

THE  
**M**

FALL 2018

# Mercerian

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*SPECIAL ISSUE*

# MERCER'S VISION FOR THE DECADE AHEAD

**Mercer Debate's  
Rise to National  
Prominence**

**Water Treatment  
Project Receives  
EPA Grant**

**Bears Sweep  
SoCon Athlete of  
the Year Honors**

THE MERCERIAN, FALL 2018

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## In Our Lens

From left, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) Dean Dr. Jean Sumner and Mercer President William D. Underwood were among those who participated in a ribbon-cutting for Mercer Medicine Plains, the first satellite clinic for MUSM's faculty practice, on Aug. 22 in President Carter's hometown. The clinic opened in July and was quickly booked near capacity through October. Watch a video recap of the grand opening celebration at [tiny.cc/MercerMedicinePlains](http://tiny.cc/MercerMedicinePlains). (Bekah Clegg photo)

# MERCER UNIVERSITY

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## The Mercerian

VOLUME 28, NO. 2

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to THE MERCERIAN, 1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, GA 31207-0001.



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

## College Bound: An Inside Look at Admissions

Friday, Nov. 2, 2018  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Connell Student Center  
Conference Room 3  
*Lunch will be provided.*

The Admissions staff will provide information on

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

Your family will have the opportunity to

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

Registration is required for this free seminar at [homecoming.mercer.edu](http://homecoming.mercer.edu)

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



# COLLEGE BOUND: AN INSIDE LOOK AT ADMISSIONS

PART OF MERCER UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2018

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



For more information contact **Chelsea Fieger**, CLA '12, Assistant Director of Admissions and Campus Visitation (478) 301-2076 or [fieger\\_cm@mercer.edu](mailto:fieger_cm@mercer.edu)

# MERCER UNIVERSITY

# EPA

## AWARDS GRANT FOR PROJECT TO TREAT RESIDENTIAL GRAY WATER FOR LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this spring awarded a team of four Mercer students a People, Prosperity, and Planet (P3) grant for a project to treat residential graywater for sub-surface landscape irrigation.

Environmental engineering major Victoria Rexhausen, global health

major Jin Kim, marketing major Stevie Watson and economics and math double-major Simran Khoja collaborated on the design of a system that uses bio-filtration technology and an in-ground detention tank to treat graywater produced in households to be used for outdoor sub-surface applications such as irrigation.

Graywater is wastewater generated in households or office buildings from streams without fecal contamination.

Mercer students and faculty have installed several field-scale systems in collaboration with Macon Area Habitat for Humanity. The EPA grant will allow for the expansion of field-scale research by upgrading one of the original detention-only treatment systems to include a bio-filtration component.

Researchers at the University, specifically in the School of Engineering, have been conducting laboratory and field studies on the treatment of residential graywater for use in sub-surface landscape irrigation for almost 10 years. The

overall goal is to provide regulatory officials with technical data that can be used to guide inclusion of on-site graywater treatment and its re-use for sub-surface landscape irrigation into water management strategies.

“We are very excited that the proposal submitted by these students was selected for funding,” said Dr. Philip McCreanor, professor of environmental engineering, director of the Engineering Honors Program

“**DESIGNING A SYSTEM THAT USES THE GRAYWATER ALREADY PRODUCED IN DAILY HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES FOR USE IN IRRIGATION HAS THE CAPABILITY TO DECREASE THE DEMAND FOR TREATED WATER.**”

and principal investigator for the grant. “Designing a system that uses the graywater already produced in daily household activities for use in irrigation has the capability to decrease the demand for treated water. The system’s benefits could include reducing domestic water consumption, conserving water and energy resources, and decreasing demand of water from natural reservoirs.”

Technical data used to support the development of the students’ proposal was funded from several sources, including a 2009 SEED Grant from the Mercer Provost’s Office, a 2013 service-learning grant from State Farm and a 2016 grant from the University’s Research That Reaches Out Office.

Nationally, more than \$463,000 in funding for 31 Phase I teams was awarded through the P3 grants program. These teams, made up of college students from across the country, are developing sustainable technologies to solve current environmental and public health challenges.

Funding for the P3 competition is divided into two phases. Teams selected for Phase I awards receive grants of up to \$15,000 to fund the proof of concept for their projects, which are then showcased at the National Sustainable Design Expo. The 2018 Expo was held April 7-8 at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C.

Phase I teams are eligible to compete for Phase II awards of up to \$75,000 to further develop and implement their designs.

## DR. LAURA LACKEY NAMED DEAN OF SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Laura Lackey, professor of environmental engineering, in March was named dean of the Mercer School of Engineering by Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis.

Dr. Lackey, who served as interim dean for the 2017-2018 academic year, succeeded Dr. Wade Shaw, who has moved to full-time faculty status.

“I am thrilled that Laura Lackey has accepted the deanship of the School of Engineering. Dr.

Lackey’s unwavering commitment to our students is evident in her role as a pioneer in the Mercer On Mission program and as a dedicated faculty member,” Dr. Davis said. “Her love of Mercer and commitment to the student learning experience is contagious, and I can’t think of a better person to lead our School of Engineering.”

Since joining the engineering faculty in 1998, Dr. Lackey has taught more than 20 different courses ranging from freshman-level Introduction to Design to a variety of senior- and graduate-level offerings. Dr. Lackey received the School of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award in 2001, 2007 and 2015. She also was named to the All-Southern Conference Faculty Team in 2016. She served as chair of the Environmental Engineering Department for five years before transitioning to associate dean in 2013.

In addition to her teaching, Dr. Lackey has taken an active interest in the Mercer On Mission program. She and her students have taken their research to communities globally through efforts in Kenya, Uganda and Ecuador.

Prior to coming to Mercer, Dr. Lackey spent six years at the Tennessee Valley Authority as an environmental/chemical engineer, where she conducted both basic and applied research with emphasis on the mitigation of organic wastes through bioremediation, and two years as an adjunct professor of environmental engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Dr. Lackey earned her Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is a registered professional engineer and a Board Certified Environmental Engineer.

“I am enormously grateful for the opportunities that were offered to me when I joined the School of Engineering faculty 20 years ago as a member of the University community,” Dr. Lackey said. “Mercer University and the School of Engineering are extraordinary places that I cherish. My predecessor and colleague, Dr. Wade Shaw, has strategically grown the School through his eight years of outstanding leadership. I am excited to have the opportunity to contribute to its future and am energized by the chance to work with our talented faculty, staff and students, and with alumni and community partners to propel the School of Engineering to the next level.”



JESSICA WHITLEY PHOTO; CHRISTOPHER SMITH PHOTO

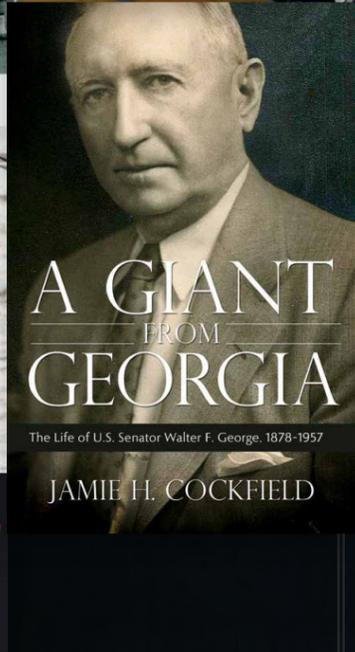
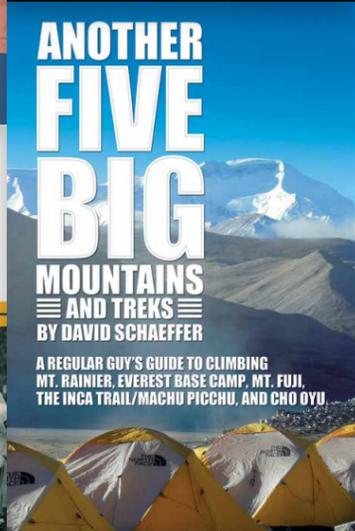
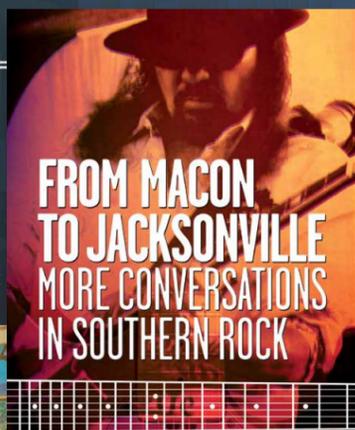
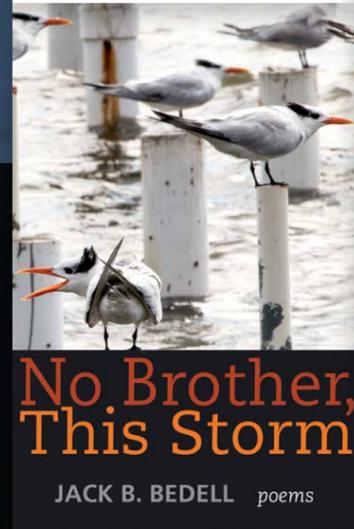
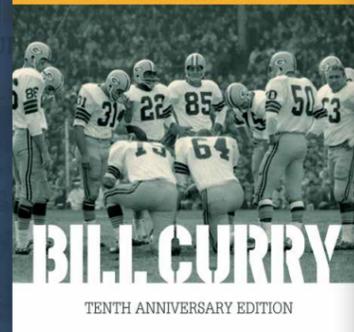
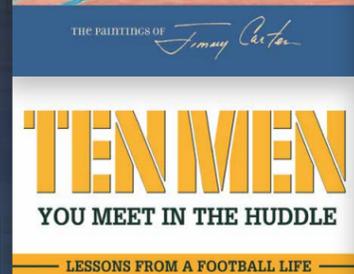
# MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

OFFERS AN EXCITING NEW SEASON OF BOOKS

Whether one loves reading history, memoir, biography, poetry, fiction, philosophy, or religion, Mercer University Press has something for everyone in the Fall/Winter 2018 season of books.

Highlighted titles from the season include: *The Paintings of Jimmy Carter* by Jimmy Carter, showcasing more than 50 of Carter's favorite paintings accompanied by his own written narrative; *Ten Men You Meet in the Huddle* by Bill Curry, a 10th Anniversary Edition of his memoir, enhanced and updated to reflect the pressing issues facing football today; *No Brother, This Storm* by Jack B. Bedell, a new poetry collection archiving hope and resilience from the poet laureate of Louisiana; *From Macon to Jacksonville* by Michael Buffalo Smith, in-depth interviews with stars from the hey-day of Southern rock music; *Another Five Big Mountains and Treks* by David Schaeffer, offering an intimate account of one man's daily challenges on some of the world's highest mountains; and *A Giant from Georgia* by Jamie H. Cockfield, a biography of U.S. Sen. Walter F. George (1878-1957).

Visit [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org) to see a complete listing of titles. Books are available from favorite independent bookstores and major online retailers. By calling the publisher directly and identifying yourself as a Mercer alum, consumers can receive a 40 percent discount on an order. Taxes and shipping charges will apply. Call toll-free (866) 895-1472 or (478) 301-2880 direct.



## 29TH ANNUAL AUTHORS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 8  
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta



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**AUTHORS APPEARING:** Xhenet Aliu, David Bottoms, Rick Bragg, Vincent Coppola, Joseph Crespino, Bill Curry, John Ferling, Ronald J. Greer, Timothy O'Keefe, Hannah Pittard, Andy Plattner, Ansley L. Quiros, Richard E. Rankin Jr., David Schaeffer and Virginia Willis. For additional information, email [wallace\\_am@mercer.edu](mailto:wallace_am@mercer.edu).

## MERCER ON MISSION FITS 10,000TH VIETNAMESE AMPUTEE WITH PATENTED LEG PROSTHETIC

The University's signature Mercer On Mission program on June 26 fitted its 10,000th Vietnamese amputee with Dr. Ha Van Vo's patented leg prosthetic.

Mercer On Mission's prosthetics program in Vietnam began in 2009 when Dr. Vo, Distinguished University Professor of Biomedical Engineering, realized a dream. As a young boy growing up in South Vietnam after the Vietnam War, he hoped to someday make a difference for his fellow citizens who lost limbs primarily from unexploded ordnance left after the war.

Today, it is estimated there are more than 100,000 amputees in an economy that depends heavily on jobs that are difficult — if not impossible — to fulfill without the use of both legs.

On the first trip a decade ago, a team of Mercer faculty and students fit about 38 people in the town of Phung Hiep.

"What's been at the heart of this program is this prosthetic leg that Dr. Vo designed," said Dr. Craig McMahan, University minister and dean of Chapel, who oversees Mercer On Mission. "It's an incredible piece of equipment. It is very light and durable, and it's a very comfortable prosthesis. It weighs less than two pounds so the amputees find it to be very comfortable and functional."

At first, Dr. Vo and his students were making the prosthetics in his lab on the Macon campus and carrying them in their suitcases to Vietnam, but the program soon outgrew this modest mode of production and transportation.

Thanks in large part to the generosity of Macon businessman Chris Sheridan, who through a family foundation contributes \$250,000 per year to the program, prosthetics are now being produced in Vietnam.

Mercer On Mission 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.

Altogether, Mercer On Mission has fit around 10 percent of the amputees in the country, allowing thousands of people to contribute economically, socially and in other ways they couldn't in the past. The program is also stimulating the local economy through the creation of jobs for manufacturers and fitters.



LAURA FONG PHOTO

## MERCER SELECTED FOR PEACE CORPS PREP PROGRAM

Mercer was recently selected to participate in the Peace Corps Prep program, which enhances students' undergraduate experience by preparing them for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service.

Mercer is the seventh university — and first private institution — in Georgia to be selected as a Peace Corps Prep site. There

“THE MERCER EXPERIENCE IS DEFINED BY THE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO INTEGRATE LEADERSHIP, ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND SERVICE TO OTHERS INTO HIGHER EDUCATION.”

are currently more than 130 institutions nationwide participating in the program.

"Mercer's commitment to community, to research and development, and to purposefully scaffolding high-impact, engaged learning practices aligns perfectly with the Peace Corps ethos, making the Peace Corps Prep program a natural fit into our curriculum," said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. "The Mercer experience is defined by the opportunity for students to integrate leadership, academic research and service to others into higher education. Signature programs, such as Mercer On Mission and the Mercer Service Scholars, allow our students opportunities to engage in service-learning courses and service-oriented research projects locally and globally."

The Peace Corps has identified six sectors — agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth in development — in which preparation for service is needed.

Peace Corps Prep sites recruit students to engage in identified coursework, co-curricular and leadership activities that satisfy preparation guidelines for those six sectors. Students do not take any additional courses; rather, they make strategic elective course choices.

Program graduates receive a certificate from the Peace Corps and are inherently more competitive when applying for Peace Corps service.

# FACULTY HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

## DR. JENNIFER LI, COLLABORATOR EARN \$2.6M IN NIH FUNDING FOR DISEASE RESEARCH

JINPING (JENNIFER) LI, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of histology at Mercer University School of Medicine, and Gang (Gary) Ren, Ph.D., structural biologist at the Molecular Foundry, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, recently were awarded more than \$2.6 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health for a collaborative project to define a novel mechanism underlying blood cholesterol regulation.

A joint proposal, titled “Structure-Function Relationship Studies of the Plasma Lipid Transfer Proteins CETP and PLTP,” received funding from the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute through the NIH Research Project Grant Program.

The study will delineate the mechanism of blood cholesterol transfer proteins in regulating lipoprotein structural and morphology changes, which will be essentially important to design the next generation of drugs for fighting cardiovascular and familial hypercholesterolemia diseases.

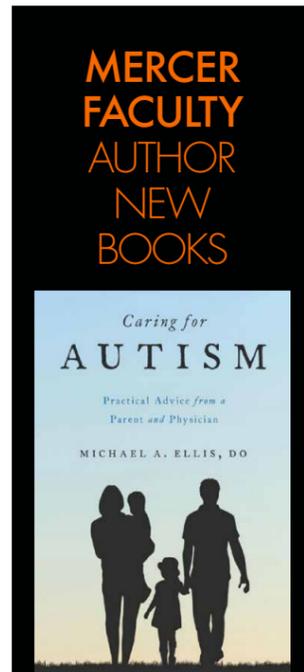
As co-investigator, Dr. Li’s portion of the grant amounts to \$450,000 over the next four years.

Additionally, a proposal for fighting cancer diseases led by Dr. Li and Dr. Ren was approved by the Molecular Foundry’s User Program, which provides researchers free access to world-class instruments for cutting-edge nanoscience and biological materials in a collaborative, multidisciplinary environment.

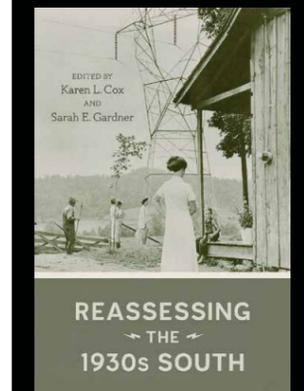
Dr. Li’s research over the past decade has focused on the pathological mechanism, diagnosis and treatment of endometrial and pancreatic cancers. Preliminary results of the recent cancer-related projects led by Dr. Li and Dr. Ren at the Molecular Foundry strongly support future NIH grant application.

## DR. ANYA SILVER AWARDED GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH DR. ANYA KRUGOVY SILVER was awarded a prestigious 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship.



Dr. Michael Ellis, clinical assistant professor, authored *Caring for Autism: Practical Advice from a Parent and Physician*, Oxford University Press.



Dr. Sarah E. Gardner, Distinguished University Professor of History, co-edited *Reassessing the 1930s South*, Louisiana State University Press.

Out of almost 3,000 applicants, 175 candidates were chosen for the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation’s 93rd competition.

The great variety of backgrounds, fields of study and accomplishments of Guggenheim Fellows is one of the unique characteristics of the Fellowship program. In all, 49 scholarly disciplines and artistic fields, 69 different academic institutions, 31 states, and three Canadian provinces are represented in the 2018 class of Fellows.

Dr. Silver passed away on Aug. 6. For more information on her life and legacy at Mercer, see pg. 41.

## DR. ROBERT WATSON RECEIVES FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR AWARD TO HONDURAS

DR. ROBERT WATSON, assistant professor of technical communication in the School of Engineering, recently received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar award for 2018-2019 to study patient information systems in remote clinics in Honduras.

For the past year, Dr. Watson and students in the Technical Communication and Computer Engineering departments of the School of Engineering have been collaborating with the Public Health Department of the School of Medicine at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Together, they are developing a low-cost patient information system for limited-resource clinics to improve clinic operations and reporting in a way that is affordable and sustainable.

## DR. SARAH GARDNER SELECTED FOR NEH SUMMER STIPEND

DR. SARAH E. GARDNER, Distinguished University Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts, was awarded a Summer Stipends award by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Summer Stipends support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months for individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences or both.

Dr. Gardner was awarded support for her project, titled “Reading During the American

Civil War,” an examination of reading practices and literary interpretation during this period in American history.

## DR. DAVID LANE RECOGNIZED WITH TOP TWO AWARDS FROM LPCA OF GEORGIA

DR. W. DAVID LANE, professor of counseling in Penfield College, received both the Linda Painter Service Award and the Dr. John C. Burns III Lifetime Achievement Award during the Licensed Professional Counselors Association (LPCA) of Georgia’s 30th Annual Convention and Regional Conference held May 9-12 in Atlanta.

Dr. Lane is the first member to receive the organization’s top two awards in a single year.

Dr. Lane, who recently completed his 23rd year on the University’s faculty, is founder of Penfield College’s counseling program. He has more than 41 years of experience as a counselor, counselor educator and supervisor.

