

The background of the cover features a large, light blue, stylized letter 'R' that spans most of the page. Behind this 'R' is a photograph of a building with a white facade and a series of horizontal slats or a ramp. The sky is a clear blue. In the top left corner, the word 'THE' is in small orange letters above a large white 'M' on a black background.

THE
M

FALL 2020

A PUBLICATION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY • WWW.MERCER.EDU

Mercerian

BUILT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**Student Achievement
Numbers Are Soaring**

— See Story on Page 14

STEMBRIDGE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS DEDICATED

Mercer has opened a new facility on the Macon campus fulfilling a more-than-two-decade dream at the University to provide a “one-stop shop” for Mercerians combining vital student support functions.

The University on Feb. 17 dedicated the Stembridge Center for Student Success, which houses the offices of Student Success, Student Financial Planning, Registrar, Bursar and Student Loans.

“By putting those offices all in the same building, no matter which one students go to, if they chose the wrong one, it’s only down the hall or up a floor or down a floor,” said Dr. James Netherton, executive vice president for administration and finance. “Those offices always collaborate on helping solve problems for students, but being in the same facility will amp that up greatly.”

The Center is named for Willard D. “Bill” Stembridge, a native of Moultrie and 1968 graduate of Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Stembridge was an involved student and later employee of the University and has generously supported many areas of Mercer, including the Townsend School of Music, Mercer Athletic Foundation, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Mercer Press.

Located at 1283 Adams St. on the northwest edge of the Macon campus, the Stembridge Center previously served as the Macon-Bibb County Senior Citizens Center. The facility was purchased by Mercer in 2015 and leased to the county until August 2018, when the University began renovations with the county nearing completion of the new Elaine H. Lucas Senior Center at Central City Park.

In Our Lens

Mercer’s new Stembridge Center for Student Success is named for Willard D. “Bill” Stembridge (right), a 1968 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and generous supporter of the University. “Bill has been as supportive a graduate and as active a cheerleader of one’s alma mater as I’ve seen during my 30 years in higher education,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood (left). “Whether it’s attending fine arts or theatrical events, participating in lectures, or cheering at athletics events, Bill is everywhere having anything to do with this University.”



CHRISTOPHER IAN SMITH PHOTO

THE MERCERIAN, FALL 2020 FEATURES

14 20

**STUDENTS EXCEL,
AMONG BEST IN THE NATION**
**MERCER RESPONDS IN
FIGHT AGAINST
COVID-19**

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THE Mercerian

VOLUME 30, NO. 2

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New Award Recognizes ‘Everyday Excellence In Student Success’

Mercer’s Enrollment Management Division, through its Office for Student Success, recently created a new accolade — the **Everyday Excellence in Student Success Award** — to recognize innovative work by faculty and staff to better serve students.

The award, presented for the first time following the Stembridge Center dedication on Feb. 17, is intended to showcase replicable strategies that can benefit faculty, staff and students university-wide, while recognizing thoughtful initiatives faculty and staff are implementing to support their students.

Dr. Garland Crawford, associate professor of chemistry, and **Dr. Kathryn Kloepper**, associate professor of chemistry, were the first recipients of the new award. Director of Student Success Emily Halstead said their decision to rename their “office hours” as “student hours” in order to foster more student participation served as inspiration to create the Everyday Excellence in Student Success Award.

▲
Mercer President William D. Underwood (left) and alumnus Bill Stembridge (right) presented the first-ever Everyday Excellence in Student Success Award to chemistry professors Dr. Garland Crawford (middle, left) and Dr. Kathryn Kloepper (middle, right) following the dedication of the new Stembridge Center for Student Success.

“One of our shared interests is finding ways to encourage students to interact with their faculty members,” Dr. Crawford said. “Too often, students think about office hours as their last-resort option for getting help with their coursework. We wanted students to see us as a resource for a range of issues and to feel comfortable approaching us with their questions about class and about other things that might be on their minds.”

“I look forward to learning about the additional creative, awesome ways our fellow faculty and staff support our Mercer students,” added Dr. Kloepper.

The award will be presented monthly, with nominations being accepted via an online form on the Office for Student Success website. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to submit nominations.

BOARD ADOPTS RECORD BUDGET

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MERCER'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES DURING ITS JUNE 17 MEETING ON THE CECIL B. DAY CAMPUS IN ATLANTA ADOPTED A RECORD \$269.2 MILLION OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2020-21, **IN ADDITION TO MORE THAN \$30 MILLION IN FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH EXPENDITURES.**

THE ADOPTED BUDGET INCLUDES **NO TUITION INCREASE FOR MACON UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS, THE M.D. PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PROGRAMS IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.** LAW SCHOOL TUITION WILL INCREASE BY 2%. TUITION INCREASES FOR MOST OTHER PROGRAMS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY FALL BELOW 3%.

Six New Programs Approved By Trustees

The Board of Trustees Executive Committee approved six new undergraduate and graduate degree programs on June 17 while eliminating others with no or low enrollments.

The six new degree programs include:

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: **Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity**
 - School of Engineering: **Master of Science in Cybersecurity** and **Master of Science in Engineering in Civil Engineering**
 - College of Health Professions: **Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology**
 - College of Pharmacy: **Master of Science in Health Outcomes**
- Academic programs that are being eliminated due to low enrollments include:
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: *Bachelor of Arts* and *Minor in German* and *Post-Secondary Certificate in Leadership and Ethics*
 - School of Law: *Master of Laws* and *Master's in Comparative Jurisprudence*
 - School of Theology: *Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Faith-Based Social Enterprise*

SCULPTURE COMMISSIONED TO COMMEMORATE UNIVERSITY'S INTEGRATION

The Board of Trustees Executive Committee, on President William D. Underwood's recommendation, approved the commissioning of a **sculpture to permanently commemorate Mercer's integration**, a process that began in 1963 and continues to this day and into the future.

A committee was named to retain an artist, work with the artist to develop a sculpture that both captures the impact of that story and inspires future generations, and to determine the appropriate place on the Macon campus to locate the sculpture. The committee includes **Allen Baldree**, EDU '74, former University trustee; the **Hon. Carl Brown**, CLAS '70, LAW '73; **Dr. R. Kirby Godsey**, University chancellor; **Erin Keller**, CLAS '08; **Sam Oni**, CLAS '67; **Dr. Charles Roberts**, CLAS '69, member of the faculty; the **Hon. Louis Sands**, CLAS '71, LAW '74, Mercer trustee; **Pearlie Toliver**, CLAS '68; **Dr. Mary Wilder**, CLAS '54, professor emerita; and student **Michaela Jones**, a former vice president of the Student Government Association.

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

FALL & WINTER 2020



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MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS BEGINS ITS 41ST YEAR OF PUBLISHING with a new season filled with music, sports, fiction, poetry, memoir, true crime, history, philosophy and religion.

