



FALL 2019

Mercerian

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MED SCHOOL DOUBLES DOWN MISSION

PLUS

**Capricorn Studios to
Open in December—2**

**Case Builds for
Ocmulgee Preserve—10**

Health Care & Hops—12

**Thompson, SoCon
Athlete of the Year—30**



THE MERCERIAN, FALL 2019

FEATURE

20 Medicine Doubles Down on Mission

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 BEARINGS
- 30 BEARS ROUNDUP
- 35 MERCER HEALTH SCIENCES
- 41 ALUMNI CLASS NOTES
- 47 ADVANCEMENT UPDATES

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THE **Mercerian**

VOLUME 29, NO. 2

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In Our Lens

Mercer held its first outdoor Macon commencement in 50 years on the morning of May 13. President William D. Underwood, Board of Trustees chair Cathy Callaway Adams, Tift '81, and student speaker Dorian Kithcart were among those who addressed 745 candidates for degrees and thousands of family and friends at Five Star Stadium. The University also recognized the Class of 1969, the last graduating class to participate in an outdoor ceremony on the Macon campus.

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, November 8, 2019

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

The Admissions staff will provide information on

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

Your family will have the opportunity to

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

Registration is required for this free seminar at

homecoming.mercer.edu

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



COLLEGE BOUND:

AN INSIDE LOOK AT ADMISSIONS

PART OF MERCER UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2019

**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:

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B E A R I N G S

CAPRIC Re-Opening



Mercer plans to re-open the historic Capricorn Sound Studios in downtown Macon by the end of 2019, the 50th anniversary of Capricorn's founding, with a \$2 million boost from the Peyton Anderson Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The recording studio captured and defined the 1970s Southern Rock sound with a roster of talented artists who would become legends: the Allman Brothers Band, the Marshall Tucker Band, the Charlie Daniels Band, Wet Willie, Elvin Bishop and many others.

Building on the studio's legacy, Mercer Music at Capricorn

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MERCER MUSIC AT CAPRICORN®

will be a multi-purpose, 20,000-square-foot complex designed to leverage Macon's music heritage to create Macon's music future. It will contain the fully restored historic recording studio, plus an additional, larger studio suitable for orchestral recording and film scoring, as well as live performances. The facility will also feature an interpretive space that tells the story of Capricorn and Macon's music history through artifacts and interactive exhibits.

The heart of the project is a music incubator featuring 13 rehearsal rooms of various sizes to facilitate the development of music talent. The incubator will be available to musicians



CAPRICORN

24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Plans also call for offices and meeting spaces for related arts and cultural organizations.

With \$1 million each from Peyton Anderson Foundation and Knight Foundation, construction will proceed while the University continues its fundraising efforts to complete Mercer Music at

Capricorn. Peyton Anderson Foundation made previous grants to purchase the building out of foreclosure and stabilize it after the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation placed the building on its "Places in Peril" list in 2010, bringing the foundation's total support to nearly \$2 million.

"We are deeply grateful to the Peyton Anderson Foundation and Knight Foundation for these major grants that

important contributions to music and culture."

"Timing has never been better to launch Mercer Music at Capricorn, where Macon's music scene will be nurtured and supported by an innovative, collaborative effort, rooted in legendary history and surrounded by a vibrant, growing downtown," said Karen Lambert, president of the Peyton Anderson Foundation. "This revitalization of the historic studio space will be vital to attracting and retaining talent, fostering the arts, contributing to the tourism industry and creating a keen sense of place and identity from that Macon music sound."

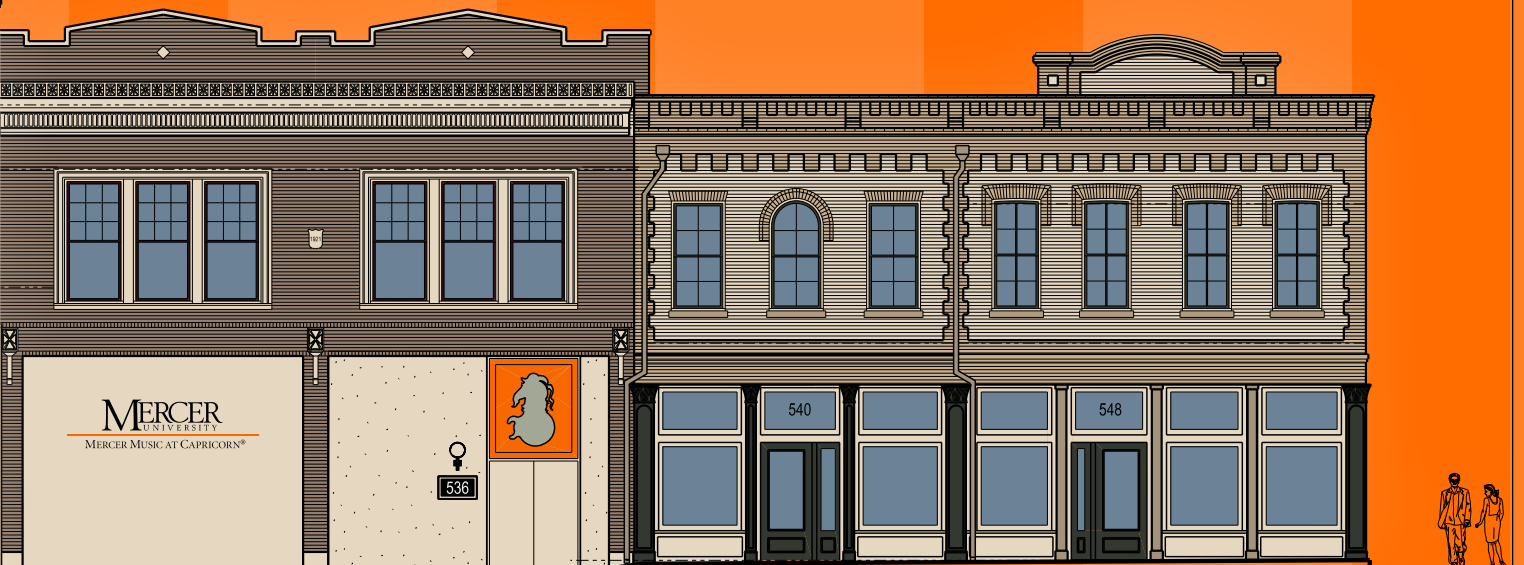
"Accelerating the revitalization of Downtown Macon and energizing its creative economy is essential to fostering the city's future as a great place to live, work and play. The rebuilding of Capricorn Studios will fill a key gap, adding to the area's vibrancy and connecting the university community to downtown's cultural life," said Lynn Creech Murphey, CLA '90, Knight Foundation program director for Macon.

The building — actually four historic structures that were assembled into one complex — that would become Capricorn Sound Studios was purchased in 1967 by Redwal Music, a company owned by Mercer alumnus Phil Walden, his brother Alan Walden, and Otis Redding, whose career was beginning to take off before his untimely death later that year. The studio opened in 1969, when Capricorn Records and the Allman Brothers Band were established in Macon.

The University is planning a daylong series of events on Dec. 3 to celebrate the studio's re-opening, including live music and tours of the renovated facility.

For more information on Mercer Music at Capricorn, visit

capricorn.mercer.edu





MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

CELEBRATES
40TH YEAR OF
PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

Mercer University Press continues to publish amazing stories and ground-breaking scholarship — from sports, music, essays, memoir, fiction, history, religion and philosophy — something for everyone in the Fall/Winter 2019 season of books.

Highlighted titles from the season include:

Mercer's Moment by Daniel Shirley, a photo-rich history of the 2014 Mercer victory over Duke in men's basketball; *Buzzer Beaters and Memorial Magic* by Barry Goheen, a glimpse into the exciting world of 1980s Vanderbilt Commodore basketball through the eyes of a go-to three-point shooter; *Portrait of an American Businessman* by Carl Ware with Sibley Fleming, a memoir of Ware's pioneering and global leadership at Coca-Cola and beyond; *The Road Goes on Forever* by Michael Buffalo Smith, an in-depth history of The Allman Brothers Band music from 1969–2019; *The Ragin' Cajun* by Doug Kershaw with Cathie Pelletier, an intimate account of one entertainer's rise from the swamps of Louisiana to the stage at Carnegie Hall; and *Down by the Eno, Down by the Haw* by Thorpe Moeckel, essays inviting all to seek the wonders of nature.

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

30TH ANNUAL AUTHORS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 14
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta

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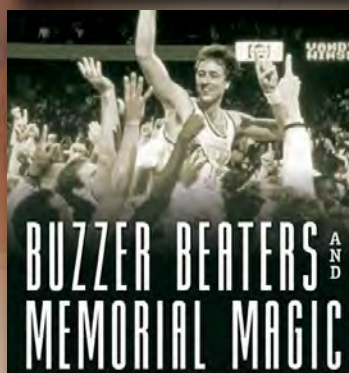
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MERCER'S MOMENT

Mercer Beats Duke!

DANIEL SHIRLEY

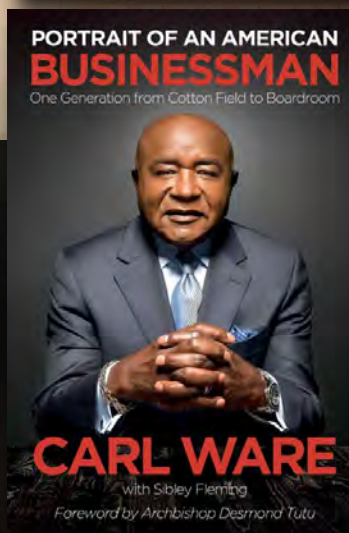


BUZZER BEATERS AND MEMORIAL MAGIC

A Memoir of the
VANDERBILT COMMODORES
1987-1989

BARRY GOHEEN

Foreword by Buster Olney



PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN

One Generation from Cotton Field to Boardroom

CARL WARE

with Sibley Fleming

Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu



FIFTY YEARS OF
THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND MUSIC
(1969-2019)

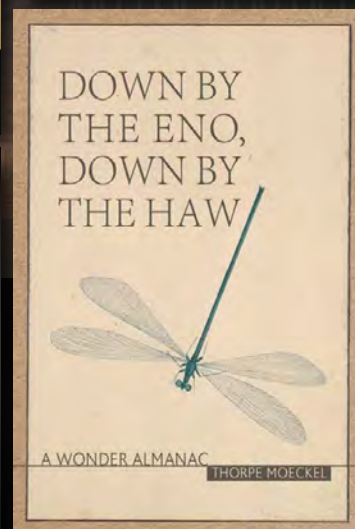
MICHAEL BUFFALO SMITH



THE RAGIN' CAJUN

MEMOIR OF A
LOUISIANA MAN

DOUG
KERSHAW
WITH
CATHIE
PELLETIER



DOWN BY THE ENO, DOWN BY THE HAW

A WONDER ALMANAC

THORPE MOECKEL

AUTHORS APPEARING: Lara Lyn Carter, Barry Goheen, Brian Hicks, Thomas Mallon, Lynne Olson, Joe Posnanski, Chelsea Rathburn, William Rawlings, Michael Buffalo Smith, Elizabeth Tammi, Barbara Brown Taylor, Larry Walker, Carl Ware and Karen White.
For additional information, email wallace_am@mercer.edu.

JACK TARVER LIBRARY SHOWCASING EXTENSIVE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF C.S. LEWIS MATERIALS

M

ercer's University Library is currently showcasing an extensive private collection of C.S. Lewis books and materials procured by the late Rev. Perry C. Bramlett.

Rev. Bramlett was a graduate of

Southern Seminary, respected minister, noted author and dedicated Lewis scholar. His collection was donated to the University in 2016 by his widow, Joan Fine Bramlett of Fairhope, Alabama.

"The Bramlett Collection provides the library with depth in an area of scholarship that bridges two important Mercer disciplines — theology and literature. The wealth of C.S. Lewis and related material gathered together in one location will serve to attract scholars from the broader region in addition to being a rich resource for Mercer students and faculty," said Scott Gillies, associate dean of the University Library.

The collection includes Rev. Bramlett's notes on more than 2,500 hours of talks, tours and retreats presented to churches, colleges and groups across the country, as well as almost 1,700 books and 630 non-book materials used in his research and writing on Lewis that emphasize the man, the writer and his influence on others. Furthermore, the collection contains materials on Lewis' circle of friends, including J.R.R. Tolkien, Warnie Lewis, Joy Gresham Davidman and Pauline Bayne.



SPENCER B. KING JR. CENTER FOR SOUTHERN STUDIES AWARDS 2019 SIDNEY LANIER PRIZE TO FRED CHAPPELL

Mercer's Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies awarded the 2019 Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature to poet and novelist Fred Chappell in April.

Chappell was born in North Carolina and earned his undergraduate degree from Duke University. He went on to author more than a dozen books of poetry, several novels and critical prose books, and a collection of short stories, drawing inspiration from his childhood and his surroundings.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including the T.S. Eliot Prize, Bollingen Award, Aiken Taylor Award, an award from the National Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Best Foreign Book Prize from the Académie française. He served as the state of North Carolina's poet laureate from 1997-2002.

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

MERCER, BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ESTABLISH FELLOWSHIP

TO PLACE STEM TEACHERS
IN LOCAL MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOLS



Mercer and the Bibb County School District signed an agreement in April to establish the Mercer Bibb STEM Teaching Fellowship.

The two parties will work together to recruit and enroll a cohort of five highly qualified teaching candidates, who will begin coursework and fieldwork during the summer 2020 semester.

After successful completion of Mercer's STEM Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program in spring 2021, fellows will commit to three years of full-time employment as teacher of record in a Bibb

County middle or high school, during which they will continue to receive mentoring from the University and the Bibb County School District.

Successful completion of this three-year induction period will serve as repayment for all tuition costs associated with the 36-credit-hour STEM M.A.T. program, which includes Georgia teacher certification at the T-5 level.

"I am very excited about this new relationship with Mercer University," said Bibb County School District Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones. "Our new partnership to develop STEM Fellows will ensure we have a solid pipeline of science, technology, engineering and math teachers who want to work in our schools. This is a cutting-edge partnership that is indicative of the great work happening between the Bibb County School District and great partners like Mercer."

Over the past four years, Mercer's



Tift College of Education, through a matching funds grant with the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, created a clinical STEM M.A.T. model to recruit and retain middle and high school teachers for the STEM disciplines in Georgia's Title I school systems.

Mercer's Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship, which welcomed its fourth and final cohort of fellows this summer, provided yearlong placements in Bibb County's Northeast High School, Rutland High School and Westside High School, as well as with partner schools in Dodge, Houston and Monroe counties.

The Mercer Bibb STEM Teaching Fellowship will allow the University to use this same model to recruit and retain additional teachers certified in math, biology, chemistry, earth space science or physics for Bibb County schools.

"The need for highly capable STEM teachers in our middle and high schools is more critical than ever," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Mercer is pleased to establish this creative partnership with the Bibb County School District to recruit and prepare classroom teachers in these fields. We look forward to tracking how this model can be replicated in other schools to better prepare future generations of students for STEM careers."

Along with Tift College of Education, Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, School of Engineering and School of Medicine contribute to the STEM M.A.T. program, which is primarily targeted at recent graduates or career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math. The innovative curriculum is designed to transform fellows from people who understand STEM content to people who can teach STEM content.

Fellows will conduct summer STEM camps for middle and high school students in June 2020. The camps, previously conducted by Mercer's Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows, will provide Bibb County students with an immersive learning experience focused on the engineering design process, including toothpick bridge, K'NEX car, coding and robotics exercises.

TRUSTEES APPROVE RECORD OPERATING BUDGET AND NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL RESIDENCE HALL ON MACON CAMPUS

Mercer's Board of Trustees, meeting April 26 on the Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta, adopted a record \$256 million operating budget for 2019-20, exclusive of nearly \$40 million in federal research grants; authorized planning for a new 362-bed residence hall and parking deck on the Macon campus; and approved several new academic programs, including a Ph.D. in rural health sciences in the School of Medicine.

Continuing eight consecutive years of below-market tuition increases, trustees voted to again limit the tuition increase for Macon undergraduate programs to 2.5% for 2019-20. There is no tuition increase for students in the School of Medicine, and law students saw a 2% increase this year. Tuition increases for most other programs fall below 3%.

The proposed new residence hall, featuring 362 beds for upperclassmen, would be built on College Street, adjacent to the Science and Engineering Building and across from Five Star Stadium. A 425-vehicle parking deck is also proposed to be built to offset the parking lost by the construction of the new residence hall and to accommodate the additional students living on campus, as well as faculty and staff. It would be located behind the new residence hall.

In other action, trustees approved the University's sixth Ph.D. program and four new bachelor's degree programs.

The Ph.D. in rural health sciences is being offered through the School of Medicine and is designed to prepare students for research careers focused on improving the health of rural communities. The degree is interdisciplinary, drawing from the fields of health sciences, social sciences, business and humanities, including the disciplines of mental health, sociology, epidemiology, statistics, communication, management, economics, political science and medicine. The Mercer School of Medicine's Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities last year was designated by the National Institutes of Health as one of two rural health-focused Centers of Excellence in the country, and the only one east of the Mississippi.

A new Bachelor of Science in Education degree was approved by the board. It replaces the current minor in secondary certification program and is offered this fall through the College of Education on the Macon campus.

Trustees also approved three new bachelor's degrees in Penfield College, which by board action changed its name to the College of Professional Advancement, effective July 1. The three new degrees are Bachelor of Science in software application development and human computer interaction; Bachelor of Science in health informatics; and Bachelor of Science in information technology and informatics. All three undergraduate degrees are designed to equip students with skills needed in the rapidly growing and evolving technology field. The three programs are offered online and on Mercer's Atlanta campus beginning this fall and will be offered at Mercer's Henry County Regional Academic Center beginning in the fall of 2021.

New Bachelor's Degrees Approved:

- Bachelor of Science in software application development and human computer interaction
- Bachelor of Science in health informatics
- Bachelor of Science in information technology and informatics

LAW GRADUATES FUND PROGRAM HONORING NOTED ALUMNI GRIFFIN BELL, FRANK JONES

Mercer Law School Dean Cathy Cox announced in February the establishment of the Griffin B. Bell and Frank C. Jones Fund for the Enhancement of Advocacy Education and Programs.

“Griffin Bell and Frank Jones are Mercer legends,” said President William D. Underwood. “They stand among the finest lawyers in the history of American jurisprudence. I am grateful to their former colleagues, great lawyers in their own right, and fellow law alums Dwight Davis, Paul Quiros and Doc Schneider for establishing this endowment to benefit future Mercer lawyers.”

The fund, created by Mercer Law alumni Davis, '82, Quiros, '82, and Schneider, '81, and others, will be used to support and enhance advocacy education and programs. This includes both curricular and co-curricular activities such as trial practice, moot court, mock trial, client counseling and negotiation teams and competitions.

“GRIFFIN BELL AND FRANK JONES WERE TITANS OF THE TRIAL BAR FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS AND THE EPITOME OF THE ETHICAL SERVANT LEADERS THAT MERCER STRIVES TO PRODUCE.”

Additionally, the Law School has named the first-floor courtroom the Griffin B. Bell and Frank C. Jones Courtroom in honor of Bell, '48, and Jones, '50.