## DR. BRYANT SMALLEY NAMED NRHA OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

DR. K. BRYANT SMALLEY, associate dean for research and accreditation and professor of community medicine and psychiatry in the School of Medicine, was recently named Outstanding Researcher of the Year by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA).

Dr. Smalley was honored May 10 in New Orleans at the organization’s Annual Rural Health Conference, which represents the largest gathering of rural health professionals in the nation.

The Outstanding Researcher of the Year award is presented annually to a rural health researcher after a national selection process focused on the honoree’s dedication to solving rural health issues and the quality of the individual’s work. The award recognizes the honoree’s efforts to encourage, assist, enhance, expand and improve rural health.

Throughout his career, Dr. Smalley has received more than \$6 million in federal rural health funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Federal Corporation for National and Community Service. This funding has supported widespread rural health research, training and community engagement activities throughout rural Georgia.

## DR. CHERYL GADDIS SELECTED AS CDC PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION TEACHING and Research (APTR) and the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced that Cheryl L.R. Gaddis, DrPH, MPH, CHES, assistant professor of public health in Mercer’s College of Health Professions, has been selected for the role of Public Health Education Specialist: Curriculum Development.

Dr. Gaddis, who also serves as director of Mercer’s Master of Public Health program, will receive an award of up to \$18,000 to support her work to serve as a technical expert on health education and develop a common curriculum for Academic Partnerships to Improve Health (APIH) trainees using instructional design that employs adult learning principles with a variety of media, such as brochures, fact sheets, self-study, computer assisted instruction and distance-based learning.

## DR. CAROLINE BRACKETTE PRESENTED ACA SOUTHERN REGION LEADERSHIP AWARD

DR. CAROLINE M. BRACKETTE, associate professor of counseling in Penfield College, received the 2018 American Counseling Association (ACA) Southern Region Leadership Award for her leadership and advocacy as branch president of the ACA of Georgia.

Dr. Brackette also gave the welcome address to more than 5,000 counselors at the 66th American Counseling Association Annual Conference and Expo held April 26-29 at the World Congress Center in Atlanta.

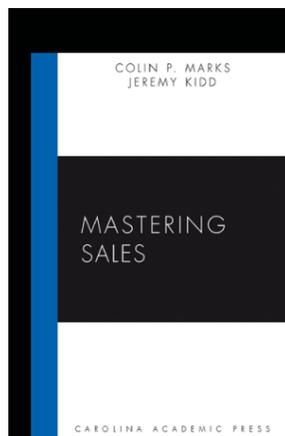
This year, Dr. Brackette will conclude her two-year term as president of ACA of Georgia having accomplished her goal to revitalize what is currently the newest ACA state entity.

## THREE FACULTY MEMBERS NAMED GOVERNOR’S TEACHING FELLOWS

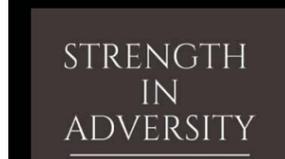
THREE MERCER FACULTY MEMBERS are among this year’s Governor’s Teaching Fellows, a highly selective program designed to develop important teaching skills through emerging technologies and instructional tools and sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Renee Hayslett, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Laura Morrow, associate professor of leadership studies in Penfield College, will both participate in the 2018-2019 academic year fellowship consisting of six three-day symposia.

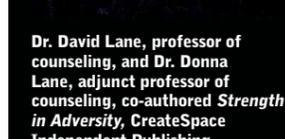
Dr. Jianhua Feng, professor of education in Tift College of Education, participated in the intensive, two-week summer symposium, which included lectures and workshops by experts on various topics and projects and presentations by the Fellows.



Jeremy Kidd, associate professor of law, co-authored *Mastering Sales*, Carolina Press.



Dr. David Lane, professor of counseling, and Dr. Donna Lane, adjunct professor of counseling, co-authored *Strength in Adversity*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing.



Dr. Thomas B. Slater, professor of New Testament studies, authored *The Son of Man in Second Temple Judaism: Reviewing and Advancing the Scholarly Debate*, Edwin Mellen Press.



Dr. Thomas B. Slater, professor of New Testament studies, authored *The Son of Man in Second Temple Judaism: Reviewing and Advancing the Scholarly Debate*, Edwin Mellen Press.

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

## ALUMNAE RECEIVE FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT AWARDS TO MOROCCO, TAIWAN



MERCER ALUMNAE Anna Cizek and Sterling Conyers were recently awarded prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Awards, bringing the University's overall tally of Fulbrighters to 15 since 2010.

"As Fulbright scholars, these students will make an immediate impact as cultural ambassadors

between the United States and their host countries," said Dr. Edward Weintraut, Fulbright Program adviser and professor of foreign languages and literatures at Mercer. "This is consistent with Mercer's mission to empower students to change the world for the better."

Cizek, from Naperville, Illinois, graduated in 2017 with a triple-major in French, global health and international affairs. She will serve as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Morocco.

Conyers, from Fayetteville, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in May with majors in international affairs and Spanish and minors in Asian studies and global health. She will serve as a Fulbright ETA in Taiwan.

The program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. Since then, it has given more than 380,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

## CHARLOTTE DUNGAN EARNS UNIVERSITY'S FIRST-EVER HOLLINGS SCHOLARSHIP



JUNIOR CHARLOTTE Dungan was selected as Mercer's first-ever recipient of the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Dungan, from Marietta, is an environmental engineering major with minors in chemistry and engineering for development.



Anna Cizek



Sterling Conyers



Charlotte Dungan

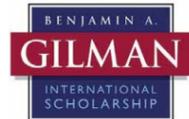


Ruby Rhoden

The Hollings Scholarship Program is designed to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research and technology. Each year, it provides 120 undergraduate applicants with academic assistance up to \$9,500 per year for two years of full-time study. It also guarantees a 10-week summer internship at a NOAA facility.

Between the first and second years of the award, the scholarship provides hands-on, practical experience in NOAA-related science, research, technology, policy, management and education activities.

## FOUR STUDENTS SELECTED FOR GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD



THE U.S. DEPARTMENT of State this spring announced that four Mercer students are among 1,201 American undergraduates from 363 colleges and universities selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

This brought Mercer's total number of Gilman Scholars to 10 for the 2017-2018 academic year.

"As Mercer places more emphasis on engaged learning opportunities, the Gilman Scholarship is important to make transformative study abroad experiences available to all students," said Dr. David A. Davis, associate professor of English and director of scholarships and fellowships. "Our students' success with the scholarship this year will lead to exciting international experiences for these students, and it paves the way for many more students to apply."

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas.

Senior Alicia Williams, a global health studies major from Riverdale, participated in a Mercer On Mission trip to the Dominican Republic studying water sanitation and indoor air quality effects on health.

Junior Shakti Biswas, a double-major in biology and Spanish from Marietta, studied abroad in Seville, Spain.

Junior Alyssa Fortner, a double-major in international affairs and global development studies from Chickamauga, participated in a Mercer On

Mission trip to Cape Town, South Africa, where she worked with local schools for three weeks before beginning a two-month internship with Iliso Care Society working with disadvantaged women and youth.

Junior Brittany Tran, a neuroscience major from Danielsville, participated in a Mercer On Mission trip to Vietnam to fit low-cost prosthetics designed at Mercer on Vietnamese amputees who lost limbs primarily due to land mines left from the Vietnam War. She also served as a translator.

The Gilman Scholarship has enabled more than 25,000 outstanding Americans of diverse backgrounds to engage in a meaningful educational experience abroad. The program has broadened U.S. participation in study abroad, while emphasizing countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study.



Shakti Biswas, Alyssa Fortner, Alicia Williams, Brittany Tran

## RHODEN EARNS BOREN SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN CHINA



SOPHOMORE RUBY Rhoden was awarded a Boren Scholarship to study Mandarin Chinese and experience Chinese culture for two months last summer at Beijing Language and Culture University in China.

In exchange for funding, Rhoden, a biomedical engineering

major from Duluth, will work for the federal government in national security for at least one year.

Rhoden, who also has a minor in chemistry, studied Mandarin Chinese, which is the official language of mainland China, from middle school through her junior year at the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

David L. Boren Scholarships and Fellowships are sponsored by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), a major federal initiative designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of U.S. citizens with foreign language and international skills.

## ELLIZA GUTA CHOSEN AS NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW



Campus Compact

CAMPUS COMPACT, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, selected Mercer senior Elliza Guta as one of 268 students who will make up the organization's 2018 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. The Newman Civic



Elliza Guta



Mary Martinez



Hoor Qureshi

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

Guta, from Tampa, Florida, is a political science and psychology double-major. As part of her fellowship, she will present Operation Lighthouse (OLH), a teen dating violence prevention program, at after-school organizations in Macon and collect data about the program's effectiveness. After multiple implementations of OLH, she hopes to present the information she gathers to

the Bibb County School District and advocate for the implementation of OLH in the public school system.

## TWO MERCERIAN AWARDED CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIPS



RECENT GRADUATE Mary Martinez and senior Hoor Qureshi were awarded Critical Language Scholarships by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study abroad this summer.

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a fully-funded summer overseas language and cultural

immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. With the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, the CLS provides opportunities to a diverse range of students from across the U.S. at every level of language learning.

Martinez, from Savannah, earned her bachelor's degree in May with a major in global health studies and a minor in French. She was selected to study Korean in South Korea, after having previously traveled to the country as part of a Mercer On Mission trip. Qureshi, from Marietta, is a double-major in global health studies and global development studies with a minor in environmental studies. She was selected to study Urdu in India, allowing her to reconnect with her roots as a South Asian-American and further explore the region's history and culture.

# For Argument's Sake

## How Mercer's Debate Team Rose to National Prominence

By Kyle Sears

**W**hen Dr. Vasile Stanescu joined the faculty at Mercer five years ago, the oldest student organization had fallen on hard times. Though Mercer's debate team had experienced success as recently as the early 2000s, by 2013, interest in debate as well as funding to support a team were waning.

Dr. Stanescu's own personal interest in debate dated back to his days as a student at Northside High School in Warner Robins. He went on to attend the University of Texas at Dallas on a debate scholarship before pursuing graduate study at Stanford. There, he quickly realized that the skills of research and argumentation he learned in debate allowed him a much smoother transition to the rigor of the prestigious West Coast university than many of his classmates.

"When I came to Mercer, I had in my mind the importance of debate, and I wanted to share that with the students," said Dr. Stanescu, who serves as assistant professor of communication studies and director of debate.

His first team was led by a pair of juniors in Lindsey Hancock

and Hunter Pilkinton, who would earn for him his first win as a debate coach in the first tournament of the season at the University of North Georgia.

Hancock and Pilkinton were responsible for setting some early, lofty goals for the team, including earning an invitation to the prestigious Point Loma Round Robin, which no team from the South had ever done. Not only did the Bears earn multiple invites to the tournament, four years later they won it.

By the end of Dr. Stanescu's first year, Hancock and Pilkinton won the University's first-ever Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association (GPDA) state championship, and became the first team from Georgia to earn a coveted invitation to the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence.

The Bears earned another important victory outside of intercollegiate competition when Hancock, while judging a tournament, met and began recruiting a high school senior named Kyle Bligen. Bligen was headed to Wake Forest, but switched to Mercer, and he, in turn, recruited fellow senior Jaz Buckley, one of his biggest rivals in the ranks of Georgia High School Association debate.

The 2014-2015 debate season also began at North Georgia with Hancock and Pilkinton competing in the varsity division and Bligen and Buckley competing in the novice division. During preparation for their final round, the freshmen suggested an unorthodox strategy — reciting the lines of a poem as part of their argument — which defied the conventions of parliamentary debate.

"They didn't win," recalled Dr. Stanescu, "but their argument was so gripping. It gave us the idea to begin incorporating cultural artifacts such as poetry and spirituals into debate."

At the end of the season, both teams went to the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) tournament, where every team competed against one another and there were no varsity and novice divisions. Dr. Stanescu knew his debaters put on a historic performance for Mercer debaters on a national stage, but he had no idea just how historic until awards were announced.

Despite there being no novice division at nationals, novice awards are handed out to the less experienced debaters in the field. Buckley and Bligen were named the top-two individual novice speakers and the top novice team.

"Mercer had never won any speaker awards at nationals, so we were very proud of the novice awards," said Dr. Stanescu. "We had no idea we were winning any varsity awards."

But the team didn't just win any varsity awards. Buckley was named the top overall speaker at nationals, becoming the first female and first African-American to do so at the nation's largest parliamentary debate tournament. Additionally, Bligen was named the fourth-best speaker, Hancock was named 10th-best speaker and both teams finished in the top 16 overall.

The scene afterwards was emotional, Dr. Stanescu recalled. "In the parking lot, Jaz said something to the effect of, 'This award proves that I'm not too loud, I'm not too aggressive and I deserve to be heard.' That was the most meaningful experience I've had as a professor, much less a debate coach."

Over the next two seasons, Bligen and Buckley won numerous

awards, including the aforementioned historic victory at Point Loma and the team's third state title in a span of four years. They also recruited another talented duo in Daniel Alvarez and Keanu Lowo, who added to the tally of trophies.

By the start of the 2017-2018 season, with these four debaters beginning their senior year at Mercer, they had performed far better than any team in the University's history, but they had not been able to return to the heights reached by Buckley and Bligen as freshmen.

"There was so much pressure," Dr. Stanescu said. "We kept winning state and going to nationals, where we'd do well, but we weren't advancing far into the elimination rounds and we weren't winning speaker award. Coming back as seniors, the team was very hungry. They had one goal — to win it all."

The Bears had enough funding to set out on their first truly national circuit, and they reached the semifinals in every one of those tournaments.

In March, the seniors traveled to Portland, Oregon, for one final NPDA nationals. Bligen and Buckley lost just one round in preliminaries and sailed through the early elimination rounds before matching up with a Texas Tech team that had just eliminated Mercer's yearlong nemesis, the University of California, Berkeley, in the semifinals.

As the Bears matched wits with the Red Raiders in the finals, it seemed there was only one possible outcome for the two rivals-turned-best friends who couldn't remember a time when they hadn't debated against or with one another.

"Using their own unique brand of debate, Jaz Buckley and Kyle Bligen became the first African-American team to win the NPDA National Championship Tournament," said Dr. Jeannie

Hunt, president of NPDA. "Additionally, Buckley, joining only a handful of women to reach the final round, became the first African-American woman to win this national title. While both students clearly have strong argumentation skills and implement successful strategies, their ability to frame the debate with a focus on social justice allows them to use their voice for something beyond winning tournaments. I look forward to seeing great things from this team as they move through life."

The victory was a catharsis for the team. Dr. Stanescu recalls a blur of jumping, screaming and crying. They returned to a hero's welcome and a congratulatory message on the scoreboard at Five Star Stadium. Weeks later, at graduation in May, President William D. Underwood gave them a shoutout in his opening remarks, citing them as a shining example of what it means to "Be the Bear."

"Every single person here at Mercer — from the president to the dean to the faculty — has continually built them up, and that was so important to these students, who despite all the focus and work they have put into debate, also managed to become extremely successful, well-rounded students," said Dr. Stanescu.

Buckley went on to UCLA School of Law to study at one of the top critical race studies programs in the country, and Bligen took a one-year deferment to Harvard Business School and will remain in Macon, where he will work for the Clinton Foundation, serve as Mercer's assistant debate coach and continue work on a nonprofit organization he founded to combat urban poverty.

*"They had one goal — to win it all."*



Mercer's 2017-2018 debate team included (l-r) Cassie Malcolm, Eduardo Rubio, Jaz Buckley, Keanu Lowo, Kyle Bligen, Director of Debate Vasile Stanescu, Madison Moore, Daniel Alvarez and Taylor Cole.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH PHOTO

# MERCER UNIVERSITY

equips its students with the skills and knowledge required to live full and successful lives, empowers them to become leaders in communities throughout the world, and inspires them to deploy their talents to positively impact the human condition.

By any measure, Mercer today **stands among the leading private research universities in the nation**. Over the last decade, Mercer has been formally reclassified as a doctoral-research university. Following this reclassification, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Mercer among the first tier of national research universities — one of only five in Georgia, including Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University and the University of Georgia. With the awarding of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, Mercer became one of only three Phi Beta Kappa research universities in Georgia.

This standing among our nation's finest universities has been achieved **without sacrificing the qualities that have made Mercer special — without losing our institutional soul**. We have preserved a personal and intimate educational experience in which class sizes for undergraduate students remain among the smallest in the country. No undergraduate classes are taught by teaching assistants or graduate students and the percentage of students engaged in research with faculty is higher than at our peer institutions.

We have **preserved the diverse environment** that helps define Mercer, a quality that has been **carefully nurtured at Mercer since the 1960s**. A significantly higher percentage of our student body are minorities than at any of our peer or aspirational peer institutions. Mercer's heritage as an institution founded by people in the free-church tradition continues to undergird our university through the work of the McAfee School of Theology, through our strong commitment to intellectual freedom, and through compelling programs that inspire students to lead lives of service to others.

As we look to the future, the University's recently adopted 10-year strategic plan envisions a highly regarded research university effectively **preparing students for futures in an interconnected global community**. It envisions a diverse community of scholars that attracts among the most talented students, faculty and staff who are joined together in their commitment to making a positive difference in the world and who marshal the intellectual capital of the University and the tools of our laboratories and libraries to solve pressing problems affecting humankind. It envisions a university committed to evolving as necessary to meet the needs of a global community where the pace of change continues to accelerate. It envisions a vibrant and exciting community, fearless and eager to compete against the best in every worthwhile endeavor. And it envisions a place authentically committed to interpreting and applying its founding heritage in a way that meets the needs of humankind.

— William D. Underwood, President

I N S P I R E

MERCER'S VISION  
FOR THE  
DECADE  
AHEAD

THE MISSION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY IS TO EQUIP ITS STUDENTS WITH THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED TO LIVE FULL AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES, TO EMPOWER THEM TO BECOME LEADERS IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND TO INSPIRE THEM TO DEPLOY THEIR TALENTS TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE HUMAN CONDITION. OUR VISION IS TO

# CHANGE THE WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.

# AS WE PURSUE THIS VISION, WE WILL FOCUS ON SEVEN STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES:

## 1 BEING AN INTIMATE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF GIFTED SCHOLARS COMMITTED TO CHANGING THE WORLD

Great universities attract diverse and talented students, faculty, and staff. Our best selling points are who we are and what we do. We believe in ourselves. Mercer is committed to recruiting outstanding community members by focusing on our distinctive mission and attributes. We will continue to enhance our efforts to tell the Mercer story and experience measured growth in enrollment, while also increasing our student profile and our already strong commitment to diversity.

### **Attract committed community members.**

At Mercer everyone majors in changing the world. More than a slogan, this statement reflects our aspiration for each member of our academic community. To ensure that it reflects our reality, the University will seek to identify and attract undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as faculty and staff who share this vision for their lives. This will require a more robust, individualized and integrated assessment of each applicant's potential to be successful in a challenging and rigorous academic community, while being immersed in the campus culture and committed to stewarding the mission.

To this end, we will enhance marketing to prospective students, faculty, and staff to include stories and outcomes that affirm Mercer's mission while highlighting research, service, and leadership opportunities throughout our institution. There is no more powerful statement of institutional priorities than the stories we choose to tell about the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff members. We will also explore ways to more directly engage our staff in activities that are changing the lives of our students and faculty.

**Achieve measured enrollment growth for traditional undergraduates.** The University's traditional undergraduate student enrollment has seen significant growth over the last several years. From 2011 to 2017, Macon traditional undergraduate student enrollment has increased by 41 percent, from 2,306 in 2011 to 3,253 in 2017. Freshman enrollment has grown from 565 in 2011 to 891 in 2017, an increase of 58 percent.



# 1 Imperative 1:

BEING AN INTIMATE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF GIFTED SCHOLARS COMMITTED TO CHANGING THE WORLD

Enhance marketing to prospective students, faculty, and staff to attract those who share the Mercer vision.