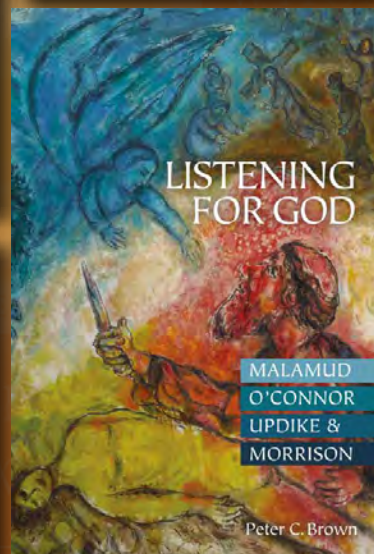
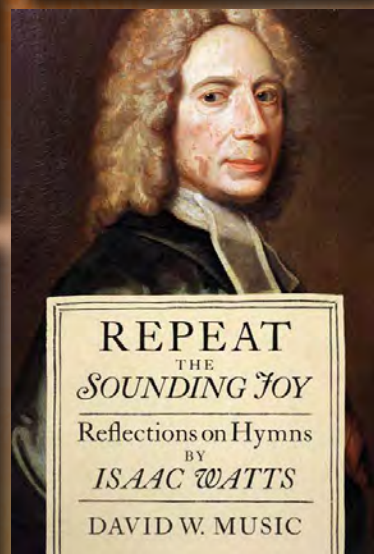
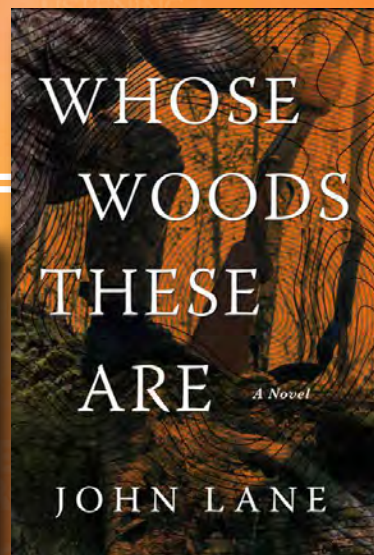
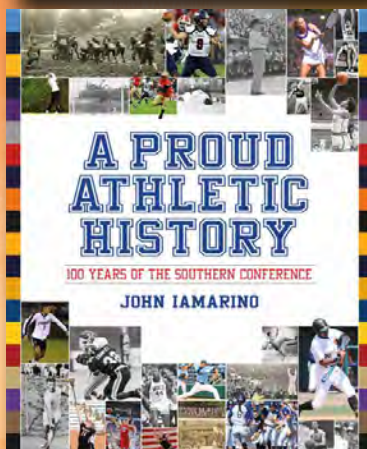
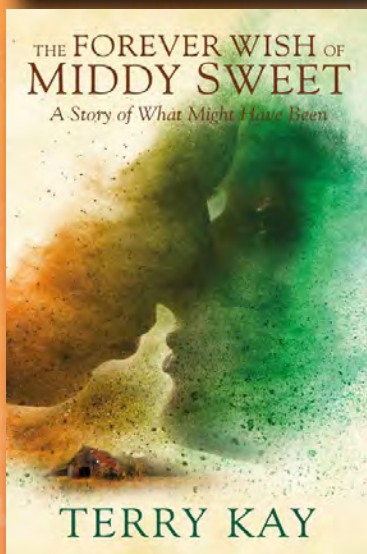
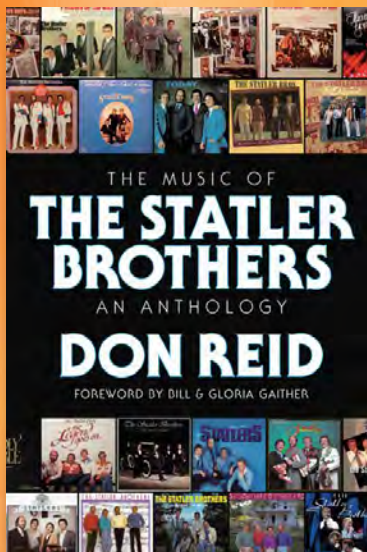
FALL/WINTER 2020 SEASON highlighted titles include: *The Music of The Statler Brothers: An Anthology* by lead singer Don Reid, who offers an in-depth look at the 45 albums recorded by the legendary quartet during its 40-year reign as country music's premier group; *The Forever Wish of Middy Sweet* by Georgia Writers Hall of Fame author Terry Kay, the story of Middy Sweet Young, the former beauty queen, and Luke Mercer, the retired history teacher, who reunite 50 years after high school; *A Proud Athletic History: 100 Years of the Southern Conference* by John Iamarino, the first definitive history of the SOCON which tells the story of notable athletes, coaches and athletic programs that have built a rich tradition over the decades; *Whose Woods These Are* by South Carolina Literary Hall of Fame author John Lane, weaving four intricately layered stories into a search for truth over a contested property boundary and the disappearance of Old Doc on Thanksgiving Day; *Repeat the Sounding Joy: Reflections on Hymns* by Isaac Watts by David W. Music, retired Baylor University professor of church music, provides an in-depth study of 25 familiar hymns with complete original text, commentary and scriptural background; and *Listening for God: Malamud, O'Connor, Updike, & Morrison* by Dr. Peter C. Brown, retired Mercer University professor of philosophy and great books, offering an interdisciplinary study of four authors through the lens of philosophy, religion, cultural criticism and literature.

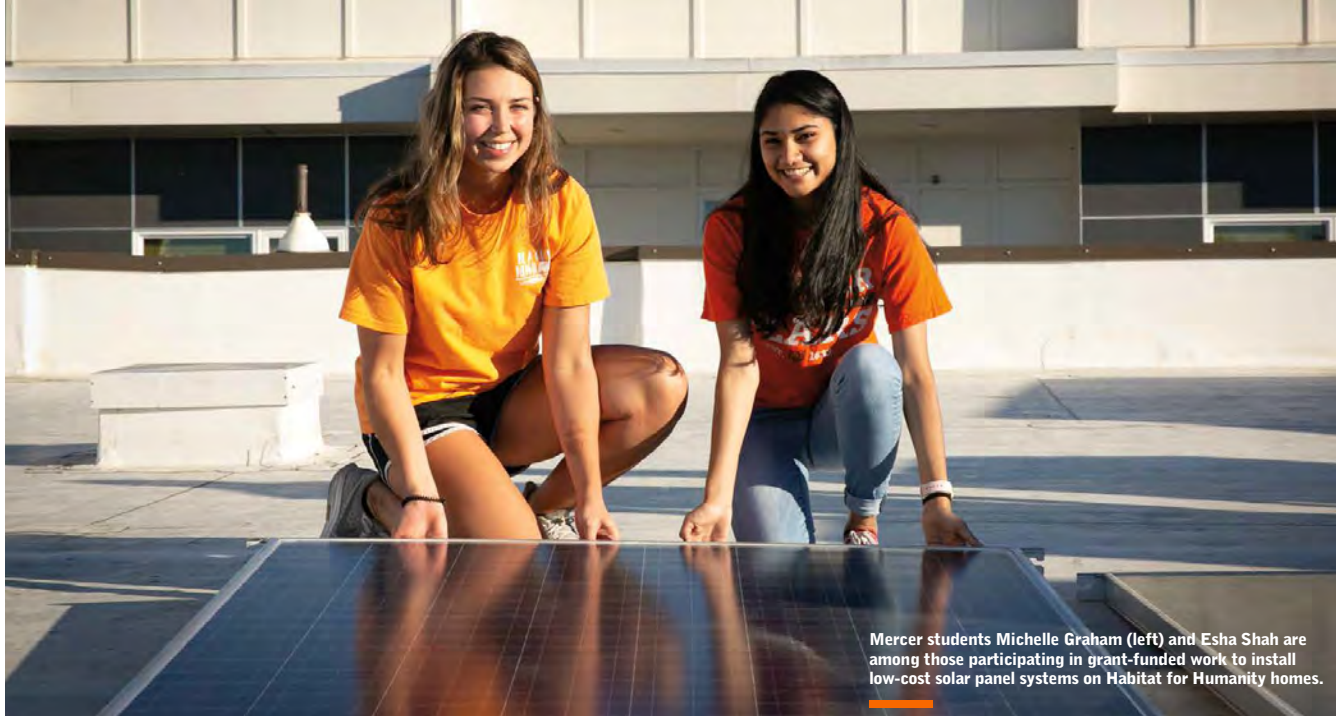
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Mercer students Michelle Graham (left) and Esha Shah are among those participating in grant-funded work to install low-cost solar panel systems on Habitat for Humanity homes.

MERCER-HABITAT PARTNERSHIP AWARDED GRANT

Macon Area Habitat for Humanity and Mercer received a \$60,000 grant from **All Points North Foundation** to fund the installation of low-cost solar panel systems on Habitat homes.

A decades-long partnership between Macon Area Habitat for Humanity and Mercer aims to increase homeownership affordability through low-cost solar deployment in an area where such deployment is

historically low. A team of Mercer engineering students with a passion to make change in the world is working to optimize Habitat's highly efficient homes and design solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in a way that they can be installed by local trained technicians — drastically reducing the cost of the overall PV system while lowering each homeowner's electricity bill.

TOP 10 MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Mercer received the highest honor in the **2020-21 Military Friendly® Schools** list, released in February.

The University is listed as a Top 10 institution among 625 Military Friendly® Schools, recognizing Mercer among the “guidon bearers” for military and veteran programs and initiatives in the United States.