“We are deeply grateful for the support our dedicated alumni and friends are providing by creating this fund, which will allow us to strengthen our litigation and advocacy programs and better prepare our students for practice upon graduation,” said Cox.

“Griffin Bell and Frank Jones were titans of the trial bar for more than 50 years and the epitome of the ethical servant leaders that Mercer strives to produce,” Davis said. “Those of us who were fortunate to serve with and learn from these two giants felt it was most fitting to name the main courtroom at the Law School in their honor. It is our hope that future generations of lawyers will be inspired by the lives of Griffin Bell and Frank Jones and follow in their footsteps.”

U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS PROVIDES KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT LAW SCHOOL COURTROOM DEDICATION

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES CLARENCE THOMAS (pictured below) provided the keynote address as the School of Law dedicated its first-floor courtroom in honor of noted alumni Griffin Bell, '48, and Frank Jones, '50, on March 11.





MERCER DEBATE

HAS TOP NOVICE SPEAKER, SENDS THREE TEAMS TO ELIMINATION ROUNDS AT NATIONALS

Mercer sophomore Yasmeen Hill was named the top novice speaker in the country, and, for the first time ever, the University had three teams reach varsity elimination rounds at nationals during the 23rd annual National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship Tournament held in March at the University of Utah.

Both first-year debaters, Hill, a journalism and media studies double-major, and fellow sophomore Cameron Dawkins, a global health studies and Spanish double-major, became the first all African-American female team to win novice nationals. They also took home the novice sweepstakes award for the number of rounds won throughout the tournament.

Furthermore, Hill became only the second African-American female to win the Dan Henning Top Novice Speaker Award, with the first being Mercer alumna Jaz Buckley, who swept the awards for top novice speaker and top overall speaker as a freshman in 2015.

"I am remarkably humbled by our victory at nationals, and I have an immense appreciation for my teammates and my debate partner, Cameron Dawkins. Their constant support is what makes the activity worth the hard work," Hill said. "This experience motivates me to further hone my skills to contribute to the growing legacy of the Mercer debate team."

By virtue of their success in the novice division, Hill and Dawkins advanced to the varsity elimination rounds, where they reached the triple-octofinals.

Seniors Cassie Malcolm, an English major, and Garrett Williams, a politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) major, joined Hill and Dawkins in the round of 64, while juniors Taylor Cole, a communication studies major, and Eduardo Rubio, a computational science and economics double-major, made the deepest run into the varsity division, reaching the double-octofinals.

"Jaz Buckley and Kyle Bligen pioneered the path, and now new debaters, such as Yasmeen Hill and Cameron Dawkins, are following in their footsteps," said Dr. Vasile Stanesco, director of debate. "Yasmeen and Cameron did not simply win the first-year division; they dominated it. And, for the first time ever, every single debate team from Mercer made it to the elimination debate rounds at nationals. More than a single exceptional debater, Mercer supports an exceptional team that consistently wins on the national stage year after year. I could not be prouder of each of these students or more grateful to Mercer's faculty who consistently support and mentor them."

Bligen, who teamed with Buckley to become the first African-American team to win NPDA nationals last March, has served as an assistant coach this season before accepting a Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship to attend graduate school.

Buckley, who is attending law school at UCLA, also contributed to this year's team as a volunteer coach for a tournament held at Concordia University in Irvine, California, in January.

STUDY BUILDS CASE FOR

OCMULGEE
MOUNDSAS FIRST NATIONAL PARK AND
PRESERVE IN EASTERN U.S.

A new Mercer study reveals the unique national significance of an undeveloped Georgia river corridor — weeks after Congress approved expanding a national historical park at its heart.

In March, Congress authorized eventually quadrupling the size of Macon's Ocmulgee Mounds National

Historical Park, formerly a national monument. The 702-acre park beside the Ocmulgee River contains the largest Mississippian mound complex in southeastern North America.

The land has been occupied by humans for 17,000 years, eventually becoming the cradle of the Muscogee tribe of Native Americans. The initial expansion will connect the South's greatest ancient ceremonial center with nearby mounds of the later Lamar Culture.

But the yearlong Mercer survey of known historical and archaeological sites along the river makes a strong case for growing the park much more — by more than 50,000 acres along the

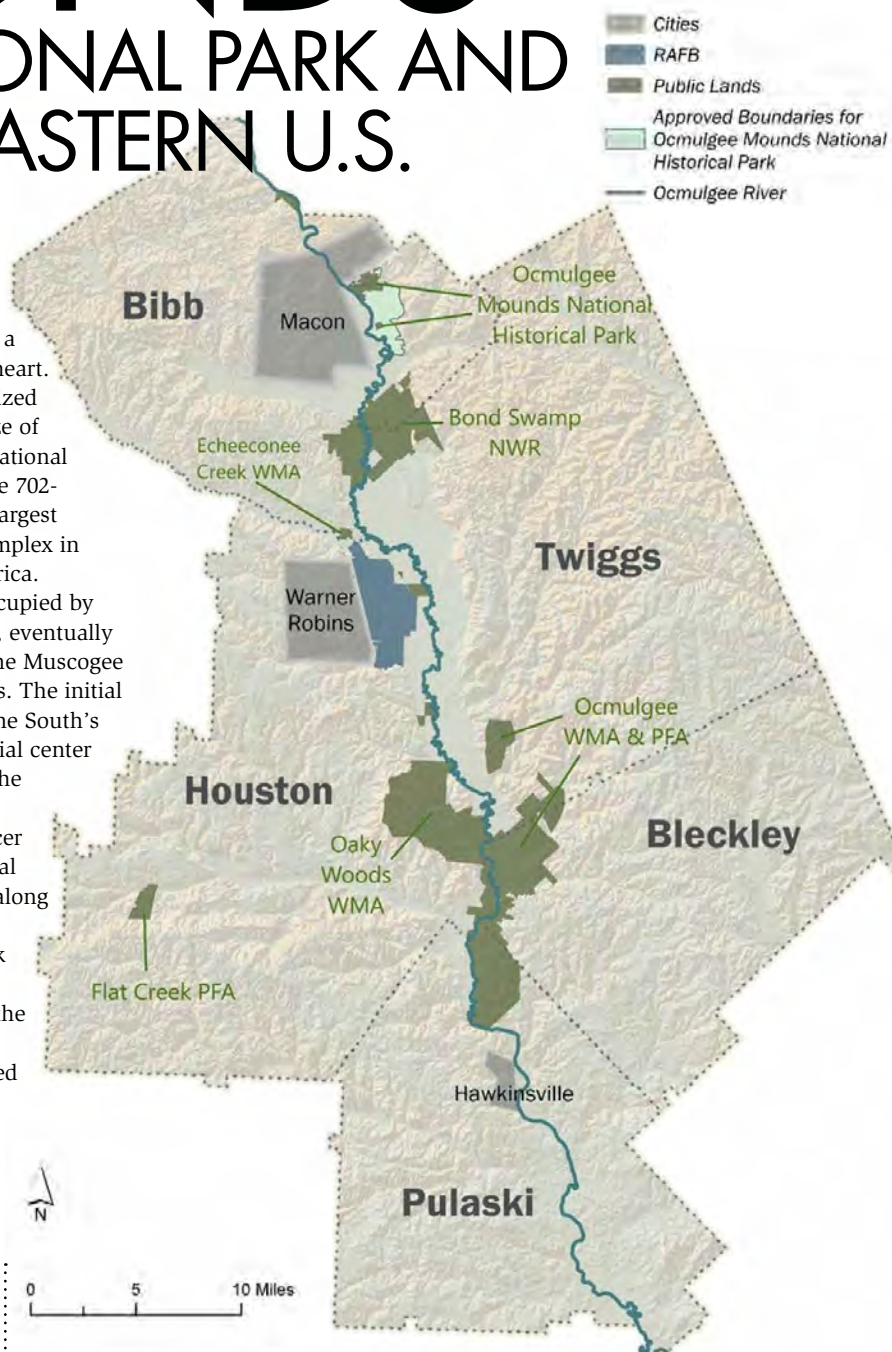
70 river miles between Macon and Hawkinsville.

Mercer research fellow **Dominic Day** catalogued and mapped almost 900 historic sites that had been previously documented. These vary from more ancient mounds and villages to Muscogee settlements, historic mills, forts and African-American cemeteries.

About 60 percent of the cultural sites are within five miles of the river. Discoveries have been made anywhere archaeologists have looked



Swift Creek Pottery Sherd
(UGA Laboratory of Archaeology,
Georgia Indian Pottery Site)



within this footprint.

“Considering the counts, density and rich history of the area, there are likely hundreds of archaeological sites not yet documented,” states the report, which was directed by **Dr. Eric Klingelhofer**, professor emeritus of history and senior research fellow in historical archaeology at Mercer.

The sheer number, age and undisturbed condition of the prehistoric sites would make a park like this unique within the National Park System, the study found. Only two other National Park Service properties in

the Southeast focus on prehistoric resources. Although some prehistoric sites are protected within smaller state parks, no national parks outside the desert Southwest preserve archaeological resources across a landscape.

In this case, that landscape is one of alluvial swamps, black bears, one-of-a-kind chalk prairies, ancient sea fossils and migratory songbirds — including many areas where the wildlife and ecology are as undisturbed as the artifacts beneath them.

At the same time Congress renamed Ocmulgee Mounds, it gave the National Park Service three years to study whether nearby property is nationally significant enough to be added to the historical park. The Mercer report will be shared with the Park Service to jump-start this process.

The research was funded by the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative, a local nonprofit supporting park expansion.



Health & Care & Hops

By Andrea Honaker

Dr. Tripp Morgan already had plenty to do. The 2001 Mercer School of Medicine graduate is a vascular surgeon in Albany and a father of four. He owns the Albany Vascular Specialist Center and a property management business and is a business partner for a medical spa.

In late 2017, he added craft brewery owner to his list of business ventures with the opening of Pretoria Fields Collective in Albany.





“

I’m one of those people who just can’t find enough to do. I have to have my time filled during the day,” Dr. Morgan said. “It’s fun. Beer meetings are a lot less stressful than medical meetings.”

Dr. Morgan said his family has been farming in South Georgia for a hundred years. He and his father, Harris, a retired pharmacist, have farms in Camilla, Pretoria and western Lee County. The idea for a brewery emerged as they started looking into growing nontraditional crops and other ways to add value to their farming business.

The Downtown Development Authority of Albany got wind of the Morgans’ brewery idea, and before long, it had morphed from a small farm project into a big downtown project. Wheat, rye, fruits and other crops used to make beer are grown at the Morgan family farms, and then brewmaster Eric Kirchner and three other brewers create the recipes and the beers in the brewery and taproom in downtown Albany.

The brick building has a homey atmosphere like an “old style public house,” Dr. Morgan said. A building next door was converted into green space, and the wood from it was used to construct the tables of the taproom.

Pretoria Fields Collective’s tasting room in Albany usually has 10 to 12 beers on tap, and six beers are distributed throughout Georgia and Alabama.

Large glass windows allow patrons to watch the brewers at work. Local artwork hangs from the walls and is rotated regularly, and live music can be heard almost every weekend. A farmers market is held on the grounds on most Sundays.

One thing you won’t find at the venue is a TV. Pretoria Fields Collective encourages patrons to put their phones down, talk to each other and enjoy the beer. The beers range from Flowing Well — a traditional, German-style, malted wheat beer — to Rye Charles — a rye IPA with hints of citrus.

The Albany tasting room usually has 10 to 12 beers on tap, and six beers are distributed throughout Georgia and Alabama. Seven hundred locations — including restaurants, liquor stores and grocery stores — south of Newnan sell the products and several thousand locations sell them in Atlanta and North Georgia.

“It’s a lot of hard work,” Dr. Morgan said. “We’re successful if people understand our story. The more people we can get in front of and talk about home-grown agriculture and farm-to-glass ... and the more we can speak the gospel of home-grown products, the better we do. We have to stay around our customer base, who are people who actually care about what they’re drinking and doing.”

Chronic diseases and autoimmune disorders have been on the rise in recent years, and returning to simpler methods of farming without chemicals is one way to combat these health hurdles, Dr. Morgan said. Organic farming is part of the movement to encourage the use of clean products and educate the public on healthy living.

Pretoria Fields Collective is working to promote agriculture, recreate the farming knowledge of the past and bring back crops that haven’t been grown in the area for a while. For instance, the Morgans have been working to establish a couple of barley varieties that haven’t been seen here in some time.

“There’s something really neat about taking a product all the way from its inception out on the field to having people enjoy it all over the state,” Dr. Morgan said. “Our only real goal is to continue to make products and continue to be supporters of Georgia agriculture.”



FACULTY HONORS & RECOGNITION

MERCER LAW PROFESSOR TERI MCMURTRY-CHUBB RECEIVES NATIONAL LEGAL WRITING AWARD

Law School Professor **TERI A. MCMURTRY-CHUBB** was recently named the 2018 recipient of the Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication by the Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute (LWI).

The selection committee recognized and unanimously recommended McMurtry-Chubb's article, "The Rhetoric of Race, Redemption, and Will Contests: Inheritance as Reparations in John Grisham's *Sycamore Row*," published in Vol. 48 of the *Memphis Law Review* in 2018.

McMurtry-Chubb teaches and writes in the areas of discourse analysis, genre analysis and legal history. She is also the author of *Legal Writing in the Disciplines: A Guide to Legal Writing Mastery*, published by Carolina Academic Press in 2012. She has lectured nationally on structural workplace discrimination, disproportionate sentencing for African-Americans, racial and gender inequalities in post-secondary education, and African diasporic cultural forms.

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DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR DR. ADAM KIEFER SELECTED AS 2019 IUPAC YOUNG OBSERVER

DR. ADAM KIEFER, Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry, was selected by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) as a 2019 Young Observer to attend the General Assembly and World Chemistry Congress.

Dr. Kiefer is among 12 Young Observers selected nationwide representing institutions such as the University of California, Berkeley, Cornell

University and Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as corporations such as Dow Chemical Company. They attended the 50th IUPAC General Assembly and 47th World Chemistry Congress July 5-12 in Paris, France.

Dr. Kiefer joined Mercer's Chemistry Department in 2008. He has played a lead role in Mercer On Mission initiatives in Mozambique, Ecuador and Peru that have developed and implemented methods for reducing mercury poisoning among artisanal gold miners.

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM RECEIVES ACHE AWARD

The **COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT** received the 2019 Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) South Distinguished Program Award for a non-credit program at the association's annual conference in April.

Mercer was recognized with this award for its Executive Leadership Program, which offers customized programs tailored to private, public, government and nonprofit organizations. Components of this program have been offered to organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia's Public Health Districts, Piedmont Healthcare, the U.S. Air Force installation at Robins Air Force Base, the Atlanta FBI Field Office Cybersecurity Unit, GreyStone Power Corporation, and both the Leadership Douglas and Leadership Henry programs.

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR DR. MICHAEL MACCARTHY RECEIVES ASEE OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD

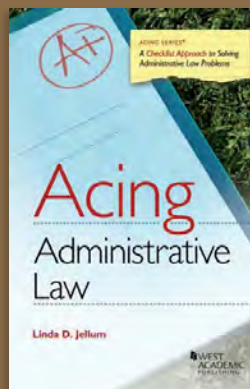
School of Engineering faculty member **DR. MICHAEL MACCARTHY** was recently presented the 2019 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Southeastern Section Outstanding New Faculty Research Award.

Dr. MacCarthy, who serves as assistant professor of environmental and civil engineering and director of the engineering for development

MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



OREN R. GRIFFIN, associate dean for strategic initiatives and professor of law, authored *Investigating College Student Misconduct*, Johns Hopkins University Press.



LINDA JELLUM, associate dean for faculty research and development and Ellison Capers Palmer Sr. Professor of Tax Law, authored *Acing Administrative Law*, West Academic Publishing.

program, received the honor at the ASEE Southeastern Section's annual meeting at North Carolina State University in early March. It is presented each year to a faculty member with fewer than six years of experience who has demonstrated excellence in both teaching and research.

He has led Mercer On Mission programs in the Dominican Republic and Madagascar focused on hygiene for developing communities, energy and sustainable development. Additionally, he teaches courses in engineering for development, groundwater hydrology, hydraulics, green engineering and engineering design. He is an associate editor and member of the editorial board for Hydrogeology Journal, a past recipient of Mercer's Innovations in Teaching Award, and he serves as the School of Engineering's Peace Corps Prep Program adviser.

RELIGION PROFESSOR DR. BRYAN WHITFIELD SELECTED AS GOVERNOR'S TEACHING FELLOW

DR. BRYAN J. WHITFIELD, associate professor of religion in the College of Liberal Arts and director of the Great Books Program, was selected as a 2019 Governor's Teaching Fellow.

Dr. Whitfield represented Mercer among a select group of faculty from institutions of higher education across the state during the fellows program's intensive summer symposium May 13-17 and 20-24 at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Whitfield is the author of *Joshua Traditions and the Argument of Hebrews 3 and 4* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2013) and writes for *Working Preacher*.

GEORGIA POET LAUREATE CHELSEA RATHBURN APPOINTED TO CLA FACULTY

Georgia Poet Laureate **CHELSEA RATHBURN** was appointed assistant professor of English and creative writing in the College of Liberal Arts, effective Aug. 1.

Rathburn, who previously served on the faculty at Young Harris College since 2013, was appointed the state's 11th poet laureate by Gov. Brian Kemp in March.

She is the author of three full-length poetry collections, most recently *Still Life with Mother and Knife*, a *New York Times* "New & Noteworthy" book. Her first full-length collection, *The Shifting Line*, won the 2005 Richard Wilbur Award, and her second collection, *A Raft of Grief*, was selected by Pulitzer Prize-winner Stephen Dunn for the 2012 Autumn House Prize.

Rathburn's poems have appeared in the nation's most highly regarded journals, including

Poetry, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *the New Republic*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review* and *Ploughshares*, among others.

Rathburn is married to poet James Davis May, who was also recently appointed to the faculty of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, where he will serve as visiting lecturer of integrative studies and writer-in-residence, effective Aug. 1.

DR. ANSLEY BOOKER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

DR. ANSLEY BOOKER, currently director of Mercer's Educational Opportunity Center, has been appointed director of diversity and inclusion initiatives at the University, effective Oct. 1.

"The search committee worked diligently for over a year in search of the best candidate for Mercer University. In the end, Dr. Booker not only impressed us with her passion and knowledge of diversity issues, but with her commitment to this institution," said Dr. Douglas R. Pearson, vice president and dean of students. "I am delighted that she has accepted the position and very excited about what she will be able to do with and for our students in this new position."

Mercer's new Office of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives will develop and support ongoing educational and awareness programs for students, faculty and staff to engage the campus community on topics of diversity such as multiculturalism, equity, inclusion, identity, and power and privilege.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives, which will be located on the first floor of Connell Student Center beginning in October, will serve all campuses.

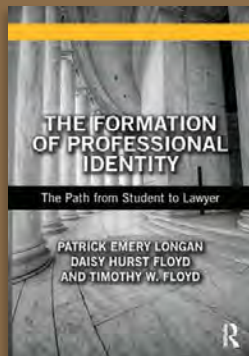
"I am humbled and extremely honored to start this new journey with Mercer University as the inaugural director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives," said Dr. Booker. "I look forward to upholding Mercer's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity."