Explore ways to more directly engage staff in activities that are changing the lives of our students and faculty.

Increase traditional undergraduate enrollment from 3,253 to 3,750 students.

Increase the academic profile of traditional undergraduates to an average ACT score of 30 and an average grade point average of 3.95.

As a means of preserving Mercer's diversity, limit undergraduate tuition increases to no more than increases in the consumer price index. Similar constraint will be exercised in tuition increases for graduate and professional programs.

Mercer will continue to increase traditional undergraduate enrollment from 3,253 to 3,750 students because we believe in the educational experience here, and we believe the world needs more Mercerians. While we want our programs to be accessible to as many students as possible, we must balance this objective against our commitment to an intimate learning environment, which ensures that each student is valued as an individual.

#### **Increase academic profile.**

While experiencing a 41 percent growth in undergraduate student population in Macon, Mercer has also experienced a significant increase in academic profile over the past five years. The incoming class of 2012 had an ACT average

of 26 and grade point average of 3.67. The incoming class of 2017 had an ACT average of 28 and grade point average of 3.90. Over the next decade, we anticipate that the academic profile of Mercer's traditional undergraduate students will increase to an average ACT score of 30 and an average grade point average of 3.95.

**Serve post-traditional undergraduates.** Like many leading universities, Mercer has a proud tradition of serving the educational needs of post-traditional undergraduate students, which constitute a growing population of degree seekers. Our undergraduate student population currently includes 3,253 traditional undergraduate students in Macon, 350 undergraduate nursing students in Atlanta, and 1,057 post-traditional undergraduate students completing degrees in Mercer's regional academic centers. The University offers a broad array of programs especially suited to meet the needs of these post-traditional undergraduate students, including programs in information technology, human services, accounting, management and marketing, and early, middle, and special education. Each of these fields is projected to offer opportunity for college graduates for the foreseeable future. Over the next decade, as we increase the traditional undergraduate population in Macon to 3,750 students, we expect to increase the post-traditional undergraduate student population in our regional academic centers to 2,000 students.

**Remain affordable.** A diverse student population enhances the educational experience of all students as they engage people from different backgrounds and life experiences. Mercer exposes its students to a richer diversity of colleagues than any of its peer or aspirational peer institutions. A significant element of Mercer's success in achieving diversity has been positioning the University as the premier private lower-cost alternative. Mercer will continue to avoid real increases in the cost of attendance by disciplining ourselves to limit undergraduate tuition increases to no more than increases in the consumer price index. We will exercise similar restraint in pricing our graduate and professional programs.

**Optimize professional schools.** Mercer has a long tradition of positively impacting society through



## Imperative 2:

### BEING A PLACE OF DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

Surpass \$60 million in annual National Science Foundation-defined research expenditures.

Support research in areas of promise through internal seed grant funding, continued development of core facilities, and development of effective faculty research mentoring programs.

Explore cooperative relationships with other research universities that will enable Mercer scientists to access equipment at those institutions on the same terms as scientists at those institutions.

Determine appropriate staffing expertise, organization, and tools of the Grants and Contracts Office and the Office of Research Compliance to support the University's research agenda.

Complete a new Health Sciences Center on the Atlanta Campus, enabling expansion and renovation of existing research space in the College of Pharmacy.

Continue enhancing the quality of existing Ph.D. programs, evaluate and prioritize the launch of new graduate programs based on industry and institutional needs as well as market demand, and charge the University Graduate Council to develop a comprehensive vision for graduate education within the University.

Meet the criteria for further Carnegie reclassification as a Doctoral/Research University — Higher Research Activity (R2).

the preparation of professionals in law, health professions, theology, and education. Many of our most accomplished graduates have been educated in our professional schools. We will endeavor to ensure that enrollment in these schools reflects societal needs and market conditions, requiring that some of our professional schools expand over the next decade, others will remain stable, while others will find increased strength in smaller numbers. Our professional school graduates must be equipped with the knowledge and skills required to pass required licensing examinations, to obtain meaningful employment in their chosen professions, and provide quality professional service to future patients, clients, and students. The size of our professional school programs will be driven by an ongoing assessment of where we stand on these metrics.

## 2 BEING A PLACE OF DISCOVERY & INNOVATION

Over the next decade, Mercer will enhance its reputation among leading private research universities by focusing our resources where we can have the greatest impact. Research and creative activity are central to the work of this University. Over the past decade, we have moved into the top tier of national research universities. As we embark on our next decade, we must focus our resources to obtain maximum benefit for students while enabling Mercer to make the greatest contribution possible to the common good.

**Continue to build on its existing strength in undergraduate research.** Mercer has established one of the finest undergraduate research programs in the United States. The National Survey of Student Engagement confirms that a higher percentage of Mercer undergraduate students

participate in faculty-directed research than at any of our institutional comparison groups. Hundreds of undergraduate students annually present their research at regional and national meetings, engage in faculty-directed research, and make research presentations at campus celebrations of undergraduate research. We have become a leading producer of Goldwater Scholars — the most prestigious national research scholarship available to undergraduate students in the STEM disciplines.

The value of engagement in rigorous faculty-directed undergraduate research is evident in admissions to prestigious graduate and professional schools, in successful competition for post-graduate fellowships and scholarships such as Fulbright Awards, and in fueling a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among Mercer undergraduates and recent graduates. That culture is supported by the Mercer Innovation Center, which encourages students and faculty to take ideas developed through their research and build those ideas into successful enterprises.

Over the next decade, we will continue to build on our existing strength in undergraduate research as we aspire to a program that consistently ranks among the top institutions in the nation in levels of participation and quality of achievement. Integrating the research and service missions of the University through our *Research That Reaches Out* initiative will be a special area of emphasis because of the powerful impact this integration has on student learning experiences.

**Continue to support a wide range of faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity, but especially focus resources in areas of demonstrated excellence and potential.** Active research agendas keep faculty members current to the benefit of their students. Moreover, contributing to the expansion of knowledge and understanding is among the obligations of great universities as we contribute toward making a better world. Mercer supports a wide range of faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity in the sciences, humanities, social sciences, and music, and will continue to do so.

Necessarily, however, we will allocate scarce resources (time, equipment, library resources, facilities, etc.) in areas where faculty have demonstrated high levels of achievement

and potential through meaningful external validation of the quality and relevance of their research and scholarship. As one example, the Southern Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts exemplifies high faculty achievement in research and scholarship. Faculty are publishing books with leading academic publishing houses that are making important and original contributions to human knowledge

and understanding. They secured external funding in the form of a \$500,000 NEH grant and helped raise the required \$1.5 million match to support their program. As a consequence of faculty efforts, the Spencer B. King, Jr., Center for Southern Studies is widely recognized as the finest undergraduate program in the field.

The Center for Drug Delivery Research is another example. This





Center currently includes 14 research scientists from the College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine, a number of post-doctoral students, and more than 40 Ph.D. students. Over the past several years, the Center has developed an intellectual property portfolio that includes eight patents. Scientists in the Center have secured extramural funding from a wide range of sources evidencing the quality and relevance of their research. These sources include federal and state agencies as well as private industry. Two start-up companies have emerged seeking to commercialize the intellectual property developed by the Center, while elements of that portfolio have been licensed to a firm seeking to develop a vaccine for ovarian cancer.

Other examples of demonstrated excellence and potential include (a) aviation systems research at the Mercer Engineering Research Center; (b) research focused on the discovery of new therapeutic and diagnostic biomarkers, which includes promising work seeking to discover a biomarker for pancreatic cancer; (c) research focused on the development of biomedical devices, including the prosthetics that have now been provided to thousands of Vietnamese amputees; (d) research that has developed systems for tracking mercury contamination in South American gold mining communities and preventing that contamination from entering the atmosphere; (e) research focused on Christian ethics through the Center for Theology and Public Life, which provides a leading moral voice in American Christianity; and (f) research in the Center for Rural Health Disparities that promises to ensure the standing of the School of Medicine as the leading center for the study of rural health challenges and solutions. Researchers in each of these areas have successfully attracted external funding from federal, state, foundation, philanthropic, and private industry sources to support their research.

**Increase administrative, financial, equipment, and facilities support for research in areas of demonstrated excellence and promise.** As faculty increasingly engage in

relevant high-quality research, the amount of external and internal support for that research will increase as well. Over the past decade, the University's National Science Foundation-defined research expenditures have doubled from \$18 million to approximately \$36 million. Most of that increase has come from increased extramural support. Provided that federal sources continue to increase support for research activity, and with additional commitments to research from internal resources, it is reasonable to aspire to surpassing \$60



million in annual NSF research expenditures over the next decade. This can be accomplished as researchers expand their research portfolios by increasing the amount and variety of funding sources. The University will support research in areas of promise through internal seed grant funding, continued development of core facilities, and development of effective faculty research mentoring programs. The University will inventory available research equipment to facilitate faculty access to that equipment. Further, the University will explore cooperative relationships with other

research universities that will enable Mercer scientists to access equipment at those institutions on the same terms as scientists at those institutions. The University will also improve administrative infrastructure to support its research mission. The University will determine appropriate staffing expertise and organization of the Grants and Contracts Office and the Office of Research Compliance. Mercer will also invest in appropriate technology to facilitate the grant

submission process as well as invest in grant writing support. The University will continue investing in research facilities. Over the past decade, the University has expanded the Hoskins Medical Education and Research Center in Savannah, acquired and repurposed what is now the Clinical Research facility in the College of Pharmacy, and recently completed the Godsey Science Center in Macon. The University will complete a new Health Sciences Center in Atlanta, which will enable us to expand and renovate existing research space in the College of Pharmacy.

**Continue to enhance the quality of existing Ph.D. programs while prioritizing the launch of new graduate programs to meet student, institutional, and industry demands.**

Over the past decade, the University has dramatically expanded its footprint in Ph.D. programs offered and students served by these programs. In 2007-08, the number of Ph.D. degrees awarded at Mercer was seven, with all graduates coming from our only research doctoral program at the time, which was in pharmaceutical sciences. A decade later in 2016-17, the University awarded 59 Ph.D. degrees to students in pharmaceutical sciences, nursing, counseling, and education. This increase has resulted in the University's reclassification by the Carnegie Foundation as a Doctoral/Research University — Moderate Research Activity (R3). Committed to our classification as a research university, Mercer will work to continue enhancing the quality of existing

# 3

## Imperative 3:

### BEING A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Appoint a council to consider ways that Mercer's curriculum can better meet the needs of 21st century global citizens.

Increase percentage of international students from 3.3 percent to 7 percent.

Develop a wider array of relationships with institutions of higher learning throughout the world.

Continue developing new and additional study abroad opportunities for students.

Engage more than 400 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students annually in Mercer On Mission.

Ph.D. programs, will evaluate and prioritize the launch of new graduate programs based on industry and institutional needs as well as market demand, and will charge the University Graduate Council to develop a comprehensive vision for graduate education within the University. Within the next decade, the University will meet the criteria for further Carnegie reclassification as a Doctoral/Research University — Higher Research Activity (R2) as we continue developing Ph.D. programs appropriate for our mission.

# 3

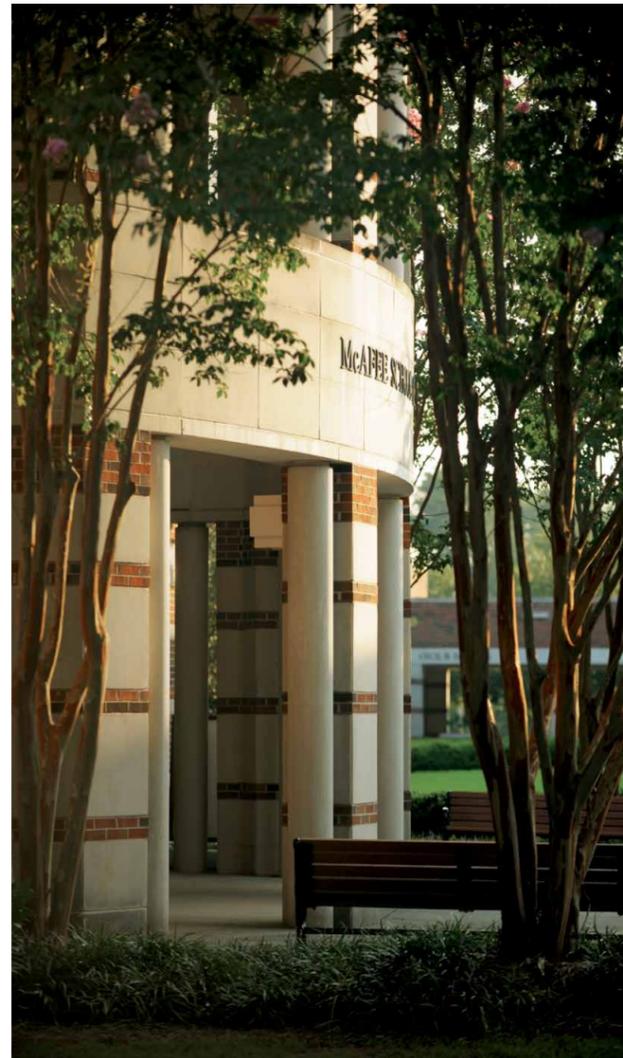
## BEING A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Among our most pressing obligations as an institution of higher learning is preparing our students for success in a world that is not only interconnected, but has become interdependent. Succeeding in the 21st century will require the ability to connect to a global flow of ideas, networks, innovators, and entrepreneurs. We must equip our students with the knowledge and skills to adapt to this changing global climate.

**Integrate global perspectives throughout our curriculum.** While we have begun developing degree programs designed to prepare students for careers in global health and international development, preparing our students for success in an interdependent world will require us to look beyond specific degree programs to integrate global perspectives throughout our undergraduate, graduate, and professional curriculum. The Provost will appoint a council to meet regularly and consider ways that our curriculum can better meet the needs of 21st century global citizens.

**Further internationalize our campuses.** Being a place where students from around the world come together to live,

study, conduct research, and recreate enables students to develop a deeper understanding of others. Mercer intends to prioritize international student recruitment, with a goal of increasing the population of international students on our Macon and Atlanta campuses. While this runs contrary to the recent trend toward a decline in presence of international students on campuses in the United States, we think that with focused effort and appropriate strategic partners, we can more than double the percentage of international students at Mercer from the present level of



3.3 percent of our student population to at least seven percent within the next decade. This is a realistic goal, given that Mercer offers high-quality programs that especially are attractive to international students (business, engineering, health sciences), and we have a campus in Atlanta, a major hub of international economic activity.

Mercer will also develop a wider array of relationships with institutions of higher learning throughout the world. These



# Imperative 4: BEING RELEVANT

Develop and promote curricular innovations that explore issues of cyber-security and information management, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and end-user education.

Integrate understanding of systemic changes in human behaviors and practices related to rapid innovation and the emergence of new communications platforms.

Align curriculum and pedagogy to utilize appropriate technology for academic and professional development.

Adapt professional curriculum to reflect emerging changes in virtual service delivery and information processing.

Enhance evaluation processes across the University to ensure appropriate metrics are used to assess the ongoing viability and relevance of all programs.

Increase the post-traditional undergraduate student population in Regional Academic Centers from 1,000 to 2,000 students.

Revise and integrate an individualized, student-centered admissions process that will enhance the post-traditional student experience throughout the recruitment process.

Redesign the University's website from the ground up to more effectively market Mercer's diverse academic offerings, clearly demonstrate positive learning outcomes, and communicate its distinctive mission.

Deliver individualized student support services.

Explore establishment of an expanded campus of the School of Medicine in Columbus.

Increase M.D. enrollment from 462 to 720 students.

Seek funding to endow a Center for Gerontology.

relationships will facilitate faculty exchanges, exposing our students to leading scholars from other nations, and shared classrooms through the use of technology so that students from Mercer can study with students enrolled in partner institutions.

**Expand international research, service learning and study abroad.** There is no substitute for international travel to enable our students to experience different people and cultures. Traditional semester and summer abroad experiences are an important vehicle for accomplishing this result. Over the next decade, we will continue developing new and additional study abroad opportunities for students.

The most impactful engaged learning experience for Mercer students fully integrates study abroad, research, and service learning. Some examples include Mercer On Mission's clean water programs in Africa and Latin America, its prosthetics program in Vietnam, and mercury containment endeavors in South America. Mercer On Mission transforms the lives of our students by



inspiring them to address the needs of humankind as global problem solvers and innovators. More than 250 students currently participate in these experiences. Over the next decade, we intend to engage more than 400 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students annually in Mercer On Mission programs around the globe.

**Enhance international post-graduate opportunities.** Mercer is already a leading source of graduates seeking to work in international development, through governmental and non-governmental organizations. Over the past year, eight students have received appointments to the Peace Corps, which has now selected the University as a Peace Corps Prep center. A number of other students spend a year abroad following graduation in programs such as ServiceFirst, which places our graduates into international teaching opportunities. Mercer students are increasingly competitive in pursuing Fulbright Awards for post-graduate teaching and research in other nations.

# 4 BEING RELEVANT

Great books never change. Neither does the need for well-educated individuals with the capacity to think clearly and critically and to communicate persuasively. Likewise, well-educated men and women must acquire some breadth of intellectual exposure to discoveries made in an array of disciplines, as well as be enriched through exposure to literature, art, and music. They must be grounded in ethical reasoning and prepared for the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society. These higher education imperatives are immutable.

Other academic disciplines such as computer science are rapidly evolving. Innovations in technology are revolutionizing

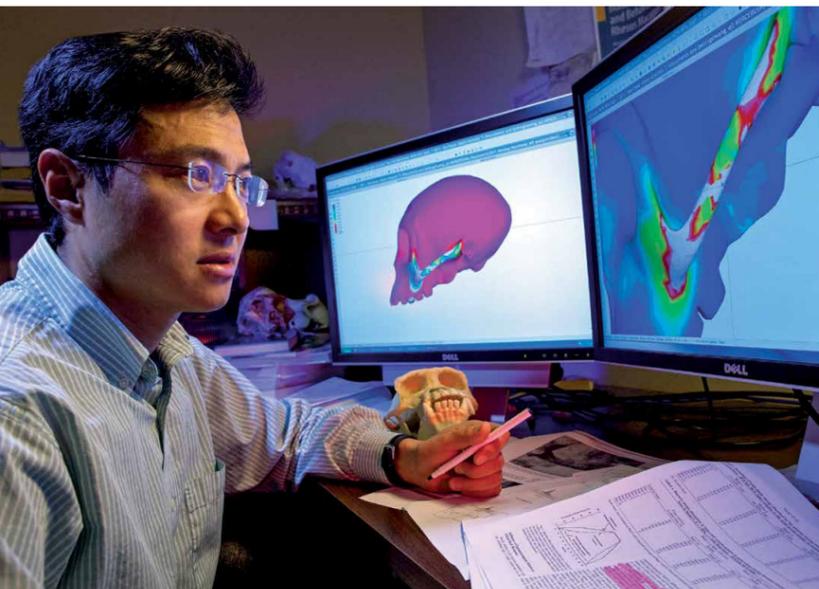


the structures and timescales of individual/organizational interactions, communications, and transactions. These ongoing innovations have expanded opportunities and present new challenges ranging from technological development, information security, service delivery, and social practices. Confronting these issues requires professionals who are not only well suited to the traditional demands of their field, but who also possess the awareness and adaptability to deal with rapidly changing modes of delivery and practice.

**Prepare students for a world of disruptive innovation.**

In educating the professional class of tomorrow, Mercer must be at the forefront of training students in the development of, access to, and responsiveness to disruptive innovations. To this end, Mercer will:

- Develop and promote curricular innovations that explore issues of cyber-security and information management,



artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and end-user education.