MBA RECOGNIZED BY U.S. NEWS, PRINCETON REVIEW

Stetson-Hatcher School of Business is ranked among the top 25% of online MBA programs nationally, according to **U.S. News & World Report's** Best Online Programs Rankings, released in January. Additionally, Mercer's online MBA is ranked No. 46 among such programs for veterans.

Furthermore, the School of Business appeared on **The Princeton Review's** list of “Best Business Schools for 2020,” released in November, highlighting the top 248 on-campus MBA programs in the country.



TREE CAMPUS USA

Mercer is one of 385 institutions across the U.S. to receive **2019 Tree Campus USA®** recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for commitment to effective urban forest management.

The University earned this recognition by meeting Tree Campus USA's five standards, including maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for a campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project.



SEMINARIES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

McAfee School of Theology, for the seventh consecutive year, is listed among the **Seminaries that Change the World**, according to the Center for Faith and Service.

Each year's Seminaries that Change the World list seeks to identify and promote seminaries and divinity schools that are demonstrating a commitment to service and justice through their curriculum, scholarships, internships and student-life experiences.

Selection criteria include commitment to service and justice, collaboration with other seminaries and divinity schools, affordability and innovation.



DAY FAMILY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL GROUNDWATER INNOVATION ESTABLISHED

M

ercer on June 11 announced the establishment of the **Cecil Day Family Center for International Groundwater Innovation**. The new center, led by **Dr. Michael MacCarthy**, will accelerate efforts in the *Mercer On Mission* program and the School of Engineering to provide access to clean water to the world's most water-poor communities.

The Cecil Day Family Center for International Groundwater Innovation was seeded with a seven-figure gift from Deen Day Sanders, a Mercer alumna and former trustee from Atlanta.

Sanders' late husband, Cecil B. Day Sr., founded Days Inns of America and was a noted philanthropist. He is the namesake of the University's graduate and professional campus in Atlanta.

"We look forward to building upon Mercer's successes over the past decade working with local actors in developing communities to improve access to safe drinking water. The Cecil Day Family Center allows us the opportunity to contribute significantly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target of providing safe water for all by the



“The Day Family Center allows us the opportunity to contribute significantly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target of providing **safe water for all by the year 2030.**”

Student Teryon Parker (right) assists with construction of a stone masonry water tank during a Mercer On Mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

year 2030, which we aim to do through working with collaborators globally to focus on some of the hardest to reach households and communities,” said Dr. MacCarthy, associate professor of environmental and civil engineering and director of the Engineering for Development program. “In addition to service and research, the center will use innovative and practical ways to teach sustainable groundwater topics to Mercer students and project beneficiaries.”

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

POSTERS ON THE HILL

Jordan Teng, senior biomechanical engineering major, and **Michelle Kim**, junior mechanical engineering major, presented one of some 60 undergraduate projects selected nationwide to be showcased for Members of Congress in the Council on Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill event, held virtually in April.

School of Engineering professors and students, including (l-r) Dr. Sinjae Hyun, Jordan Brewton, Dr. Scott Schultz, Michelle Jung, Gunhee Lee, Sarah Littleton, Olivia Kight and Jordan Teng deliver Touch3D Yearbooks to the Georgia Academy for the Blind in 2019. Teng and fellow student Michelle Kim presented research from this multiyear project at the Council on Undergraduate Research's virtual Posters on the Hill event in April.

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY INTERNSHIP

Junior **Alexandra Kroken** was selected to participate in an internship with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., last spring.



Kroken





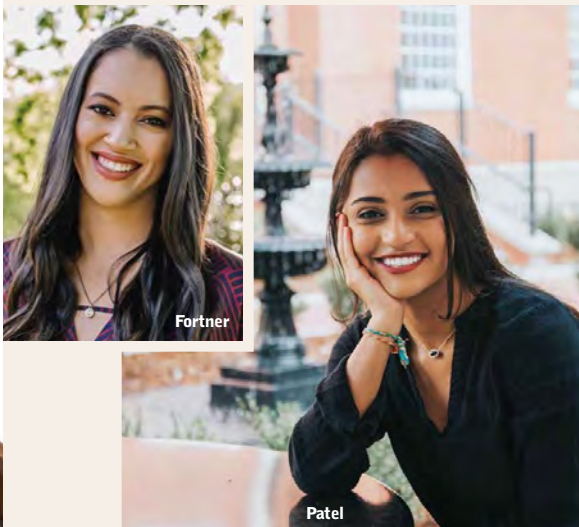
Lee

SMART SCHOLARSHIP

Junior **Christy Lee** was awarded the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). She will receive full tuition, an annual stipend and additional allowances while at Mercer for each year she commits to working for the DoD after graduation.

ZERO HUNGER INTERNSHIPS

Class of 2020 graduates **Alyssa Fortner** and **Hinal Patel** were selected for two of 15 Congressional Hunger Center Zero Hunger Internships offered to college students and recent graduates nationwide.



Fortner

Patel

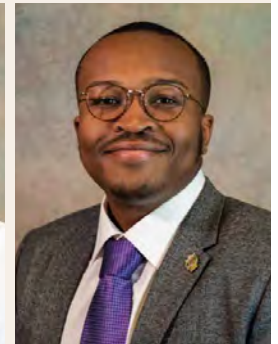
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION INTERNSHIPS

Class of 2020 graduates **Macire Aribot** and **Nassim Ashford** were awarded Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Emerging Leaders

Internships and spent the spring working for Members of Congress and participating in professional development sessions. Additionally, senior **Danielle Countryman** was awarded a CBCF summer internship, which was conducted virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Aribot



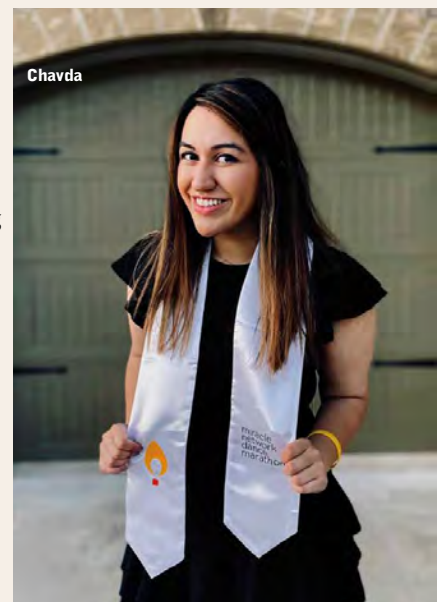
Ashford

Countryman



MIRACLE NETWORK DISTINGUISHED LEADER

Class of 2020 graduate **Tara Chavda** was named one of 25 recipients of this year's Miracle Network Dance Marathon Distinguished Leadership Award, presented to exceptional leaders among the thousands of graduating seniors who have participated in the Miracle Network Dance Marathon at approximately 300 colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada.



Chavda

NBCC FOUNDATION MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

College of Professional Advancement graduate students **Sidney Minor** and **Leslie Preveaux** received National Board for Certified Counselors Foundation Minority Fellowships. Minor is a student in the Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, and Preveaux is a student in the Master of Science in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program.



Minor



Preveaux



Dreggors

NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Alumnae **Liz Dreggors**, **Britney Hudson** and **Kyla Semmendinger** were selected to the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which recruits high-potential, early-career scientists and engineers and supports their graduate research training in STEM fields.



Hudson



Semmendinger

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS SCHOLARSHIP

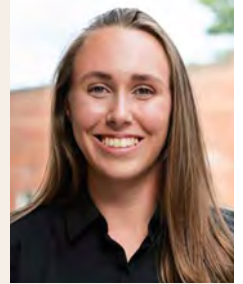
Junior **Emily Wilbourn**, a computer science major, recently received the Chevron/SWE Scholarship from the Society of Women Engineers, a \$5,000 award annually presented to 18 high-achieving female students enrolled in an ABET-accredited program in engineering, technology or computing.



Wilbourn

IEEE FRANCES B. HUGLE SCHOLARSHIP

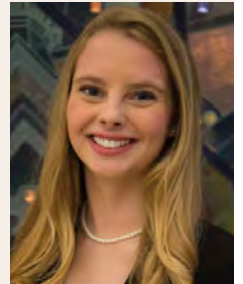
Caitlyn Patton, an electrical engineering major in Mercer's 4 + 1 Integrated Master of Science in Engineering Program, is the recipient of the 2019 Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers Frances B. Hugle Scholarship for her outstanding academic performance and passion for engineering.