Since 2010, Dr. Booker has led Mercer's Educational Opportunity Center, one of five federal TRIO Programs offered at Mercer to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree. The Educational Opportunity Center primarily serves displaced or underemployed workers from low-income families, helping them to choose a college and suitable financial aid program.

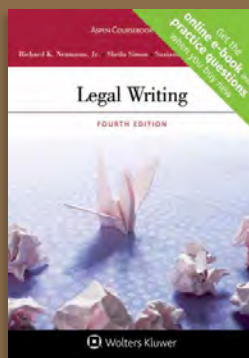
Dr. Booker earned her Ph.D. in educational leadership from Mercer in May, Master of Science in pharmacy from the University of Georgia in 2013 and Bachelor of Arts in chemistry from Georgia Southern University in 2008, where she was a McNair Scholar.



JEREMY KIDD, associate professor of law, co-authored *Mastering Sales*, Carolina Academic Press.



PATRICK LONGAN, William Augustus Bootle Chair in Professionalism and Ethics, **DAISY FLOYD**, University Professor of Law and Ethical Formation, and **TIM FLOYD**, Tommy Malone Distinguished Chair in Trial Advocacy and director of experiential education, co-authored *The Formation of Professional Identity*, Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.



SUZIANNE D. PAINTER-THORNE, associate professor of law, co-authored *Legal Writing* (Fourth Edition), Wolters Kluwer.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

UNPRECEDENTED THREE STUDENTS NAMED 2019 GOLDWATER SCHOLARS



This spring, Mercer had an unprecedented three recipients in a single year of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's

most prestigious scholarship for undergraduates in science, mathematics and engineering.

AMANDA CIMINO, CHARLOTTE DUNGAN and **BRADY SIMON** are among 496 college sophomores and juniors from across the U.S. — including 24 from Georgia institutions — to be awarded the scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year. They bring the University's total number of recipients to nine over the past seven years, making Mercer one of the state's leading producers of Goldwater Scholars.

The one- and two-year scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

Cimino, from Flowery Branch, is double-majoring in biomedical engineering and biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB). She plans to obtain a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering and conduct research in the field of regenerative medicine. She conducts research in the lab of Dr. Joanna Thomas, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, involving drug-releasing polymers.

Dungan, from Marietta, is majoring in environmental engineering with a minor in technical communication. She plans to earn a Ph.D. in water resource engineering and conduct research related to water quality, hydrology and hydraulics. She conducts research in the lab of Dr. Michael MacCarthy incorporating new and cost-effective technologies to access clean drinking water in developing nations.

Simon, from Rome, is majoring in computer engineering. He plans to earn a Ph.D. in computer engineering and develop data-driven control strategies as a computationally-oriented control researcher. He conducts research in the lab of Dr. Makhin Thitsa involving the development of control systems for lasers.

SENIORS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT U.S. AWARDS TO SOUTH KOREA, CZECH REPUBLIC



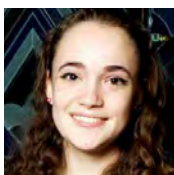
Recent graduates **MEGHAN DUFFEY** and **SARAH GRACE HALL** were awarded prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Awards, bringing

the University's overall tally of Fulbrighters to 17 since 2010.

Duffey, from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, double-majoring in English and mathematics with minors in history and Spanish. She is serving as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in South Korea through July 2020. Upon returning to the U.S., she plans to pursue her Ph.D. in English.



Amanda Cimino



Charlotte Dungan



Brady Simon



Meghan Duffey



Sarah Grace Hall



Alex Grandinetti



Hoor Qureshi

Hall, from Columbus, majored in early childhood/special education — holistic child. She is serving as a Fulbright ETA in the Czech Republic through June 2020. Upon returning, she plans to attend graduate school studying education policy or international affairs.

THREE SELECTED TO SERVE PEACE CORPS IN PANAMA, BOTSWANA, THE PHILIPPINES



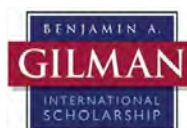
Recent graduates **ALEX GRANDINETTI, HOOR QURESHI** and **MICHAEL TAN** were selected to serve the Peace Corps in Panama, Botswana and the Philippines, respectively.

Grandinetti, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, triple-majored in international business, international affairs and global development with a minor in economics. He was selected to serve as a business and agricultural adviser working with indigenous and marginalized communities in rural Panama. In this role, he will promote the knowledge and adoption of best practices in business and agriculture to improve local household food security and resilience.

Qureshi, from Marietta, double-majored in global health studies and global development studies with a minor in environmental studies. She was selected to serve as a life skills educator in the youth and HIV/AIDS capacity-building sector in Botswana. In this role, she will assist youth to be healthy, productive and active community members contributing to the achievement of an AIDS-free generation.

Tan, from Charlotte, North Carolina, majored in environmental engineering with a minor in engineering for development. He was selected to serve as a coastal resource management volunteer in the Philippines working within local governmental units in an office that administers fisheries and environment affairs. In this role, he will implement restoration and protection of marine habitats and enhance food security through participative community action on fisheries management.

FOUR RECEIVE GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD



The U.S. Department of State announced that four Mercer University students were among around 1,000 American undergraduates selected in May to receive the prestigious Benjamin

A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad during the summer.

Mercer, which was recognized in March as a Gilman Greatest Growth Institution, has a total of 15 Gilman Scholars selected during the 2018-2019 academic year with the additions of **DWAYNE BROWN, MUSAB GULZAR, AMINA MOHAMED** and **TIANNA ROSS**.

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.

Brown, a computer science major, participated in a Mercer On Mission trip to South Africa to teach computer skills to middle-schoolers in Durban and Cape Town.

Gulzar, a biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) major from Warner Robins, participated in a Mercer On Mission trip to Vietnam to fit prosthetics for amputees.

Mohamed, a philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) major from Windsor, New York, participated in a faculty-led study abroad trip to Athens, Greece, to study philosophy and art.

Ross, a criminal justice major from Douglasville, participated in a faculty-led study abroad trip to Seville, Spain, to study language and culture.

TWO PARTICIPATE IN AMGEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM



AMANDA CIMINO and **MOLLY PARRISH** were chosen this spring as Amgen Scholars and spent 10 weeks this summer conducting research at Duke University and Yale University, respectively.

Cimino and Parrish are the fourth and fifth Mercer students to participate in the highly selective program designed to prepare STEM undergraduates for top-tier graduate and professional schools and provide research experiences at world-class research universities.

Cimino, from Flowery Branch, is a double-major in biomedical engineering and biochemistry and molecular biology. She conducts research in the lab of Dr. Joanna Thomas, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, involving drug-releasing polymers.

Parrish, from Palatka, Florida, is a biochemistry and molecular biology major with minors in chemistry and sociology. She conducts research in the lab of Dr. Garland Crawford, associate professor of chemistry, characterizing potential regulatory mechanisms in the O-linked, N-acetylglucosamine hydrolase enzyme known as OGA, which is thought to play a role in a number of diseases including diabetes and cancer.

In addition to research, Cimino and Parrish participated in lab meetings, scientific and professional development seminars and workshops, and social activities. They also wrote papers and presented scientific posters at the National Amgen Scholars Program Symposium in California this summer.

EMILY HARVEY EARNS CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN CHINA



EMILY HARVEY was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study Chinese in Changchun, China, over the 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.

Harvey, from Columbus, is a double-major in journalism and law and public policy with a minor in Asian studies. She aspires to study international law and eventually work in a diplomatic role, either in a government position or in the private sector.



Michael Tan



Dwayne Brown



Musab Gulzar



Amina Mohamed



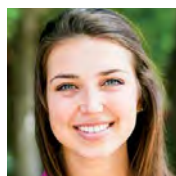
Tianna Ross



Molly Parrish



Emily Harvey



Michelle Graham

MICHELLE GRAHAM AWARDED HOLLINGS SCHOLARSHIP



MICHELLE GRAHAM was awarded the prestigious Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Graham is the University's second Hollings Scholar in as many years.

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, full-time paid internship at a NOAA facility between the first and second years of the award.

Awards also include travel funds to attend a mandatory NOAA Scholarship Program orientation and the annual Science and Education Symposium, scientific conferences where students present their research and a housing subsidy.

Graham, from Tampa, Florida, is an environmental engineering major with a minor in engineering for development. She plans to obtain a Ph.D. in environmental engineering with a focus on sustainable infrastructure and pursue a career promoting sustainable development within global communities.

She is involved in low-cost household environmental solutions research with Dr. Michael MacCarthy aimed at investigating efficient building design and energy use and creating more affordable renewable energy options for middle to low-income homeowners.

JOHNA WRIGHT NAMED 2019 NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW



Campus Compact

Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization working to advance civic engagement and service-learning in higher education, selected Mercer's **JOHNA WRIGHT** among the

organization's 2019 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference 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.

Wright, from Thomson, is a first-generation college student carrying a near-perfect GPA. She is visually impaired and works to change the campus climate for students with disabilities and lobby for disability rights throughout the nation.

FOUR RECEIVE SMART SCHOLARSHIPS FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Four School of Engineering students were awarded Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarships by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

TIMOTHY HOOD, LANDON MCNEILL, RUBY RHODEN and **JAMIE RUTLEDGE** will receive full tuition, an annual stipend and additional allowances while at Mercer for each year they commit to working for the DoD after graduation. They will also participate in a summer research internship and be paired with a mentor at one of the scholarship program's sponsoring facilities. >>

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

CONTINUED

All four students are participating in the School of Engineering's 4+1 Master of Science in Engineering program that allows them to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees over five years of study.

Hood, from Lawrenceville, is majoring in computer engineering. Upon completion of his master's degree, he will work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, in the Air Force Research Laboratory. He also plans to pursue a Ph.D. in software engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

McNeill, from Winfield, Alabama, is majoring in mechanical engineering. Upon completion of his master's degree, he will work at Robins Air Force Base in the 461st Maintenance Group, responsible for maintenance, logistics and combat support of 17 E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar Systems (JSTARS) aircraft.

Rhoden, from Duluth, is majoring in biomedical engineering. Upon completion of her master's degree, she will work at the U.S. Army National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Rutledge, from Sugar Hill, is majoring in mechanical engineering. Upon completion of her master's degree, she will work at Robins Air Force Base in the 78th Civil Engineer Group, responsible for providing, operating, maintaining, restoring and protecting the managed assets of the base's infrastructure and facilities.

DONALD WILLIAMS JR. SELECTED FOR RANGEL SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



DONALD WILLIAMS JR. was selected to participate in this year's Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program in Washington, D.C.

The six-week summer program is designed to provide undergraduate students with a deeper appreciation of current issues and trends in international affairs, a greater understanding of career opportunities in international affairs and the enhanced knowledge and skills to pursue such careers.

As a Rangel Scholar, Williams lived at Howard University, attended classes and participated in a variety of programs with foreign affairs professionals at Howard and at diverse locations around the nation's capital.

Williams, from Columbus, is double-majoring in international business and economics with a minor in marketing. His interests include international trade and development, real estate and sales, and he aspires to become a U.S. Foreign Service Officer.

DANIELLE LOVING CHOSEN AS 2019 SNYDER SCHOLAR

DANIELLE LOVING was selected as a 2019 Snyder Scholar at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for her research experience, academic qualifications and commitment to pursuing future graduate studies in organic chemistry.

Loving, a chemistry and criminal justice double-major from Warner Robins, received a stipend, travel funds and housing to complete a 10-week summer research program with Dr. Martin Burke, professor of chemistry at the University of Illinois. Dr. Burke's cutting-edge organic chemistry and chemical biology



Johna Wright



Timothy Hood



Landon McNeill



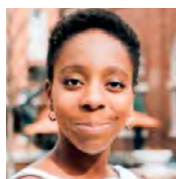
Ruby Rhoden



Jamie Rutledge



Donald Williams Jr.



Danielle Loving



Ben Lehe

research involves the synthesis and study of small molecules with protein-like functions.

At Mercer, Loving conducts research in the lab of Dr. David Goode, associate professor and associate chair of chemistry and director of the biochemistry and molecular biology program. In his lab, Loving has helped to develop the efficient synthesis of a library of potential biofilm inhibiting molecules. She has synthesized a number of the more difficult compounds in the library to improve the understanding of which structural features are responsible for the biofilm inhibitory activity.

THREE RECEIVE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP



BEN LEHE, MORIAH ROYCROFT and SHAILEY SHAH were selected for the German Academic Exchange Service's (DAAD) Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) summer program.

They are among 300 undergraduates from North America, Great Britain and Ireland selected each year to work at the top German universities and research institutions.

Lehe, an electrical engineering major from Mooresville, North Carolina, worked on microelectronics research related to developing a prototype fitness device based on IoT hardware, Bluetooth and capacitive sensors to support healthier lifestyles.

He is participating in the School of Engineering's 4+1 Integrated Master of Science Program, and is on track to earn his master's degree in December.

Roycroft, a global health studies and global development studies double-major from Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, worked on developing a lateral flow assay to detect kidney rejection after organ transplantation in an effort to make organ rejection testing easy and accessible to transplant patients.

She aims to pursue a career in medicine and public health by obtaining a dual Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)/Master of Public Health (MPH) degree.

Shah, a sophomore biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) major from Chattanooga, Tennessee, worked on characterizing dirigent proteins, extracellular proteins responsible for directing the synthesis of stereospecific natural products.

She is on the pre-med track and plans to earn her M.D.

MACIRE ARIBOT AWARDED PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP AT CARNEGIE MELLON



MACIRE ARIBOT was accepted to the Public Policy and International Affairs Program Junior Summer Institute (PPIA-JSI) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The PPIA-JSI is an intensive seven-week summer program that focuses on preparing students for a master's degree in public policy, international affairs or other related fields.

Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College has hosted PPIA-JSI since 2004, and students who successfully complete the institute and earn admission to any of the College's full-time master's programs will receive a full-tuition scholarship and stipend.

Aribot, from Lithonia, is double-majoring in international affairs and global development studies. She aspires to attend graduate

school and ultimately pursue a career in public policy in order to work towards establishing a more equitable global society.

NASSIM ASHFORD PARTICIPATES IN UM FUTURE PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS PROGRAM



NASSIM ASHFORD was selected to participate in this summer's University of Michigan Future Public Health Leaders Program.

In cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Undergraduate Public Health Scholars

Program, the University of Michigan School of Public Health offers the 10-week residential program, which combines enrichment and field experience to encourage college students to consider careers in public health.

Ashford, a double-major in global health studies and global development studies from Lithonia, plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career working both domestically and internationally to improve healthcare practices and promote overall health equity for those in need.



Moriah Roycroft



Shailey Shah



Macire Aribot



Nassim Ashford



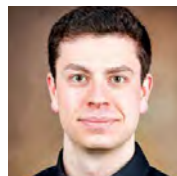
Alana Pitts



Devyn Harrod



Mónica Resto-Fernandez



Joel Tarning

Harrod was also named a Phi Kappa Phi Fellow and received one of 50 awards presented annually in the amount of \$8,500 to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study. Each active Phi Kappa Phi chapter may select one of its members to compete for the awards.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective multidisciplinary collegiate honor society, initiating more than 30,000 members a year on 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines.

Harrod, from Atlanta, graduated from Mercer in May with her Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in media studies and Spanish and a minor in communication.

MÓNICA RESTO-FERNANDEZ RECEIVES 2019 WILLIAM BREWSTER SNOW AWARD



Master of Science in Engineering student
MÓNICA RESTO-FERNANDEZ received

the 2019 William Brewster Snow Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) on April 25.

The award has been presented annually since 1979 to recognize an environmental engineering graduate student who has made significant accomplishments in an employment or academic engineering project. Applicants are judged based on criteria including academic program and performance, professional or community service, and engineering project accomplishment, purpose and goals.

Resto-Fernandez, from Jacksonville, Florida, was recognized for her master's thesis project, which involves an assessment of water resources and investigation of how bacteriological contamination enters the domain of mountain springs in a study area in the San Juan province of the Dominican Republic.

JOEL TARNING WINS 1ST PLACE AT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING AUDITIONS



JOEL TARNING, who earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the Townsend School of Music in May, won first place in the Upper Level College/Independent Studio Men's category at the National Student Auditions (NSA) of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).

This year's NSA competition included nearly 200 of the best high school and collegiate vocalists from across the country who gathered on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, June 27-28. Students in the Upper Level College/Independent Studio Men's category are 20 to 25 years old with three to five years of undergraduate voice lessons.

In order to reach nationals, Tarning competed in four levels of competition, beginning with the preliminary, semifinal and final rounds of the Southeast Regional NATS at Florida State University in March, where he competed with collegiate-level musicians from Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

He was then invited to submit a video audition to the National Student Auditions Committee and was one of 14 students selected to compete in Minnesota as an NSA semifinalist. At St. Olaf, Tarning was selected among three national finalists and competed in the finals recital, where he was awarded first place.

During the 2019-2020 season, he will sing with the Atlanta Opera Chorus in its production of Rossini's opera La cenerentola (Cinderella) and serve on the musical staff of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta.

ALANA PITTS NAMED NANCY LARSON FOUNDATION SCHOLAR



ALANA PITTS, a recent graduate of the College of

Education's Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program, was named a Nancy Larson Foundation Scholar and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of her personal narrative, academic achievement and desire to teach children.

The Nancy Larson Foundation, founded in 2006 in Old Lyme, Connecticut, supports students across the country majoring in elementary education by awarding annual scholarships. Pitts is one of 10 Nancy Larson Scholars for the 2018-19 academic year.

Pitts, who earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, graduated in May with her M.A.T. in early childhood education. She served as a student teacher during the her final semester at Sagamore Hills Elementary School in DeKalb County.

DEVYN HARROD RECEIVES AWARDS FROM PHI ETA SIGMA, PHI KAPPA PHI



Recent graduate **DEVYN HARROD** was selected to receive prestigious awards from Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies to support her pursuit of a Master of Communication Management degree at the University of Southern California, beginning this fall.

Harrod was named the Thomas Arkle Clark Scholar-Leader of the Year by Phi Eta Sigma. The award, which includes a \$10,000 scholarship, is presented annually to a single member who best exemplifies the ideals of

Phi Eta Sigma and is selected from among both graduate and undergraduate students.

Founded in 1923 at the University of Illinois, Phi Eta Sigma is the nation's oldest and largest honor society for first-year college and university students in all disciplines. Since its founding, more than 1.1 million scholars have been inducted into the honor society on 378 campuses across the United States.

MEDICAL SCHOOL DOUBLING DOWN ON ITS MISSION

Mercer School of Medicine
Becoming National Leader on
Rural Health Issues

By Kyle Sears

In his *History of the Mercer University School of Medicine: 1965-2007*, former dean Martin L. Dalton Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., credits local surgeon Milford B. Hatcher, M.D., with the first public call for a Macon medical school, which he made before the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce in 1965.

Seven years later, in January 1972, the chamber formed a task force to establish not just a Macon medical school, but a Mercer medical school. It would take another 10 years of fundraising, advocating and planning before the first students would step through the doors of Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) on Aug. 16, 1982.

Mercer's angle in rallying state and federal funding and support — during a time when studies suggested there may be a surplus of medical schools in the U.S. — was in MUSM's uniqueness. One of the School's early deans remarked that Mercer's medical school “would create new standards, not follow old ones.”