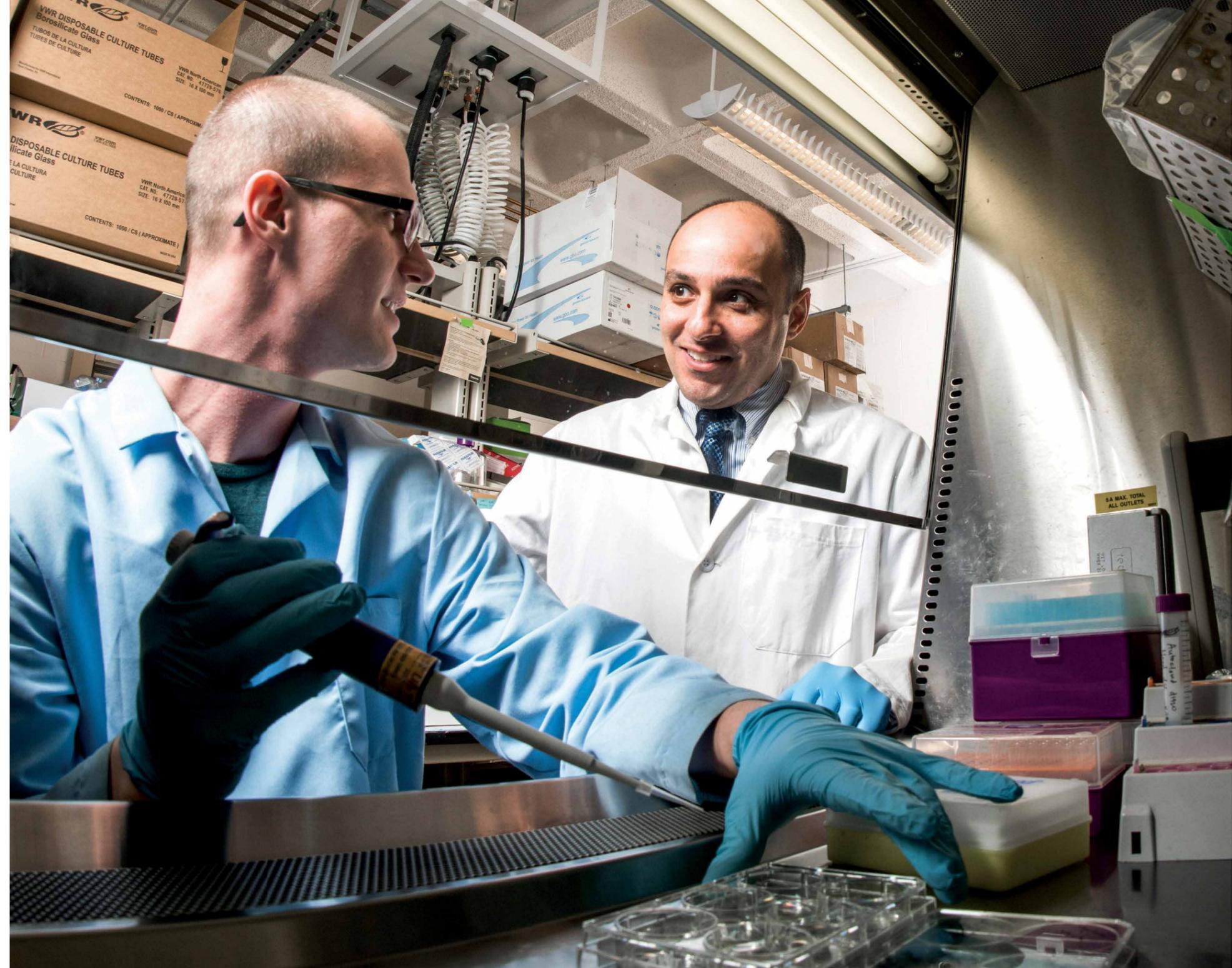
- Integrate understanding of systemic changes in human behaviors and practices related to rapid innovation and the emergence of new communication platforms.
- Align curriculum and pedagogy to utilize appropriate technology for academic and professional development.
- Adapt professional curriculum to reflect emerging changes in virtual service delivery and information processing.

Among Mercer's greatest institutional strengths is its capacity to move quickly. It is important to remind ourselves that because the pace of evolution in science and technology will only accelerate and societal needs will continue to change, we must continually survey the environment and move quickly when necessary to address new opportunities and needs. Evaluation processes across the University will be enhanced to ensure appropriate metrics are used to assess the ongoing viability and relevance of all programs.

**Increase opportunities for post-traditional students.**

These same dynamics impact individuals as well as institutions. More than ever before, individuals must be life-long learners who will sometimes need to update their formal education through degree and certificate programs. More than half of all college students are post-traditional students — adult learners seeking to complete undergraduate degrees, seeking to retool and re-credential, or requiring graduate degrees. Their needs include high-quality micro-credentials in emerging fields, online offerings to address the need for flexibility, and prior learning assessments.

As an important component of meeting the educational needs of society and of maximizing our impact and relevance, the University is committed to attracting, retaining, and graduating post-traditional students, and constantly reevaluating and updating our curriculum and modes of delivery. The post-traditional population is composed of students who identify as being part-time or full-time, adult learners, returning veterans, distance learners, students who are working full-time, and students who have responsibilities beyond classes. These students bring new and different expectations and desire a personalized experience from all stakeholders, including the enrollment management team, professional staff, deans, and faculty. To meet their needs, we must revise and integrate an individualized, student-centered admissions process that will enhance the student experience throughout the recruitment process. We must leverage



the brand of Mercer University — a 185-year-old institution widely recognized among the finest private research universities for providing high-quality and empowering educational experiences. We must redesign the University's website from the ground up to more effectively market Mercer's diverse academic offerings, clearly demonstrate outcomes, and communicate its distinctive mission. We must deliver student support services to ensure that these students can achieve their goals and make a

positive impact on the world.

**Meet health care needs.** Mercer's Academic Health Sciences Center encompasses our College of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, College of Nursing, and College of Health Professions (Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Public Health, and Clinical Medical Psychology). This has been one of the fastest-growing areas within the University, with overall enrollment increasing 25 percent over the past five years (from 1,736 in 2012 to 2,175 in

2017). This total does not include undergraduate pre-health sciences students, biomedical engineering students, athletic training students, or students in a variety of other programs related to population health care and management. The intensive focus on health care is certainly appropriate, given that health care spending continues to grow at a pace far exceeding the rate of inflation and now constitutes 17.9 percent of the gross national product (GNP) in the United States. Growth is expected to continue as our population ages, with the portion of GNP consumed by health care spending projected to reach 20 percent by 2025.

Because of the breadth and quality of our programs in the

health sciences, Mercer is well positioned to be a national leader in exploring new and innovative models for more efficient and effective delivery of health care, including the use of emerging technologies to extend the reach and impact of health care providers and improve patient access to health care, as well as the evolution of new professions to improve health care outcomes. At the same time, Mercer expects to continue increasing the number of physicians, nurses, physician assistants, physical therapists, and public health professionals educated within our Academic Health Sciences Center. We will continue exploring creation of an expanded campus of the School of Medicine in Columbus, which would enable us eventually

to increase enrollment in our M.D. program from 462 to 720 students, as well as creating an endowed Center for Gerontology.

## 5 ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL OUTCOMES

Students invest large amounts of time and financial resources to obtain an undergraduate and post-graduate education. Outcomes matter in deciding where to invest. At our finest institutions of higher learning — including ones like Mercer that embrace the residential college model of undergraduate education — many of the most important learning outcomes elude objective metrics. Developing critical thinking skills, the ability to engage in ethical reasoning, and the capacity to relate to people from differing

backgrounds are surely important learning outcomes, but despite various efforts through survey instruments, reliable tools to measure student achievement in developing these skills and attributes are elusive.

Other important outcomes, however, can be quantified. Retention rates, placement into prestigious post-graduate fellowships, graduate school placement, employment outcomes, and success rates on licensing examinations can all be measured. To meet the needs and demands of our students, we must focus more on these outcomes than ever before.

**Increase retention rates.** To ensure that we only admit students who have a strong likelihood of remaining enrolled through graduation, Mercer will continue to develop effective, holistic, and reliable ways to measure each prospective student's capacity for success at Mercer. Once a student has enrolled, we will continue to implement programming and processes to help that student continue on through graduation. The University's freshman-to-sophomore retention rate has increased from 80 percent in 2013 to more than 87 percent in 2016. Over the next ten years, freshman-to-sophomore retention rates will increase from 87 to 92 percent. Freshman-to-graduate retention rates will also increase from 65 to 75 percent.

Student success is at least as important among post-traditional undergraduate students as it is among traditional undergraduate students. Given this reality, we intend to meet or exceed our goal of a 75 percent graduation rate for traditional undergraduate students among our population of post-traditional students as well.

**Foster further collaboration regarding engaged learning/high-impact practices.** Mercer excels at providing engaged learning experiences for students that drive desirable outcomes, including post-graduate opportunities. We can do even better by improving collaboration and communication regarding these experiences within the institution, through structures such as the *Research That Reaches Out* initiative. To further this effort, Mercer will create an Engaged Learning Council under the Office of the Provost to facilitate institution-wide communication, coordination, and alignment of such opportunities. This council will develop curricular pathways that incorporate engaged learning experiences throughout students' academic careers. Given the importance of engaged learning and high impact practices to preparing students for success

# 5

## Imperative 5: ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL OUTCOMES

• Increase freshman-to-sophomore retention rate from 87 percent to 92 percent.

• Increase freshman-to-graduate retention rate from 65 percent to 75 percent.

• Create an Engaged Learning Council to facilitate institution-wide communication, coordination and alignment of engaged learning and high-impact practices.

• Place more than 20 graduating seniors each year into prestigious post-graduate fellowships and appointments.

• Appoint a dedicated Fellowship Coordinator.

• Appoint a Professional School Council to assist in advising students on post-graduate study opportunities.

• Appoint a dedicated staff member to assist with graduate school advising and coordination of fellowships.

• Ensure that faculty are appropriately recognized for success in advising and placement in graduate and professional programs.

• Ensure that more than 90 percent of undergraduate students have an internship/field experience prior to graduation.

• Add a dedicated staff member for internship development and employer relations.

• Add a dedicated staff member to provide career counseling to post-traditional and distance learning students.

• Work closely with faculty to develop additional internships for academic credit.

• Increase career development programming for all students, including preparation for entrepreneurship and more targeted and specialized career events on campus.

• Continue to support entrepreneurship and innovation.

• Mercer's professional schools and colleges will establish applicable targets for licensure exam passage rates.



after graduation, Mercer will ensure that all graduating seniors in our traditional undergraduate program have participated in at least one engaged learning experience, such as individual faculty-directed research, study abroad, service-learning, or internships. We expect that the vast majority will have engaged in multiple engaged learning experiences.

**Increase prestigious fellowships and appointments.**

An outstanding undergraduate learning environment leads to exceptional post-graduate opportunities for the products of that environment. We continue creating opportunities for prestigious and meaningful post-graduate opportunities for our students, including Mercer's selection to become one of only 112 institutions eligible to nominate students for prestigious Churchill Scholarships for post-graduate study at the University of Cambridge, and Mercer's selection as a Peace Corps Prep site. We have made tremendous progress over the past decade in the number of students at Mercer who receive prestigious post-graduate appointments, such as Fulbright Award, Peace Corps and Teach For America appointments, and Woodrow Wilson Fellowships. We will continue to build on this momentum with a goal of placing on average more than 20 graduating seniors each year into prestigious post-graduate fellowships and appointments. In support of this goal, Mercer will appoint a dedicated fellowship coordinator.

**Enhance graduate school placement.** A growing percentage of Mercer undergraduates continue their studies in graduate and professional schools, including many of the most outstanding programs in the country. We are currently developing means of measuring the success of our students in obtaining entry into high-quality post-graduate study and commit to developing metrics to accurately monitor the growing success of our graduates in obtaining these appointments. In support of this initiative, the Provost will appoint a Professional School Council to assist in advising students, and we will appoint a dedicated staff member to assist with graduate school advising in conjunction with coordination of fellowships. We will also ensure that faculty are appropriately recognized for success in advising and placing students into graduate and professional programs, beginning with ensuring that such activities are tracked through the Activity Insight system.

**Increase internship opportunities and preparation for career success.** Almost all Mercer graduates secure meaningful employment within a reasonable time following graduation. We must continue working to ensure that our students have high-quality and meaningful employment opportunities.

To this end, we will continue to enhance internship opportunities to provide students with more information from which to make career choices, with a goal that more than 90 percent of our undergraduate students will have an internship/field experience prior to graduation. In order to enhance career opportunities for our students, we will add a dedicated staff member for internship development and employer relations. The data is clear that internships, particularly paid internships, make candidates much more attractive in an increasingly competitive job market. We will work more closely with faculty to develop appropriate internship offerings for academic credit. We will also add a resource to support post-traditional and distance learning students in their career objectives. In addition, we will also increase

career development programming for all students, including preparation for entrepreneurship and more targeted and specialized career events on campus.

**Enhance our culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.**

An increasing number of students and prospective students want to create their own enterprises, rather than working for someone else. These students want to learn how to create an enterprise, but they also want to answer the question of "why" in a meaningful way. They are committed to doing well by doing good — by using their entrepreneurial inclinations to develop innovations that will make a positive difference in the lives of others.

We are already seeing a growing number of recent graduates and even current students striking out on their own forming companies that import and sell coffee, consult on data analytics, use technology for tracking, and make furniture among many other ventures. Other students are working toward patenting a marketable mercury capture system that can be used to protect gold miners in the developing world. Mercer is committed to equipping these students with the knowledge and skills required for success as innovators and entrepreneurs, through appropriate interdisciplinary academic programming as well as clinical experiences available through the Mercer Innovation Center.

**Achieve top licensing outcomes.**

Graduates in a number of our professional schools must pass a licensing examination before

they are permitted to begin working in their chosen profession. Law, medicine, nursing, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, pharmacy, and counseling are among these. Graduates of these programs cannot become outstanding professionals in their respective fields without first passing their licensing examinations. As part of their individual strategic plans, Mercer's professional schools and colleges will establish appropriately ambitious targets for licensure exam passage rates, recognizing that these rates will be an important metric used by the University in evaluating their success.

# 6

## COMPETING WITH THE BEST

As one of America's premier private research universities, Mercer will compete with the finest institutions of higher learning in every worthwhile endeavor. Our recent national championship in debate, as well as national and international awards won by students in our renowned Robert McDuffie Center for Strings are examples. Our commitment to competing with the best certainly extends to intercollegiate athletics, which provide important learning and development opportunities for



## Imperative 6:

### COMPETING WITH THE BEST

• Mercer will continue to meet NCAA criteria for Graduation Success Rate (90 percent or higher) and Academic Progress Rate (.985 or higher) among student-athletes.

• Ensure student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in meaningful co-curricular activities such as undergraduate research and study abroad.

• The Director of Athletics and Provost will develop tools to enable the University to assess our success in instilling habits of character in student-athletes.

• Maintain robust culture of compliance with NCAA regulations.

• Compete regularly for Southern Conference championships and NCAA-sponsored post-season competition.

• Schedule high-quality academic institutions for non-conference contests.

student-athletes, helps build community among University constituencies, and facilitates marketing of the institution.

**Remain consistent with academic mission.** We must always conduct the intercollegiate athletics program at Mercer in a way that is consistent with the academic mission of the University. Our student-athletes are here primarily to successfully complete academic programs. We carefully monitor the academic performance of our student-athletes and expect high levels of achievement. During the most recent academic year, Mercer student-athletes collectively had a grade point average above 3.4. This high level of achievement is consistent with institutional expectations.

The NCAA has announced that it will begin making financial distributions to conferences based on the academic achievement of student-athletes at the conference's member institutions. Under the criteria relevant to high-quality institutions like Mercer, an annual point is awarded to the conference if one of its member institutions has an overall Academic

Progress Rate (APR) among student-athletes of .985 or more, or alternatively, has a Graduation Success Rate (GSR) among student-athletes of 90 percent or higher. During the most recent academic year, Mercer student-athletes had an overall APR of .986 and a GSR of 92 percent, satisfying both of the alternative requirements for earning an academic distribution point. Our expectation is that Mercer will continue to meet both of these criteria for assessing academic performance on an annual basis.

We also expect our student-athletes to have access to meaningful co-curricular activities, including the opportunity to engage in faculty-directed undergraduate research, to participate in study abroad, and to participate in service learning. The first NCAA Division I football student-athlete to win the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship is a Mercer student. Our effort to design and deploy a system to protect small-scale gold miners in South America from mercury contamination is being facilitated by a women's basketball student-athlete. We expect our coaches to ensure that student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in these transformational experiences.

**Ensure value-added learning experiences.** Participation in intercollegiate athletics can provide valuable learning experiences, supplementing lessons being learned in our classrooms and laboratories. To be successful, student-athletes must develop the discipline of time management, must learn to function effectively as a team member, must learn how to respond effectively to the disappointment of a loss, and how to demonstrate grace in the face of victory. Our coaches must teach and model these attributes as an essential component of their responsibilities. Our Director of Athletics, working with our Provost, will develop tools over the next year that enable us to assess accurately our success in instilling these habits of character in our student-athletes.

**Compete with integrity.** Mercer has never had a major infraction of NCAA regulations, the only one of the six

Division I institutions in Georgia to enjoy this distinction. It is absolutely imperative that we never sacrifice the honor of this important institution of higher learning. We will continue to maintain a robust culture of compliance throughout the University community.

**Compete successfully.** Being committed to academic success, ensuring that our student-athletes have the same engaged learning experiences as all other students, and competing with integrity does not mean that competitive outcomes are irrelevant. Competing at the NCAA Division I level is expensive. To realize an appropriate return on this investment, we must compete successfully against high-quality competition. Only through competitive success against other high-quality institutions will intercollegiate athletics at Mercer effectively build community among our constituents and facilitate marketing of the University and its academic programs. We value the contributions of all 18 of our intercollegiate athletics programs and support our student-athletes in each of these programs, but we recognize that the external market places a premium on sports that attract the most public attention in the United States. We expect to compete regularly for Southern Conference championships and NCAA-sponsored post-season competition. Our baseball program has won the regular season championship in each of the three seasons we have competed in the Southern Conference. A Mercer student-athlete won the Golden Spikes



Trophy as the college baseball player of the year in 2016. Our women's basketball program has won or shared the Southern Conference championship in each of the past three seasons, including a consensus top 25 national ranking at the conclusion of the 2017-18 regular season and an appearance in the NCAA tournament. Our football program continues to progress after its reinstatement in 2012, having received recognition in *Sports Illustrated* this past season after almost defeating SEC power Auburn and then taking on eventual national champion Alabama, and is positioned to compete for the Southern Conference championship in 2018. Our men's basketball program achieved the greatest victory in Mercer athletics history when it defeated Duke in the second round of the 2014 NCAA tournament, thereby demonstrating the type of positive publicity that can flow from competitive success in intercollegiate athletics.

We intend to schedule high-quality academic institutions for non-conference contests. Our upcoming four-year series with Yale in football is an example. A neutral-site contest with Harvard in men's basketball scheduled for December 2018 in Philips Arena in Atlanta is another. The Southern Conference is the right home for our intercollegiate athletics program precisely because of the quality of academic institutions that make up this historic and prestigious conference.

**7 BEING TRUE TO OUR HERITAGE**  
 Founded by Baptists, Mercer University took root in a fertile religious tradition born out of protest and a commitment to honoring our God-given dignity, protecting our inviolable freedom, and engaging in just and compassionate service.

At the confluence of dignity, freedom, and service, our particular tradition merges with many other rich traditions within and beyond the Christian religion. Mercer will continue



# 7 Imperative 7:

## BEING TRUE TO OUR HERITAGE

• Continue to be shaped by Mercer's foundational values, expressed more in deeds than in rhetoric and affiliations.