Patton

GSPE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Class of 2020 graduate **Ariel Dornisch**, an environmental engineering major, was named Georgia Society of Professional Engineers Engineering Student of the Year.



Dornisch

FACULTY & STAFF HONORS & RECOGNITION



Rathburn

ERIC HOFFER BOOK AWARD FOR POETRY

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty member **Chelsea Rathburn** was recently awarded the 2020 Eric Hoffer Book Award for Poetry for her collection *Still Life with Mother and Knife*, released by LSU Press in February 2019. Rathburn, who serves as Georgia's poet laureate, joined Mercer's faculty in August 2019 as assistant professor of English and creative writing.

INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Clara Mengolini, assistant professor of Spanish literature in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was named the recipient of this year's Innovations in Teaching Award, co-sponsored by the Vulcan Materials Company and Mercer.



Dr. Mengolini



Dr. Luther

GOVERNOR'S TEACHING FELLOW

Dr. Vicki Luther, associate professor of education in Tift College of Education, was selected as a 2020 Governor's Teaching Fellow.

VITAL WORSHIP GRANT

Dr. Nathan Myrick, assistant professor of church music in Townsend School of Music, was awarded a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship.



Dr. Myrick

HENDRICKS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Professor of Philosophy **Dr. Charlotte Thomas** was named this year's recipient of the Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award, presented annually at the Macon commencement.



Dr. Thomas

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

College of Professional Advancement Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Dr. Wesley Barker transitioned from vice president-elect to vice president of the American Academy of Religion Southeast Region at the recent Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Conference, and **Dr. Hollis Phelps**, assistant professor of religion, was elected vice president-elect.



Dr. Barker



Dr. Phelps



Boyer

NACCU DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

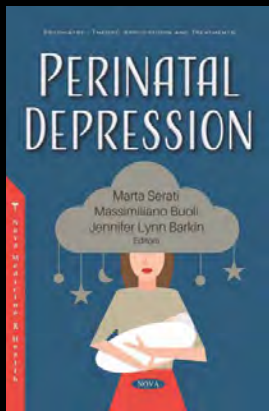
Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services **Ken Boyer** was presented the National Association of Campus Card Users 2020 Distinguished Service Award on April 27 during the organization's virtual awards ceremony.

RATTLE PRIZE READERS' CHOICE AWARD

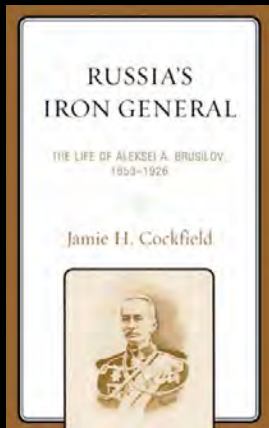
Dr. James Davis May, writer-in-residence and lecturer in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was awarded the 2019 Rattle Poetry Prize Readers' Choice Award for his poem "Red in Tooth and Claw."



MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



DR. JENNIFER L. BARKIN, associate professor of community medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, co-edited *Perinatal Depression* (Nova Science Publishers). It is well known that pregnancy and the postpartum period represent a specific time for women when presenting a mental illness is high. The World Health Organization considers perinatal depression a global problem. A chapter in *Perinatal Depression* has been dedicated to describing the Barkin Index of Maternal Functioning, a self-report measure of postpartum maternal functioning.



DR. JAMIE COCKFIELD, Willis Borders Glover Professor Emeritus of History, authored *Russia's Iron General: The Life of General A.A. Brusilov, 1853-1926* (Lexington Books). This study provides a comprehensive biography of Russian general Aleksei A. Brusilov (1853–1926), commonly considered Russia's greatest general in World War I. Dr. Cockfield extensively examines all facets of Brusilov's life that led to his renowned reputation that continues decades after his death.

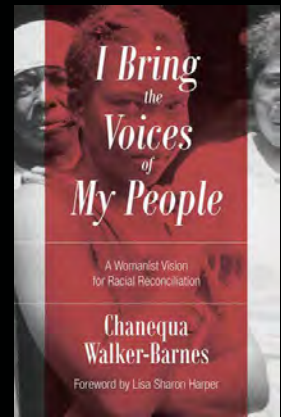
TED BLUMOFF, professor of law, co-authored *Pretrial Discovery: Strategy and Tactics, 2019-20 ed.* (Thomson Reuters). Readers can develop a master plan for successful pretrial discovery with cutting-edge guidance on such topics as: Protective orders to restrict opposing counsel's discovery • Neutral or hostile witnesses • Strategic planning • Discovery tactics in the pleading stage • Informal discovery, and many more. This publication includes state discovery statutes, rules, and formbooks.



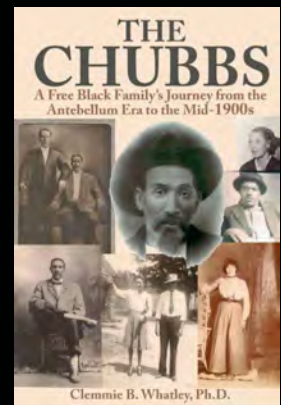
DR. ANDREW GRUNZKE, associate professor of education, authored *Education and the Female Superhero: Slayers, Cyborgs, Sorority Sisters, and Schoolteachers* (Lexington Press). Considering a variety of female superhero narratives, including World War II-era comics, 1970s television programs, and recent movies, *Education and the Female Superhero* argues that superheroines share a vision of education as the path to female empowerment. Taking a broad view of education, Dr. Grunzke argues that the superheroine in popular media often sees and articulates her role as being an educator.



DAVID HRICIK, professor of law, authored *Remedies: A Practical Approach* (Carolina Academic Press). This new student-friendly *Remedies* casebook is designed for use in the standard *Remedies* elective and also in "capstone" or bar prep courses. The book addresses the policies underlying *Remedies* while teaching students the rules they will need to apply on bar exams.



DR. CHANEQUA WALKER-BARNES, associate professor of practical theology, authored *I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation* (Eerdmans). *I Bring the Voices of My People* offers a compelling argument that the Christian racial reconciliation movement is incapable of responding to modern-day racism, arguing that highlighting the voices of women of color is critical to developing genuine efforts toward reconciliation. Drawing on intersectionality theory and critical race studies, Dr. Walker-Barnes demonstrates how living at the intersection of racism and sexism exposes women of color to unique experiences of gendered racism.



DR. CLEMMIE WHATLEY, associate professor emerita of education, authored *The Chubbs: A Free Black Family's Journey from the Antebellum Era to the Mid-1900s* (Oxford Southern). *The Chubbs* provides an examination of the Chubb family from the mid-1700s through the mid-1900s. Like many Black families living during the Antebellum and through the Civil Rights eras, the Chubb family endured many obstacles as they strove for a respectful life. Throughout this book, the reader will find context to help better understand the conditions that influenced free people of color.

DR. DAVID LANE, professor of counseling, co-authored *Counseling Veterans: A Practical Guide* (Cognella Academic Publishing), a textbook/guide for therapists who work with or hope to work with veteran populations.

MERCER STUDENTS

COMPETE WITH - **AND BEAT** - SOME OF THE
Best in the Nation

Rising senior **McPherson Newell** is possibly the most-decorated student in a single year at Mercer University. This year alone they were named a Goldwater Scholar, a Newman Civic Fellow and a Truman Scholarship finalist. Even more impressive is the fact that the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Truman Scholarship are wildly different awards. The Goldwater recognizes excellence in science, mathematics and engineering while the Truman supports public service.

"To even be considered for both at the same time takes a really exceptional person," said **Dr. Cameron Kunzelman**, coordinator of fellowships and scholarships.

For Newell, a biomedical engineering major, it all started with their decision to apply for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. They were accepted into the rehabilitation engineering program at Cleveland State University.

"That was a really transformative experience," said Newell, who plans to pursue an M.A. in disability studies, a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering and a professorship in rehabilitation engineering.

"It taught me a lot academically but also just really increased my confidence in the foundation and skill sets that I already learned at Mercer and in my ability to do what I wanted to with my life."