Mercer School of Medicine was founded as the only school in the U.S. specializing in producing primary care physicians. The School would not only emphasize primary care, which was being overlooked by the state's other medical schools, but it would also produce graduates who would practice where they were needed most — in rural and underserved areas of Georgia. Mercer would do so by accepting only Georgia residents and making “**mission compliance**” a principal admissions criterion.

Additionally, the School was the first in the country to adopt a radically new way of providing medical education, a problem-based learning model established at Canada's McMaster University in 1969. Students would not study the basic sciences individually but incorporate them into case studies of actual patients' illnesses in small group settings facilitated by one or two faculty members.

Nine years before MUSM's inaugural class of students donned white coats, Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter wrote to Mercer President Rufus Harris

120 of Georgia's 159 counties are considered **rural** (less than 50,000 residents).

that he believed Mercer was “uniquely qualified to develop an innovative approach to the training of primary care health professionals.” In the intervening nearly five decades since the School was conceptualized, Mercer has rewarded the faith placed in its medical school by Carter and many other public servants.

This successful public-private partnership between the state of Georgia and Mercer has produced more than 1,700 practicing physicians, with more than 65% returning to practice in Georgia. Of those, more than 70% are practicing in a primary care specialty, and more than 80% are practicing in rural or underserved areas of the state.

A recent study indicated that Mercer ranks second nationally in the percentage of its medical school graduates practicing in low-income areas in the school’s home state and third nationally in the percentage practicing in rural areas in the school’s home state. It also ranks third nationally in the percentage entering primary care in the school’s home state.

Georgia State Rep. Terry England said he was newly elected in 2005 when he sought to learn more about why the state has partnerships with private medical schools at Mercer and Morehouse when it operates a medical college of its own in Augusta. He quickly discovered that the demand for physicians in Georgia was far bigger than what the state-owned institution could furnish.

“I began to realize what we’ve got with Mercer is really something special,” said England, who now serves as chair of the House Appropriations Committee. “Private institutions can really turn on a dime. They see unmet needs and are able to meet those needs on a real-time basis.”

In recent years, MUSM has doubled down on its mission, with several new strategic initiatives aimed at meeting the state’s needs and positioning Mercer as *the* school in Georgia and one of the leading schools in the nation focused on rural health.

THE RIGHT LEADER AT THE RIGHT TIME

One of the first students to enroll in the of Mercer University School of Medicine was Jean Sumner, M.D., F.A.C.P. Dr. Sumner, who would become president of the charter class, followed her father, grandfather and brothers into the medical field. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from the Medical College of Georgia and served as a registered nurse for the Veterans Administration in Dublin after moving to nearby Wrightsville. Living in a town with no practicing physician, she made the decision to go to medical school, and she would go on to practice in Washington and Johnson counties for more than 25 years.

Dr. Jean Sumner
Dean, Mercer School
of Medicine



Dr. Sumner used her experience as a physician, nurse, hospital chief of staff and nursing home medical director to establish herself as a leading expert on rural health issues. She served on multiple state boards, including the Georgia Composite Medical Board, where she was president and medical director. She also served as a member of the Federation of State Boards of Medicine S.M.A.R.T. workgroup to help establish national standards for telehealth.

“Jean is a champion of rural medicine,” said Georgia State Rep. Butch Parrish, who serves as chair of the Health Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. “I’ve known Jean for a long time. She used to be a constituent of mine in Johnson County. She understands rural health care better than anybody I know. She knows what needs to be done because she has lived it and practiced it.”

In November 2014, Dr. Sumner was appointed associate dean for rural health in the School of Medicine, and less than two years later, she was appointed dean.

“Jean Sumner has been the perfect leader for Mercer School of Medicine, given its mission and the needs of the state,” said President William D. Underwood. “She is a product of our medical school, she practiced primary care in rural Georgia for more than 25 years, and she is widely respected throughout Georgia, having served in a number of leadership roles in the medical community. During her tenure as dean, the School of Medicine has become even more intentional about its mission, and the timing could not be better, given the increased focus on rural health care in the state.”

Dr. Sumner’s leadership of the School is guided by her vision for a healthy state with quality physicians serving rural communities.

“Dr. Sumner has an understanding of the needs of not just rural Georgia but Georgia in general that I have seldom ever seen as it relates to health care, and she can articulate it in a way that nobody else can,” said England. “We have a handful of true Georgia gems — people who we are incredibly blessed were born in Georgia and make it their life’s mission to make Georgia a better place

— and Jean is certainly one of those people.”

REVOLUTIONIZING RURAL HEALTH CARE IN GEORGIA

Mercer Medicine, the multi-physician practice and subsidiary of the School of Medicine, has for many years offered primary and specialty care provided by faculty physicians to patients in Macon. At the urging of one of the School’s earliest supporters, former Georgia Gov. and U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Mercer Medicine has begun to expand its efforts to areas of the state where care is needed most.

In 1973, then-Gov. Carter revised his \$1.6 billion budget to include \$5 million for the proposed Mercer medical school, which was intended to show the federal government the serious intent of the project, and four years later, then-President Carter signed a bill into law providing \$250,000 for the planning of MUSM, the first federal money received for the school.

Upon the closing of the Plains Medical Center in March 2018, Carter’s hometown was lacking an option for local health care, and Carter, who is a Mercer Life Trustee, called President Underwood for help.

Mercer was quick to answer. In July 2018, Mercer Medicine Plains began accepting patients at 107 Main St.



Since 2010, **7** rural Georgia hospitals have closed and as many as **23 more** are at risk of closure.

in downtown Plains, providing comprehensive primary care services using local physicians and nurse practitioners, as well as specialty care and mental health services through both in-person and telehealth consultation. A grand opening celebration was held in August with Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter in attendance.

The clinic, refurbished by Mercer using local contractors, has four exam rooms and on-site services such as X-ray, echocardiogram and ultrasound. Landscaping includes a butterfly garden that is part of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

Mercer Medicine Plains is a boon not only for the local community, but for students in all of the health sciences disciplines at Mercer. MUSM faculty participate in provision of care and

students participate in a rural rotation in Plains. Mercer's College of Nursing plans to include family nurse practitioner student rotations in the clinic. The College of Pharmacy has added rotations for Doctor of Pharmacy students at the Plains Pharmacy, and the College of Health Professions, which



21% of Georgia's 10.5 million residents live in a rural area.

11 Georgia counties have no family medicine physician.
8 Georgia counties have no physician at all.

educates physical therapists, physician assistants, public health professionals, clinical psychologists and athletic trainers, plans to participate in care, research and training.

The School of Medicine intends for the Plains clinic to serve as a pilot for future rural primary care clinics, with plans underway to open two more clinics in Clay and Peach counties.

“Quality patient care in rural communities is important. The care of a physician in those areas is meaningful and helps achieve improved health status, quality of life and economic development,” said Dr. Sumner.

MERCER’S CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

In June 2018, the School of Medicine announced it had received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) officially designating Mercer’s Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities as one of only two rural health-focused NIH Centers of Excellence in the nation.

This major step in positioning MUSM as a national leader in rural health research was several years in the making, beginning with the appointment of Jacob C. Warren, Ph.D., as Rufus C. Harris Endowed Chair and associate professor of community medicine in 2013. In late 2017, Mercer recruited K. Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., Psy.D., as associate dean for research and accreditation and professor of community medicine and psychiatry. Both professors have been named National Rural Health Association Outstanding Researcher of the Year in recent years.

Since 2012, Dr. Warren and Dr. Smalley have served as joint principal investigators on an NIH Center of Excellence grant to establish a center focused on eliminating health disparities faced by rural populations.

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 Mercer, bringing the total amount granted to the University under this award to more than \$2.1 million.

“Mercer University School of Medicine is uniquely poised to become the national leader in rural health research,” said Dr. Warren.

“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,” added Dr. Smalley.

Since receiving the NIH Center of Excellence designation, Mercer’s Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities has received two major federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants to target key health issues facing rural communities in Georgia.

In April 2019, the center received a \$5.6 million HRSA grant to establish a program called South Georgia Healthy Start to combat maternal and infant mortality in a seven-county region of east Georgia. The five-year program will serve at least 700

pregnant women, new mothers, infants and fathers each year across Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Emanuel, Jenkins, Tattnall and Toombs counties. Georgia has the worst maternal mortality rate in the nation and is among the five worst states for infant mortality.

Two months later, the center received an additional \$200,000 from HRSA to plan a program called the North Georgia Opioid Prevention and Education Network to combat opioid overdose in a four-county region of north Georgia. The program will create a multi-sector consortium focused on the prevention of opioid use disorder and opioid overdose in Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon and Polk counties. Each of these counties has an opioid overdose mortality rate above the state average, with some counties more than double the state average.

“Dr. Smalley’s and Dr. Warren’s work has helped to build translational research related to our mission,” said Dr. Sumner. “We are committed to improving the health status of our state while informing the national dialogue.”

LEADING GEORGIA IN RURAL HEALTH INNOVATION

Another significant endorsement of the School of Medicine’s leadership regarding issues of rural health came in January 2019 when Georgia’s State Office of Rural Health (SORH) awarded the Rural Health System Innovation Center Grant to Mercer.

SORH falls under Georgia’s Department of Community Health (DCH), which has responsibility for insuring more than 2 million Georgians, maximizing the state’s healthcare purchasing power, coordinating health planning for state agencies and proposing cost-effective solutions for reducing the number of uninsured individuals. SORH applies



Dr. Jacob Warren (left)
and **Dr. Bryant Smalley**

The life expectancy in rural Georgia is just below **76 years**, compared to the national average of 81 years.



these responsibilities specifically to rural and underserved Georgia, where it seeks to improve health and reduce health disparities.

Mercer received the \$927,000 grant from SORH to establish a statewide Rural Health Innovation Center on the Macon campus to promote research identifying, analyzing and proposing solutions for significant rural health system problems. The center will also serve as a repository for collection and dissemination of rural health data and as a

clearinghouse for data integration and analysis. Additionally, it will develop standards for education curriculum for hospital executive leadership, hospital authority members and hospital board members of rural hospitals and other healthcare facilities in Georgia.

"I've been impressed by the state's commitment to rural health and our legislators' efforts to provide needed care in rural communities," said Dr. Sumner. "The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center is further evidence of the state's unwavering commitment to citizens of the rural areas of our state."

The center is key to addressing the shared goals of DCH and SORH to empower communities to strengthen and maintain the best possible health care using existing resources, provide up-to-date health systems information and technical assistance, build strong partnerships to meet local and regional needs, provide incentives to local areas to implement integrated service delivery systems and be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care.

Achieving these goals, specifically in rural Georgia, is a momentous task considering 120 of the state's 159 counties are considered rural, with a population of less than 50,000 residents. Of those, 63 counties are without a pediatrician, 75 without an OBGYN, 84 without a psychiatrist, and eight have no physician at all. Rural Georgians encounter higher rates of chronic disease, less access to health care and shorter life expectancies than people living in urban areas of the state.

"Being undergirded by Mercer University School of Medicine allows us to build on the School's well established reputation as a trusted champion for rural Georgia," said Debra Stokes, executive director of the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center. "If a community has an idea to improve some aspect of the healthcare challenges it may be facing, we can help sort through the issues and identify resources. Reliable research, creative strategies, consistent community support and long-term solutions — these are foundational within our mission."

One of the mandates provided to the new center by the state legislature was the development of training standards designed to support the effectiveness of rural hospital leadership. Those standards were completed and made available in June.

Currently, the center's project managers are collecting data to support the efforts of the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce in planning for the number and types of physicians needed in rural Georgia.

"What has been done in the first few

months of the Center's existence is further confirmation that Mercer was certainly the right choice to take the lead," said England.

EXPANSION CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In May 2019, MUSM held a press conference at the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce to announce expansion of the School's two-year campus there to a full four-year campus, ramping up Columbus' total number of enrolled M.D. students from 40 to 240 over the next several years. The expansion is backed by operational funding from the state and support from the Columbus community that will allow renovations to begin later this year on a downtown facility housing new classrooms, labs and office space.

"I look forward to continuing to work to make this one of the finest medical schools, not just in Georgia, but in the country," said Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston, who represented the Georgia General Assembly at the announcement.

The School of Medicine began with just 24 students in Macon in August 1982, but has grown steadily and intentionally as it has excelled in fulfilling its clear and distinct mission.

With each entering class nearing 60 students in 1996, the School began offering clinical education for third- and fourth-year students in Savannah. In 2008, the Savannah campus was expanded to accommodate all four years of clinical education and eventually match the Macon campus' total enrollment.

In 2012, Mercer began offering clinical education for the third and fourth years in Columbus, and the latest expansion plans will give the University three medical school campuses all equal in size, enrolling a total of 720 M.D. students across the state.

"With the addition of the Columbus campus, Mercer School of Medicine stretches from the western to the eastern border of the state," said Dr. Sumner. "The arc from Columbus to Macon to Savannah caps the areas of the state with the worst health status. The presence of Mercer — committed to its mission — in those areas brings great hope for improved access to care in the state of Georgia."

In addition to increasing its capacity to train M.D. students, Mercer is working to make it as affordable as possible to become a primary care physician in rural Georgia.

The School of Medicine offers a Primary Care Accelerated Scholars Track, which allows students interested in a career in family medicine or general internal medicine to complete medical school coursework in an accelerated three-year program of study. The Accelerated Track scholarship covers tuition for the second and third years of medical school in exchange for four years of continuous full-time practice in a medically underserved or rural area of Georgia.

In 2017, MUSM used a one-time infusion of \$35 million from the state of Georgia to establish the Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship, which allows up to eight Nathan Deal Scholars in each entering class to attend with 85-100% of their tuition covered for a maximum of four years in exchange for four years of continuous full-time practice in a medically underserved rural Georgia county.

"Mercer is really listening to the need to get more primary care physicians out into the state and do it in a timely fashion and so that the students don't have a big debt hanging over their heads," said Parrish. "We're asking these students to practice primary care, which is on the low end of the pay scale, and go to rural communities, where a large portion of the population may be on Medicare, Medicaid or uninsured. That makes it difficult to pay off \$200,000 in loans."

For every 10,000 residents in rural Georgia there are **3** primary care physicians.

* Statistics provided by the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center using data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, Association of American Medical Colleges, Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, State Office of Rural Health, Becker Healthcare Review, Modern Healthcare, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, United Health Foundation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Furthermore, to support the School's expanding research agenda in rural health, the Mercer Board of Trustees in April approved a Ph.D. program in rural health sciences. The program is designed to prepare students for research careers focused on improving the health of rural communities. The degree is interdisciplinary, drawing from the fields of health sciences, social sciences, business and humanities, including the disciplines of mental health, sociology, epidemiology, statistics, communication, management, economics, political science and medicine.

A STORY OF COURAGE, TENACITY AND DEVOTION TO PRINCIPLE

Nearly 50 years ago, Mercer University School of Medicine first became an idea guided by an organizing principle to educate primary care physicians for rural and underserved areas of Georgia. Belief in that mission sustained the School through 10 uncertain years of planning, through expansion to Savannah and Columbus, and through opening a physician practice and using it as the basis for a system of rural health clinics around the state.

Perhaps no one is better suited to summarize the story of the Mercer School of Medicine than Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey, Ph.D., who was a guiding force for MUSM throughout his 27 years as the University's president.

"The story of Mercer University School of Medicine is a story of courage, tenacity and devotion to principle. It is the story of how public-private partnerships can become powerful mechanisms for solving crippling social problems. Above all else, this story is a human story that reflects the selfless commitment of many individuals who worked tirelessly against great odds to make life better for future generations," Dr. Godsey wrote in the foreword to Dr. Dalton's history of the School.



Debra Stokes
Executive Director, Georgia
Rural Health Innovation
Center

As Mercer's leadership seeks new and innovative ways to bring the medical school's mission into greater focus, the pages of this story yet to be written — and the potential to improve the health of rural Georgians — appear more promising than ever.



MERCER UNIVERSITY

2019

HOMECOMING

HOMECOMING 2019 IS COMING NOVEMBER 8-10.

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



5th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner
Half Century Club Celebration
8th Annual Alumni Career Speakers Series
Recognition of the Classes
of '69, '79, '89, '94, '99, '09
Campus-Wide Tailgating
Football Game vs. Wofford Terriers
... and much more!

Visit HOMECOMING.MERCER.EDU
for schedule and registration.

Amanda Thompson

NAMED SOCON ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GOES BACK-TO-BACK ON THE AWARD

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or the second consecutive year, a Mercer women's basketball student-athlete took home one of the top honors in the Southern Conference.

Forward **Amanda Thompson** was named the SoCon Female Athlete

of the Year, the league office announced in May.

Thompson becomes the second Mercer female student-athlete to be named the Athlete of the Year, following former teammate Khalia Lawrence last season. The two helped the Bears women's basketball team become the third program in conference history to claim the female athlete of the year award in consecutive seasons. Appalachian State track and field accomplished the feat in 1991-92 and Chattanooga track and field/cross country in 2006-07.

A native of Hayesville, North Carolina, Thompson averaged 13.3 points and a league-high 10.6 rebounds per game as a senior, tallying 16 double-doubles. The SoCon Coaches' Player of the Year and a first-team all-conference selection led the league in rebounding and averaged a double-double as Mercer went 25-8 and a perfect 14-0 in SoCon play en



MERCER WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT BARRETT-BONNER AWARD FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENT

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ercer University
was presented
with the Barrett-
Bonner Award
for a fourth
consecutive year

when the Southern Conference hosted its annual Honors Dinner in May at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The Barrett-Bonner Award is given to the SoCon school that places the highest percentage of its student-athletes on the league's academic honor roll. The award was first presented in 1994, for the 1992-93 academic year. The award is named after Col. John G. Barrett, faculty athletics representative at VMI from 1965-87, and Dr. Francis W. Bonner, faculty athletics representative at Furman from 1968-90. Mercer's four-year run (2015-16 – 2018-19) of winning the Barrett-Bonner Award marks the longest streak since former SoCon member Davidson won the award six straight years from 2008-09 to 2013-14. Mercer and Davidson are the only schools to win the Barrett-Bonner

Award multiple times and have combined to receive the award 24 times in its 27-year existence.

route to winning its second straight SoCon tournament title. She was the league's "player of the week" four times and the conference "player of the month" three times, all in her senior season.

"Amanda is not only an excellent basketball player, but those of us that know her beyond the court know what an exceptional person she is,"

head women's basketball coach Susie Gardner said. "She was a team captain for all four years and was the glue for our team over that time. The coaches, teammates, fans and the entire Mercer family respect and admire Amanda. I know Amanda's family is very proud of all that she has accomplished and the woman that she is. I could not be prouder of Amanda for being the incredible role model she is, along with being an amazing ambassador for the Southern Conference."

Each of the last two years, Thompson was the recipient of the SoCon's Pinnacle Award, given to the student-athlete with the highest GPA on the championship-winning team. She was named to the President's List five times and the Dean's List twice, plus was awarded a postgraduate scholarship by the conference office in May. An electrical engineering major, Thompson was named a Google Cloud CoSIDA Academic All-American this spring. During her collegiate career, she logged nearly 300 hours volunteering, the majority of the time with Mercer On Mission, where she spent time in Ecuador and Peru working with artisanal and small-scale gold miners to develop a mercury capture system to make their gold refining process safer. She also spent time with GoBabyGo!, a program that uses engineering skills to adapt electrically powered cars for children with disabilities.

