyi, LAW '10, was named staff ombudsman at Clemson University. Moneyi was previously associate ombudsman at FDA's Center for Tobacco Products.

Brooke Pettis Newby, LAW '10, was named managing partner of Walker, Hulbert, Gray & Moore, LLP in Perry, on July 1.

Deborah Denise Newsome, BUS '15, retired from The Coca-Cola Company on Oct. 31. She worked with the company for 20 years, serving in the tax department when she retired.

Abby Nicholls, DIV '16, accepted a job as staff chaplain at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jonathan O. Nwilo Jr., LAW '16, joined the tax and wealth planning practice in the Atlanta office of James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP. Nwilo previously worked with Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP.

Elizabeth Pool O'Neal, LAW '11, was appointed to the board of directors for the Georgia College Alumni Association. O'Neal is a partner at Smith, Welch, Webb & White LLC in Atlanta.

Jarell Williams Oshodi, LAW '10, joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as associate chief privacy officer. Oshodi was formerly with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Steven C. Ouzts, LAW '15, was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Georgia on Oct. 1.

Adam Owenby, LAW '11, was appointed a member of the board of directors for the Koinonia Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Fairfax County, Virginia, providing assistance to the underprivileged.

Kyle C. Owenby, LAW '16, graduated from the inaugural class of the Zell Miller Leadership Institute in October. The graduation summit was held in Savannah. Owenby is an assistant district attorney in Macon.

Harshil Pandit, ENG '18, accepted a job with Pirelli's North America plant in Rome after a month internship. **Joseph Pekala**, BUS '13, joined Owens & Minor as chief information officer on Dec. 10.

Christopher J. Perniciaro, LAW '14, joined Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett, & Brieske in Atlanta as an associate where he will practice in the firm's insurance defense practice group.

Kristine S. Pham, LAW '10, joined the Georgia Department of Public Health as associate general counsel focusing on maternal and child health.

Jared Safran, PHA '14, joined Pursuant Health as vice president of quality innovation. In this role, he will develop new ways to improve metrics for health plan partners, improve medication adherence and better utilize the kiosk and online dashboard platforms.

Bowen Reichert Shoemaker, LAW '11, recently joined the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia, Macon Division.

Janea Feeney Spillers, ENG '18, accepted a position as project engineer with Pruett Ford and Associates Inc.

Kristian Smith, DIV '16, became the pastor of the Faith Community Church, a new church start in Tucker.

Minerva Steele, LAW '13, joined classmates Walter Lee Booth Jr., LAW '13, and Matthew Jones, LAW '13, to establish Jones, Steele, and Booth, a law firm focusing in the practice areas of plaintiff's personal injury and workers' compensation, and wills and probate matters. The firm celebrated its one year anniversary in September.

Dr. Earl Stewart Jr., CLA '08, was named one of *Georgia Trend's* "40 Under

40" for 2018. Stewart is an internal medicine physician in Thomaston.

Stephanie Tootle, MED '14, accepted a position as obstetrician-gynecologist at Memorial Health University Physicians Women's Care Islands in Savannah in October.

Danielle M. Tyler, LAW '14, joined the Discovery, Inc. legal team as a manager of the legal affairs. Tyler is also an associate professor with South College in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Jessica L. Wallace, LAW '12, was named Pro Bono Champion of the Carolinas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The AILA Pro Bono Champion Award recognizes attorneys for their community-mindedness and dedication to the provision of expert immigration legal assistance to underserved members of the immigrant population of this country. Wallace is an associate at Ibrahim & Rao in Greenville, South Carolina.

Roland Weekley, LAW '17, recently joined the Moore, Clarke, DuVall and Rodgers Law Firm in Albany. He practices in the areas of taxation and business law.

Michael S. Weldon, LAW '14, established his own law firm in Atlanta focused 100 percent on plaintiff's personal injury and wrongful death.

Rebecca Wells, CLA '10, earned her Ph.D. in public health at Georgia State University in May. In July she began a clinical assistant professor position at the University of Georgia. She is jointly appointed to the School of Social Work and the College of Public Health and is the program coordinator for the MSW-MPH dual degree program.