That's how it goes for many high-achieving students at Mercer. One success leads to another success.

BY
**JENNIFER
BORAGE**

"We're now competing with the top universities in the country for the most prestigious awards," said **Dr. David A. Davis**, associate professor of English and director of fellowships and scholarships.

These accomplishments were made possible with the help of Mercer's expert faculty and staff, who provide an unparalleled level of guidance and mentorship to students.

Committed to student success

Mercer has a dedicated team committed to students' success in achieving scholarships, fellowships and other opportunities in the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships, which advises students interested in competing for externally-funded awards.

"We want to maximize the value of a student's >>

No.1

in **Mercer leads the nation** in number of engineering students selected for **Goldwater Scholarships**

Engineering Goldwaters

Maison Clouatre, Michelle Graham, McPherson Newell

**Pickering
Fellow:
Donald
Williams Jr.**

**Rhodes
Scholarship
Finalist:
Sachin
Khurana**

5

Fulbright U.S. Student Awards

**Ariel Daniels
Will Darragh
Meg Hicks
Jessica Lewis
Johna Wright**
with 1 alternate

**Truman
Scholarship
Finalist:
McPherson
Newell**

**Udall
Scholarship
Honorable
Mention:
Michelle
Graham**

36

Students
inducted
into

**Phi
Beta
Kappa**



16

**Gilman
Scholars**
**UNIVERSITY
RECORD**
in a single
selection cycle

24

Students selected for
**National
Science
Foundation
Research
Experiences for
Undergraduates**



**UNIVERSITY
RECORD**

12

Peace Corps

offers in a *single year*
and six appointments:

**Emily Cadle
Fabian Kopp
Nishi Patel
Nidhi Shashidhara
David Stokes
Mason Thornton**

“If you’re interested in an opportunity, you should apply. Because if you don’t apply, then the answer is already no. If you do apply, you’re going to learn from the experience. I guarantee that to every single student.”

— **Dr. David A. Davis**, director of fellowships and scholarships

“Grow and build relationships with your professors, Mercer staff, and people you work with. Tell them about your goals. They might be able to help you achieve them or at least know someone who can help.”

— **Donald Williams Jr.**, 2020 graduate double-majoring in international business and economics, Rangel Scholar and Pickering Fellow

“Start early and do as much research as possible on the country where you want to do international research or service. And that doesn’t mean just Googling.”

— **Dr. Amy Nichols-Belo**, associate professor of global health studies and anthropology

“Even if you don’t get it, keep applying.”

— **Hoor Qureshi**, 2019 graduate majoring in global health studies and global development studies, Peace Corps volunteer

“Seek out the mentorship. ... I think we do a really good job identifying students from classes, but the ones who are also most successful are students who take the time to reach out to the faculty. ... Let them know who you are and what you’re wanting to do, and then listen and take advice.”

— **Dr. Garland Crawford**, associate professor of chemistry

Mercer education by aligning their classroom experiences with engaged learning experiences and externally funded opportunities for development,” Dr. Davis said.

Not only does the office offer information sessions and workshops about available opportunities, but staff members also give one-on-one support and guidance. These individualized conversations result in students walking out of the office with a list of several opportunities for them to seriously consider. Once a student decides to apply, he or she gets personal support in the application process.

“Each application has its own nuances, its own learning curves, and we don’t want the students to face that alone,” Dr. Davis said. “We give them feedback on their applications, and we make sure applications are completed on time.”

Dr. Kunzelman, a Mercer alumnus who graduated in 2012, joined the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships in January 2019. Adding his position was part of a strategic push to increase the number of awards applications from Mercer students.

“What I’ve learned is if you make the opportunities known to our students, there are students for every opportunity possible,” he said. “The vast majority of our advising happens sitting in our offices and just figuring out what a student wants to be doing with their life and figuring out what the opportunity is for that.”

Faculty offer personal connection

Beyond the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships, students enjoy close, personal relationships with their professors, who guide and position them for success.

“This is a place where personal mentorship that students get from their faculty members is really important,” Dr. Davis said. “Students who have engaged learning opportunities early in their academic experience perform better in these national and external awards.”

“So the fact that we, frankly, overachieve in these competitions is a testament to that personal connection in the classroom.”

That connection is forged, in part, due to Mercer’s close-knit environment.

“Because of our class size and the way that faculty engage with students, we’re often able to identify

Dr. David Davis
Director of Fellowships
and Scholarships



McPherson Newell
Biomedical Engineering Major;
Goldwater Scholar, Newman Civic Fellow,
Truman Scholarship Finalist

Dr. Cameron Kunzelman
Coordinator of Fellowships
and Scholarships



those high-performing students very early and give them some of those opportunities that they might not otherwise get until their junior or senior year,” said **Dr. Garland Crawford**, an associate professor of chemistry who has mentored many award-winning students, including a Goldwater Scholar.

That could mean working on material with them in the lab, pushing students beyond their current abilities and what they’ve covered in class, he said.

Dr. Makhin Thitsa meets with her research students outside of class and assigns extra readings for background knowledge not traditionally covered in the undergraduate curriculum. Once the students are well-versed in the material, she treats them the way a Ph.D. adviser would treat doctoral candidates.

“Especially, when I am sending sophomore or junior students to highly selective international conferences, where most attendees are professors or at least Ph.D. candidates, I need to prepare my students impeccably well to withstand any scrutiny,” said Dr. Thitsa, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering who has mentored several Mercer Goldwater Scholars.

Support outside the classroom

Many of these interactions happen outside of the classroom, whether in a laboratory, during office hours, or over coffee.

When working on a tight deadline with two students applying for a Critical Language Scholarship,

Dr. Amy Nichols-Belo, an associate professor of global health studies and anthropology, would stay late giving them feedback.

“We were in my office until 10 o’clock, 11 o’clock at night,” she said. “They would write a draft. I would immediately critique it because I thought they both had a really good shot.”

One of those students, 2019 graduate **Anastasia Winfield**, became the first student from Mercer to win the scholarship. She went to Tanzania to study Swahili for two months and then returned to the country with Dr. Nichols-Belo and **Dr. Natalie Bourdon**, an associate professor of women’s and gender studies, as a participant in Mercer On Mission.

The other student, **Hoor Qureshi**, did not get the award that year, but she said she learned a lot about

herself in the process. She went on to receive a Critical Language Scholarship in a subsequent year and was a semifinalist for a Fulbright. The 2019 graduate who majored in global health studies and global development studies has since served in the Peace Corps in Botswana.

Qureshi said her professors “were tremendously helpful and supportive” through the awards process. “Even now, they’re helpful to this day.”

Dr. Nichols-Belo also mentors students through her membership on Mercer’s Fulbright Screening Committee. The committee has a more structured mentoring process by which faculty and staff help students



Dr. Garland Crawford
Associate Professor of Chemistry

“Mercer definitely is unique ... here, successful research programs are being developed and undergraduate students get to be at the front and center of them.”

— **Dr. Makhin Thitsa**

develop their applications and write powerful narratives.

The process can be arduous — students write three drafts over the summer months and at least three more during the month of September — but faculty and staff are there to help at each stage of the process.

“Our mission is to make sure all components of the application read well and the student covers all the bases she needs to cover,” said **Dr. Edward J. Weintraut**, professor of German and head of the Fulbright Screening Committee.

The mentoring that students find at Mercer is unlike that of many other colleges. A Mercer faculty member might put in as many as 20 hours of work with a student applying for a Fulbright.

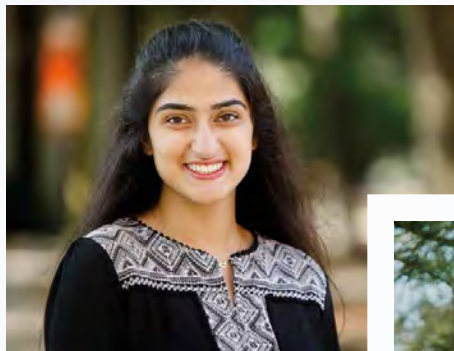
“But at a large research institution, nobody has that much time for an undergraduate,” Dr. Nichols-Belo said. “As a graduate student, I barely got the attention that I give my undergraduate students.”

Dr. Thitsa also noticed the difference.