Over the summer, Thompson was nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year, which will be announced this fall.



Unthinkable Run in Greenville Earns Bears SoCon Tournament Championship

**Talk about
“rallying the
troops.”**

BASEBALL TEAM WINS
SIX GAMES IN FIVE
DAYS TO NAB TITLE

After dropping an 11-0 shutout decision to Samford in its second game of the 2019 Southern Conference Baseball Tournament, Mercer rallied to take a Friday afternoon game, won two games on Saturday and two more on Sunday to accomplish one of the most difficult feats in college baseball — coming out of the losers’ bracket to win a conference tournament.



SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

G

ranted, the Bears had given a sneak preview of what they could do earlier in the season when they won 11 consecutive games from April 13 to May 5.

But still, ask any college coach in the country how challenging it is to come out of the losers'

bracket and win a tournament. Not to mention having to win back-to-back doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday. And, the thought of ending one game with a freshman pitcher earning a save and then immediately starting him the next game a few minutes later and getting a win — when does that happen?

Yet, the Mercer baseball team did all of that and much more in late May in Greenville. Given, it was not Head Coach Craig Gibson's first rodeo: 16 years as head of the Mercer program, 543 wins, six conference tournament titles and three previous trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Still, this 2019 run will be remembered for years to come.

2019 Southern Conference Baseball Tournament

Wednesday, May 22 — Mercer 11 Furman 2

- Seeded fourth in the tournament, freshman Bill Knight drove in five runs, including a third-inning grand slam to win game one.
- Sawyer Gipson-Long tossed six innings and struck out eight batters.

Thursday, May 23 — Samford 11 Mercer 0

- The only time the Bears were shutout all season.
- As bad as this loss seemed on Thursday, it awoke the Bears for playing five games the next three days. >>



2019 Southern Conference Baseball Tournament — *Continued*

Friday, May 24 — Mercer 9 UNCG 5

- Now in the losers' bracket, the Bears slugged five extra-base hits, including a pair of home runs, to stave off elimination.
- Left-hander Tanner Hall gave the bullpen some needed rest for the weekend by pitching seven innings.
- Nick Spear set a school record with his 21st save.

Saturday, May 25 — Mercer 11 ETSU 7

- Trevor Austin (4-for-4) and Alex Crotty (2-for-2) provided six of Mercer's 14 hits.
- Success on the mound was by committee as Kevin Coulter, Taylor Lobus, Nick Spear, Will Bowdoin, Andrew Kane and Jackson Kelley all pitched for the Bears.
- Freshman Jackson Kelley would not only finish this game but was the starting pitcher for the second game of the day against Samford.

Mercer 4 Samford 3

- Kelley threw six innings in his first collegiate start as the Bears redeemed themselves for the earlier 11-0 loss to the Bulldogs.
- Spear made his second relief appearance of the day and earned a three-inning save.

Sunday, May 26 — Mercer 12 Wofford 8

- Championship Sunday but the Bears had to defeat Wofford twice for the title.
- The Bears exploded for 12 runs on 14 hits to back a seven-inning start by Gipson-Long, who worked off three days of rest to win the first game.
- Spear, more durable than the Energizer bunny, closed the game out with the final five outs.

Mercer 9 Wofford 5

- The unthinkable became reality late on Sunday afternoon as the Bears won their second SoCon tournament championship.
- Austin, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, was joined by Kelley, Crotty and Collin Price on the All-Tournament Team.
- Andrew Kane received the SoCon Pinnacle Award given to the player on the championship team with the highest GPA.

The SoCon championship earned the Bears their fourth trip to the NCAA Tournament. The first three, all under Gibson, were to regionals hosted by Georgia Tech in 2010, Mississippi State in 2013 and Florida State in 2015. As the No. 4 seed in the Athens Regional, the Bears faced the No. 1 seed and No. 4 nationally ranked Georgia Bulldogs on Friday night, falling 13-3, and then lost to FAU on Saturday, 10-6.

For a team 15-20 on April 13, it was an amazing run by a determined group of Bears. In 16 years of leading the Bears' program, Gibson has led Mercer to 35 wins for the 10th season in a row. Only three other programs in the country can make that claim: LSU, Florida State and national champion Vanderbilt.



Coach Gibson Reflects on the Season

“Entering the conference tournament with a record of 14-6 in our last 20 games, I thought we were playing well at the right time of the year. As the No. 4 seed in the tournament, you know you are paired up to play the No. 1 seed if the seeds hold true. We were able to get off to a good start by defeating Furman, who just a weekend earlier beat us two out of three to end the season. After the Furman game, we were matched up against the No. 1 seed (Samford). They took it to us immediately and the game was out of hand rather quickly. The one thing we did do was save our staff in the loss. We were able to pitch a lot of guys without putting too much stress on any one guy. This would prove to be crucial the further along we played.

“After the Samford loss, we were playing for our season! We came back with quality wins against UNCG and ETSU to put us in position to get to championship Sunday. Our next hurdle was against Samford. We started a true freshman, Jackson Kelley, on the mound against the regular season champion. Our guys played with unbelievable fight and determination to win 4-3. This was our second game of the day. We won the doubleheader to propel us into championship Saturday against Wofford. Wofford won the regular season meeting against us, but we were a different team in the tournament than we were the second week of the conference season.

“Everything went our way on championship Sunday! We swept our way into postseason once again! So many outstanding efforts by all the guys. Really can't say enough about the fight and the never-say-die attitude from our guys. To sweep back-to-back doubleheaders and win the conference championship is a title run that we will forever cherish. This put our program back into the NCAA postseason for the fourth time in the last nine years. The conference run also secured our 35th win of the season for the 10th year in a row. What a magical time by a great group of winners.”

MEDICINE

Medicine Professors Receive Federal Grants to Combat Maternal and Infant Mortality, Opioid Abuse

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ercer School of Medicine (MUSM) professors **Dr. Bryant Smalley** and **Dr. Jacob Warren** recently received two federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants for initiatives aimed at combatting health crises in different areas of the state.

A \$5.6 million grant announced in April will combat maternal and infant mortality in a seven-county region of East Georgia. The funding will be used to establish a program

called South Georgia Healthy Start to implement and determine the impact of a multi-level initiative that establishes new systems of physical and mental health care for pregnant women in rural areas, provides comprehensive case management and health promotion to at-risk mothers and families, engages in workforce development, and promotes systems change to improve maternal and infant health.

At least 700 pregnant women, new mothers, infants and fathers will be served every year across Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Emanuel, Jenkins, Tattnall and Toombs counties.

“Georgia has the worst maternal mortality rate in the nation, and is consistently one of the five worst states in the nation for infant mortality,” said Dr. Warren. “Women and infants in rural communities — especially minority women and infants — face even higher risk than the rest of the state. These funds will help us eliminate these disparities.”

A \$200,000 grant announced in June will create a comprehensive plan to combat opioid overdose in a four-county region of rural north Georgia. The funding supports a yearlong planning process to establish the North Georgia Opioid Prevention and Education Network, a multi-sector consortium focused on the prevention of opioid use disorder and opioid overdose in Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon and Polk counties. Each of these counties has an opioid overdose mortality rate above the state average, with some counties more than double the state average.

Dr. Jacob Warren (left) and Dr. Bryant Smalley are interviewed by Georgia Public Broadcasting's Grant Blankenship following the June 2018 press conference announcing the official designation of MUSM's Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities as an NIH Center of Excellence.

“This federal grant will help combat the opioid epidemic in our North Georgia region with a plan designed for and by our community,” said Georgia House Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge), whose state House district includes Fannin and Gilmer counties. “I applaud the MUSM Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities and all of the local agencies and organizations participating in the consortium for working together on this critical public health issue.”

“The opioid crisis is a nationwide issue, but North Georgia in particular has been hard hit,” Dr. Smalley said. “Being able to work with all of these partners, from the local pharmacy to the judicial system, allows North Georgia OPEN to be responsive to this particular region’s unique needs and resources.”

Both programs will be led by Dr. Smalley, associate dean for research in MUSM, and Dr. Warren, Rufus Harris Endowed Chair and director of the Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities, a National Institutes of Health Center of Excellence within MUSM.



School of Medicine to Expand to Full Four-Year Campus In Columbus



The new campus will provide desperately needed physicians for the entire state, but especially Columbus and Southwest Georgia. We are proud to partner with Columbus and the state to address this need."

— President William D. Underwood

Mercer School of Medicine (MUSM) on May 17 at the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce formally announced expansion of the School's two-year Columbus campus to a full four-year campus.

"This important initiative originated with leaders in the Columbus community, who successfully carried it to fruition by garnering the support of the State of Georgia and Mercer University. The new campus will provide desperately needed physicians for the entire state, but especially Columbus and Southwest Georgia. We are proud to partner with Columbus and the state to address this need," said Mercer President William D. Underwood.

The expansion is backed by operational funding from the state, as well as generous support from the Columbus community that will allow renovations to begin later this year on a downtown facility housing new classrooms, labs and office space.

MUSM has begun recruitment of new faculty and scientists for the expanded medical school campus, which is scheduled to enroll its inaugural class of first-year Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) students in August 2021.

"Mercer is committed to its mission of educating physicians who practice in rural and underserved areas of Georgia," said Jean Sumner, M.D., FASCP, dean of the School of Medicine. "Southwest Georgia has the greatest need for improved access to health care in the state. The Columbus campus will allow Mercer to help address some of those needs. We appreciate the opportunity and support that we have received from the Columbus community and look forward to continuing this partnership."

Mercer's involvement in the Columbus community dates back more than 20 years when the School began sending third-year medical students to do clinical rotations with local physicians.

In 2012, Mercer started offering clinical education to third- and fourth-year medical students in Columbus, establishing the University's third medical school campus in partnership with Midtown Medical Center (now Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital) and St. Francis Hospital and admitting a total of 12 students. Currently, the School enrolls 40 students in Columbus.

In the coming years, the Columbus campus will ramp up its total enrollment to 240 medical students, equaling the size of each of School's two other campuses in Macon and Savannah.

"Mercer University School of Medicine students have not only enjoyed being a part of the Columbus community but have benefited tremendously from their experiences in the medical community here," said Alice House, M.D., FAAFP, dean of the Columbus campus and professor of family medicine. "We have begun to see the dividends of our labor as we are welcoming some of our graduates back to practice in the Columbus area."



Georgia House Speaker David Ralston provides remarks at the May 2019 press conference announcing the expansion of MUSM's two-year Columbus campus to a full four-year campus.

ROBIN TRIMARCHI PHOTO

The School of Medicine was established in Macon in 1982 as a result of a public-private partnership between the University and the State of Georgia to educate physicians and health professionals to meet the primary care and health care needs of rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia. In 2008, a second four-year campus was established in Savannah.

Currently, more than 1,500 MUSM graduates are practicing physicians, and of those, more than 65 percent practice in Georgia. Of those, more than 70 percent are practicing in a primary care specialty, and more than 80 percent are practicing in a rural or underserved area.

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 24 of the 30 counties in Southwest Georgia have a health status ranked in the

bottom half of Georgia's counties. Rural counties in the region have 16 physicians per 10,000 residents, 25% below the national average of 24 physicians per 10,000 residents, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. Additionally, more than half of the counties in the region have no pediatrician, psychiatrist or OB-GYN.

Data confirms that physicians tend to practice medicine near where they receive their medical education, so expanding the School of Medicine's Columbus campus to a full four-year program is expected to positively influence the number of physicians in the region over time.



Physical Therapy Professor Dr. Joseph Donnelly Recognized as 2019 Healthcare Hero

Dr. Joseph Donnelly, clinical professor of physical therapy in the College of Health Professions, was named one of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 2019 Healthcare Heroes.

Dr. Donnelly and 18 others were honored during a May 16 awards ceremony at Gypsy Kitchen in Buckhead. Healthcare Heroes are nominated by their peers and judged by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* editorial board. Recipients appeared in a special section of the *Chronicle*, released on May 17.

Dr. Donnelly was recognized in the Allied Health Professional category, which honors individuals working in ancillary professions such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology and nutrition who go above and beyond the call of duty and impact the growth and development of their profession and the community.

"We are very proud of Dr. Donnelly's recognition as a 2019 Healthcare Hero," said Dr. Lisa Lundquist, dean of the College of Health Professions. "His efforts in developing advanced training programs for physical therapists and his dedicated leadership efforts in state and national organizations make him very deserving of this honor. We know that he will continue to advance the profession of physical therapy."

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

Earlier this year, he began a three-year term as president of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, the largest academy of the American Physical Therapy Association with more than 20,000 members.



DR. DANIEL DALE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

Dr. Daniel Dale, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy in the College of Health Professions, began his term as president of the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia at the close of the association's annual meeting held in March in Atlanta.

The Physical Therapy Association of Georgia represents more than 2,200 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students, and is a chapter within the American Physical Therapy Association.

Dr. Dale joined Mercer's faculty in 2017, and he currently serves as assistant director of clinical education in the Department of Physical Therapy.

ATHLETIC TRAINING PROFESSOR DR. BILL HOLCOMB EARNS DR. ERNST JOKL SPORTS MEDICINE AWARD

Dr. Bill Holcomb, professor and founding director of the Master of Athletic Training program in the College of Health Professions, was presented the 2018 Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award by the United States Sports Academy.

Dr. Holcomb is an alumnus of the United States Sports Academy having earned a Master of Sports Science degree in sports medicine from the institution in 1988. He also holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Berry College and a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from Auburn University.

"The United States Sports Academy provided me with a great foundation for a career in sports medicine," Dr. Holcomb said. "I am so proud to have received this award from my alma mater and humbled by the list of previous recipients."

Dr. Holcomb has been a Certified Athletic Trainer and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist for more than 25 years. He is recognized as a fellow in the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). He was awarded the NSCA's 2017 Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist of the Year award, given to an athletic trainer whose work and contributions have significantly impacted the field of sports medicine or rehabilitation for athletes.

The Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award, named in honor of the former Olympic athlete, international sports medicine scholar and director of the University of Kentucky Rehabilitation Center, is given annually to an individual for his or her contributions to the growth and development of sport medicine through practice and/or scholarly activity.



PA Student Kevin Montgomery Selected for USAF Health Professions Scholarship

Kevin Montgomery was one of six students nationwide selected to participate in this year's U.S. Air Force (USAF) Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). Montgomery, who is pursuing his Master of Medical Science (MMSc) within the College of Health Professions' Physician Assistant (PA) Program, will receive tuition, supplies and a living stipend

while in school in exchange for three years of active duty service upon graduation.

The scholarship includes appointment as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve while attending Mercer, followed by reappointment and commissioned officer training into active duty upon his anticipated graduation in May 2021.

"Selection for this scholarship and commission into the United States Air Force is a true honor for me, and I'm grateful to everyone who has helped me throughout the process and beginning of my Mercer PA education. Receiving this scholarship provides an additional privilege for me as an opportunity to continue a family legacy providing medical care in the USAF in service to my country," said Montgomery, whose father is a former USAF physician. "I'm very proud to be a Mercer PA student, and I'm thankful to be part of the Mercer family."



College of Pharmacy Awarded \$20,000 Scholarship to Promote Cultural Competency

The College of Pharmacy was recently awarded a \$20,000 scholarship by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation to provide first-year student pharmacists an immersive experience in cultural competency through a partnership with the Clarkston Refugee Clinic. The clinic serves the most diverse one-square mile population in the nation. Six merit-based scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$20,000 to fund patient-centered, community-based coursework or other curriculum innovations. The other award recipients were Auburn

University Harrison School of Pharmacy, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy, St. John's University College of Pharmacy, University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Howard University College of Pharmacy.

Mercer's project is headed by Dr. Joshua Kinsey, clinical assistant professor and director of the Community Pharmacy Residency Program.



PHARMACY PROFESSOR DR. NICOLE METZGER AWARDED ASHP FOUNDATION GRANT



Dr. Nicole Metzger, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, recently received a national competitive grant from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) to advance a study on hospital-onset clostridium difficile infection (HO-CDI).

Dr. Metzger and her Emory Healthcare PGY-2 resident Dr. Carrie Tilton received a \$4,968 Pharmacy Resident Practice-Based Research Grant for their project, "Advancing the Pharmacist's Role in Preventing Healthcare Facility-Onset C. Difficile: Expansion of a Risk Prediction Model."

The project is a risk prevention model created by Dr. Tilton and Dr. Steven Johnson, assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The new study will include a more diverse group of patients both demographically and medically to identify if there are additional risk factors that can be flagged at admission that would place a patient at higher risk for developing HO-CDI.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1950s

Wallace E. Harrell, LAW '54, was appointed chief magistrate judge of Glynn County in April. Harrell was previously deputy magistrate judge and a partner at Gilbert Harrell Sumnerford & Martin PC in Brunswick for 55 years.

1960s

G. Douglas Dillard, LAW '67, established Dillard Sellers, a zoning and land use law firm in Atlanta. Dillard was formerly a partner at Pursley Friesse Torgimson.

Hugh P. Thompson, LAW '69, was one of 12 awarded with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Daily Report, for leaving a lasting imprint on the legal community of Georgia. Thompson was chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, and enjoys retirement in Milledgeville with his wife Jane.

Ret. Col. Glynn "K.G." Watson, CLA '59, LAW '63, published his fifth book, *Evil Comes a Callin: From Paradise to Hell*. The book is based on a horrific crime in the small town of Ocilla and explores the life of Tara Grinstead, a local teacher and beauty contestant who was missing for 11 years until the mystery was resolved in 2017.

1970s

Ann B. Bishop, LAW '76, joined Hall Booth Smith PC as of counsel in its Atlanta office. Bishop was formerly with Sponsler Bishop Koren & Hammer PA.

John A. Draughon, LAW '75, formed the Draughon Law Group in the latter part of 2018. The Macon-based firm specializes in business litigation, with its primary emphasis on eminent domain and hospital law.

Jack Dunn, PHA '78, owner of Jasper Drug Store, earned the National Community Pharmacists Association's Innovation Center Excellence (NICE) award for Best Customer Convenience Improvement. His store now includes a nursing room and a section catering to the needs of expectant mothers and babies.

Judy Collins Hale, TIFT '76, recently published *Honor for Aging Parents* with WestbowPress. The book shares Hale's experiences as a care provider and the information she gleaned from that role. The book can be purchased on her website at judyhale.com.

Richard E. Hyer Jr., CLA '66, EDU '74, was appointed to the University of Georgia College of Education Board of Visitors for a second term from 2018-2020. He earned his doctorate in education at the University of Georgia. Hyer retired from the Georgia Department of Education as superintendent of Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon in 2002. He currently resides in the North Georgia mountains.

Randall A. Jordan, LAW '76, joined the litigation practice group of HunterMaclean as a partner in its Brunswick office. Jordan is a frequent speaker on issues relating to the transportation industry.

Ret. Capt. Donna Price, JAGC, USN, CLA '76, LAW '79, secured the democratic nomination for the Scottsville Magisterial District seat on the Albemarle County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors, and will face an opponent in the November 2019 General Election.

G. Neil Skene Jr., LAW '77, is vice president for strategic planning and policy at Pace Center for Girls, a nationally recognized non-residential program helping girls find a better path for their lives after involvement in juvenile justice, human trafficking, or academic struggles. He is responsible for national expansion of the evidence-based program now serving 3,000 girls a year with 21 centers and 12 in-school programs throughout Florida. The first expansion will begin in Skene's hometown this fall — a start-up in-school program in cooperation with Macon's School-Justice Partnership.