• Guarantee that all members of the University community have the broadest possible latitude to think, to listen, and to express themselves.

• Seek a \$15 million endowment to support Mercer On Mission in perpetuity.

• Increase annual student participation in Mercer On Mission from 250 to 400 and faculty participation from 40 to 75.

• In all of its public statements regarding religious heritage and values, Mercer will express its commitment to openness and inclusion and to inspiring students to lives of service.

to be shaped by these foundational values, expressed more in deeds than in rhetoric and affiliations.

**Embrace a free and critical search for truth as a way of glorifying God.** Freedom of inquiry and expression is central to a transformational and empowering education. Our free-church heritage urges us in this direction because at the center of Baptist convictions is the demand for intellectual freedom. Mercer will seek to enrich the mind and spirit by promoting and facilitating an open and rigorous search for truth and understanding.

Because the University is committed to intellectual freedom, it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to think, to listen, and to express themselves. This necessarily includes the freedom to express and listen to ideas that most find disagreeable and even offensive. Likewise, it includes the freedom to respond to expressions that one finds disagreeable and offensive, provided that response does not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the expressive freedom of others. These principles are more easily stated than honored — but honor them we must if we are to be true to our heritage.

**Inspire members of the Mercer community to use their gifts and talents to serve the needs of humankind as an expression of their love for God and neighbor.** Our founding tradition teaches that the ultimate test of faith is service to the least of our neighbors. Through programs such as Mercer On Mission and MerServe, its domestic counterpart, members of our community live out the instruction to love one's neighbor as ourselves. Our students and faculty have made the lame to walk in Vietnam, provided clean water to the thirsty in Africa and the Dominican Republic,

and made the sick well with mercury containment programs in South America and medical clinics in Cambodia.

Here at home, Mercer students contribute hundreds of thousands of hours of service each year to communities across the state. Collectively, this commitment to service has earned Mercer the highest national recognition through programs such as the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. And in 2018, the United Way of Central Georgia awarded its annual "Volunteer of the Year" Award collectively to the Mercer student body, in recognition of the impact Mercer students have on the community.

As we move into the future, Mercer will seek an endowment in excess of \$15 million for Mercer On Mission to guarantee adequate funding for the preservation in perpetuity of this important expression of Mercer's faith tradition. This endowment will enable us to increase the level of annual student participation from more than 250 to more than 400. By consolidating several teams of faculty and students at a single site to form a holistic response to the needs of the host community, we can achieve greater impact from our work while facilitating this higher level of student opportunity.

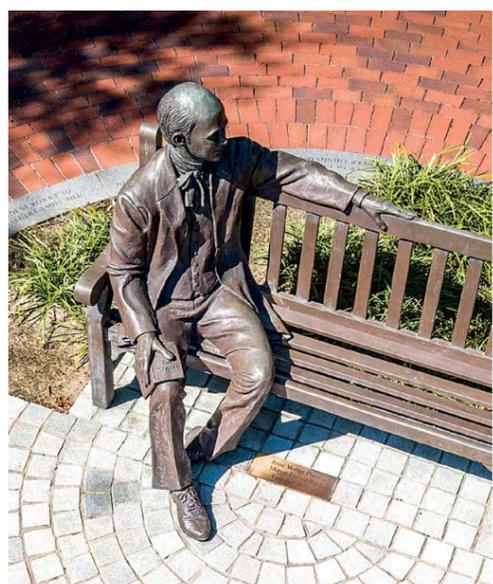
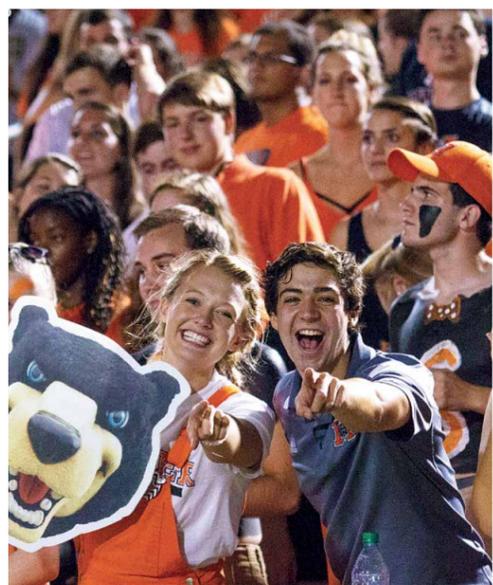
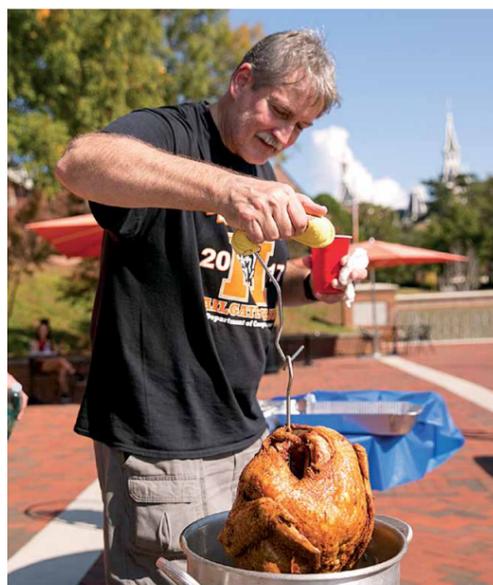
Mercer will cultivate Mercer On Mission faculty leaders from the various disciplines across the schools and colleges of the University. At the current 5.5 ratio of students to faculty, which has proven to be effective, raising annual student participation to at least 400 will require approximately 75 faculty members to participate annually. Increasing the number of participating faculty will require recruiting faculty who are drawn especially to the distinctive mission of this University.

We recognize that many mistakenly feel a tension between religious heritage on the one hand and inclusivity and freedom on the other. It is essential in all our public statements regarding religious heritage and values that we express our commitment to freedom, openness and inclusion and to inspiring students to lives of service.

These values represent the best of a heritage that has guided this important institution of higher learning for nearly 200 years. Like great books, these values are timeless. As they have empowered and inspired generations of Mercerians, they will shape the future of this institution. They inform the entirety of this strategic plan. They inform our vision of a special place — a place unique in the world of higher education — a vibrant and exciting world-class research university that is authentically committed to marshaling its resources to inspire a community of scholars and innovators to deploy their gifts and talents to meet the needs of humankind. If Jesse Mercer could somehow visit this place — this institution bearing his name and representing his legacy — we believe he would smile.



ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MOSLEY; PHOTOGRAPHY: MATTHEW SMITH, MATT ODOM, MOISES CASTILLO, AMY MADDOX, SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY, REBECCA SANDIFER, CHRISTOPHERIAN SMITH, ROD REILLY, SARAH POUNDS, JOHN AMIS, JAN MELVILLE, JUDY STAPLETON, ROGER IDENEN



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JOIN US FOR

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*Homecoming*  
NOVEMBER 2-4 2018

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

Featured events for the weekend will include the  
traditional Half Century Club Brunch,  
class reunions for '68, '78, '88, '93, '98, '08,  
alumni awards, pep rally, tailgating,  
Mercer Bears vs ETSU Bucs football,  
and so much more!

REGISTER ONLINE BY OCTOBER 24  
at [homecoming.mercer.edu](http://homecoming.mercer.edu)  
or by phone at (478) 301-2173.

# BAGROU & LAWRENCE

## SWEEP SOCON ATHLETE OF THE YEAR HONORS

**F**or just the second time in league history, and the first time since 1990-91, the Southern Conference Male and Female Athlete of the Year honors were awarded to the same institution. Mercer swept the annual awards as men's soccer forward Will Bagrou and women's basketball guard Kahlia Lawrence were named the 2018 SoCon Male and Female Athletes of the Year. Bagrou and Lawrence were both drafted to continue their respective careers in the 2018 MLS Draft and WNBA Draft.

Bagrou became the program's first-ever student-athlete to garner SoCon Athlete of the Year in 2017, as well as becoming the first men's soccer player to take home the distinguished honor. Bagrou now joins higher ranks in the conference as just the ninth player in SoCon history to earn back-to-back athlete of the year honors since 1947-48. Bagrou joins the

company of Dick Groat (Duke), Jerry West (West Virginia) and Stephen Curry (Davidson).

Bagrou put a stamp on his legacy during his senior campaign, becoming Mercer's first-ever MLS Draft selection, taken by Sporting Kansas City with the 75th overall pick. The Utah native tallied a SoCon-best 27 points this past season, scoring 12 goals and recording three assists. Most notably, Bagrou aided the Bears in claiming their second consecutive SoCon Tournament Title



and NCAA Tournament berth.

Bagrou earned All-SoCon First Team honors in each of his four seasons with the Bears and added USC All-South Region honors to his resume for the third time in his career this past season. The senior forward finished third in career points at Mercer with 90 and finished tied fifth for career assists with 16.

Lawrence is the first Mercer female student-athlete to be named Athlete of the Year, solidifying her prestigious career. The Georgia native is the eighth women's basketball player since 1989-90 to claim the award and first since Taylor Hall (Chattanooga) did so in 2013-14.

Lawrence etched her name further in the Mercer record books after becoming the second player in program history to be drafted in the WNBA Draft, taken by the Minnesota Lynx with the 24th overall pick. Lawrence was later traded to the Las Vegas Aces in the third round. Lawrence is the second student-athlete drafted from the SoCon to the WNBA and is the highest drafted player in league history.

The Columbus native led Mercer to its first SoCon Tournament title and NCAA Division I Tournament berth as a senior while earning SoCon Player of the Year for a record-breaking third consecutive season. Lawrence concluded the season averaging a SoCon-best 19.3 points per game, while pulling down 5.1 rebounds and dishing out 2.1 assists per game.

The senior guard finished her career with 2,275 points, ranking third in Mercer and SoCon history, after averaging 17.2 points per game over four seasons. Lawrence also snuck into the top-10 in career rebounds at Mercer with 696 total boards. The 2018 SoCon Tournament Most Outstanding Player averaged 25 points per game during the Bears' tournament run this season.

Lawrence led Mercer to three straight SoCon regular season titles dating back to the 2015-16 season. She is the two-time defending Georgia Women's College Player of the Year and earned All-SoCon First Team honors three times in her career as well.

## BLAKE GARCIA APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC BANDS

**B**lake Garcia was appointed director of athletic bands in Townsend School of Music, effective July 1. Garcia, who most recently served as a doctoral conducting associate at the University of Kentucky, will be responsible for directing Mercer's marching band and basketball pep band, as well as serving as a guest conductor of the wind ensemble.



Since 2016, Garcia has worked with the Wildcat Marching Band as well as the football, basketball, volleyball and gymnastics pep bands at the University of Kentucky, where he continues to pursue his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He also served as co-director of the concert band and guest conductor of the wind symphony and symphony band.

In 2015, he earned his Master of Music in instrumental conducting from the University of Florida. As a graduate teaching assistant, his assistantship duties included teaching the Gator Marching Band and pep band, mentoring undergraduate conducting students, and conducting many of the university's concert bands and chamber ensembles. Garcia received his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Florida State University in 2008.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL TO FACE HARVARD AT ATLANTA ARENA

Coach Bob Hoffman's men's basketball team will travel 80 miles north up Interstate 75 to play in one of the Southeast's most well-known sports and entertainment venues when the Bears take on the Harvard Crimson at State Farm Arena (formerly Philips Arena) in downtown Atlanta. The holiday matchup is scheduled for either Saturday, Dec. 29, or Sunday, Dec. 30, depending upon the Hawks and State Farm Arena event schedules.



@ State Farm Arena, Atlanta  
DEC. 29 OR 30

SPORTS INFORMATION: CHRISTOPHER SMITH PHOTO

# School of Medicine Receives NIH Center of Excellence Designation

## Additional \$700K in Federal Funding

Two Mercer School of Medicine faculty members recently received funding from the National Institutes of Health that will officially designate the School's Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities as an NIH Center of Excellence.

With this designation, the Mercer-based Center is now one of only two rural health-focused NIH Centers of Excellence in the nation.

"Mercer School of Medicine is committed to rural health. The designation of this center only deepens and strengthens our commitment," said Jean Sumner, M.D., dean of the School. "Rural and underserved health care requires study, innovation and solutions that build the strength of the communities we serve. We are honored to receive this designation."

Dr. Bryant Smalley, who came to Mercer late last year as associate dean for research and accreditation, and Dr. Jacob Warren, who has served as Rufus Harris Endowed Chair and director of the Center since 2013, have served as joint principal investigators on the NIH Center of Excellence grant since 2012.

After Dr. Smalley joined the faculty at Mercer, they were able to successfully negotiate the transfer of the Center of Excellence designation, accompanied by nearly \$700,000 in new federal funding, to the University. This brings the total amount granted to Mercer under this award to more than \$2.1 million.

Funded by NIH's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (grant P20MD006901), Centers of Excellence serve as focal points of expertise in research, training and community engagement dedicated to the needs of a particular community or health outcome.

In the case of Mercer's Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities, the focal area is eliminating health disparities faced by rural populations.

"Our work focuses on addressing some of the leading health problems in rural communities, training future generations of rural health researchers and partnering with rural communities to develop innovative strategies for improving the entire community's health," said Dr. Smalley. "This funding will allow us to continue and expand our work throughout the state."

Dr. Smalley and Dr. Warren have received numerous accolades recognizing the work of the Center, including the National Rural Health Association Outstanding Researcher of the Year award, which was presented to Dr. Warren in 2016 and Dr. Smalley in 2018. Additionally, the Center's Disparities Elimination Summer Research Experience was named the 2016 Program of the Year by the NRHA.

"We are extremely excited to receive official NIH Center of Excellence designation for the Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities," said Dr. Warren. "Mercer University School of Medicine is uniquely poised to become the national leader in rural health research, and this funding will help us continue the remarkable growth in that area already happening here at Mercer."



From left, Dr. Jacob Warren, Dr. Bryant Smalley, School of Medicine Dean Dr. Jean R. Sumner and Mercer President William D. Underwood

ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO

**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

**Ethelene Dyer Jones**, CLA '53, received the "American Women in History" award by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, on Aug. 17, 2017, through the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter, NSDAR, at Blairsville. In 2011, she received the Governor's Award in the Humanities. Both awards were given for her efforts to preserve history through writing and/or editing five books of local and area history, helping to establish three historical societies in three different counties, and a career in writing (after her retirement from 30-plus years in public education) as a newspaper columnist for *The News Observer*, *Blue Ridge* for more than 27 years, with the major portion of her columns dealing with local and area history.

### 1960s

**The Hon. S. Phillip Brown**, LAW '67, was awarded with 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 been serving in the Macon Judicial Superior Court since 1996.

**The Hon. J. Virgil Costley Jr.**, LAW '68, was honored by the State Bar of Georgia with the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in 2017. Costley is a retired juvenile court judge in Covington and coordinates the Paralegal Studies Program at Georgia Piedmont Technical College.

**Leonard "Pete" Fletcher**, CLA '66, LAW '69, will be inducted to the Academy of Richmond County Hall of Fame in October. Fletcher has served as board counsel for the Richmond County Board of Education for more than 46 years. He has also represented the Columbia County Board of Education for selected legal matters since 1989 and served as board counsel since 2007.

**Tommy T. Holland**, CLA '60, LAW '62, was recognized by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Jonesboro District.

**Dr. James "Jim" Scruggs**, PHA '67, retired in May 2010 after 39 years at Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy.

**The Hon. George A. Shahood Jr.**, LAW '68, was honored by the Florida Bar Association for his 50 years of membership at the annual luncheon in Orlando, Florida, on June 16. Shahood served on the appellate court until 2009, the final 18 months serving as chief judge. He currently serves as a senior judge for the 19th Circuit, which includes the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee County, presiding over civil trials.

**Dr. Charles D. Williams**, CLA '62, received the Colquitt County Career Achievement Award on March 8. Williams is a retired pediatric radiologist with a lifetime of accomplishments, achievements and awards. In 2016, he received the highest recognition in his field, The Gold Medal Award, given by the American College of Radiology.

### 1970s

**William P. "Bill" Adams**, LAW '77, retired Bibb County State Court judge was recognized by the Macon Bar Association as the Lawyer of the Year. Adams practices with his son Brian Adams

in the Adams Law Firm in Macon. His personal efforts since retirement to provide legal services to needy and low-income residents of Macon-Bibb County and to launch the Middle Georgia Access to Justice legal incubator program were cited among the many accomplishments that made him a worthy recipient of the award.

**Ann Baird Bishop**, LAW '76, was recognized by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Atlanta District.

**William "Bill" E. Boyes**, LAW '70, was named to the 2018 Florida Super Lawyers in the areas of estate planning and probate. Boyes has been board certified by the Florida Bar in wills, trusts and estates for more than 25 years, and has been AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell for more than 30 years. He has been named to the Florida Super Lawyers for 12 consecutive years. Boyes is also a Fellow of the prestigious American College of Trust and Estate Counsel ("ACTEC") and has been a member of the ACTEC Fiduciary Litigation Committee since 1997.

**Howard C. Kaufold Jr.**, CLA '75, LAW '78, was appointed superior court judge in the Oconee Judicial Circuit by Gov. Nathan Deal, CLA '64, LAW '66. Kaufold will fill the unexpired term of Judge H. Frederick Mullis, LAW '79, who resigned because of problems with his vision.

**Jeffery E. Merry Sr.**, CLA '74, was among 18 Georgia Association of Business Brokers members named to the 2017 Million Dollar Club chosen for brokering the sale of small, medium-sized and large businesses with worth more than \$90 million in 2017.

**Hugh McNatt**, CLA '69, LAW '72, of Balch Bingham, in Vidalia, was selected as 2018 Georgia Super Lawyer in Civil Litigation: Defense, for the second year in a row.

**George C. Reid**, LAW '73, launched a new boutique mediation firm focusing on a unique audience, high-net-worth families and closely-held businesses. The firm, Bridgewater Resolution Group, is the first of its kind.

**Donna P. Price**, CLA '76, LAW '79, JAGC, USN (Retired CAPT), is an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond School of Law.

**The Hon. W. Louis Sands**, CLA '71, LAW '74, was recognized with the 2018 Tradition of Excellence at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June. The "Tradition of Excellence" is awarded to four outstanding members of the General Practice & Trial Law Section: one plaintiff lawyer, one defense lawyer, one general practice lawyer and one judge.

**Earl S. Ward Jr.**, PHA '78, professor emeritus with Mercer's College of Pharmacy, received the Pfizer's North American Medical Affairs Internal Medicine Excellence Award for Leadership.

### 1980s

**The Rev. Walter D. Blossch**, CLA '81, became the senior pastor of Hardeetown Baptist Church, Chiefland, Florida.

**Mitchell D. Broudy**, LAW '85, was named the 2018 recipient of the Family Law Service Award by the Virginia State Bar's Family Law Section.

**Jimmie H. Brown**, LAW '83, was elected to the Southwestern Judicial Circuit in 2016, and is serving the second year of his term. Brown and his wife Tina live in Leesburg, where he is a deacon and Sunday School teacher in his church.

**The Hon. J. Kevin Chason**, LAW '87, chief judge of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit, was designated to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia in place of Justice Britt C.

Grant on Feb. 5 in the Appeal of Campaign for Accountability v Consumer Credit Research Foundation (S17G1676) and the Board of Regents v Consumer Credit Research Foundation (S17G1677).

**J. Christopher Clark**, LAW '89, was recognized with the 2018 Tradition of Excellence at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June.

**Gregory W. Edwards**, LAW '83, was recognized by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Albany District.

**Sgt. Maj. William J. Gabbard**, CLA '81, retired from the Army on May 4, completing a career of more than 30 years as a vocalist, soloist and conductor with The Soldiers' Chorus of The U.S. Army Field Band, Washington, D.C. Gabbard performed more than 3,500 concerts in all 50 states and in several foreign countries as a member of "The Musical Ambassadors of the

Amy." He sang for eight U.S. presidents, led three presidential inaugural parades as drum major of the band, and appeared in numerous television programs on six national networks.