“When I was an undergraduate, I could not find a faculty mentor who was interested in training an undergraduate — their focus was more on graduate students. I noticed



Anastasia Winfield
Global Health Studies Major;
Critical Language Scholar



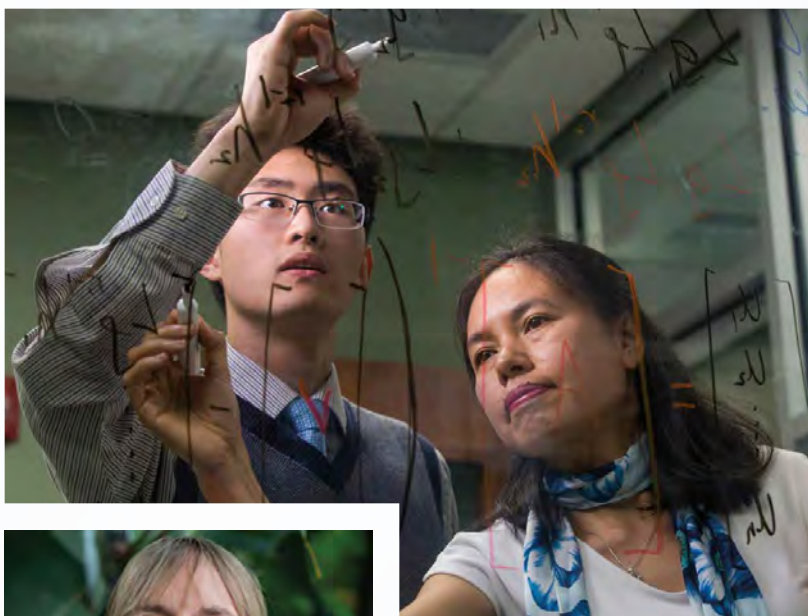
Hoor Qureshi
Global Health Studies,
Global Development Studies Majors;
Phi Beta Kappa, Critical Language Scholar,
Fulbright Finalist, Peace Corps Appointment



Donald Williams Jr.
2020 Graduate, International Business,
Economics Majors; Gilman Scholar,
Pickering Fellow



Dr. Amy Nichols-Belo
Associate Professor of Global
Health Studies and Anthropology



Dr. Makhin Thitsa
Associate Professor in the Electrical and
Computer Engineering Department (right)



Dr. Natalie Bourdon
Associate Professor of Women's and
Gender Studies



Dr. Edward J. Weintraut
Head of the Fulbright Screening Committee

the same trend in a few other universities,” she said. “Mercer definitely is unique in that sense — here, successful research programs are being developed and undergraduate students get to be at the front and center of them.

“Currently in my lab, I have a research student who turned down Harvard and came to Mercer precisely for this intimate one-on-one faculty-student mentorship in undergraduate research.”

So much to gain

Students who participate in these distinguished programs come away with three key benefits, Dr. Davis said.

First, they’re going to take away the value of the program itself, whether it’s the international, internship or research experience.

Second, they’re going to demonstrate their viability on a national scale because they have competed against the best students in the country.

Third, they’re going to come away with the prestige of having participated in a significant national opportunity.

But it doesn’t take winning an award to gain something from the experience.

“Just by applying, the students have significant developmental growth,” Dr. Davis said. “They learn how to describe their academic interests and to develop a trajectory of achievement, a sense of what their goals are, and what’s appropriate for them to think about next.”

And students who apply for one award will often find they are well prepared to pursue another.

Take, for instance, **Donald Williams Jr.**, a 2020 Mercer graduate who double-majored in international business and economics and is working to become a U.S. Foreign Service Officer.

A scholarship-funded study abroad experience in Spain helped put his career path into focus.

“Gilman and the Fund for Education Abroad, which are the two scholarships that helped me study in Spain, exposed me to international careers,” Williams said.

“The Fund for Education Abroad was especially helpful because I met graduate students who were already on the Foreign Service path I was preparing to take. Meeting and speaking with them is really what solidified, in my mind, that this is a viable path for me.”

Williams then was selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program in Washington, D.C., where he spent his days immersed in classes and excursions that expanded his knowledge of U.S.-international relations and improved his own skills needed to become a foreign service officer. In 2019, he received the prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship to pursue a master’s degree in international economic policy at The George Washington University.

“My experiences have truly curated my current academic and professional plans,” he said.



Mercer Calls on its Many Strengths in Fight Against

COVID-19

THE RALLYING CRY for Mercer University in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic is **"BEARS CARE."**

As students returned to the University's campuses this fall, they were presented with a "Bears Care" kit including a mask, hand sanitizer, digital thermometer, lapel pin and information on how to keep themselves and their fellow Bears safe and healthy.

Some 12,000 kits, which were also distributed to faculty and staff, were lovingly packed over the summer in Penfield Hall and on the University Center intramural courts by 340 volunteers who exemplified "Bears Care."

Mercerians care for one another, whether by ensuring every member of our community has access to the resources included in the “Bears Care” kit, or by participating in safe practices such as masking and social distancing on campus.

Mercerians also care for their communities in countless ways across a variety of academic disciplines — from vaccine development to 3D printing and hand-making masks to providing testing for the homeless and support for frontline healthcare workers. Here are some of the ways that “Bears Care.”

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

College of Pharmacy faculty member **Dr. Martin D’Souza** began research in March on applying patented nanotechnology toward designing a vaccine for COVID-19.

Dr. D’Souza has previously used this approach, involving tiny “bead-like” microparticles, to deliver nanovaccines for infectious diseases and cancer. These microparticles make a vaccine appear even more foreign to the body, generating an even stronger immune response.

With reference to the work on potential vaccines for COVID-19, his lab has obtained promising results from two types: one created using the heat-inactivated virus and one using the S1 subunit of the Spike surface glycoprotein, by which the virus attaches itself to human lung cells.

In late July, through four weeks of a preclinical study, Dr. D’Souza said both microparticulate vaccines delivered via microneedle displayed antibody titers that continue to increase with time.

He and his students will closely monitor the antibody levels in order to determine if the vaccine generates enough memory response to offer long-term protection from the new coronavirus.

Dr. D’Souza’s nanotechnology lab focuses on the development of novel technologies using nanoparticles to deliver drugs and vaccines by nonconventional routes of administration such as oral, buccal and microneedle-based transdermal vaccines.

His lab has conducted previous National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research on universal influenza, RSV vaccines, and is currently working on a gonorrhea vaccine. Other vaccine projects include HPV, meningitis, melanoma and breast, ovarian and prostate cancer.

ENGINEERING EXPERTISE

Mercer’s School of Engineering quickly mobilized to address the personal protective



Some 12,000 Bears Care kits were assembled by 340 faculty, staff and student volunteers in Penfield Hall (pictured above) and on the University Center intramural courts over the summer.

equipment (PPE) shortage that began in March.

Mercer alumna and Macon dentist **Dr. Amber Lawson**, CLAS '02, reached out to the University in an effort to find someone in Middle Georgia who could 3D-print a mask prototype that had been circulated among the Georgia Dental Association’s COVID-19 Task Force by Cumming orthodontist **Dr. Mark Causey**.

Biomedical engineering professor **Dr. Joanna Thomas**, her collaborator **Dr. David Miller** from Pittsburg State University in Kansas and Mercer engineering students analyzed the

materials and components and made adjustments to the original design file, ultimately coming up with a prototype of their own. Following a successful fit test at Coliseum Medical Centers in Macon, the design file was made available to the public.

The Mercer Robotics Club, led by engineering student **Jacob Sokolove**, and advised by **Dr. Anthony Choi**, professor of electrical and computer engineering, used their resources and expertise to investigate vacuum-sealing as a faster alternative to 3D-printing the masks. They also used the University's FDM (fused deposition modeling) printers to build face shields using an open-source file from 3D-printing company Prusa.

Dr. Thomas and Mercer engineering students **Sagar Patel** and **Colin Petherbridge** went on to collaborate with Robins Air Force Base on a mask design that was approved for community use by the NIH 3D Print Exchange.

Dr. Thomas and Robotics Club members made and sent masks, face shields, mask adapters and mask tensioners to medical professionals and community members in five states and Guam, and produced and donated more than 1,000 nasal swabs to Navicent Health in Macon when the testing supply chain became overwhelmed.