Andrew C. Williams, LAW '16, joined Garson LLP in April in Toronto, Canada, practicing exclusively U.S. Immigration Law. Williams was most recently with Jaime Barron PC in Dallas, Texas. He completed his master's degree in Latin American and International Law at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2017.

Bryan S. Wilson, PEN '09, LAW '12, was promoted to deputy general counsel for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

1970s

John C. Carbo III, LAW '79, and his wife, Linda, celebrated 40 years of marriage on June 24.

1990s

Carla Lea Bonner, PHA '98, married Larry Winkles on June 30 in Milner. **Ginna Passailaigue Collins**, BUS '98, and her husband, Alex, announce the birth of their daughter, Blair Jacqueline Collins, born in October. **James M. Freeman**, CLA '96, LAW '99, and his wife, Leah, announce the birth

of their son, Maxwell Drayton Freeman, born on Dec. 1.

Amanda DeMartini Hager, CLA '99, and her husband, Greg, announce the birth of their daughter, Ann Malone Hager, on July 30.

2000s

Alicia R. Crampton, CLA '07, and her wife, Heather, celebrated the birth of triplet boys, Pax Hunter, Cameron Reuven, and Allen Atlee on April 12, 2018.

Margaret Elizabeth Heinen, CLA '08, MUS '08, LAW '11, married Brandon Alexander Bullard on Oct. 28. Heinen serves as assistant public defender in the Atlanta Circuit.

Amanda M. Morris, LAW '04, married Wendell Russell Trice on April 21. Morris is a partner at Hall, Bloch, Garland & Meyer LLP in Macon.

Sarah E. White Park, LAW '05, and her husband, Brannen, welcomed twin daughters, Elizabeth Hadden and Mary Stuart, on Feb. 23, 2018. Park is a partner at Westmoreland, Patterson, Moseley & Hinson LLC in Macon.

Susanna G. Patterson, LAW '09, proudly announces the adoption of her fifth child, Charlotte Joy Patterson, on June 18. Patterson serves as court appointed special advocate for children at the Central Georgia CASA in Macon.

Kevin C. Patrick, LAW '08, and his wife, Tracy, welcomed their second child, Catherine Ann Patrick, on June 27. She was born at Piedmont Hospital and weighed 7lbs 4oz.

James A. Robson, LAW '07, and his wife, Kate, announced the birth of their son, Peter, on Aug. 11.

Jay H. Scholl, LAW '08, and his wife, Jessica, welcomed their son, Everett Hayden Scholl, on July 1, 2017.

Lauren C. Shurling, LAW '04, married Kelly Paul Kirkland on April 7, 2018. Shurling serves as Assistant District Attorney for the Middle Judicial Circuit. The couple resides in Swainsboro.

2010s

Catie Byrd, CLA '18, married **Andrew Kelley**, ENG '18, on Aug. 4 in Leesburg. Both will be continuing their education at Mercer, Andrew in Engineering and Catie in Law.

Haley M. Cawthon-Freels, DIV '16, married **Kali Cawthon-Freels**, DIV '16, in November 2017. They recently relocated to Atlanta for new positions with Applerouth Tutoring Services.

David Cheng, LAW '12, married Kian Wint on Sept. 18.

Chris Cherry, DIV '13, and his wife welcomed a daughter, Margaux Britt Cherry, on May 23.

E. Kayla Chiang, LAW '17, married Fernando Chen on Oct. 6. Chiang practices insurance defense at Drew Eckl & Farnham in Atlanta.

Michael A. Coots, LAW '10, and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their daughter, Chloe Haven Coots, on March 30, 2017. She was born in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

REMEMBERING...

Former Board Member and Generous Supporter

L. Donald LaTorre

Donald LaTorre of Sparta, New Jersey, passed away Nov. 2 at the age of 81. Born in Amsterdam, New York, LaTorre received his B.S. in textile chemistry from Lowell

Technical Institute in Lowell, Massachusetts, and his M.B.A. from Union College in New York. He received an honorary doctorate from UMass Lowell.

The longest-serving chairman of Mercer's National Engineering Advisory Board (1995-2007) and one of the Mercer School of Engineering's greatest cheerleaders, LaTorre became connected with the School through his position at Engelhard Corporation, a major U.S. chemical/minerals company based in New Jersey.