**Karen Kirkpatrick Karabinos**, LAW '86, was selected to join the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), an invitation-only association for lawyers and insurance executives who represent corporate and insurance interests around the world. She is a partner of Drew Eckl Farham LLP in Atlanta.

**Michael F. Kemp**, CLA '78, LAW '81, was recently appointed as chairman of the Armstrong Foundation of Georgia Southern University Board of Trustees. Kemp is senior vice president at Synovus Trust Company in Savannah.

**John D. Mills**, BUS '86, LAW '89, published his seventh novel, "Pinelaud Gold."

**Samuel E. Mitchell Jr.**, CLA '85, second-leading scorer in Mercer men's basketball history and veteran NBA coach, has been named assistant men's basketball coach for

## REMEMBERING...

Former Professor and Macon-based Poet

## Dr. Anya Silver

**D**r. Anya Silver, professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and widely published poet, died Aug. 6 at the age of 49. Dr. Silver was born Dec. 22, 1968, in Media, Pennsylvania, and raised in nearby Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. She earned her undergraduate degree in English literature and creative writing from Haverford College in 1990, before teaching high school for a year in Mississippi and working at the National Geographic Society Library. In 1997, she earned her Ph.D. in English literature from Emory University, and three years later began teaching at Mercer.

She authored four books of poetry. Her first three books, *The Ninety-Third Name of God* (2010), *I Watched You Disappear* (2014) and *From Nothing* (2016), were published with the Louisiana State University Press. The fourth, *Second Bloom*, was published in the *Poetria Poetry Series* of Cascade Press (2017).

This past April, Dr. Silver was appointed one of 175 Guggenheim Fellows for the current year among nearly 3,000 applicants in the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation's 93rd competition. She was named Georgia Author of the Year in Poetry in 2015, and was widely published in journals and anthologies, including *Best American Poetry 2016*, *Poetry in Medicine*, *Between Midnight and Dawn*, *Writing on Napkins at the Sunshine Club* and *The Turning Aside: The Kingdom Book of Contemporary Christian Poetry*. She also published a book of literary criticism, *Victorian Literature and the Anorexic Body* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Dr. Silver's poetry explores themes such as faith, redemption, memory and family, and seeking to find the eternal within the ordinary world. Another recurring theme in her work is living with inflammatory breast cancer. She was originally diagnosed with the illness — the most rare, lethal and aggressive form of breast cancer — in 2004 when she was pregnant with her son. She served on the board of the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation and was active in the cause of educating people about inflammatory breast and metastatic cancer.

Dr. Silver is survived by her husband, Dr. Andrew Silver, who also serves as professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts, and their son, Noah.

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

the University of Memphis.

**David A. Phillips**, LAW '89, was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to superior court judge in judicial district 27A, Gaston County. Phillips has been a criminal defense attorney in private practice (The Phillips Law Firm, PLLC) in Gaston County for more than 25 years.

**Bonnie "Boo" Ramage**, BUS '84, was recognized by the Greenwood, South Carolina, Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Council as a 2017 Woman of Excellence. These awards honor outstanding women in their professions who are committed community champions by

## August

*The small pink rose  
by the castle gate  
glows in the twilight,  
gathering strands  
of sunset in its petals.  
The tower's a ruin.  
But I keep my eye on the rose,  
on its many-hooded gaze  
that doesn't turn away  
from what approaches.  
To bloom is so foolish  
that it must be wisdom.*

— Anya Silver



recognizing their unique leadership influence. Ramage works as special assistant to the director at the Greenwood Genetic Center and was lauded for her ongoing dedication to the Girl Scouts of America.

**Kathryn McCart Schrader**, LAW '87, was recognized by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Lawrenceville District.

**W. Scott Sorrels**, BUS '81, was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award by the Northeast Georgia Council and the Boy Scouts of America. This recognition is the National Eagle Scout Association's highest honor given to Eagle Scouts who have demonstrated an unsurpassed level of service within their professions and communities. Sorrels is a partner at Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP.

**James G. Tunison Jr.**, LAW '88, superior court judge in the Southern Judicial Circuit, was designated to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia in place of Justice Britt C. Grant on Jan. 23, in the appeal of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC et al. v. Georgia Department of Revenue et al. (S17G1256).

**Dianne Goetz Yamin**, LAW '86, and husband Robert Yamin were recognized with an Official Citation by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut during the Danbury Day at the Capitol for their considerable civic and philanthropic efforts.

**1990s**

**Sally Brown Akins**, LAW '90, was recognized with the 2018 Tradition of Excellence at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June. Akins was also elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia, where she also serves its Board of Governors for the Eastern Judicial Circuit. Akins is a partner at Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams in Savannah.

**Kimberly Greene Angle**, CLA '90, received the 2017-2018 David L. Parks Distinguished Professor Award. Chosen by her faculty colleagues, the distinguished professor award recognizes excellence in creative and effective teaching, scholarship, personal and professional integrity, and commitment to the mission of Montreat College.

**Michael Scott Bartruff**, CLA '94, a periodontist, was recognized as a 2018 Top Doctor in Atlanta. Top Doctor Awards are

dedicated to selecting and honoring those healthcare providers who have demonstrated clinical experience while delivering the highest standards of patient care.

**Lloyd Bell**, LAW '92, was featured in an Executive Profile in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in June which focused on his specialized practice at the Bell Law Firm. He founded his own firm in 1999 and has since recovered more than \$100 million for patients and families of people killed or injured because of medical malpractice.

**Dr. T. Wayne Bloodworth**, BUS '97, is the founder and president of the nation's first non-profit surgery center solely for treatment of female genital mutilation. The center is located in Johns Creek.

**Kenneth M. Brock**, LAW '92, was elected as partner at Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP. Brock focuses his practice in the area of workers' compensation defense, where he represents employers, insurers, self-insurers, and third-party administrators in numerous workers' compensation claims.

**E. Trenton Brown III**, LAW '99, was appointed the designee to replace Justice Michael P. Boggs LAW '90, on the Supreme

Court of Georgia on Jan. 22, to hear the oral arguments in a case that involved the Georgia Power Company. Brown was appointed to the Ocmulgee Circuit Superior Court in 2012. Brown was also appointed to serve as judge in the Georgia State Court of Appeals. Previously serving in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Superior Court, Brown replaced Judge Tilman "Tripp" Self III, appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

**Matt Cook**, LAW '99, and Kate Sievert Cook, LAW '02, partners of Gainesville's Cook Law Group, successfully tried a plaintiff's case wherein a Cobb County jury returned a \$2.7 million verdict.

**Denise Dell-Powell**, LAW '91, was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Bankruptcy on March 16 in Washington, D.C., in recognition for professional excellence and exceptional contributions to the fields of bankruptcy and insolvency. Dell-Powell is a partner at the Orlando Office of Burr Forman, LLP.

**D. Bradley "Brad" Folsom**, CLA '93, was appointed to the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority in December 2017. Folsom is a partner with Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers, P.C. and has been practicing law for 20 years.

**Richard C. Foster**, LAW '95, joined Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP as a partner. He focuses his practice on motor carrier liability, commercial insurance coverage and general commercial insurance defense.

**Susan Dunn Garcia**, BUS '91, joined the firm of Butler, Williams & Wyche, LLP as a partner Jan. 1.

**Todd W. Hedgpeith**, LAW '98, joined the public accounting firm MBAF as a director in the Tax & Accounting Department and is based in the firm's Boca Raton office.

**Dr. Matthew L. Mancini**, MED '94, former faculty, has been 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.

**Michelle Wilson McCarthy**, PHA '94, director of the University of Virginia Health System's Postgraduate Year One Pharmacy Residency program, was honored to have her program selected as the recipient of the 2017 ASHP Foundation Residency Excellence Program Award.

**Lt. Col. David P. McCoy**, CLA '96, marked 22 years of service as a commissioned officer in the United States Army on June 9. He was recently awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for exemplary service while assigned in a joint service billet as the director of the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. McCoy was commissioned through Mercer's Army ROTC program in 1996. He and wife Araceli L. McCoy reside in, El Paso, Texas.

**Brad J. McFall**, LAW '92, was re-elected to serve on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia, where he has been serving continuously since 2001. McFall is a partner at Gammon Anderson & McFall in Cedartown.

**Ann-Marie McGaughey**, LAW '93, was appointed the new managing partner of the Atlanta office of Squire Patton Boggs.

**Kirk A. Nooks**, EGR '96, BUS '98, was named president of Gordon State College by the

Georgia Board of Regents and assumed the position on June 1. Nooks previously served as president at Metropolitan Community College (MCC)-Longview in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

**Leslie Fisher Painter**, NUR '98, graduated from Troy University on May 11 with her DNP (Doctorate of Nursing Practice). She currently teaches nursing in Alabama.

**Kathleen Powers**, EDU '95, published a book, "How to Write a Fifth Grade (or any other grade) Essay," in February. The book is directed at third through middle graders to help them write better essays. Powers formerly taught ELI in the 1990s before earning her master's degree. She is a certified teacher, private tutor of writing and former newspaper reporter.

**The Rev. Emory Luther "Chip" Reeves**, DIV '99, was installed as the new pastor at Community Baptist Church in Milledgeville on May 6.

**Mark Rosen**, CLA '90, was appointed news and content director for Raycom Media-owned ABC affiliate WTVM in Columbus.

**D. Jay Stewart**, LAW '91, Atlantic Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge, was appointed as a designee to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia in place of Justice Nels S. D. Peterson on January 23, in the appeal of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC et al. v. Georgia Department of Revenue et al. (S17G1256).

**Clayton W. Thompson II**, LAW '97, joined DLA Piper's Intellectual Property and Technology group as a partner in its Silicon Valley office.

**Dr. Linda I. Walden**, MED '92, received the Georgia State Medical Association's Distinguished Service Medallion Award from the Georgia State Medical Association during the 125th anniversary Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

**Jon Christopher Wolfe**, LAW '93, a partner at Chambliss Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs LLP of Macon, was awarded the Macon Bar's William A. Bootle Professionalism Award for his representation of the best of a lawyer's ideals over the course of his 25 years of practice.

**2000s**

**Saudah Blackman-Stokes**, EDU '01, was named a 2018 Principal of the Year by the St. Tammany Parish School System in Covington, Louisiana. Blackman-Stokes has served as principal of Salmen High School since 2016, previously serving as assistant principal.

**Joel Bulger**, BUS '06, joined Zaxby's Franchising LLC as the company's first chief marketing officer.

**Ivy N. Cadle**, LAW '07, completed his year of service as president of the Macon Bar Association in May and was recognized for his efforts to increase attendance at monthly Bar meetings, accruing a financial surplus in assigned in a joint service billet as the director of the Bar's outreach in the community. He practices in Baker Donelson's Macon office.

**Christy Crow Childers**, LAW '05, of Childers & McCain LLC in Macon, began a one-year term as president of the Macon Bar Association at the annual Law Day luncheon in May.

**Kathleen "Katie" Burt Connell**, LAW '05, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML). Connell becomes the youngest attorney in Georgia to receive the distinction of Fellow. She is one of only 32 Fellows in Georgia and 1,650 across the United States. Connell is a founding partner of the Atlanta-based family law firm of Connell Cummings.

**Kate Sievert Cook**, LAW '02, and Matt Cook, LAW '99, partners of Gainesville's Cook Law Group, successfully tried a plaintiff's case wherein a Cobb County jury returned a \$2.7 million verdict.

**Lurline Craig-Burke**, BUS '00, was named managing director for Aon Risk Solutions, a global risk management business. In her new role, Craig-Burke will serve as a member of the firm's leadership team responsible for engaging clients' executive leadership and Boards of Directors in delivering risk, retirement and health solutions. She brings more than 25 years of expertise and leadership experience in driving top-line revenue growth and building strong relationships with large corporate and middle market leaders. Prior to joining Aon, Craig-Burke served as president of Jackson Executives and chief of the State of Georgia Health Benefit Plan.

**Andy Davis**, BUS '03, chief financial and information systems officer for the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation, received the Maj. Peter J. O'Connell Lottery Industry Lifetime Achievement Award from the Public Gaming Research Institute at the PGRI Conference in Miami, Florida, on March 28.

**Sarah Smith Dumbacher**, LAW '10, joined FisherBroyles, LLP as a partner in its Atlanta office, defending individuals, health plans and plan administrators in hospital billing dispute litigation. Dumbacher was formerly with Drew Eckd Farnham, LLP.

**V. Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield**, LAW '03, is recognized as a name partner in the Statesboro law firm renamed Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Edenfield.

**Bradley M. Harmon**, LAW '02, of Hunter Maclean in Savannah, was selected as 2018 Georgia Super Lawyer in Business Litigation.

**Canon B. Hill**, LAW '05, joined the Education Law team at Bowles Rice in Virginia after successfully passing the West Virginia Bar. Hill most recently practiced in Georgia and District of Columbia.

**Andre Jones**, BUS '02, has been selected as the vice president of business development for the Antenna Systems Division of Communications & Power Industries.

**Walter E. Jones**, LAW '05, of Balch Bingham in Atlanta, was selected as 2018 Georgia Rising Star in Business Litigation.

**Louise M. Jones-James**, BUS '05, was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of Finance and Operations in recognition of her role as a community volunteer at Finance & Operations Leadership Consulting.

**M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins**, LAW '05, of Balch Bingham in Atlanta, was selected as 2018 Georgia Super Lawyer in Personal Injury General: Defense. Kaufold-Wiggins received the Rising Star distinction for this practice area in 2017.

**Kerri A. Kroecker**, DIV '04, accepted a position as a spiritual care specialist at Rockyview General Hospital in Calgary, Alberta.

**Elizabeth F. Latta**, LAW '08, joined Huff Powell Bailey LLP as her firm Forrester & Brim announced merger with Huff Powell Bailey in April. Latta will continue her civil trial practice, including the defense of health care professionals.

**Nicholas J. Laybourn**, LAW '05, of Hunter Maclean in Savannah, was selected as 2018 Georgia Rising Star in Business Litigation.

**John R.B. "Jack" Long**, LAW '06, was elected to serve on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia representing the Augusta Circuit.

**Jennifer S. Lowndes**, LAW '09, was elected

as a partner at Jones Walker LLP. Lowndes practices Construction Law and represents clients in the United States and abroad.

**Michael E. Mayo**, CLA '06, LAW '09, and Michael B. Hill, LAW '13, recently formed the law firm of Mayo | Hill based in Macon. The firm serves clients throughout the state, specializing in cases involving catastrophic injury and/or medical malpractice.

**Samuel J. Miller**, MUS '09, graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting. Miller has served for seven years as choral director and fine arts department chair at Woodland High School in Henry County.

**Patrick M. Mincey**, LAW '08, was recognized as a 2018 Legal Elite in Criminal Law by *Business North Carolina*. He was also recognized by North Carolina Super Lawyers magazine as Rising Star in Criminal Defense, White Collar. Mincey is the chair of the White Collar & Criminal Defense Group at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog, LLP.

**Kristen Burwell Naney**, CHP '08, earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in toxicology from the University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health in December 2017. Naney studied toxicology and environmental health as part of the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health program, where her dissertation research focused on cumulative risk assessment, community resiliency and environmental justice.

**Jeffrey H. Perry**, LAW '05, recently joined Nelson Mullins as a member of the firm's premier emerging growth and venture capital practice in Atlanta.

**Joy Henning Peterson**, PHA '09, received the 2017 Working Mother of the Year award from WellStar Kennestone Hospital where she is a clinical pharmacist.

**Dr. Steven Powell**, MED '05, joined MedOptions as chief medical officer. MedOptions is the nation's leading provider of behavioral health services to skilled nursing and assisted living facilities.

**The Hon. Kathryn L. Powers**, LAW '09, was appointed as superior court judge of Clayton Judicial Circuit by Gov. Deal. Powers is most recently a state court judge for Clayton County.

**Jennifer Wright Purcell**, CLA '06, was promoted to the rank of associate professor of leadership studies with tenure and appointed as the inaugural graduate faculty fellow for Kennesaw State University. Additionally, Purcell will serve as the president of the KSU Faculty Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Delton S. "Del" Schwalls**, EGR '00, was elected as chair of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association, and re-elected to the national board of directors for the Association of State Floodplain Managers, serving a second two-year term as regional director for the southeast U.S.

**Gregory K. Smith**, LAW '01, joined Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP as counsel in its Construction Law practice in Atlanta. Smith was previously with King & Spaulding.

**Molly A. Stevens**, CLA '05, was a contestant on NBC's "The Voice Season 14" in March. Her blind audition of the Patty Griffin song "Heavenly Day" turned two chairs, and she chose Kelly Clarkson as her coach. Stevens was eliminated in the Battle Rounds. She signed a record label with Marrow MP Records in July. The label, located in New Market, Alabama, focuses on Americana-folk and singer-songwriters.

**The Rev. Charles L. Qualls**, DIV '08, became senior pastor at Franklin Baptist Church in

Franklin, Virginia, in 2017. His newest book release is "Sessions with Judges" from Smyth and Helwys Publishers in Macon. He is also now serving on the Day1 Advisory Board.

**Cedric Dewayne Scott**, BUS '00, was appointed fire chief for the city of Albany.

**Kathy Harrington Sullivan**, LAW '05, was promoted to partner in the Atlanta employment law firm Barrett & Farahany. Harrington Sullivan was lead case evaluation attorney for the firm.

**Michael Van Cise**, CLA '01, was elected a Fellow to the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Van Cise is a partner in the Private Wealth Practice of Arnall Golden Gregory.

**Carl Varndoe**, LAW '03 obtained a \$2.2 million verdict for a client who sustained major injuries as a result of a fall through an open hatch on a casino ship. The verdict was featured in the Jan. 11 edition of *Fulton County Daily Report*.

**Arthur R. York**, LAW '09, joined Rafi Law Firm in Atlanta in March. He will continue to represent individuals and families impacted by death or catastrophic injuries in cases involving negligent security, car and trucking crashes, and other types of negligence.

**Elizabeth F. Anderson**, EDU '16, was named vice president of academic affairs at Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC). Previously serving as dean of arts and sciences

REMEMBERING...

Former Dean, Professor and Chair of Surgery

Dr. Martin Dalton

**M**artin L. Dalton Jr., M.D., former dean of Mercer School of Medicine, died June 22 at the age of 86.

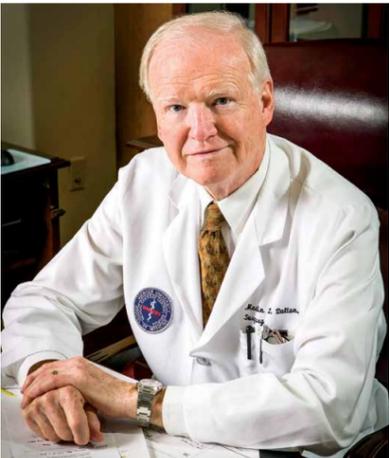
Dr. Dalton was born May 15, 1932, in Columbus, and grew up in Eufaula, Alabama. He earned his undergraduate degree from Auburn University in 1953 and his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham in 1957.

Dr. Dalton's surgical residency was completed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, as was his residency in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. Upon completion of his residency training, he entered the United States Army, and for two years he was chief of the Thoracic Section of the Department to Surgery at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. Following military service, he began the private practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in Lubbock, Texas. From 1973-1983, he was clinical professor and chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Texas Tech University.

In 1983, Dr. Dalton returned to the University of Mississippi as professor of surgery and served in that capacity until 1990, when he became professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at Mercer School of Medicine and chief of surgery and program director of the surgery residency at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon.