1980s

Luanne Clark, LAW '83, was selected as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer. Clark practices alternative dispute resolution at Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers PC in Atlanta.

The Hon. Sarah Stevenson Harris, LAW '86, was recognized by the Council of Probate Judges of Georgia with the 2019 Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year Award. Harris served as the Council's president during the 2018-19 term and was instrumental in achieving the Council's goals. Harris is the first female probate judge of Bibb County.

Essie Biggins Hill, CLA '82, penned a new book *Caring & Engaging Schools: Partnering with Family and Community to Unlock the Potential of High School Students in Poverty*. In her book, Hill presents a new, strengths-based, whole-child education model and demonstrates the link between quality education and economic growth.

W. Joseph Hollis Jr., LAW '85, was honored by the Chattanooga Bar Foundation as one of five new Fellows in 2019. The guidelines for selection provide that only lawyers who have "devotion to the legal profession, adhering to the highest standards of professional ethics, and for distinguished service to the organized Bar and the community" are honored as Fellows. Hollis practices civil litigation with the firm of Rainey Kizer Reviere & Bell PLC in its Chattanooga location.

Christina L. Hunt, LAW '85, will serve as an adjunct professor to lead the Public Defender Externship program at Mercer School of Law. Hunt is the executive director of the Federal

Defenders for the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia.

David A. Klee, CLA '82, was named full professor and director of the recording technology program at Buena Vista University in Iowa.

D. Fred Lee, CLA '82, LAW '85, joined Drew Eckl & Farnham LLP as a partner and opened the Drew Eckl Albany location on March 1. Lee is formerly a partner in the Lee Orlowski firm.

Anton F. Mertens, LAW '87, started his own firm, The Mertens Firm, focusing on family law issues and family immigration matters. Mertens was previously with Burr Forman in Atlanta.

Michael S. Meyer von Bremen, CLA '79, LAW '83, was appointed to the

Dougherty Magistrate Court, taking the seat of retiring Judge John F. Salter, effective May 24. Meyer von Bremen is managing partner of Hall Booth Smith PC in Albany.

Jay D. Mitchell, LAW '88, joined Jackson Healthcare as general counsel and corporate secretary in December 2018. Mitchell was most recently with King & Spalding in Atlanta.

Michael S. Pemberton, LAW '84, district court judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Tennessee, was elected secretary for the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

J. William Pierce Jr., LAW '82, is listed as leading U.S. attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending by the Chambers USA 2019 guide.

Submit your personal Accomplishments, Marriage/ Births/Anniversary or In Memory announcements for *The Mercerian* in the Alumni Class Notes section to Erin Lones, director of Advancement Communications, at lones_ep@mercer.edu.

Pierce's firm Glankler Brown PLLC is based in Memphis, Tennessee.

Timothy S. Riley, CAS '87, was elected and sworn in as a representative for Waianae, Hawaii, Neighborhood Board District 24 at large.

M. Pete Robinson, LAW '80, joined King and Spalding as a partner

REMEMBERING...

Friend and Generous Supporter

Penny Stamps

Penelope "Penny" Witt Stamps, friend and generous University supporter, died Dec. 13 after a long struggle with leukemia. Born in Chicago, Stamps left to attend the University of Michigan, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree and an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree. A dedicated philanthropist, designer and animal lover, she worked tirelessly for her many beloved charitable organizations, believing strongly that her commitment and leadership could make a meaningful difference for all of them.

Stamps has changed the lives of hundreds of individuals, and now thousands of extraordinary young men and women through her family foundation's Stamps Scholars program, which she and her husband of 50 years, E. Roe Stamps IV, a Macon native, created at their alma maters, The University of Michigan and Georgia Tech. The program is a nationally prestigious merit scholarship program and community that awards merit scholarships to undergraduates and helps exceptional students become meaningful leaders throughout society. Since the program began in 2006, it has grown to include 40 schools across the country.

In 2012, Mercer was selected as a partner institution of the Stamps Scholars Program. Five members of each Mercer freshman class are selected for the program. The students chosen for this prestigious honor are among the highest achieving applicants in the entering class. The scholarship covers the full cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, room, board and books. In addition, Stamps Scholars each receive a \$16,000 stipend over four years for enrichment activities, such as study abroad or undergraduate research.



in its government advocacy and public policy practice and will be based primarily in Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Paul Smith, BUS '85, was named the president of Bon Secours Mercy Health Mid-American Group, which includes Mercy's five hospitals in Greater Cincinnati as well as two others in Ohio and three in Kentucky.

Steven M. Suggs, BUS '85, began his seventh start up, R3Renew LLC. R3Renew provides new technology that transitions virtually any organic waste, emission or effluent into a usable renewable gas, resulting in both ultra-pure water and clean energy.

Anita Wallace Thomas, LAW '89, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors representing Atlanta Circuit Post 39.

Wallace Thomas is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and serves as a member of Mercer Law School's Board of Visitors.

The Hon. Kimberley Dean White, LAW '88, was elected chief judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit which includes Halifax, Apopattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg and Prince Edward counties in Virginia.

1990s

Sally Brown Akins, LAW '90, received the 2019 Distinguished Leader Award by the Daily Report for achieving impressive results in 2018 and demonstrating clear leadership skills that helped achieve those results. Akins serves as secretary for the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors and previously served as a member

of the Bar's executive committee. She was selected one of 2019 Georgia Super Lawyers and is a partner at Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams LLP in Savannah.

Willie Banks Jr., CLA '93, was named vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of California, Irvine, effective July 15.

Dr. T. Wayne Bloodworth, BUS '97, a gynecologist and cosmetic surgeon, established the nation's first and only non-profit surgical center for victims of female genital mutilation in Atlanta. The center treats patients from across the U.S., Africa and Europe.

Chad M. Boggan, EGR '94, completed his Doctor of Engineering degree with a focus in engineering management from George Washington University in January.

The Hon. Michael P. Boggs, LAW '90, was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Justice Boggs is a member of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia in Atlanta. He serves as a member of Mercer University School of Law Board of Visitors.

Shawn Bransky, BUS '92, was appointed director of the Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System on May 28.

Thomas R. Burnside III, LAW '91, was reelected to serve on the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors. Burnside will continue to serve in the Post 3 seat from the Augusta Circuit.

Lisa Chang, BUS '98, was named chief people officer for The Coca-Cola Company, assuming the role on March 1. In this role, Chang oversees the company's global human resources operations. She most recently served as senior vice president and chief human resources officer for AMB Group LLC in Atlanta.

Walt Davis, CLA '98, was nominated by Gov. Kemp to serve as judge on a new court designed to handle complex business matters. The statewide business court was approved by Georgia voters in November and codified with bipartisan support in the legislature. Davis is a partner at Atlanta firm Jones Day, where he specializes in securities litigation, shareholder disputes, and corporate governance matters and regularly counsels boards of directors and senior management in connection with governmental and internal investigations.

J. Jeffrey Deery, LAW '90, was named chairman of the board of trustees of ELEVATE Orlando, the central Florida non-profit organization that equips and empowers underserved youth with in-school instruction, 24/7 mentoring and post-secondary preparation. He was also selected as a 2019 Florida Super Lawyer in General Litigation. Deery is a shareholder with the law firm of Winderweede Haines Ward & Woodman PA in Winter Park, Florida.

Denise Dell-Powell, LAW '91, joined the Orlando office of Dean Mead as chair of the bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group. Dell-Powell has more than 25 years of experience in bankruptcy and creditors' rights, and distressed property including CMBS foreclosures, workouts and bankruptcy matters.

Mary Friedsam Golden, MED '96, retired on March 31, 2018, after serving as director of resident life at Carlyle Place in Macon since 2002.

Christian E. Hardigree, LAW '96, was appointed as founding dean of the Metropolitan State University of Denver School of Hospitality, Events and Tourism beginning Jan. 2. The school has an operating hotel and restaurant, with Tivoli brewery on campus for internships and work experience and offers degrees in brewery operations, event management, restaurant

management, travel and tourism, and hotel operations.

Jeffrey R. Harris, BUS '97, LAW '99 was named to the Georgia Super Lawyers' Top 100 list of attorneys. Harris, a partner at the Savannah firm of Harris Lowry Manton LLP, is an 11-time Georgia Super Lawyer and a two-time Top 100 honoree.

Margaret "Meg" Heap, LAW '92, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Heap is the district attorney for Chatham County. She is the current president of the District Attorney's Association of Georgia.

Monali Majmudar, PHA '98, was named a fellow of APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice & Management. Majmudar, a provider educator for GlaxoSmithKline's adult vaccine portfolio, is a champion for immunizing pharmacists everywhere, serving as a mentor and expert resource within Georgia and across the country.

Michelle McCarthy, PHA '94, was recognized as an AACN Master Preceptor. She is the pharmacy education and graduate programs coordinator and the residency program director for the PGY1-Pharmacy residency program at the University of Virginia Health System. The program recognizes preceptors for their sustained commitment to excellence in experiential education and professional practice.

Scott McGuigan, CLA '89, BUS '91, was named Eastern region vice president for Manitou North American Sales. In this position, he is responsible for leading sales strategies and customer support in the eastern region of the United States and Canada.

The Hon. Shondeana Crews Morris, LAW '97, was appointed judge on the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court by Gov. Kemp. Morris is a former deputy district attorney in Fulton County, assistant solicitor for the city of Atlanta, and has been a DeKalb State Court judge since 2017. She is the vice president of the Mercer Black Law Student Association Alumni Council.

Kirk Nooks, EGR '96, BUS '98, was formally invested as the fourth president of Gordon State College on Friday, April 26.

Robert S. Register, LAW '98, was named principal for Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis Miles PC. Register practices personal injury law in the firm's Atlanta office.

Kimberly Raybon Reid, LAW '97, became the Sylvester city attorney after serving as interim city attorney since July 2018.

Ross S. Schell, LAW '95, was named partner at James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP in Macon.

Anthony J. Snipes, CLA '92, city manager of Missouri City, Texas, was recently elected as national president and board chair of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA). As national

REMEMBERING...

Friend and Generous Supporter

James F. Culver

Ret. Gen. James F. Culver died May 25 at the age of 97. Culver was born June 10, 1921, in Macon.

He received a medical degree from the University of Georgia in 1945 and a Master of Science degree in political science from Auburn University. A decorated serviceman and esteemed medical professional in the field of ophthalmology, Culver was deputy surgeon general for operations and commander of the Air Force Medical Service Center at Brooks Air Force Base prior to his retirement in 1981. He authored some 50 papers on experimental and clinical ophthalmology, served as chief of ophthalmology and senior instructor in ophthalmology at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and offered his vast skills and knowledge to research, military and government agencies.

Culver credited Mercer with helping him gain acceptance to medical school after completing one chemistry course he needed to be admitted. As a result, he and Jean, his wife of 72 years and a registered nurse, were generous supporters of the sciences at Mercer. In recognition of the importance a strong science education played in their medical careers, they established two endowed funds at Mercer, a scholarship fund to assist science students and a fund to enhance the applied sciences. Additionally, the Culvers dedicated one half of their estate to Mercer for endowment. They were named Life Members of the University's President's Club in 2003 and most recently made a major commitment to support construction of the Spearman C. Godsey Science Center. They also gave the University a commercial building on Second Street in Macon that was renovated and dedicated earlier this year as the McEachern Art Center.



president, Snipes will be responsible for guiding a 26-member board of directors representing city, county and state governments and nonprofit organizations.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, was recognized as a Super Lawyer in the area of family law. Tuggle is a founding shareholder of Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenberry in Atlanta. This is the eighth year Tuggle has received the Super Lawyer distinction.

Frank B. Turner Jr., LAW '94, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Turner is a partner at Greer Stansfield & Turner LLP in Covington.

Jeffrey A. Watkins, LAW '92, was appointed Superior Court Judge on the Cherokee Judicial Circuit by Gov. Kemp.

2000s

Silky Beaty, PHA '05, joined UCB as the Real World Evidence & Data Alliances Lead for Neurology.

Nikki Bryant, PHA '03, owner of Adams Family Pharmacy, opened Preston Family Medicine in Preston (Webster County).

Lakesha Wiley Butler, PHA '05, was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society as a Distinguished Faculty and is also the co-author of the pharmacy textbook *Patient Communication for Pharmacy*.

Kathleen B. Connell, LAW '05, was recognized as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer. Connell practices family law at Connell Cummings LLC in Atlanta.

David Curry, PEN '09, was appointed state revenue commissioner of Georgia by Gov. Kemp on May 3.

Stephen Dominy, BUS '09, accepted a position as the associate director of fraternity and sorority life at Texas Christian University.

Jason E. Downey, LAW '03, was appointed to the State Board of Education by Gov. Kemp, representing the 8th Congressional District. Downey is senior trial attorney for the Law Office of Nancy Phillips in Macon.

Jason Dukes, EDU '09, was announced as the new Alcovy High School head football coach on Jan. 25.

Jill U. Edmondson, LAW '05, joined Georgia Power as the new ethics and concerns manager in January. Edmondson was previously with The Home Depot for 13 years. She serves as a member of the Mercer Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Brian Esters, PHA '03, is inpatient pharmacy supervisor at the James A. Quillen VA in Mountain Home, Tennessee.

Phillip Eubanks, LAW '09, joined the music and technology company Q&A in May as the company's chief operating officer. Eubanks was formerly the global head of strategy and operations for the creator services division of Spotify.

Stephen Garmon, BUS '06, was appointed national distribution manager of Primex Plastics Corporation. In this position, he is responsible for driving sales through existing channels while maintaining productive relationships with current customers in all business lines.

Robin Ann Golivesky, LAW '01, started her own firm, The Law Office of Robin A. Golivesky LLC, specializing in the area of workers' compensation.

Matthew R. Hall, CLA '96, LAW '00, joined Mercer University as assistant general counsel. Hall was previously with Spivey Pope Green & Greer LLC in Macon.

S. Elizabeth Hall, LAW '04, joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP's Macon office focusing on commercial litigation. Hall was formerly with CarMax Auto Finance in Atlanta.

Bradley M. Harmon, LAW '02, was selected as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer in the area of business litigation. Harmon is managing partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Canon Hill, LAW '05, rejoined the Macon firm, Jones Cork LLP, practicing in the areas of education and employment law, after a brief absence when she practiced in Charleston, West Virginia.

Nicole Woolfork Hull, CLA '06, LAW '09, was appointed a member of the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Dispute Resolution. Hull has her own law firm in Athens and is currently the director of the Academy of Dispute Resolution.

Riley Johnson, BUS '04, was named the human resources director at Bryan County.

M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins, LAW '05, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Kaufold-Wiggins is a partner at Balch & Bingham in Atlanta and Vidalia. She serves as the current president of the Mercer Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Rachel R. Krause, LAW '01, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, CLA '64, LAW '66, to serve as judge on the Fulton County Superior Court effective Jan. 7. Krause was most recently a partner with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Atlanta.

Jennifer S. Lowndes, LAW '09, joined Holland & Knight's Orlando office as a partner in its Construction Law practice. Lowndes was most recently a partner at Jones Walker LLP in Atlanta.

Quentin L. Marlin, LAW '07, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Marlin is a partner at Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams LLP in Savannah. He serves as a member of the Mercer Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Janene Marshall, PHA '07, was named acting chair of pharmacy practice at Chicago State University.

Joan M. McElroy, EDU '08, wrote a one-woman play, *Thus Spoke the Mockingbird*, that was chosen for

REMEMBERING...

Generous Arts Supporter

Josephine "Jo" Phelps Fabian

Josephine "Jo" Phelps Fabian, friend and generous University supporter, died March 16. Fabian was born in Roanoke, Virginia, on April 1, 1937. A graduate of Converse College, she was a teacher, artist, homemaker and philanthropist. She committed her life to preserving the classical elements of civilization that bring beauty to life: music, philosophy and the visual arts.

While living in New York City, Fabian was a board member of the Metropolitan Opera Company and was an active supporter of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She enjoyed traveling the world and her travel experiences broadened her understanding of how art and music enrich and enhance life.

After returning to Macon in 2006, she focused her efforts on enhancing the arts in Macon. While she supported a number of programs at Mercer, she was a great supporter of Mercer's Townsend School of Music and its McDuffie Center for Strings where she provided endowment funds for the Fabian Concert Series as well as the establishment of the G. Leslie Fabian Chair of Music. Following these gifts, she later established the Jo Phelps Fabian Center for Musical Excellence which will support the finest educational programs for outstanding aspiring musicians.

Fabian also established the John E. James Lecture Series in Mercer's School of Law. She was a Life Member of the University's President's Club, and she was an inaugural recipient of the University's Alumni by Choice Award in 2014.



production at this year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. The play explores author Harper Lee's self-described "divine discontent" and its contribution to raising her eyes from the dusty streets of Monroeville, Alabama, to bear witness to the birth of the new South in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Ashley Morris, CLA '07, is the new dean for the business and professional services division at Savannah Technical College.

Mitchell Murchison, EGR '06, was promoted as Cranston Engineering Group's municipal design group manager. His role includes leading and managing public-sector design work for storm-drainage improvements, roadways, streetscapes, trail systems, utilities and other infrastructures.

Matthew M. Myers, LAW '03, announced the formation of his new firm, Myers Law Group, which is a

dedicated real estate law firm serving Middle Georgia and beyond. Myers Law Group's practice areas include commercial real estate, corporate transactions, residential real estate, and tax beneficial transactions.

M. Cayce Myers, LAW '09, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Virginia Tech.

Anthony Sean Neal, DIV '05, an assistant professor in Mississippi State's Department of Philosophy and Religion was named an inductee of Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars in May.

Gabriel Orthous, BUS '08, was named chief information officer for Central Georgia Health Network. **Brandon L. Peak**, LAW '04, was elected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for Chattahoochee Circuit Post 2. Peak is a partner at Butler Wooten & Peak LLP in Columbus.

Mandy Reece, PHA '01, was named Outstanding Allied Health Professional by the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. The Healthy Hall Awards of Excellence honor those in the local healthcare industry who have impacted the community through excellence in health and wellness.

Jennifer McClung Rygg, DIV '07, received the Baptist Woman in Ministry of the Year award from the South Carolina chapter of Baptist Women in Ministry in April.

Sunny Ricker Sandos, LAW '09, was hired as staff attorney for Johnson City, Tennessee. Sandos is the first woman to hold the position. She was previously the executive director of planned giving for East Tennessee State University.

Darrell L. Sutton, LAW '03, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Sutton was installed as the 57th

president of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting on June 8. He also serves as president-elect of the Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Carl R. Varnedoe, LAW '03, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors representing Atlantic Circuit Post 2. Varnedoe practices catastrophic injury and wrongful death law at Jones Osteen & Jones in Hinesville.

Adam M. Walters, LAW '02, was selected by the American Health

Lawyers Association to serve as the vice chair of the Physician Organizations Practice Group for the 2019-2021 term.

Dana Robinson Wiggins, EDU '05, was appointed principal of Quail Run Elementary School during the Board of Education meeting held on April 9.

Paul Wolfe, PHA '07, celebrated the grand opening of his pharmacy, Asheville Mountain Pharmacy, on Jan. 10.