Engelhard was one of the six kaolin mining/manufacturing firms located in Central Georgia that made collective gifts to establish the School of Engineering's first endowed chair, the Georgia Kaolin Industry Endowed Chair of Engineering, traditionally held by the School's dean.

LaTorre frequently visited the Engelhard facilities in Wilkinson County and spent time visiting the Mercer School of Engineering on these trips. During this time, he developed a friendship with then-President Dr. R. Kirby Godsey and was asked to serve on the National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB) in 1990.

LaTorre was named president of Engelhard Corporation in 1994, and, in 1995, was asked to serve as NEAB's chair. He retired from Engelhard in 1997 and started his own firm, L&G Management Consultants, but continued to serve as NEAB chair until 2007, when he was named an NEAB Fellow by Mercer President William D. Underwood and then-dean of the School of Engineering Dayne Aldridge.

In addition to his service on NEAB, LaTorre played an integral role in Mercer's Advancing the Vision capital campaign (1998-08), serving as a member of the School of Engineering Campaign Steering Committee.

In 1999, he and his wife, Gloria, established the LaTorre Family Scholarship for Mercer engineering students. They also generously supported the construction of the Science and Engineering Building, and, in 2008, the plaza connecting the two engineering buildings was named in their honor. They were named Life Members of the University's President's Club in 2000.



Michael Roy Tanner of Auburn, Alabama, died Nov. 15 at the age of 51. Tanner was born Nov. 8, 1967, in Athens.

He was a four-year baseball letterman at Mercer and earned his bachelor's degree in finance in 1990. Tanner was employed by Medcraft Clinical Services and was recognized as Representative of the Year and inducted into the Hall of Fame by Medtronic. He previously worked as vice president of SunTrust Bank. He coached Little League baseball for years in Columbus and then in Auburn.

During his baseball career at Mercer, Tanner was a first baseman and a pitcher, earning All-Conference honors.

Tanner was a loyal supporter of Mercer baseball and served as a member of the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board. In 2015, he made a significant contribution to support construction of OrthoGeorgia Park at Claude Smith Field and was named a Life Member of the University's President's Club.



daughter, Olivia Burke Massey, on Oct. 12, 2017, weighing 6lbs and 12oz. **Anna L. Myer**, LAW '16, and **H. Tony Diaz Caballero**, LAW '18, married on July 28 in Atlanta. Diaz joined the in-house legal department at Progressive, and Myer works at Counsel on Call. **Elizabeth Pool O'Neal**, LAW '11, and her husband, John, welcome their first child, Olivia O'Neal, in April 2018. **Matthew W. Padgett**, LAW '17, married Marcie McBride on Sept. 16, 2017. Padgett was appointed member-at-large to the Young Lawyers of Augusta Executive Board and was appointed as a Southern District Representative to the State Young Lawyers Division. Padgett returned to Augusta and works for Huggins Peil LLC.

Bowen Reichert Shoemaker, LAW '11, and her husband, **Matt Shoemaker**, LAW '12, welcomed their second child, a daughter, in April 2018. **Jamillynn Ann Brittain Stribos**, LAW '16, married Michael Stribos on Nov. 4, 2017, and now lives in Houston, Texas. Stribos works as an attorney investigator for Bashen Corporation, a human resources consulting company that investigates employee harassment and discrimination complaints for federal agencies and private companies. **Wesley C. Turner**, LAW '10, and his wife, Laura Jane, welcomed a baby boy, Daniel Moss Turner, on July 20. **Trevor J. Vanzant**, LAW '17, married Brittany Byrd on Dec. 28. Vanzant is an assistant district attorney in Americus.

IN MEMORY

1930s

Lois Wiley Cunningham, Tift '38, of Valdosta, Aug. 26.

1940s

Ina Wright Adams, CLA '49, of Winter Haven, Florida, July 20.

J. Frank Alexander, CLA '41, of Birmingham, Alabama, July 18.

Elaine Bearden, NUR '49, of Covington, Sept. 22.

Herman Meredith Bowers, EDU '49, of Frankfort, Kentucky, Sept. 3.

Charles Ray Brewster, CLA '49, of Macon, Sept. 7.

Milton Dwelle, CLA '49, of Douglasville, July 31.