In September 2005, Dr. Dalton was appointed dean of the School of Medicine and continued to serve as chair of surgery until June 30, 2007. He retired as dean one year later and completed a six-month sabbatical during which he authored the *History of the Mercer University School of Medicine*. In 2009, he returned to Mercer's Department of Surgery as associate program director of the surgery residency.

Dr. Dalton is survived by his wife of 62 years, Alice Ligon Dalton of Macon; his daughters, Lucy Dalton Uceda and Jenny Dalton Rankin, both of Atlanta; and a grandson, William Dalton Rankin.



REMEMBERING...

Former Governor, U.S. Senator, Mercer Trustee

Zell Miller

**Z**ell Bryan Miller, former two-term governor of Georgia, U.S. senator and Mercer trustee, died March 23 at the age of 86. Miller was born on Feb. 24, 1932, in Young Harris.

Miller's father died when he was 17 days old, and he and his older sister, Jane, were raised by their mother in a house she built with rocks she hauled from a nearby stream.

Miller graduated from Young Harris College in 1951 before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps, which he served from 1953-1956, obtaining the rank of sergeant.

Miller married Shirley Carver on Jan. 14, 1954. They were married for 64 years and had two sons. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a master's degree in history in 1958 and returned to Young Harris, where he began a long career as an educator.

Miller served as mayor of Young Harris from 1959-1960 and as a state senator from 1961-1964. He went on to become the longest-serving lieutenant governor in Georgia's history, serving 16 years from 1975-1991. He was elected the 79th governor of Georgia in 1991 and went on to create the HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) Scholarship and Georgia's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program. Upon completing his second term in 1999, he proceeded to serve in the U.S. Senate from 2000-2005. During his political career, he served as keynote speaker at both the Democratic National Convention and Republican National Convention.

More than 1.8 million students have gone to college in Georgia on HOPE Scholarships, and more than 1.6 million four-year-olds have begun their education through Georgia's Pre-K Program. These were Miller's proudest achievements during his 46-year career in public service.

Miller was a lifetime member of the Board of Trustees at Young Harris College and a member of the Mercer Board of Trustees.

"Growing up in the hills of North Georgia gave Zell a straight-talking approach to politics that left no one in doubt of his views on any subject, and his U.S. Marine background also gave him a patriotic love of both his state and his nation. His love for his family and appreciation for the principles that shaped our nation are a model for anyone interested in service to others," said former U.S. President and fellow Mercer Trustee Jimmy Carter in a statement following the death of Miller.

Miller is survived by his wife, Shirley Carver Miller; sons, Murphy Carver Miller and Matthew Stephen Miller; granddaughter, Asia Miller Bowles; grandsons, Justin Grady Miller, Andrew Stephen Miller, and Bryan William Miller; and eight great-grandchildren.



JOHN KNIGHT PHOTO

**Angela M. Fields**, DIV '12, was named the executive director of Family Promise of Hunterdon County Inc., a non-profit agency established in Flemington, New Jersey, in 1990 with a mission to end homelessness. Fields previously worked as the community outreach coordinator for Eva's Village, an organization based in Paterson, New Jersey, that provides care and support for people who are struggling with poverty, hunger, homelessness and addiction.

**The Rev. Libby Grammer**, DIV '10, has been called as senior pastor of First Baptist Church Martinsville, Virginia.

**David Greenberg**, LAW '16, won the ABA Section of Taxation's 17th Annual Law Student Tax Challenge along with fellow student Dan Masciello. Greenberg is currently an LLM student at Villanova University.

**Joshua T. Hale**, LAW '13, was appointed to serve on the Foundation Board of River Edge Behavioral Health. Hale operates Lighthouse Law Firm in Macon.

**The Rev. Dr. Jake Ellis Hall**, DIV '12, was recognized by Baptist News Global for his work with the radio show Gospel Gothic on The Creek 100.9 FM in Macon. Hall is the pastor of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Macon.

**Lt. Katelynn N. Henderson**, LAW '17, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy. Henderson serves in the U.S. Air Force JAG.

**Michael B. Hill**, LAW '13, and **Michael E. Mayo**, CLA '06, LAW '09, formed the law firm of Mayo | Hill based in Macon. The firm serves clients throughout the state, specializing in cases involving catastrophic injury and/or medical malpractice.

**Norbert D. Hummel IV**, LAW '12, of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Atlanta was installed as treasurer of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the State Bar of Georgia

on June 8 during the organization's annual meeting. He was sworn in by Justice Keith Blackwell of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

**Samuel Johnson**, CLA '13, founder of My Vision For Refugees, received the Holy Innocent's Episcopal School (HIES) 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award in April. Additionally, Home of Hope, the orphanage he founded in Guinea, was recognized by the Foundation of the First Lady of Guinea as the number one orphanage in the southern part of Guinea and the second-best in the entire Guinea, in terms of caring for children in need.

**Kelsey Jones**, CLA '14, was named executive director for Institutional Advancement at West Georgia Technical College. Jones was previously employed by Technical College System of Georgia.

**Eleanor L. DeGolian Kasper**, LAW '13, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy. Kasper is an associate at Alston & Bird's Atlanta office practicing labor and employment law.

**Warner L. Kennon Jr.**, LAW '14, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy. Kennon is with Georgia-Alabama Land Trust Inc. in Columbus.

**Bill Kirkendall**, PEN '11, was named interim chief of the Hinesville Police Department (HPD) on March 1. Kirkendall has served with the HPD for more than 27 years, beginning in 1990. During his service, he has worked as a field training officer, DARE officer, drug team investigator, assistant commander, administrative support corporal, traffic accident investigation commander, internal affairs investigator and uniform patrol division commander.

**Jordan Yeager Mason**, DIV '16, accepted an offer of admission at St. Louis University to begin a Ph.D. in Theology and Healthcare

Ethics this fall.

**The Rev. Taylor Whitten Mason**, DIV '17, accepted a call to be the new associate pastor for students and community engagement at Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, Missouri.

**Shannon L. Mills**, BUS '13, LAW '17, was one of 11 selected to be an Equal Justice Works Fellow, serving at Georgia Legal Services Program in Macon, a nonprofit legal organization. Mills will provide support and defense to tenants living in project-based section 8 and public housing who are facing eviction or living in substandard conditions.

**Rizza Palmares O'Connor**, BUS '07, LAW '13, was named one of the 2018 Georgia Asian Times 25 Most Influential Asian Americans in Georgia, chosen for their impact in areas that influence every aspect of Georgian's daily life. O'Connor was also installed as president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, for 2018-19, during the organization's annual meeting on June 8. O'Connor is chief magistrate for Toombs County.

**Madelaine Olson Tapper**, CLA '12, was recognized with a "30 under 30" award from the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and the Young Nonprofit Professional Network in December. Tapper is the manager of Knowledge Development for the United Way of Greater Atlanta.

**Kyle C. Owenby**, LAW '17, joined the Macon Judicial Circuit as an assistant district attorney in Macon.

**Tiffany Pickett**, DIV '15, accepted a position at Ouachita Baptist University as recruitment communications coordinator.

**Marshall Lee Portivent Jr.**, LAW '12, joined Hasty Pope LLP, practicing workers' compensation law in Canton. He was formerly with Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele LLP.

**Hannah B. Reynolds**, LAW '17, graduated

from the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy. Reynolds is an associate in the Atlanta office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP practicing general liability.

**Miles Schmidt**, BUS '15, was named client advisor for Sterling Seacrest Partners, a top insurance brokerage and consulting firm. His primary focus is on providing insurance and risk management solutions to construction, manufacturing, entertainment and non-profit entities.

**Jasmin N. Severino**, LAW '17, became an associate with Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C. in Atlanta. Severino will practice in the firm's Estate Planning & Probate, Corporate Law, and Taxation sections.

**Robin Vance Sewell**, MUS '12, joined the instructional staff of Musicology in Newnan as a voice and performance coach.

**R. Matthew "Matt" Shoemaker**, LAW '12, formerly with Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, joined Jones Cork, LLP in Macon. Shoemaker has a general civil litigation practice, including insurance defense, premises liability defense, products liability defense, insurance coverage, business litigation and medical malpractice defense.

**Daniel Thompson**, EDU '14, co-authored a higher education book geared toward student success titled *Recruiting Retaining and Engaging African-American Males at Selective Public Research Universities: Challenges and Opportunities in Academics and Sports Section III*.

**D. Jake Wallace**, LAW '16, joined Morris, Manning, and Martin, LLP on Jan. 22. Wallace practices residential real estate, business law and probate & estate planning.

**Susan Bailey Franklin**, PHA '13, and **John M. Franklin**, LAW '10, announce the birth of their second child, Susan "Constance" Franklin, on Feb. 4.

**Norbert D. Hummel IV**, LAW '12, and his wife Christina announce the birth of their daughter, Mary Olivia "Mo" Hummel, on June 22.

**Brittany Flowe Reese**, LAW '10, and her husband Matt announce the birth of their second daughter, Lander Elizabeth, on Nov. 22, 2017. Reese is associate counsel for Hubbell Lighting, Inc. in Greenville, South Carolina.

**Nyonnhoeah S. Seekie**, LAW '16, married Cecil Richard Jr. on May 26 in Woodstock. Seekie works at the Macon Circuit Public Defenders Office.

**Lindsey Hancock Warden**, CLA '15, and her husband Don announce the birth of their first child, Everett Giles, on Feb. 13. The family resides in Memphis.

**Margie Addy Banks**, TIFT '54, of Gainesville, Florida, June 11.

**Franklin J. Bell**, CLA '54, of Kathleen, Feb. 26.

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**Helen Ryals Cash**, NUR '50, of Lawrenceville, Jan. 22.

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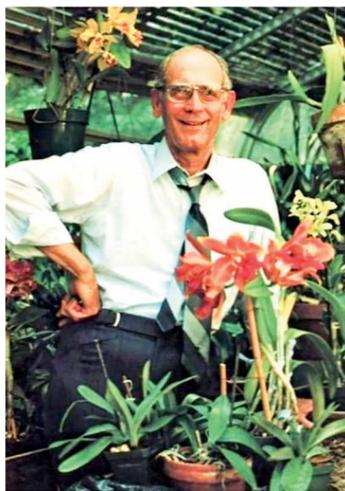
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REMEMBERING...  
*Former Trustee and Generous Supporter*  
**Wilton Looney**



Wilton Denny Looney, retired chairman and CEO of NAPA/Genuine Parts Co., died June 1. Born April 18, 1919, in Vanna, Looney graduated from high school in 1936 and traveled to Elberton to work for Western Auto Supply Company. While in Elberton, he met his wife Martha West and was recruited to work for NAPA/Genuine Parts Co. and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina.

After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he resumed his career with Genuine Parts Co., ultimately becoming chairman and CEO. He served in these positions for nearly 30 years, leading the company's growth from \$34 million to more than \$3.4 billion in sales. He was honored for his achievements with the company by the Automotive Hall of Fame with a Distinguished Service award in 1983 and an induction to the Hall of Fame in 1992.

Looney was active in the Atlanta Rotary Club, the Capital City Club and also headed the United Way. He was a trustee of the Woodruff Foundation and served on the boards of several schools. In 1999, Looney established the James C. and Mary West Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund in Mercer's McAfee School of Theology to honor his wife and her parents.

**MARRIAGES, BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**1980s**  
**Christina L. Hunt**, LAW '85, married Steven Davis of Atlanta on April 22, 2017.

**The Hon. C. Michael Johnson**, LAW '86, Judge of the Oconee Circuit Superior Court, married Jennifer McDaniel on May 1.

**2000s**  
**Courtenay Miller DuFour**, LAW '08, married Brian Christopher Dufour in Savannah in December 2017. The Dufours live in New Orleans.

**Jeffrey H. Perry**, LAW '05, and his wife Elizabeth welcomed their second son, Jack, in April.

**2010s**  
**Rebecca Barber**, EDU '17, married **Dalton E. Turner**, CLA '14, in Newton Chapel on May 27.

**Lanta Cooper Carroll**, CLA '09, DIV '13, PCM '13, and **Matthew C. Cooper**, DIV '12, announce the birth of their daughter, Riley, on Feb. 17.

**Kathryn S. Dunnam**, CLA '13, LAW '15, and **Bryant E. Harden**, CLA '10, were married in Thomasville on May 26. Dunnam is an attorney with Hall, Booth, Smith, P.C. in Albany. Harden previously worked at Mercer as the Coordinator of Study Abroad Programs and as a part-time lecturer. He is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Florida in International Relations.

**1930s**  
**Helen Irene Glenn**, CLA '38, of Monroe, May 21.

**1940s**  
**Barbara Banks**, NUR '46, TIFT '49, of Oxford, April 27.

**Ruby Nell Bannister**, TIFT '42, of Hartwell, May 23.

**Mary Frances Bridges**, NUR '43, of Columbia, South Carolina, May 27.

**Henry Alfred Buchanan**, CLA '45, of Groman, Texas, March 25.

**Martha Baggarly Daniel**, TIFT '40, of Evans, March 12.

**Velva Dungan Darden**, TIFT '43, of Forsyth, March 18.

**Nannie King DeLoach Denton**, TIFT '47, of Hagan, June 4.

**Jane Lou McLeod Faircloth**, CLA '46, of Brunswick, June 9.

**Marguerite Keene Goglio**, CLA '42, of San Jose, California.

**Carolyn Shackelford Hammond**, TIFT '46, of Abbeville, June 12.

**Edna Lewis Kramer**, NUR '46, of Tucson, Arizona, March 6.

**India Lumsden**, NUR '47, of Sauttee Nacoochee, March 1.

**Thomas Baldwin Martin Jr.**, CLA '48, LAW '48, of Macon, April 24.

**Susie Evelynne Cutts Mashburn**, TIFT '44, of Cleveland, Tennessee, April 4.

**Carolyn Morrison Miller**, CLA '46, of Fernandina, Florida, March 10.

**George Neil Skene**, CLA '44, of Macon, April 16.

**Juliette Batts Turk**, CLA '49, of Dothan, Alabama, April 19.

**Grace Wright Withers**, TIFT '48, of Roswell, May 4.

**1950s**  
**Virginia Garland Andrews**, CLA '51, of Bloomington, Indiana, April 26.

**Virginia B. Appleton**, CLA '58, of Commerce, April 26.

**Frances Peacock Fountain Avant**, NUR '51, of Milledgeville, April 27.

**Arthur C. Bailey Jr.**, CLA '59, of Powell, Tennessee, April 30.

**1960s**  
**Jolissa Adamson**, NUR '60, of St. Louis, Missouri, Jan. 20.

**Jimmy R. Asbell**, CLA '61, of Macon, June 18.

**Howell P. Bell III**, CLA '62, of Athens, May 8.

**Rhonda Broadnax**, NUR '61, of Danielsville, March 17.

**Robert Douglas Brooks**, CLA '65, LAW '68, of Columbus, Ohio, May 26.

**Nancy Gray Clump**, TIFT '63, of Columbia, South Carolina, Feb. 22.

**Edward Eugene Crews**, PHA '66, of Winchester, Kentucky, Dec. 28, 2017.

**Doris Willis Croyle**, NUR '67, of Albany, May 29.

**William Gene Deakins**, CLA '62, of Cordele, May 15.

**Shirley J. Dunn**, CLA '60, of Brunswick, Feb. 11.

**Darrell F. Funderburk Jr.**, CLA '66, of Moultrie, Feb. 12.

**Grace P. Gillespie**, CLA '63, of Gainesville, Florida, April 26.

**Suzanne Mobley Gissendaner**, TIFT '64, of Jasper, Alabama, May 30.

**Betty Lou O'Keefe Groover**, EDU '64, of Macon, March 25.

**Angelynn Dunagan Hinson**, TIFT '65, of Maccleeny, Florida, Feb. 5.

**Lucile Greene Holloway**, CLA '67, of Park City, Utah, May 14.

**James M. Huff**, PHA '63, of Ellijay, June 1.

**Evelyn Raines Hunsucker**, CLA '60, of St. Simons Island, May 24.

**David Eugene James**, CLA '63, of Etowah, Tennessee, April 11.

**Barbara Emma Knight**, NUR '67, of Rogersville, Tennessee, May 3.

**Anne Kimbrough Small Lasch**, CLA '68, of Woodbridge, Virginia, June 7.

**Thomas Joseph Lee**, CLA '62, LAW '64, of New Orleans, Louisiana, May 25.

**Nancy Pearl Stewart Miller**, TIFT '65, of Dublin, Jan. 5.

**Barbara Wehunt Moore**, CLA '68, of Longmont, Colorado, April 23.

**H. Norwood Pearce**, LAW '68, of Columbus, May 13.

**James Earl Pettigrew**, CLA '62, EDU '68, of Macon, May 28.

**Betty Marie Phillips**, NUR '62, of Jasper, February 10.

REMEMBERING...  
*Alumni and Generous Supporters*  
**Robert & Faye Brewer**

John Robert Brewer, CLA '56, died April 7 at the age of 84. Born June 11, 1934, in Lumber City, he graduated from Glynn Academy in Brunswick and then from Brewton-Parker Junior College in 1952 where he was ordained in the ministry. He completed his Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Mercer in 1954. He also received a master's degree in theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as a master's degree in liberal arts from Georgia Southern University.

Brewer pastored several churches in southern Georgia and eastern Kentucky before permanently moving to Ailey. He was named pastor of Ailey Baptist Church in 1963 as well as a full-time professor at Brewton-Parker College where he taught English and literature for 39 years. There, he held the first named chair in the history of the college. In 2000, he received the governor's award in the Humanities, a recognition from Gov. Roy Barnes. At Brewton-Parker, he was chosen as the teacher of the year several times in addition to receiving the outstanding citizen award for his dedication, support and involvement in his community.

Faye DeLoach Brewer, TIFT '59, died April 19 at the age of 81. Born March 29, 1937, in Rochelle, Brewer graduated from Boston High School in 1955. She received a B.A. in history and religion from Tift College in 1959; attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1959 to 1960; and completed a summer fellowship program in economics at the University of North Carolina in 1970. She received her Master of Education degree in 1982 and Education Specialist degree in 1984 from Georgia Southern University.

Brewer began her career in education as a substitute teacher in Boyle County, Kentucky, in 1960. She began teaching full-time at Jeff Davis County Middle School in 1963 and later was an adjunct professor at Brewton-Parker College from 1989 to 1999. She held the longest tenure (1964 to 2007) in the history of the Montgomery County School System as a high school teacher.

In 2013, the Brewers named The Celia Joann Brewer Memorial Lobby at Tattnall Square Center for the Arts in memory of their daughter. They were named Life Members of The President's Club in 2014.

*Devoted Alumnus and Generous Supporters*  
**Juan Cruz-Rosario & Petrita Torres**

Juan L. Cruz-Rosario, CLA '50, LAW '51, prominent Puerto Rico businessman, died March 15 at the age of 96. Born May 25, 1922, Cruz-Rosario worked as a teacher and served in the military during World War II. After earning a bachelor's degree from Mercer and graduating from Mercer Law School, he established a successful law practice.

An entrepreneur by nature, Cruz-Rosario developed numerous projects in Puerto Rico such as the first neighborhood in Morovis, the first gated community in Guaynabo, Hospital San Pablo, the first luxury Condominium Caparra Classic in Guaynabo, and many medical office buildings and parking garages in Bayamon, San Juan and Fajardo.

His wife Petrita Torres, a devoted Christian, mother and wife, died March 25. Torres was a generous woman who was full of energy and possessed a great sense of humor.

Cruz-Rosario and Torres are the parents of Milton Cruz, Mercer trustee and alumnus, and Zoraida Cruz Torres, Mercer undergraduate and Law School alumna. Cruz Plaza, the magnificent green space in the center of the Macon campus, is named for the Cruz family in recognition of their lead gift to fund its construction. The family also established an endowed scholarship fund to support Hispanic students at Mercer.