Additionally, biomedical engineering professor **Dr. Sinjae Hyun** and three of his undergraduates provided filtering efficiency testing on a range of face covering materials from T-shirts to N-95 respirator masks and shared the results with the Georgia Dental Association and Robins Air Force Base.

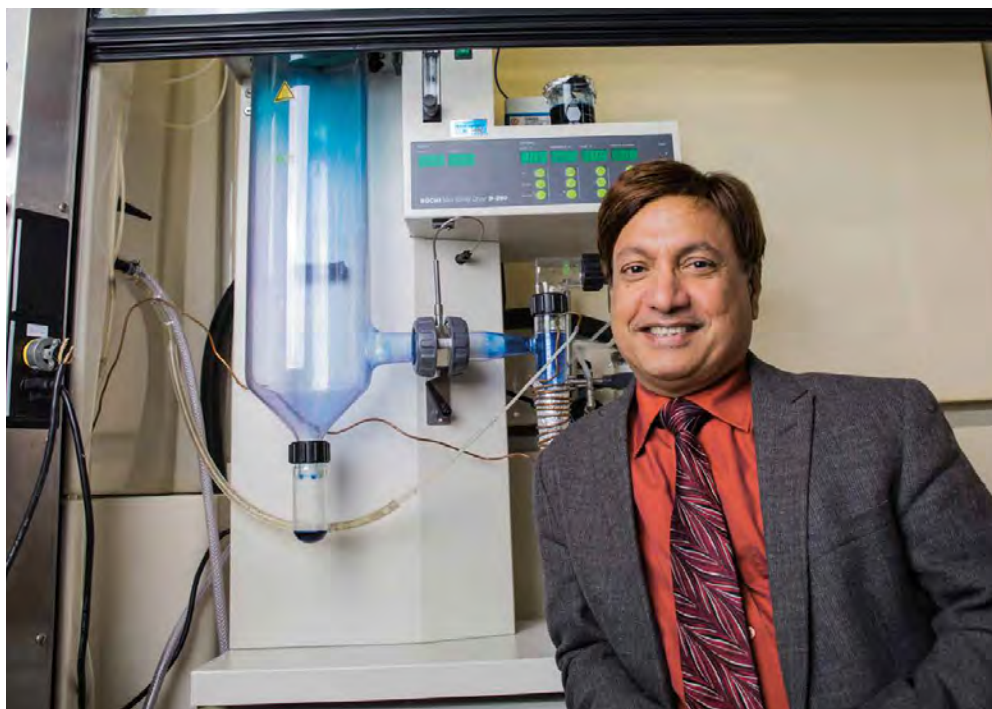
TESTING CAPACITY

Over the summer, Mercer was among the first dozen or so institutions in the country to build an on-campus COVID-19 test processing lab.

Operating in partnership with Ipsum Diagnostics in Atlanta, the facility is certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Macon-based Griffith Family Foundation provided a six-figure grant for the lab, which represents a total investment of \$750,000.

Dr. Robert McKallip, chair of biomedical sciences in the Mercer School of Medicine, oversaw the development of the lab, which is operated by staff in the School of Medicine and Mercer Medicine, the school's multispecialty physician practice.

The lab processes the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) nasal swab test to check for active infection of the virus. Results are intended to be available in one to two business days.



Dr. Martin D'Souza (top) in the College of Pharmacy is working on applying patented nanotechnology toward designing a COVID-19 vaccine on the Atlanta campus, while School of Engineering faculty member **Dr. Joanna Thomas** (above, right) and Mercer alumna **Dr. Amber Lawson** (above, left) collaborated on a project to create 3D-printed masks during the PPE shortage that began in March.

With the ability to process upwards of 800 tests per day, the lab will serve students, faculty and staff, as well as rural and underserved areas of Central and South Georgia, fulfilling a key component of the School of Medicine's mission.

In early June, Mercer Medicine offered free COVID-19 testing at Daybreak Day Resource Center in Macon, providing an option for the homeless population unable to access drive-through or other testing sites.

HEALTH SCIENCES OUTREACH

The Association of American Medical Colleges recommended on March 17 that institutions temporarily suspend medical students' participation in any activities that involve patient contact due to shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE) and other concerns.

Taken off their clinical rotations, Mercer medical students felt obligated to find new ways to help their colleagues on the front lines of the growing pandemic.



ARTS INVOLVEMENT

The call to respond to this global health crisis has resonated across the University from science and engineering labs to Mercer Theatre's costume shop, where **Shelley Kuhnen** and assistants **Lauren Parris** and **Katie Trotter**, both Mercer alumnae, began sewing cloth masks on March 23 to donate to the community.

Day after day, they used materials — cotton, flannel, muslin, elastic — typically reserved for Mercer Players performances and student projects to construct masks for health care workers, businesses and other locals, while adhering to strict Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines regarding sanitation.

By Aug. 1, they had made 2,320 masks and were still going strong.

Students in art professor

Craig Coleman's digital imaging class

used a technique called rotoscoping to illustrate aspects of their new daily routines following the implementation of social distancing in the wake of the pandemic.

Coleman projected the animations, created by the students drawing over the individual frames of a video file, onto Hardman Hall at night, making the building come to life and, in a way, bringing these students back to campus at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Another art faculty member, **Tennille Shuster**, associate professor of graphic design, created an artist's book, titled *Please Wear This Book*, during the summer in order to promote mask wearing.

Each page of the handmade book is printed with a single word in the lower right corner. As you turn the pages, they read, "No One Can Do Everything But Everyone Can Do Something." The pages are constructed of masks that can be unbound from the book and worn.

Shuster sold the books for \$50 each and donated the funds to a local COVID-19 relief fund. Several copies were procured for permanent collections at rare book and manuscript libraries, including the Smithsonian American Art and Portrait Gallery Library.

For these and more stories of Mercerians

changing the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit

The Den at den.mercer.edu.

The Den is a celebration of all things Mercer and what makes our University and students so unique and important. Our one-stop resource center is filled with news, information and advice that you need for your day and your life.



Four third-year M.D. students on the Savannah campus — **Marissa D'Souza**, **Kunal Patel**, **Payton Prins** and **Catherine Waldron** — developed the MUSM COVID-19 Response Team to organize activities ranging from collecting and donating PPE to volunteering with local health departments and Red Cross blood drives to providing grocery delivery for high-risk community members and childcare for healthcare workers.

In Macon, third-year M.D. student and student body president-elect **Alyse Ragauskas** and fellow students formed the #MaconStrong group to coordinate similar volunteer efforts.

In the College of Pharmacy, fourth-year student **Lucrecia Onyimah**, second-year student **Abbey Overton** and first-year student **Annsley Bryan** assisted with compounding and delivering hand sanitizer at Innovation Compounding Pharmacy in Kennesaw, Corner Drugs in Murray County and Lacey Drugs in Cobb County, respectively.

Third-year student **Julie Parker** created a comprehensive COVID-19 policy, including phone screening and in-person training, for Hollberg's Fine Furniture in Senoia.

Mercer's Health Sciences Center also collected and distributed PPE to a number of hospitals throughout the state, including Grady Memorial Hospital, WellStar Health System, Peachford Hospital, Navicent Health, Coliseum Medical Centers and Central Georgia Cancer Care.

Members of the School of Medicine's COVID-19 Response Team volunteered with the Georgia Department of Health's Coastal Health District at mobile testing sites and with other activities, such as contact tracing.



Examples of masks designed by Mercer Theatre's costume shop, as well as the "Be the Bear" design distributed by the University in its Bears Care kits.



CoSIDA A All-A Djordje Dimitrijevic

Men's basketball senior **Djordje Dimitrijevic** and softball junior **Allie Jones** were named **Academic All-Americans** by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) during the 2020 spring semester. Dimitrijevic earned second team honors, while Jones landed on the third team.

Both Dimitrijevic, who graduated at the conclusion of the term with a 3.87 grade-point average as a computer science major, and Jones, who boasts a perfect 4.0 GPA while majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology, were the lone honorees for the Southern Conference in their respective sports.