Mary Steel Landrum, CLA '49, of Lawrenceville, Oct. 15.

Anthony B. Page, CLA '42, of Duluth, Sept. 16.

Bonnie Pedersen, NUR '47, of Ellicott City, Maryland, Aug. 3.

Willene Evans Rickert, Tift '45, of Chapin, South Carolina, Oct. 13.

Doris Robertson Shepard, CLA '47, of Byron, Aug. 17.

Stanley Kittrell Tanner Jr., CLA '49, of Birmingham, Alabama, Sept. 20.

Elizabeth Pickron Thibadeau, CLA '47, of Cumming, Dec. 6.

Beverly Culbertson Wamble, CLA '47, of Abilene, Texas, Nov. 13, 2018

1950s

Betty Leigh Fine Aldrich, CLA '58, of Sacramento, California, July 14.

Jean Bolen Bridges, CLA '55, of Swainsboro, Oct. 8.

Gene L. Brown, CLA '57, of Birmingham, Alabama, Oct. 30.

Jeanne Carlisle Brown, CLA '52, of Augusta, Sept. 1.

Ann Hobbs Buice, Tift '51, of Waycross, Aug. 2.

James W. Campbell, CLA '57, of Catonsville, Maryland, Aug. 12.

Betty Coon Chesser, Tift '51, of Tunnel Hill, Sept. 18.

Rosemary King Evans, Tift '58, of Atlanta, Nov. 30.

George W. Fields, CLA '51, of Decatur, Sept. 30.

Jule B. Greene, LAW '50, of Macon, Nov. 19.

Jane Streetman Guinn, NUR '57, of Marietta, Oct. 15.

Elizabeth Hendrix Gunter, Tift '51, of San Antonio, Texas, July 14.

William Rodney Harbin, PHA '55, of Calhoun, Dec. 4.

Ann Nickerson Hughes, CLA '50, of Macon, Aug. 2.

Louis J. Jacobs, CLA '54, of Milledgeville, Aug. 26.

Hunter C. Johnson, EDU '52, of Macon, Sept. 18.

Ann Starr Keown, CLA '52, of Huntsville, Alabama, Oct. 28.

James Andrew Lewis, CLA '50, of Kissimmee, Florida, Nov. 30.

Patricia A. Arline Manny, CLA '56, of Cairo, Aug. 15.

Perry Moore, CLA '57, of Milledgeville, July 26.

John W. Nelson, CLA '58, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Nov. 5.

Tom A. Phipps, CLA '59, of Dalton, Sept. 30.

Clara Ann Poole, Tift '50, of Wrens, Aug. 11.

Thomas Buford Raffield, CLA '57, of Danville, Nov. 20.

David M. Register Sr., CLA '55, of East Point, Aug. 10.

Carolyn Fretwell Robison, CLA '54, of Jackson, July 17.

Hugh A. Sawyer, CLA '54, of Saint Simons Island, Aug. 9.

Elizabeth Mattson Shaw, Tift '60, of Jacksonville, Florida, Dec. 2.

Annie Higginbotham Timmerman, NUR '55, of Woodbine, Sept. 10.

Milton Lamar Trawick, CLA '56, of Foley, Alabama, Nov. 7.

James R. West, PHA '52, of Asheville, North Carolina, Sept. 24.

William Ray Willis, CLA '55, of Savannah, July 15.

Sarah Ivey Woodcock, Tift '51, of Waycross, Oct. 6.

1960s

Tina Simmons Blocker, CLA '67, of Richmond Hill, Nov. 7.

Joseph H. Briley, LAW '61, of Gray, Dec. 2.

Roy H. Brown, CLA '64, of Macon, Sept. 13.

Luke T. Callaway Jr., CLA '62, of Atlanta, Nov. 28.

Harry P. Chaffin Jr., CLA '67, of Snellville, Sept. 18.

Kendall Barclay Coen, CLA '65, of Harker Heights, Texas, Oct. 7.

Barry A. Cohen, LAW '66, of Tampa, Florida, Sept. 22.

Dorothy Bailey Cook, CLA '68, of Macon, July 23.

Timothy Michael Cook, CLA '68, of Macon, Aug. 25.