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**H. Norwood Pearce**, LAW '68, of Columbus, May 13.

**James Earl Pettigrew**, CLA '62, EDU '68, of Macon, May 28.

**Betty Marie Phillips**, NUR '62, of Jasper, February 10.

**1970s**  
**Lorraine Lynn Andrews**, LAW '76, of Ormond Beach, Florida, May 3.

**Law Spruill Barrow**, LAW '78, of Fortson, June 10.

**Stephen W. Batson**, CLA '70, of Albany, April 7.

**Barbara Dillard Sheppard Bell**, EDU '76, EDU '77, of Dalton, May 28.

**Debbie S. Patton Brice**, TIFT '77, of Commerce, April 28.

**George A. Collins**, CLA '72, LAW '75, of Byron, Feb. 17.

**Myrna D. Cooper**, CAS '75, of Trussville, Alabama, June 21.

**Toni Senatro Davis**, EDU '76, EDU '79, of Eatonton, June 28.

**Rita Edenfield**, NUR '71, of Tifton, Dec. 31, 2017.

**Carl Hunt Hays III**, CLA '73, of Milledgeville, Feb. 22.

**Elen Jackson Hearn**, TIFT '71, of Macon, Feb. 15.

**Suzanne L. Hosea**, CAS '79, of Woodstock, April 6.

**Janet B. James**, EDU '74, of Alpharetta, June 4.

**Martha W. Kimbro**, EDU '78, of Lizella, Feb. 10.

**Kathryn Renee Lewis McBride**, CLA '76, of Columbus, May 26.

**Cynthia D. Price**, CLA '77, of Louisville, Tennessee, Jan. 1.

**Randy Lacy Reynolds**, CLA '75, of Suwanee, March 1.

**Wynnette W. Samper**, CLA '71, of Milledgeville, Feb. 17.

**Thomas M. Sebastian**, HON '70, of Warner Robins, July 5.

**Charles A. Simpson**, CAS '76, of Conyers, May 24.

**Lillian R. Solomon**, CLA '74, of Snellville.

**Ava L. Spinks**, CAS '72, of Decatur, Feb. 17.

**Janet Hinson Stephens**, TIFT '70, of Covington, Oct. 10, 2017.

**Marianna L. Swift**, CLA '73, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, March 28.

**Francine E. Tucker**, EDU '77, of Lawrenceville, July 4.

**Janet Charlene Turner**, CAS '77, of Flowery Branch, Feb. 17.

**Dorothy D. Walker**, EDU '72, of Columbus, June 10.

**Pamela Page Wilkerson**, CLA '75, EDU '76, of Tampa, Florida, March 29.

1980s

**James Earl Bennett Jr.**, BUS '83, of Enid, Oklahoma, April 3.  
**Susan H. Brame**, CAS '83, of Charlotte, North Carolina, March 19.  
**Caryl Lorraine Coleman Branan**, TIFT '68, CLA '81, of Macon, March 29.  
**Nancy Fontaine Stafford Breen**, CLA '88, of Wilmington, Delaware, May 16.

**Murphy Alan Cooper**, CLA '78, LAW '82, of Savannah, April 23.  
**Alan Curran**, BUS '83, of Safety Harbor, Florida, May 17.  
**Michael Christopher Daniel**, CLA '81, of Athens, July 7.

**Karen Kelly Daniels**, LAW '88, of Macon, March 18.  
**Douglas James Martinek**, CLA '89, of Hollywood, Florida, Nov. 25, 2017.  
**Betty Anderson Mayo**, TIFT '85, of Lyons, April 13.  
**Stephens S. Putnal**, PHA '81, of Dry Branch, May 22.  
**E. Martin Putney III**, LAW '84, of Atlanta, May 21.  
**Jack W. Rowan**, BUS '81, of

Malvern, Pennsylvania, May 15.  
**1990s**  
**Nicole Glisson Anderson**, BUS '93, of Valencia, California, April 15.  
**Robert Jerald Angerer Jr.**, LAW '93, of Tallahassee, Florida, Aug. 7, 2017.  
**Jana M. Bruner**, LAW '99, of Kathleen, April 11.  
**Plez Higdon Hardin**, LAW '99, of Americus, April 8.  
**Christopher Alex Hendry**, MED '96, of Macon, June 22.  
**Eric A. Irmischer**, BUS '92, of Olive Branch, Mississippi, June 8.  
**Roy Clark Joiner Jr.**, ENG '91, of Perry, May 21.  
**Bruce Fielding Morriss**, LAW '90, of Atlanta, June 29.  
**Samuel A. Murray**, LAW '98, of Griffin, June 12.  
**Celia Anne Randolph**, PCM '95, of Jupiter, Florida, April 16.  
**Timothy Brent Starks**, BUS '91, of Powder Springs, Feb. 5.  
**Timothy Harold Swain**, BUS '90, MUS '90, of Danielsville, Jan. 23.  
**Hatem Sobhy Tieby**, BUS '90, of Amman, Jordan, June 5.

**Dr. Ann N. Hughes**, CLA '50, professor emerita of foreign languages and contemporary literature, died Aug. 2 at the age of 88. Dr. Hughes taught at Mercer for more than 30 years and served on multiple occasions as chair of her department.  
**Dr. Robert Lee Richardson**, professor emeritus of developmental psychology and educational research, died Aug. 6 at the age of 81. Dr. Richardson played an integral role in the incorporation of Tift College into Mercer University. He retired from Mercer in 2002.  
**John L. Anderson Jr.**, friend, of Macon, Dec. 17, 2016.  
**John F. Andrews**, friend, of Bonaire, Feb. 6.  
**Reginald K. Bailey**, friend, of San Antonio, Texas, July 3, 2016.  
**Robert T. Brousseau**, friend, of Dallas, Texas, March 30.  
**Talley Calclasure Jr.**, friend, of Macon, March 30.  
**Roy Lee Collins Jr.**, former Tift College faculty, of Forsyth, March 23.  
**Martin L. Dalton**, friend, of Macon, June 22.  
**Blanche E. Goetzman**, friend, of Louisville, Kentucky, Feb. 27, 2015.  
**Jacquelyn S. Gow**, friend, of Atlanta, May 5.  
**Joseph Henry "Walker" Harris**, friend, of Columbus, May 30.  
**Rufus Carrollton Harris Jr.**, friend, of Metairie, Louisiana, Jan. 29.  
**Joe F. Hildreth**, friend, of Ringold, Nov. 29, 2017.  
**Bruce M. Johnson**, friend, of Macon, May 1.  
**Jack W. Jones**, friend, of Franklin, North Carolina, June 1.  
**Albert L. Luce Jr.**, friend, of Macon, Jan. 11, 2017.  
**Phillip J. Mauro**, friend, of Macon, March 15.  
**Bonnie C. Meyers**, friend, of Seaside, Oregon, Feb. 13.  
**Robert Franklin Ray**, friend, of Fort Valley, May 29.  
**Nancy Rosenbloom**, friend, of Jacksonville, Florida, May 3.  
**William Ches Smith**, friend, of Martinez, June 11.  
**Ansel Richard Taylor**, friend, of Atlanta, Feb. 19.  
**Janet C. Timms**, friend, of Anderson, South Carolina, March 27.  
**Terence "Terry" Todd**, former faculty, of Austin, Texas, July 7.  
**Tom O. Wagoner**, friend, of Macon, April 25.

REMEMBERING...

Alumnus and Former Trustee

Bob Dollar

Bobby "Bob" Gerald Dollar, CLA '53, minister, businessman, motivational speaker and missionary, died March 1 at the age of 86. Born July 8, 1931, in Bainbridge, Dollar graduated from Bainbridge High School, attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and graduated from Mercer and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served in the United States Air Force Strategic Air Command for three years.



While a student at Mercer, Dollar met and married Cherie JoAnn Franklin, CLA '54. He and JoAnn served as missionaries in Venezuela where he pastored three churches and founded the first medical dispensary in the region with medically credentialed professionals. Upon returning to the United States, the family moved to Atlanta where he joined the Day Realty team and became vice president of franchise operations for Days Inns of America, yet stayed involved as a minister serving as interim pastor of several churches.

Dollar was awarded the Meritorious Service Award from Mercer, was president of the National Alumni Association Board of Directors and served on the Board of Trustees.

Friend and Generous Supporter

Dave Jeffords

David George "Dave" Jeffords III, retired attorney and financial adviser, died May 21 at the age of 68. He attended the University of Georgia, receiving his BBA in 1971 and his J.D. in 1974.



Jeffords began his legal career in Camilla with the firm Vann, Tyson & Jeffords. After practicing there for eight years, he moved to Macon, where he had a successful 23-year career as a trust officer and investment advisor at Georgia Bank & Trust Company, Bank South, NationsBank and Bank of America. In 2005, he joined Sterne Agee & Leach, and he continued there as senior vice president of investments after its acquisition by Stifel, Nicolaus & Company.

A trusted and valued advisor to his clients, Jeffords spent 16 years serving as president of the Dorothy V. and N. Logan Lewis Foundation and also served as a director of the Phil J. and Alice S. Sheridan Foundation. Under his direction and leadership, the Lewis Foundation significantly improved the lives of Mercer students through scholarship assistance and building renovation and construction. In 2007, the foundation created a scholarship to assist graduates of Mount de Sales Academy in Macon who enroll at Mercer. In addition to the scholarship, the foundation provided significant

funding for the renovation of the Tattall Square Center for the Arts, including naming the auditorium the N. Logan Lewis Theatre. The foundation also helped Mercer purchase and install a marquee at the Grand Opera House and provides ongoing support of the newly-constructed Spearman C. Godsey Science Center.

Former Trustee and Generous Supporter

Allan McCorkle

Allan James McCorkle, friend and generous University supporter, died July 17. Born August 28, 1931, in Shreveport, Louisiana, McCorkle was a Korean War veteran, 1956 graduate of Florida State University and a member of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.



McCorkle founded many businesses during his professional career, including Mobile America Corp., which he took public on the New York Stock Exchange. He served as president and CEO of Mobile America for more than 31 years.

An active philanthropist, McCorkle supported music education, medical and forestry research, various educational institutions and other charitable institutions. He was also active in many civic, political, professional and social organizations, serving on the Mercer Board of Trustees from 1994 to 1999 and 2000 to 2005.

In 1999, McCorkle and his wife Rosemary made a significant gift to name the McCorkle Music Building, the University's state-of-the-art facility that houses the Townsend School of Music. The McCorkles were named Life Members of The President's Club in 2000.

Board Member and Generous Supporter

Nick Nicholson

Hammond Burke "Nick" Nicholson III, retired Coca-Cola executive, died March 6. Nicholson was born on October 8, 1941, in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Nicholson grew up in seven countries as his father, a Coca-Cola executive and pioneer in the European business, moved throughout the continent expanding the brand. He had a 46-year career with the company, the last 30 years serving as the face of the company to more than 2,000 visitors a year from all over the world, providing hospitality and personal interaction for guests, while educating them on the history of The Coca-Cola Co.



Nicholson was active in civic and community organizations, serving on the Board of Directors of the Mercer University Press and the Atlanta Branch of the English-Speaking Union. He was also involved with the High Museum of Art, the Atlanta History Center, ACIR and Kiwanis.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

**Dr. Thomas "Tom" James Glennon**, professor emeritus of social entrepreneurship in the College of Liberal Arts, died May 3 at the age of 77. Dr. Glennon joined the faculty at Mercer in 1971 and spent 45 years teaching at the University before retiring as professor emeritus in 2016. He was an innovator who was responsible for developing a number of groundbreaking initiatives that helped reshape both Mercer and downtown Macon, including the Mercer Service Scholars program and the Mercer Commons grant.



On April 9, the University dedicated the Spearman C. Godsey Science Center. At a cost of \$44 million, the four-story, 143,410-square-foot structure includes teaching and research labs in addition to classrooms, lecture halls and offices to accommodate growing enrollment and research activity in chemistry, biology and neurosciences. The building is named in honor of Mercer Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey's father and in recognition of Dr. Godsey's multi-million dollar naming commitment.

Kirby and Joan Godsey at the dedication posing beside a portrait of Dr. Godsey's father, Spearman C. Godsey, for whom the building is named.

MERCER CELEBRATES NEW PRESIDENT'S CLUB LIFE MEMBERS



(L-R): President William D. Underwood; Wm. Andrew Haggard, LAW '67; Nancy Haggard; Y. Lynn Holmes, CLA '62; Elizabeth Holmes; Stacy Quirós; Paul Quirós, LAW '82; Walter B. Shurden; Kay W. Shurden; Deanne Smisson; Hugh F. "Trip" Smisson III, Maureen Vandiver; and Roy Vandiver, CLA '12

During the University's 52nd annual celebration of The President's Club on April 20, Mercer recognized its most generous supporters and honored its newest Life Members. The celebration began with dinner and was followed by a dessert reception at the St. Regis Atlanta. The Mercer President's Club was established in 1964 to recognize alumni and friends who provide a nucleus of support for the University. Over the years, this select group

of alumni and friends has supplied nearly three-quarters of the gifts from individuals for annual support. Friends and alumni of Mercer who contribute \$1,000 or more during the calendar year are eligible for membership in The President's Club. The University's highest level of leadership giving, President's Club Life Member, is conferred on those individuals and churches who have contributed at least \$100,000 to Mercer. At this year's event, the following were recognized for achieving Life Member status: Wm. Andrew and Nancy Haggard, Y. Lynn and Elizabeth Holmes, Paul and Stacy Quirós, Kay W. and Walter B. Shurden, Hugh F. "Trip" Smisson III, Roy and Maureen Vandiver.



A.V. Elliott, his wife Glenda and son Stanley with President Underwood following the dedication ceremony

### UNIVERSITY DEDICATES NEW CAMPUS STRUCTURES

**T**he University dedicated the A.V. Elliott Quadrangle on March 27. The quadrangle bounded by the new Spearman C. Godsey Science Center, School of Medicine, School of Engineering, Science and Engineering Building and Mercer Innovation Center is named in honor of alumnus and trustee A.V. Elliott, who made a major gift for the design of the quad, which includes new landscaping, sitting areas and an informal amphitheater.

**A** new bronze bear statue on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta was dedicated on April 20. The statue, which stands outside the DuVall Building, is a sibling of the 2,200-pound bear installed outside the University Center on the Macon campus in 2010. The Atlanta statue was a gift of the Marshall and Jane Butler Family.



Marshall and Jane Butler in front of the bear statue given to Mercer's Atlanta campus by their family.

# The Gift of Education

## Jim & Sandra Cox

moved to Macon in 1965 and have been actively teaching, shaping and helping students ever since. After earning multiple graduate degrees, including a Th.M. from Southeastern Baptist Seminary, a J.D. from Emory and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt, Dr. Cox accepted a position to teach at Mercer and became the first chair of the Political Science Department, teaching political philosophy, constitutional law and Christian ethics in the College of Liberal Arts for 38 years. He served as the advisor to the Honor Council for 30 years and also served as pre-law advisor, assisting many students with admission to law school.

Sandra also earned multiple graduate degrees, including M.Div., M.Ed. and Ed.S. She worked in public education for

32 years, both as a teacher and supervisor. Sandra was chair of the English Department at Central High School for nine years and English curriculum director for the Bibb County Board of Education for 16 years.

In September 2000, the Coxes established an endowed scholarship to assist students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts who are political science majors. Since the scholarship became fully endowed, 38 unique students have benefited from it, with more than \$43,000 awarded in tuition assistance.

Because Jim and Sandra dedicated their entire careers to educating students, the classroom is their second home. That is why it is particularly fitting that a Mercer alumnus and former student made a financial commitment to name Knight Hall 203 in Dr. Cox's honor. The classroom will be dedicated during Homecoming events in November.



To read more about the Coxes, visit [tiny.cc/JimandSandraCox](http://tiny.cc/JimandSandraCox). For more information on endowed scholarship funds and naming opportunities, or to contribute to the Jim and Sandra Cox Scholarship, please call or email Shawna Dooley, Associate Vice President for University Advancement at (478) 301-2720 or [dooley\\_sr@mercer.edu](mailto:dooley_sr@mercer.edu).

CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTOS, DOT PAUL PHOTO

MERCER BEARS BASKETBALL

# 2018-19



## Men's Schedule

OCT. 28	ORANGE/WHITE	MACON
NOV. 6	UAB	BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NOV. 9	PIEDMONT COLLEGE	MACON
NOV. 13	GEORGIA STATE	ATLANTA
NOV. 16	UT-MARTIN	MACON
NOV. 20	UMES	MACON
NOV. 24	NC STATE	RALEIGH, N.C.
NOV. 27	BREWTON-PARKER	MACON
DEC. 1	CITADEL*	CHARLESTON, S.C.
DEC. 5	FAU	BOCA RATON, FLA.
DEC. 8	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	MACON
DEC. 18	FLORIDA	GAINESVILLE, FLA.
DEC. 21	UNCW	MACON
DEC. 29	HARVARD	STATE FARM ARENA, ATLANTA
JAN. 3	FURMAN*	GREENVILLE, S.C.
JAN. 5	WOFFORD*	SPARTANBURG, S.C.
JAN. 10	WESTERN CAROLINA*	MACON
JAN. 12	ETSU (DH)*	MACON
JAN. 17	UTC (DH)*	CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
JAN. 19	SAMFORD*	BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
JAN. 24	VMI (DH)*	MACON
JAN. 26	UNCG*	GREENSBORO, N.C.
JAN. 31	WOFFORD*	MACON
FEB. 2	FURMAN*	MACON
FEB. 9	CITADEL*	MACON
FEB. 14	WESTERN CAROLINA*	CULLOWHEE, N.C.
FEB. 16	ETSU*	JOHNSON CITY, TENN.
FEB. 21	SAMFORD*	MACON
FEB. 23	UTC*	MACON
FEB. 28	VMI*	LEXINGTON, VA.
MARCH 2	UNCG (DH)*	MACON
MARCH 7-11	SOCON CHAMPIONSHIP	ASHEVILLE, N.C.

## Women's Schedule

NOV. 9	WAKE FOREST	WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.
NOV. 12	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	STATESBORO
NOV. 15	FLORIDA	MACON
NOV. 18	CENTRAL FLORIDA	MACON
NOV. 23	MEMPHIS	CONWAY, S.C.
NOV. 25	BOWLING GREEN	CONWAY, S.C.
NOV. 28	GEORGIA	ATHENS
DEC. 1	KENNESAW STATE	MACON
DEC. 5	FLORIDA STATE	MACON
DEC. 9	CHARLOTTE	MACON
DEC. 18	HOWARD	WASHINGTON, D.C.
DEC. 21	GEORGE WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON, D.C.
DEC. 30	UNC ASHEVILLE	MACON
JAN. 2	JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
JAN. 6	COLUMBIA	MACON
JAN. 12	SAMFORD*	MACON
JAN. 17	WESTERN CAROLINA*	CULLOWHEE, N.C.
JAN. 19	UNCG*	GREENSBORO, N.C.
JAN. 24	CHATTANOOGA*	MACON
JAN. 26	ETSU*	MACON
JAN. 31	WOFFORD*	SPARTANBURG, S.C.
FEB. 2	FURMAN*	GREENVILLE, S.C.
FEB. 9	SAMFORD*	BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
FEB. 14	UNCG*	MACON
FEB. 16	WESTERN CAROLINA*	MACON
FEB. 21	ETSU*	JOHNSON CITY, TENN.
FEB. 23	CHATTANOOGA*	CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
FEB. 28	FURMAN*	MACON
MARCH 2	WOFFORD*	MACON
MARCH 7-10	SOCON CHAMPIONSHIP	ASHEVILLE, N.C.

\*SOCON GAME  
BOLD - HOME GAME (HAWKINS ARENA)