Monica Wright, BUS '09, joined Signature Bank of Georgia as vice

president and senior government guaranteed processing and compliance manager on May 7.

Ponchitta L. Young, TIFT '92, BUS '07, completed Ph.D. studies in public policy and administration; doctoral studies in Christian business.

2010s

Porche' Warren Adams, CHP '15, was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Georgia in May. Adams is continuing

her medical training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Ashley A. Akins, LAW '13, was installed as co-editor of *The Young Lawyers Division Review*, the newsletter of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the State Bar of Georgia, on June 7 during the organization's annual meeting. Akins is an associate at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Atlanta.

Ladonna C. Barnes, PEN '14, began working as the program manager at Mary Hall Freedom House, a gender-specific substance abuse treatment facility that aims to end the cycle of addiction, poverty, and homelessness in women and their children. The organization was recently tapped to manage a \$2.5 million SAMHSA grant, which allows the program to expand service to pregnant and postpartum women struggling with substance use and co-occurring disorders, as well as their families and the fathers of their children.

Janene D. Browder, BUS '09, LAW '12, joined the Georgia Department of Law as assistant attorney general in the regulated industries and professions division. Browder was recently with the Georgia Department of Community Health.

Elizabeth A. Carr, CLA '06, LAW '10, was named assistant dean of career services at Mercer Law School in December 2018. She previously served as director of career services at Mercer Law for three years.

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

Ronald E. Daniels, LAW '12, was elected secretary of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and began serving in June. Daniels practices consumer law in Eastman and Perry.

Craig Daughtry, EDU '12, was installed in March as pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Savannah.

Dustin E. Davies, LAW '11, was selected as a 2019 Rising Star in personal injury by Super Lawyers Magazine for the sixth year in a row. Davies is a partner at Hasty Pope LLP in Gainesville and a Young Alumni Council member representing the Mercer Law class of 2011.

Graham W. Davis, LAW '17, recently joined Progressive Casualty Insurance Company as a house counsel attorney in their Atlanta office. Davis was formerly with Downey & Cleveland LLP in Marietta.

Alisha Humphrey Dickie, LAW '16, joined the firm of Drew Eckl & Farnham LLP as an associate focusing her civil litigation practice on premises liability and insurance defense. Dickie was formerly with Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele.

Tracy Cain English, NUR '12, was selected as "Face of Palliative Care" by Dr. Betty Ferrell, editor-in-chief, *Journal*

of Hospice and Palliative Nursing in the April 2019 issue.

Alan Franks, BUS '10, CLA '10, launched a new brand, The Mill Financial Partners, in April.

Brooke N. Gram, LAW '11, was promoted as partner at Balch & Bingham in Atlanta. Gram focuses her practice on civil litigation.

Corrie E. Hall, LAW '11, was promoted to partner at James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP in Macon.

Patrick Hanson, MED '13, began working at the Optic Medical Center in Statesboro on April 4.

Dr. De'smond Henry, MED '15, is a rising fourth-year obstetrics and gynecology resident at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. He was selected to be the administrative chief resident for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV, LAW '12, began serving as president-elect of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the State Bar of Georgia in June.

Hummel works at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Atlanta.

Sherry L. Johnson, PEN '13, LAW '16, established the Law Office of Sherry L. Johnson in Macon, focusing on bankruptcy law.

Nicholas E. Kelley, LAW '10, was named one of four new shareholder partners at Flake & Kelley Commercial and serves as executive vice president. Kelley resides in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Daniel Minter, ENG '18, joined KaMin as the operations value engineer in January.

Brooke Pettis Newby, LAW '10, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Newby is a partner at Walker Hulbert Gray & Moore LLP in Perry.

Rizza Palmares O'Connor, BUS '07, LAW '10, was recognized by the *Daily Report* with the 2019 On the Rise Award given to promising lawyers under the age of 40. O'Connor is the Chief Magistrate in Toombs County and the current president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.

B. Patrick O'Grady, LAW '13, recently joined the law firm of Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman PC as an associate in the firm's Richmond, Virginia, office. His practice focuses on the defense of individuals, small businesses, and insurers in connection with personal injury, premises liability, wrongful death, and business litigation. O'Grady has tried more than 100 cases to verdict in courts throughout Virginia.

Tyler James Oldenburg, LAW '11, was selected as the new vice-chair of THE PLAYERS Championship. THE PLAYERS annually combines the best field in golf with the world-class venue that is THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Proceeds from THE PLAYERS benefit Northeast Florida charities and have totaled \$100 million since the event moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1977, including a record \$9 million generated in 2018.

REMEMBERING...

Alumnus and Generous Supporter

The Hon. Jerry M. Vanderhoef, CLA '59, LAW '62



Jerry M. Vanderhoef (pictured above, front left) of Daniel Island, South Carolina, and former resident of Tusculumbia, Alabama, died Sunday, Feb. 17, at the age of 81. He was an Army veteran and earned both his undergraduate degree and Juris Doctorate from Mercer. While a student at Mercer, Vanderhoef was an active member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He served as a circuit court judge in Alabama for 15 years and later as a federal administrative law judge for 25 years.

Vanderhoef was a loyal alumnus and long-time supporter of the University. He was a Life Member of the University's President's Club and gave generously to the two scholarship funds he established — the Marguerite Vanderhoef Athletic Scholarship Fund, in memory of his mother, and the Judge Jerry M. Vanderhoef Legal Endowed Scholarship Fund.

In 1983, he was awarded the University's Meritorious Service Award. Vanderhoef was actively involved in the Mercer Alumni Association and was an ardent supporter of Mercer athletics, serving as president of the Half Century Club from 2010-2011 and serving as a member of the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board of Directors since 2012.

Erica L. Opitz, LAW '10, was promoted to shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka. Opitz practices corporate, securities and finance and often serves as outside general counsel to her clients.

Kyle C. Owenby, LAW '16, received the 2019 Public Service Award from the Georgia chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units for his work prosecuting insurance fraud. Owenby is an assistant district attorney in Macon.

Joseph R. Padgett, LAW '16, joined Roden Law as an associate in its Brunswick office. Padgett was formerly with Hall Booth and Smith PC.

Jessica M. Phillips, LAW '10, was named partner for Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers. Phillips practices commercial litigation in its Atlanta office.

Hannah Beth Reynolds, LAW '17, joined the Atlanta office of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers as an associate in its coverage and commercial litigation team.

Nyonnohweah S. Seekie, LAW '16, announced the formation of her own firm, The Seekie Law Firm, which focuses on Criminal Defense, Immigration Law and the relating social justice issues in Middle Georgia and beyond. Seekie also graduated from the State Bar of Georgia YLD

Leadership Academy '19 and was elected to serve on the State Bar of Georgia YLD Representative Council representing the Middle District for the July 2019-July 2021 term.

Jasmin N. Severino, LAW '17, was selected to serve in the University of Georgia's Young Alumni Council. Severino currently serves as the Leadership Academy co-chair for the Georgia Latino Law Foundation. She is an estate planning and wealth management attorney at Davis Matthews & Quigley in Atlanta.

Jared Smith, EDU '10, was named the new principal of Porter Elementary School in Blount County.

Christopher A. Steele, LAW '11, was promoted to shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka. Steele practices trusts and estates in the firm's Atlanta office.

Ashley C. Thompson, LAW '17, joined Brian Douglas & Associates LLC in Atlanta on July 1, focusing on estate planning and probate. Thompson was formerly with Dunlap Gardiner of Hiram.

Mattie Hardin Tondreault, LAW '15, joined the law firm of Hardin & Ball in Lakeland as an associate practicing civil litigation. Tondreault was formerly an assistant state attorney in Bartow.

Danielle M. Tyler, LAW '14, was named to Knoxville, Tennessee's "Top 40 under 40." Tyler is the manager

of legal affairs at Discovery, Inc. and an adjunct professor of legal studies at South College.

Benjamin A. Vaughn, LAW '12, was appointed as the new county attorney by the Butts County Board of Commissioners. Vaughn is also the Monroe County attorney and the attorney for the Monroe County School Board.

Dustin B. Weeks, LAW '10, was named partner at Troutman Sanders LLP. Weeks practices intellectual property in its Atlanta office.

Stephanie White, PHA '16, received an APhA Foundation grant for her proposal on increasing pneumococcal vaccination rates in a rural community.

Dr. Amethyst Wilder, MED '15, was instated as a family medicine physician at Memorial Health University Physicians, Family Care in March.

L. Rachel Wilson, CLA '08, LAW '11, recently opened her own law firm, Nest: Estate Planning by L. Rachel Wilson. The firm focuses on estate planning for families in Georgia and South Carolina, with concierge service and flat fee packages. Wilson previously served as the dean of students and taught the wills, estates, and trusts courses at Savannah Law School since 2015. This spring, she was sworn in to the Supreme Court of the United States. She also serves

on the board of the Young Lawyers Division of Georgia and the Telfair Museums in Savannah.

Savannah. Bridgers works for Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida, while Meyers completes his Tax LLM at the University of Florida Levine College of Law.

Clayton D. Franklin, LAW '12, and his wife Allyson announced the birth of their son, Chandler Franklin, on Nov. 27, 2018.

Madalyn C. Freeman, CLA '18, married in Newton Chapel on Mercer's Macon Campus on July 14, 2018. The couple honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii, and now reside in Anchorage, Alaska. Freeman works as a licensing coordinator/case manager for a local organization that brings hope to troubled youth in the Alaskan community.

Andrew Jones, EGR '12, married Kathryn Tiller on July 7, 2018.

Casey Barnard Miller, CLA '17, announced the birth of her son on April 2, 2018.

Olivia Anne Warner, LAW '19, married James Anthony Daly IV on May 18 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Rebecca Tucker White, DIV '15, and her husband Jamie announce the birth of their son, James "Steven" Tucker III, on Nov. 5, 2018.

MARRIAGES BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

1990s

GINNA PASSAILAIGUE COLLINS, BUS '98, and her husband Alex announce the birth of their daughter, Blair Jacqueline Collins, born in October 2018.

2000s

Troy Newham, BUS '01, and his wife Chevy welcomed their first daughter, Cadence Clare Grace Newham, on Oct. 22, 2018.

Hali Madison Thomas, EDU '09, gave birth to Matteo Arthur Thomas on Aug. 13, 2018.

2010s

TAMORRA BUCHANON BOYD, LAW '13, and her husband Lamar welcomed their first child, Desmond, on May 12. Boyd has her own firm, Boyd Legal Counsel LLC, in Duluth, focusing on business and intellectual property law.

Lauren E. Bridgers, LAW '18, and **Nathaniel Q. Meyers**, LAW '18, married on Nov. 17, 2018, in

IN MEMORY

1930s

Lois Chauncy Thornton, Tift '39, of Baxley, June 1.

1940s

Vauda Burson Allmon, Tift '43, of Greenville, South Carolina, July 2.

Emma Wallace Cammack, Tift '41, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, June 26.

Barbara Seagraves Carter, Tift '47, of Birmingham, Alabama, March 16.

Joyce Youngblood Coleman, CLA '47, of Tifton, June 22.

Alice Wright Culpepper, CLA '43, of Macon, March 3.

James Fox Culver, CLA '43, of DeBary, Florida, May 25.

Sara Turner Curry, CLA '47, of Shellman, April 29.

Marvin C. Dix, CLA '49, of Abbeville, Dec. 6, 2018.

Marion R. Epps, CLA '49, of Charlotte, North Carolina, April 1.

Carolyn Alexander Fleming, Tift '47, of Charlottesville, Virginia, May 9.

Kathryn Moat Gordon, CLA '45, of Fishkill, New York, March 15.

Harriette Chapman Hammond, CLA '40, of Charlotte, North Carolina, Jan. 29.

Dorothy Harmon, NUR '48, of Columbia, South Carolina, May 25.

Ellen Wallace Heard, Tift '45, of Duluth, June 22.

Sarah Hinesley Jones, Tift '47, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, Dec. 30, 2018.

Bettye Holder Knudson, CLA '44, Jan. 4.

Elizabeth Bullard Lemmon, Tift '45, of Eatonton, April 30.

Catherine McCaleb McKibben, CLA '49, of Jacksonville, Florida, May 31.

Frances Ivey Miller, Tift '47, of Sandersville, Dec. 9, 2018.

Bynum Perkins, PHA '49, of Dunwoody, March 18, 2019.

Wesley M. Robison, CLA '48, of Monroe, Feb. 19.

Uldine Snelling Thaggard, CLA '49, of Augusta, Jan. 15.

Jeanne Sheridan Thompson, CLA '49, of Melbourne, Florida, May 24.

John Franklin Toole, CLA '44, of Macon, June 19.

William R. Yoast, CLA '49, of Springfield, Virginia, May 16.

1950s

Nancy Bruner Alford, CLA '57, of Statesboro, Feb. 1.

Robert E. Barfield, LAW '53, of Amarillo, Texas, March 19.

Celia Hunt Benton, Tift '52, of Cape Coral, Florida, May 31.

D. Oscar Blanks, CLA '52, of Decatur, Feb. 15.

Sarah Hammack Bowers, CLA '51, of Tifton, March 20.

Seaborn Smith Buchanan, CLA '59, of Macon, March 23.

Norman N. Burnes III, CLA '59, of Midlothian, Virginia, April 8.

J. Mack Butler Jr., CLA '51, of Macon, Jan. 27.

Mary Anne Summers Carswell, CLA '52, of Athens, May 10.

Donald J. Carter, CLA '54, of Gainesville, Feb. 7.

Thomas M. Close, CLA '57, of Fresno, California, April 14.

Jo Ann Hammond Crews, CLA '54, of Covington, Jan. 18.

Barbara Beindorf Deere, CLA '57, of West Melbourne, Florida, May 28.

Virginia Dooley, NUR '52, of Savannah, April 5.

Leona Dorrough, NUR '53, of Cordele, March 29.

Everett G. Drinnon, CLA '50, of Irmo, South Carolina, May 10.

William B. Elliott, PHA '54, of Dillard, April 4.

Barbara Rabun Embry, EDU '57, of Atlanta, June 8.

Jacqueline White Fiveash, Tift '53, of Donalsonville, Dec. 7, 2018.

Milton C. Gardner Jr., CLA '57, of Thomasville, Dec. 17, 2018.

T.P. Hadley, CLA '52, of Thomaston, Feb. 21.

Carlton W. Hearn, CLA '56, of Washington, May 18.

Robert A. Hill Jr., CLA '51, of Atlanta, March 22.

Lillian Anthony Jemian, Tift '51, of Auburn, Alabama, Jan. 28.

Carolyn McElveen Kelly, CLA '54, of Friendswood, Texas, Feb. 18.

Sylvia Grant Kelly, NUR '57, of Ellenwood, Dec. 14, 2018.

Jean King, NUR '50, of Jonesboro, June 22.

Stephen Krysalika, CLA '56, of Macon, Feb. 23.

Patricia Hall Lassiter, CLA '57, of Perry, July 12.

Rebecca Lawley, NUR '56, of Franklin, March 10.

James W. Lindsay, CLA '52, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, June 27.

Gwenn Edwin McCormick, CLA '56, of Penney Farms, Florida, Jan. 13.

Bennie S. McFather, CLA '54, of Ooltewah, Tennessee, March 7.

Sandra Panter McMullen, NUR '59, of Gray, Feb. 9.

J. Donald Mitchell, CLA '58, of Talbott, Tennessee, April 12.

L. Grayson Moody, EDU '50, of Edgewood, Texas, April 11.

Carolyn Boswell Moses, CLA '53, of Uvalde, July 5.

Bernard A. Parker, EDU '50, of Milledgeville, Jan. 16.

Dorothy Carter Parrish, NUR '51, of Monroe, May 19.

Barbara Strickland Parrish, NUR '56, of Newnan, Feb. 3.

Geraldine Sealey Paxson, Tift '55, of Decatur, April 4.

Sara Holmes Perry, CLA '56, of Adairsville, May 5.

Charlie A. Rodgers Jr., CLA '52, of Macon, May 13.

David H. Rozier, CLA '53, of Macon, April 30.

L.E. Smith Jr., CLA '50, of San Angelo, Texas, Feb. 19.

Patti-Sue McKinnon Smith, CLA '54, of Adel, July 7, 2018.

Betty Sanders Snyder, Tift '51, of Madison, Dec. 13, 2018.

Caroline Stilwell Miller Stevens, CLA '51, of Shreveport, Louisiana, Jan. 18.

Myra Ann Smith Street, NUR '54, of Hokes Bluff, Alabama, March 14.

Floyd W. Thomas, CLA '52, of Gainesville, Florida, May 9.

Walter C. Watson III, CLA '51, of Macon, June 8.

R. Reuel Westbrook, CLA '59, of Greenwood, South Carolina, Feb. 14.

Arthur E. Wharton Jr., PHA '56, of Gainesville, Florida, Jan. 13.

Robert E. Wilder, EDU '52, of Macon, March 17.

Pamella G. Windham, Tift '51, of Marietta, May 1.

1960s

Paul C. Armitage, LAW '61, of Greenville, South Carolina, March 14.

Frank W. Armstrong III, LAW '64, of Gainesville, May 16.

Max B. Asbell, LAW '60, of Warner Robins, Jan. 13.

Jackson H. Banks, CLA '62, of Douglasville, June 20.

Marian Mustoe Barfield, EDU '67, of Amarillo, Texas, Jan. 15.

Sam J. Blasingame, PHA '65, of Franklin, North Carolina, June 10.

Linda Peters Caldwell, Tift '63, of Griffin, Feb. 15.

Jane Clements Carter, CLA '60, of Butler, June 29.

Jesse M. Cleveland Jr., LAW '68, of Conyers, April 6.

J. Charles Coe, CLA '60, of Lawrenceville, Oct. 29, 2018.
William S. Coursey III, CLA '67, of Lynchburg, Virginia, July 9.
C. Dale Freaney, CLA '66, of Macon, April 19, 2019.
Bob L. Gordy, CLA '61, of Louisville, Dec. 17, 2018.
H. Terrell Griffin, LAW '68, of Maitland, Florida, Feb. 21.
Barbara Head Hall, Tift '62, of Decatur, Jan. 2.
Jacelyn Cain, Higgs, CLA '66, of Milledgeville, March 16.
Carol Holland, NUR '68, of Fayetteville, May 13.
Linda Tabor Howard, CLA '65, of Laurel, Mississippi, April 2.
Frank M. Huthnance, CLA '68, of Suwanee, Jan. 5.
John R. Kinsey, CLA '67, of Keystone Heights, Florida, Feb. 9.
Eleanor Deal Law, PHA '68, of Clayton, May 15.
Jane Lovett Mayo, CLA '61, of Savannah, Feb. 21.
Ralph M. McDuffie Jr., PHA '60, of Forest Park, June 15.
Robert J. Merada, PHA '65, of Saint Petersburg, Florida, Aug. 29, 2018.