John M. Crevis Jr., LAW '68, of Good Hope, Oct. 26.

Mary Anne Reeves Driver, Tift '77, of Charlotte, North Carolina, July 21.

Grace Harris Cook, EDU '78, of Atlanta, Nov. 19.

F. Marion Durst III, CLA '70, of Augusta, Nov. 30.

Rolland W. Baker, LAW '75, of Clifton, Texas, Aug. 1.

A. Bruce Chastine, BUS '77, of Douglasville, Aug. 3.

Carol Lynn Zwald Smith, NUR '75, of Atlanta, Nov. 11.

Edna Goolsby Spinks, Tift '71, of Junction City, Sept. 3.

Sue Johnson Crum, of Cordele, July 22.

Richard W. Dannenberg, of Perry, Nov. 11.

Jacob Helt, of Macon, Nov. 12.

Carmen G. Hicks, of Warner Robins, Jan. 4.

Johnny D. Mayo, of Lithonia, Oct. 9.

Charles McQuay, of Buford, Oct. 21.

Howard J. Morrison, of Savannah, Jan. 24.

William Marshall Moses, of Macon, Nov. 23.

Stephen Newfield, of Atlanta, Sept. 1.

Barbara Rascoe, of Macon, Dec. 3.

Robert L. Richardson, of Macon, Aug. 6.

Willie L. Roberts, of Alapaha, Sept. 13.

Frank Edward Seagraves III, of Musella, Oct. 21.

B. Frank Skinner, of Atlanta, Nov. 16.

Penny Stamps, of Miami, Florida, Dec. 13.

Walter A. Welsh, of Macon, Oct. 28.

Nancy P. Whidden, of Fitzgerald, Nov. 23.

James O. Yerkes, of Atlanta, Nov. 29.

James F. Nelson, CLA '61, of LaGrange, Sept. 11.

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Pete Sharber, CLA '61, of Albany, Sept. 12.

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Mary Anne Reeves Driver, Tift '77, of Charlotte, North



ADVANCEMENT STAFF NEWS

Andrea Pendleton, CLA '05, joined the Office of University Advancement as director of development for the College of Pharmacy. Andrea brings more than 12 years of non-profit fundraising experience working with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta, the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, and North Point Ministries. Her primary role at Mercer includes generating annual fund and major gifts for the pharmacy school. Originally from Alpharetta, Pendleton was an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority while completing her undergraduate studies in political science at Mercer. She continues her affiliation with the sorority by volunteering with the international organization. She has been recognized by her sorority for 12 years of outstanding service. Additionally, she has been recognized as an accomplished advancement professional with awards from the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Atlanta Chapter.

■ The Office of University Advancement mourns the loss of **Frank Edward "Trey" Seagraves III** who passed away on Oct. 21, 2018. Serving as the director of development for the School of Medicine since 2012, Seagraves was a valued colleague among his peers and beloved friend to all who knew him.

■ **Allen M. Wallace** began working in the Office of University Advancement in 1985. He has served a number of different academic units during his career but the majority of his time at Mercer has been devoted to working with alumni and friends of the College of Pharmacy and the Mercer University Press. Wallace transitioned into a part-time capacity in July 2018 and continues his advancement efforts for the Mercer University Press.

MERCER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDS ESTABLISHED JULY 1, 2017 – DEC. 31, 2018

Establishing an endowment is a visionary and generous act that makes both an immediate and permanent impact at Mercer. Donors who choose to establish an endowed fund often do so in honor or memory of someone who has made a difference in their lives. Endowments are long-term investments that will be used for the purpose of the donor's choosing to support and enhance the educational purposes of the University.

Endowed scholarships are funds established by individuals, families, or groups of donors that can broadly assist students with tuition and fees, or they can be based on academic standing or merit, financial need, area of study, or other approved criteria.

Endowed scholarships and funds require a minimum contribution of \$25,000, which can be paid over a period of five years. For more information on establishing an endowed fund, contact Shawna R. Dooley, associate vice president for advancement, at (478) 301-2720 or dooley_sr@mercer.edu.