Edward J. Moskaly, CLA '62, of Warner Robins, April 10.
Robert J. Nesmith, LAW '62, of Greensboro, North Carolina, June 26.
James E. Peugh, LAW '67, of Milledgeville, Feb. 21.
Fredric W. Reese, CLA '60, of Spring, Texas, May 15.
Rhea W. Richardson, CLA '69, of Tampa, Florida, Dec. 18, 2018.
Gail White Robertson, NUR '60, of Hiawassee, March 12.
Melanie Lindsey Sammons, NUR '63, of Sylvania, March 5.
Don T. Sayer, CLA '61, of Dalton, June 6.
Elizabeth Bartlett Scarborough, Tift '65, of Tifton, June 23.
J. Coleman Tidwell, LAW '69, of Macon, March 3.
Robbie Smith Townson, EDU '63, of Guntersville, Alabama, Feb. 5.
M. Jean Wilson, CLA '64, of Warner Robins, May 11.
John R. Woodford, CLA '69, of Macon, Dec. 16, 2018.
James M. Wootan, LAW '69, of Macon, April 21.

1970s

Frederick J. Allen, CLA '78, of Palm Coast, Florida, Jan. 1.
Barbara Tucker Asbell, EDU '76, of Warner Robins, Jan. 15.
Edward S. Bagley III, CLA '73, of River Ridge, Louisiana, Jan. 12.
Melvin Blalock, PHA '74, of Atlanta, May 10.
Victoria L. Brokaw, NUR '78, of McDonough, Feb. 6.
Dale L. Buchanan, LAW '75, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Feb. 28.
Roberto H. Castellon, BUS '75, of Lafayette, California, Jan. 21.
C. Phil Comer III, CLA '71, of Macon, April 24.
Margaret DeVaughan Edgar, Tift '73, of Ozark, Alabama, April 23.
Beth J. Froehlich, NUR '76, of Vienna, Virginia, May 11.
Michael G. Garvey, CLA '76, of Alpharetta, June 29.
Marc H. Glick, LAW '74, of New York, New York, July 2.
LaNé Johnson Goff, CLA '70, of Sparta, March 15.
Jack U. Harwell, HON '76, of Stone Mountain, Jan. 18.
Sherry J. Huckaby, Tift '71, of Macon, Dec. 22, 2018.

Sheila Worrell Hundley, CLA '75, of Macon, July 5.
Susan Hearn Hurd, CAS '76, of Riverdale, May 17.
Stephen W. Irving, LAW '79, of Clarkston, Dec. 16, 2018.
Henry O. Jones III, LAW '73, of Cordele, May 28.
Emily Wortman Lawyer, LAW '70, of Tampa, Florida, Jan. 5.
J. Keith McMahan, CLA '77, of McIntyre, Dec. 12, 2018.
G. Carey Nelson III, CLA '70, of Cartersville, March 18.
Patricia Nell Sue Tomblin Nixon, CLA '76, of Warner Robins, May 12.
Bekke Royalty, NUR '78, of Allen, Texas, Feb. 17.
Buford M. Tanner, CLA '72, of Eastman, May 29.
Donna L. Thrower, CLA '78, of Gray, Feb. 17.
Dorothy Walker-Myers, Tift '79, of Tifton, Feb. 17.
R. Elayne Walton, PHA '75, of Conyers, Feb. 19.
Agnes Booth Whitsetl, CLA '79, of Macon, April 26.
Barry E. Willingham, CLA '73, of Macon, April 7.
Donald N. Wilson, LAW '71, of York, Pennsylvania, June 9.

Lisa Black Wright, CLA '77, of Macon, March 18.

1980s

John R. Alligood, CLA '84, of Macon, May 2.
Arthur P. Christie, BUS '84, of Warner Robins, April 29.
Cheryl L. Daniels, EDU '83, of Perry, July 2.
Patricia Good Evatt, CAS '83, of Evans, May 29.
Kathy M. Hopkins, BUS '87, of Woodbine, Maryland, Jan. 9.
Lewis C. McDonald, CAS '84, of Columbia, South Carolina, Dec. 30, 2018.
Samuel P. McFarland Jr., CAS '83, of Ellerslie, Jan. 26.
Lester A. McGukin, CAS '85, of Atlanta, April 12.
Jay A. McLeod, CLA '89, of Franklin, Pennsylvania, Jan. 20.
Robert E. Moore Jr., BUS '88, of Atlanta, Nov. 28, 2018.
T. Mark Moss, LAW '81, of Buford, April 4.
Philemon K. Nadutey, CAS '84, of Silver Spring, Maryland, Feb. 9.
Norman D. Norwood, BUS '80, of Blairsville, April 11.

Beverly Bowden Pickard, CLA '85, of Macon, Dec. 31, 2018.

Richard J. Pope Jr., BUS '84, of Atlanta, April 24.
Rodney H. Roberts, LAW '80, of Gray, Feb. 21.
Shelia Davis Russell, Tift '80, of Crestview, Florida, Feb. 1.
Lois Barnaal Ryan, BUS '83, of Lilburn, Jan. 7.
Lynn Walraven Wicks, Tift '85, of Kathleen, Jan. 13.
Tina Chapman Stokes Wootan, CLA '82, of Macon, June 22.

1990s

Robert Wells Cahoon, MED '98, of Campobello, South Carolina, Oct. 4, 2018.
William Marion Caldwell Jr., BUS '93, of Woodbury, April 28.
Tony A. Fountain, BUS '95, of Cumming, May 18.
Jari Bennett Grimm, BUS '91, of Atlanta, June 13.
David P. Hampton, BUS '98, of Macon, April 25.
Paul Headland, ENG '99, of Cochran, Dec. 25, 2018.
Nancy C. Johnson, EDU '95, of Suwanee, May 7.
Harold Franklin Mullins, PEN '95, of Experiment, April 29.
Susan Couey Peebles, EDU '90, of Dublin, May 14.
Margarita Twitchell, NUR '95, of Roy, Utah, March 4.
John T. Willett, LAW '90, of Dallas, Texas, June 4.

2000s

Jimmy Allen, HON '03, of Big Canoe, Jan. 8.
William John Bigger, DIV '08, of Durham, North Carolina, May 1.
Mara B. Cain, PEN '03, of Grayson, July 7.
William M. Maddox, CLA '02, of Meansville, May 9.
Paula D. Wilson, CHP '04, of Anacortes, Washington, Feb. 18.

2010s

Robert C. Boswell, PHA '12, of Roswell, June 15.
Robert L. Hodo, DIV '12, of Conley, Feb. 25.
Sharneka D. Johnson, CHP '14, of Milledgeville, March 25.
Myeesha Newton, PEN '16, of Covington, March 3.
Meagan Elizabeth Margery Ryan, CLA '12, of Augusta, Feb. 22.
Gina Stone, EDU '11, of Zebulon, Jan. 31.
Philip W. Subacz, LAW '17, of Atlanta, May 6.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

W. Clay Adamson, of Macon, June 13.
William L. Boyd, of Macon, Dec. 4, 2018.
Elizabeth A. Farr, of Macon, Feb. 6.
T. Gray Fountain, of Albany, April 4.
F. D'Ann Fuquay, of Grand Junction, Colorado, March 21.
Aubrey S. Garrison, of Athens, May 10.
Mary Timmerman Geeslin, of Longboat Key, Florida, April 30.
Lester R. Golden, of Macon, Dec. 10, 2018.
Douglas M. Grimm, of Atlanta, June 1.
Fredrick Hall, of Stone Mountain, May 17.
Don Haymes, of Macon, June 1.
Kenneth C. Henderson, of Macon, June 28.
Cordelia D. Holliday, of Macon, April 21.
Paul H. Jossey Jr., of Forsyth, April 28.
Maryann Marks, of Atlanta, Feb. 5.
Vivian E. Mattson, of Jonesboro, Oct. 4, 2018.
Robert G. McKinnon, of Atlanta, Feb. 17.
Douglas E. Moody, of Warner Robins, March 3.
Howard J. Morrison Jr., of Savannah, Jan. 24.
Wheeler Nidiffer, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, Feb. 25.
Carey O. Pickard Jr., of Macon, Dec. 24, 2018.
Mack T. Pierce Jr., of Pooler, April 23, 2018.
Larry L. Prince, of Atlanta, March 5.
Shirley Scoggins, of Macon, March 17.
Mary E. Sheridan, of Baltimore, Maryland, Dec. 12, 2018.
Bennie F. Sowell, of Sarasota, Florida, Dec. 15, 2018.
Michael L. Starr, of Atlanta, April 6.
Ruth Walton, of Pooler, April 23, 2018.
Joan Elder Woodford, of Macon, Dec. 16, 2018.

REMEMBERING...

Trustee, Alumnus, and Generous Supporter

A.V. Elliott, CLA '56

Longtime Mercer University trustee, donor and alumnus A.V. Elliott Jr. died April 17 at the age of 90. Elliott was secretary and treasurer of Elliott Machine Shop Inc., a 100-employee company he founded in Macon in 1975, beginning with only five employees. He was previously founding director of Rivoli Bank of Macon and a research and development engineer for Bibb Manufacturing Company.

A 1956 graduate of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, Elliott was a committed and generous supporter of the University. A Life Member of the Mercer President's Club, Elliott provided the University with a \$1 million dollar gift in November 2012 to endow the A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas. He also gifted the University with the Elliott Bell Tower at the Five Star Football Stadium in February 2013. His most recent commitment was for the new undergraduate sciences building, The Spearman C. Godsey Science Center, on the Macon campus. In recognition of his support, the University named the area framed by the new sciences building, the School of Medicine and School of Engineering buildings and the Willet Science Center as the "A.V. Elliott Science Quadrangle." In 2013, Elliott was honored with the Mercer University Meritorious Service Award. He was serving his fourth term on the Board of Trustees at the time of his death.



ROGER DENNEN PHOTO
 OPPOSITE: CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTOS; LEAV YETTER PHOTO

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE ADDS NEW STAFF

■ **Dell Bunker**, CLA '87, joined the Office of University Advancement as director of development for the Stetson School of Business and Economics and The Executive Forum. Bunker graduated from Mercer's College of Liberal Arts in 1987 and began working as a sales representative in the data processing industry. In 1993, he began working in the barcoding industry and remained in that business for over 20 years as a sales representative and owner of his own barcoding consulting company. In 2016, Bunker entered nonprofit fundraising with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Central Georgia Council as Senior Director of Development. In this role, he was responsible for the annual fundraising activities of 24 counties in Central Georgia. His primary role at Mercer includes generating annual fund and major gifts for the business school, developing relationships with business school alumni and friends, and working with the Executive Forum speaker series.

■ **Bryan Hirt** was named assistant athletic director of development for the Mercer Athletic Foundation in June. He joins the staff after two years at the University of Louisville, where he worked with both the Cardinal Athletic Fund and the ticket office. In his time at Louisville, he participated in the one-of-a-kind adidas Internship Program — an exclusive program that offers hands-on experience and programming opportunities for graduate or professional degree-seeking students to develop knowledge, skills and abilities in athletic administration.

Adding to his experience at Louisville, he completed internships with Butler University, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and the Pittsburgh Pirates Triple-A affiliate, the Indianapolis Indians. Hirt received a master's in sport administration from Louisville in 2019 after earning a bachelor's degree in Management from Marian University-Indianapolis in 2017. The Long Island, N.Y., native was a four-year scholarship bowling student-athlete at Marian.

■ **George Williams**, CLA '12, joined the Office of University Advancement in the newly created position of prospect research associate in July. Williams is a 2012 graduate of Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts and also holds a Master of Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University. His professional experience includes database management and SQL reporting, conducting quantitative and qualitative research, and legal research. Williams previously worked in Mercer's Skelton Medical Library, Peyton Anderson Learning Resource Center and was employed by a Macon-based law firm where he provided extensive administrative support, including research and processing of legal documents, for eight staff attorneys.



Dell Bunker



Bryan Hirt



George Williams



Mercer Law School Dean Cathy Cox announced the establishment of the Griffin B. Bell and Frank C. Jones Fund for the Enhancement of Advocacy Education and Programs in February. The fund, created by Mercer Law alumni Dwight Davis, LAW '82, Paul Quirós, LAW '82, and Doc Schneider, LAW '81, and others, will be used to support and enhance advocacy education and programs. This includes both curricular and

co-curricular activities such as trial practice, moot court, mock trial, client counseling and negotiation teams and competitions.

Additionally, the Law School named its first-floor courtroom the Griffin B. Bell and Frank C. Jones Courtroom in honor of Bell, LAW '48, and Jones, LAW '50. Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Clarence Thomas provided the keynote address as Mercer University School of Law dedicated the Bell Jones Courtroom on March 11.

Mercer President William D. Underwood addresses the Bell Jones Courtroom dedication attendees on March 11.



UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES NEW PRESIDENT'S CLUB LIFE MEMBERS

New Life Members of The President's Club were recognized April 20 during the University's 54th annual celebration of its most generous supporters. Members of The President's Club gathered for dinner followed by a dessert reception at The St. Regis Hotel, Atlanta.

The Mercer University 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: Larry and Carol Braden, Paul and Dot Garrison, Eli and Phyllis Morgan, James and Kelley O'Quinn, and M. Pete Robinson.

▲
(L-R, back row): President William D. Underwood; James O'Quinn, CLA '56; Eli Morgan, CLA '83; Paul Garrison, CLA '63; Larry Braden, PHA '65; Pete Robinson, LAW '80; (L-R, front row): Kelley O'Quinn; Phyllis Morgan, CLA '84; Dot Garrison; Carol Braden.

MERCER LIBRARY UNVEILS C.S. LEWIS COLLECTION

Mercer University Library hosted a special event, "More than the Wardrobe," March 21-22 in Macon to showcase an extensive private collection of C.S. Lewis books and materials procured by the late Rev. Perry C. Bramlett, a graduate of Southern Seminary, respected minister, noted author and dedicated Lewis scholar. His collection was donated to the University in 2016 by his widow, Joan Fine Bramlett of Fairhope, Alabama.

The collection includes Bramlett's notes on more than 2,500 hours of talks, tours and retreats presented to churches, colleges and groups across the country, as well as almost 1,700 books and 630 non-book materials used in his research and writing on Lewis that emphasize the man, the writer and his influence on others. Furthermore, the collection contains materials on Lewis' circle of friends, including J.R.R. Tolkien, Wannie Lewis, Joy Gresham Davidman and Pauline Bayne.



University faculty pose with Joan Bramlett and friends in front of the display wardrobe following the event. (L-R) Marc Jolley, Ron Higdon, Theresa Rhodes, Joan Bramlett, Todd Miller, Lori Miller and Peggy Barham.

A Gift of Gratitude

Pete Robinson (left)
with Mike Sabbath

Pete Robinson was a first-year student at Mercer's Law School when his father unexpectedly passed away. While grieving his loss and making decisions about his future, Robinson found encouragement and support from **Mike Sabbath**, one of his law school professors.

Last fall, Robinson established the Mike Sabbath Student Support Fund to honor the professor who helped him navigate through a difficult time and made a difference in his life. The expendable fund will provide resources for law students who have a change of circumstances that causes financial distress and potentially affects their ability to remain enrolled.

A Columbus native, Robinson graduated from Mercer Law School in 1980. He is a partner at King & Spalding LLP where he practices in their Government Advocacy and Public Policy group. He began his career as a litigator in Columbus and served for 10 years in the Georgia General Assembly, ultimately serving as President Pro-Tempore and as Majority Leader of the Georgia Senate. Robinson serves as a trustee for both Mercer University and the University System of Georgia Foundation. In April, he was named a Life Member of the University's President's Club.

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

Establishing a scholarship fund is a great way to honor a faculty or staff member who made a difference in your life while also making a difference in the lives of current students. For more information on scholarship funds and naming opportunities, or to contribute to the Mike Sabbath Student Support Fund, please call or email Shawna Dooley, Associate Vice President for University Advancement, at (478) 301-2720 or dooley_sr@mercer.edu.

MERCER BASKETBALL

**2019-2020
SEASON**

Men's Schedule

OCT. 29	ST. ANDREWS	MACON
NOV. 6	ST. JOHNS	QUEENS, N.Y.
NOV. 8	COLUMBIA INT. UNIV.	MACON
NOV. 11	KENNESAW STATE	MACON
NOV. 15	FGCU	MACON
NOV. 19	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	STATESBORO
NOV. 23	AT ILLINOIS-CHICAGO (BOCA RATON BEACH CLASSIC)	
NOV. 26	AT ST. BONAVENTURE (BOCA RATON BEACH CLASSIC)	
DEC. 1	VS CANISIUS - BOCA RATON BEACH CLASSIC	
DEC. 2	VS HOLY CROSS or HOFSTRA - BOCA RATON BEACH CLASSIC	
DEC. 7	GEORGIA STATE	MACON
DEC. 16	UNC-WILMINGTON	WILMINGTON, N.C.
DEC. 20	FURMAN*	MACON
DEC. 22	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	MACON
DEC. 28	MILLIGAN	MACON
JAN. 1	UNCG*	GREENSBORO, N.C.
JAN. 4	CHATTANOOGA*	MACON
JAN. 11	WESTERN CAROLINA*	CULLOWHEE, N.C.
JAN. 15	VMI*	MACON
JAN. 18	SAMFORD*	BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
JAN. 22	WESTERN CAROLINA*	MACON
JAN. 25	VMI*	LEXINGTON, VA.
JAN. 29	ETSU*	JOHNSON CITY, TENN.
FEB. 1	CITADEL*	MACON
FEB. 5	FURMAN*	GREENVILLE, S.C.
FEB. 8	ETSU*	MACON
FEB. 12	WOFFORD*	SPARTANBURG, S.C.
FEB. 15	UNCG*	MACON
FEB. 19	SAMFORD*	MACON
FEB. 22	CHATTANOOGA*	CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
FEB. 26	CITADEL*	CHARLESTON, S.C.
FEB. 29	WOFFORD*	MACON

Women's Schedule

NOV. 5	LAGRANGE	MACON
NOV. 8	WESTERN KENTUCKY	MACON
NOV. 13	KENNESAW STATE	KENNESAW
NOV. 17	ALABAMA	TUSCALOOSA, ALA.
NOV. 21	GEORGIA	ATHENS
NOV. 24	EASTERN KENTUCKY	MACON
NOV. 29	APPALACHIAN STATE	BOONE, N.C.
DEC. 1	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	ORANGEBURG, S.C.
DEC. 7	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	MACON
DEC. 15	CLEMSON	MACON
DEC. 17	FLORIDA	GAINESVILLE, FLA.
DEC. 20	GARDNER WEBB	MACON
DEC. 29	JACKSONVILLE	MACON
JAN. 2	YALE	NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JAN. 4	COLUMBIA	NEW YORK, N.Y.
JAN. 9	FURMAN*	GREENVILLE, S.C.
JAN. 11	WOFFORD*	SPARTANBURG, S.C.
JAN. 18	SAMFORD*	BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
JAN. 23	ETSU*	MACON
JAN. 25	CHATTANOOGA*	MACON
JAN. 30	UNCG*	GREENSBORO, N.C.
FEB. 1	WESTERN CAROLINA*	CULLOWHEE, N.C.
FEB. 6	WOFFORD*	MACON
FEB. 8	FURMAN*	MACON
FEB. 15	SAMFORD*	MACON
FEB. 20	CHATTANOOGA*	CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
FEB. 22	ETSU*	JOHNSON CITY, TENN.
FEB. 27	WESTERN CAROLINA*	MACON
FEB. 29	UNCG*	MACON

* SOCON GAME
BOLD - HOME GAME (HAWKINS ARENA)

MARCH 5-8 SOCON CHAMPIONSHIP ASHEVILLE, N.C.

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