In the combined fiscal and calendar year 2018, 29 new endowed funds were established:

ATHLETICS

Mercer Women's Athletic Endowment

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Jeffrey L. Williamson Endowed Fund

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Marcus E. Brewster III Endowed Scholarship

in Chemistry

Mathematics Student Opportunities Fund

Harold P. Sewell Memorial Endowed Scholarship

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Ryan Hurst Carter Memorial Scholarship

Henry Sauls Sr. Endowed Scholarship

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Lucille A. Pollard Endowed Scholarship

SCHOOL OF LAW

W. Wheeler Bryan Endowed Scholarship

Haggard Scholars Program

Hugh B. McNatt Endowed Scholarship

Judge M. Yvette Miller Endowed Scholarship

Daniel W. Sweat Memorial Endowed Scholarship

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Anderson Cancer Institute Chair of Translational Research

Sarah Bible and Steven T. Brower, M.D., Endowed Chair

John Duttonhaver, M.D., Endowed Fund

Donald G. Gallup, M.D., Endowed Professorship

John Stewart George Endowed Fund

Medical Education Endowed Scholarship

Gage Ochsner, M.D., Endowed Fund for Trauma Education and Research

Raymond Rudolph, M.D., Endowed Chair

MERCER ON MISSION

Kay Wilson Shurden and Walter B. Shurden Endowed Fund

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Patricia Bateman Honeycutt Endowed

Scholarship in Music

Kelin Foundation Endowment Fund for the

McDuffie Center for Strings

Henry S. Sauls Jr. Endowed Scholarship in Voice

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Larry L. Braden Endowed Scholarship in

Healthcare Entrepreneurship

W.T. and Mareta A. Corley Endowed Scholarship

Bradford and Song Loo Endowed Scholarship

Harold C. Todd Memorial Endowed Scholarship

A 'Match' Made At Mercer



Eli & Phyllis Morgan

Eli, CLA '83, and Phyllis, CLA '84, Morgan love Mercer and have been two of the University's biggest cheerleaders and supporters for more than 30 years.

While students at Mercer, the Morgans met in a student lounge and grew their relationship over a mutual love for *The Young and the Restless*. The Morgans married after graduating from Mercer, and Eli went to work for State Farm Insurance Companies, where he has remained for over 35 years.

The Morgans began giving back to the University soon after graduation, volunteering with the University's Upward Bound Program, serving on the CLA Alumni Board of Directors, The

President's Club committee, the Advancing the Vision Campaign committee, the Joe and Jean Hendricks Minority Endowed Scholarship Fund committee, and various other boards and committees. They are also members of the Mercer Athletic Foundation and the Executive Forum. In 2011, Eli received the Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his service to the University.

This year, through a combination of personal contributions and matched funds from State Farm Companies Foundation, the Morgans earned recognition as Life Members of The President's Club, the highest level of leadership giving conferred on those who have contributed at least \$100,000 to Mercer.

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Some companies match contributions dollar for dollar, while some will even double or triple the amount of a gift. To learn more about matching gifts or to find out if your (or your spouse's) company has a matching gift policy, visit ww2.matchinggifts.com/mercer.



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MERCER BEARS 2019 SEASON

WCU **AUG 31 (SAT) SOCON**
AT WESTERN CAROLINA
CULLOWHEE, N.C.

SEP 14 (SAT)
VS AUSTIN PEAY
MACON, GA. FIVE STAR STADIUM

F **SEP 21 (SAT) SOCON**
AT FURMAN
GREENVILLE, S.C.

SEP 28 (SAT)
VS CAMPBELL
MACON, GA. FIVE STAR STADIUM

C **OCT 5 (SAT) SOCON**
VS CHATTANOOGA
MACON, GA. FIVE STAR STADIUM

Y **OCT 19 (SAT) SOCON**
VS VMI
MACON, GA. FIVE STAR STADIUM

OCT 26 (SAT) SOCON
AT THE CITADEL
CHARLESTON, S.C.

SAMFORD **NOV 2 (SAT) SOCON**
VS SAMFORD
MACON, GA. FIVE STAR STADIUM

NOV 9 (SAT) HOMECOMING SOCON
VS WOFFORD
MACON, GA. FIVE STAR STADIUM

E **NOV 16 (SAT) SOCON**
AT ETSU
JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

NOV 23 (SAT)
AT NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
mercerbears.com