Dimitrijevic is the first men's basketball player from Mercer to earn this honor since 2006, when Will Emerson received First Team Academic All-America recognition. The Grdelica, Serbia, native put up career numbers last season for the Bears. He led the team in scoring with an average of 16.8 points per game in addition to a career-best field goal percentage (42.5), three-point percentage (36.8) and new career-highs in total assists (111) and rebounds (123).

"This is an outstanding accomplishment for Djordje," said head coach Greg Gary. "He has excelled both on the court and off the court. The Mercer community is very proud of Djordje."

Dimitrijevic scored a career-high 34 points at Western Carolina on Jan. 11. He hit a career-best six three-pointers in back-to-back games Jan. 15 (VMI) and Jan. 18 (at Samford).

He helped guide the Bears to a 17-15 overall record and a fourth-

cademic mericans

Allie Jones

place finish in the Southern Conference during his senior season.

Jones was one of seven juniors to earn Academic All-America honors and is one of 14 honorees who have maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout their collegiate careers. The Calhoun, Georgia, native is the first Mercer softball player to earn Academic All-America honors since 2016 when Natalie Shiver received her second consecutive CoSIDA Academic All-America honor.

"We are so proud of Allie Jones," said head coach Stephanie DeFeo. "She works extremely hard both on the field and in the classroom.

Allie was having the best season of her career, and I am positive she will be even better next year. Our program has been elevated to another level because she is a member of this team."

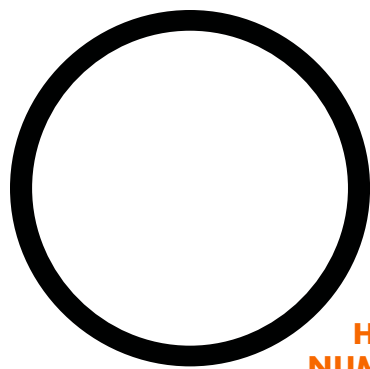
Jones boasts a career .309 batting average with 109 hits,

including 22 doubles, five triples and a home run. She has scored 63 runs while driving in 59. Jones has started each of Mercer's 83 games over the past two seasons.

Prior to the 2020 season being cut short due to COVID-19, Jones led the nation in most stolen bases without being caught with 18. She was hitting an impressive .357 (30-for-84) on the season with six doubles, three triples, 16 runs scored and 19 RBI.



DECADE OF DOMINANCE



**OVER THE
PAST
DECADE,
THE MERCER
BEARS
HAVE WON
NUMEROUS**

**REGULAR SEASON AND
CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONSHIPS, BOTH IN THE
ATLANTIC SUN CONFERENCE
(ASUN) AND THE SOUTHERN
CONFERENCE (SOCON), WHICH
THE BEARS JOINED BEFORE THE
2014-15 CAMPAIGN.**

RELIVE SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS
IN THE LAST DECADE IN MERCER
ATHLETICS HISTORY — FROM NUMEROUS
CONFERENCE TITLES TO A THRILLING
UPSET IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT TO
A FIRST-ROUND MLB DRAFT PICK.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Since 2010, the Mercer women's soccer program has reached the NCAA Tournament on two occasions. In 2010, the Bears captured the ASUN Tournament crown with a 1-0 win over the Jacksonville Dolphins. In the ASUN Tournament, Mercer outscored its opponents — Stetson and Jacksonville — by a 6-0 score. The Bears battled the Florida Gators in the NCAA Tournament.

In 2014, under then third-year head coach Tony Economopoulos, Mercer claimed its first SoCon Championship. The Bears went 14-7-2 overall and successfully defended Betts Stadium with a 9-0-1 mark. In SoCon play, Mercer lost just once and defeated the Furman Paladins to reach the league championship. The Bears would claim their first-ever SoCon title with a win

over Samford and advance to the NCAA Tournament where they once again took on the Florida Gators.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Over the past decade, the Mercer men's basketball team won a pair of regular season championships and one tournament title during its time in the ASUN Conference. In 2012-13, the Bears went 24-12 overall with notable non-conference wins against Power-5 foes Florida State and Alabama. Mercer captured the ASUN regular season title, and despite a runner-up finish in the league's tournament, advanced to the National Invitational Tournament (NIT). In the NIT, the Bears picked up one win, knocking off the Tennessee Volunteers, 75-67.

After an impressive 2012-13, Mercer had an unforgettable season



the following year that included an ASUN regular season and tournament title. Mercer learned on Selection Sunday that it would face the No. 3 seed Duke Blue Devils in the NCAA Tournament. No small task, the Bears were up to the challenge. In one of the biggest upsets in tournament history, Mercer captured a 78-71 victory in the second round of the Midwest Regional.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Women's lacrosse, the youngest athletic program at Mercer, began competition in the spring of 2015. Four seasons later, the Bears captured their first conference championship in the Southern Conference's inaugural season with a dominant 18-8 win over No. 3 Furman. Mercer went on to face Wagner in its

first NCAA appearance.

The following year, the Bears again met the Paladins in the championship game, which the orange and black took in double-overtime. With their second consecutive SoCon title, the Bears went to Jacksonville to face the Dolphins in the NCAA Tournament and finished the season with an overall record of 10-10 and 4-1 in the conference. In the five years under





head coach Samantha Eustace, the Bears have an overall record of 44-40, with a pair of SoCon titles and NCAA appearances.

MEN'S GOLF

The Mercer men's golf program was impressive throughout the 2010s, especially during the 2013-14 season. The Bears put together a strong showing at the ASUN Championship, claiming the program's first conference title by shooting an 874 over three days of play. Trey Rule led the way for the Bears as he claimed the individual crown with a 215 (71-73-71) and was named ASUN Golfer of the Year. James Beale (218) tied for second place, and Sean Smothers (221) tied for ninth, giving Mercer three golfers in the top 10.

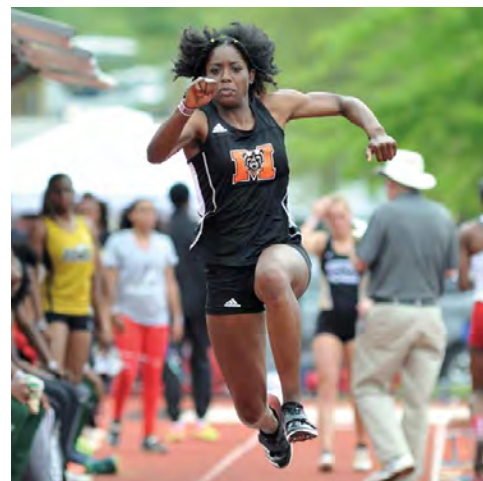
Following the conference tournament, the Bears headed to Raleigh, North Carolina, for the NCAA Regional hosted by N.C. State. Mercer's final round of 293 brought the team's three-day total to 870 and left the team just 10 strokes outside of qualifying for the NCAA Championship. Rule continued his dominant play at regionals, tying for ninth individually.

WOMEN'S TRACK

Women's track, the second-youngest athletic program at Mercer, began competition in the spring of 2014. Four years later, the Bears claimed their first individual championship when Alex Williams, a four-year member of the women's

basketball squad, set a school record of 12.18 meters and took gold in the triple jump at the 2018 SoCon Championships.

One year later, Mercer claimed the top spot on the podium for the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays. The foursome of Cherrish Wright, Lauryn Dancy, Tessola Duncan and Kennedy Weston-Shields ran the 4x100-meter event in 45.71 seconds, setting a school record. In the 4x400-meter event, Marion Meadows and Madison Mueller teamed up with Duncan and Weston-Shields to claim the gold with a time of 3:47.27, giving the Bears three gold medals in a span of two years.



MEN'S SOCCER

Since the 2010 season, the Mercer men's soccer team has been among the nation's best programs. The Bears have won 106 games since the start of the decade and rank 25th nationally and 10th among private institutions. The program had its first 100-win decade in school history due in part to seven seasons of at least 10 wins.

Mercer recorded a program-best 14-7-0 record in two seasons (2014, 2019) and won a total of five conference championships in the last six years, including a pair of regular season titles in 2014 and 2018. The Bears have captured the SoCon Tournament title in three of the last four seasons (2016, 2017, 2019), qualifying for the NCAA Tournament each season.



Former Mercer star Will Bagrou became the program's first player to be selected in the Major League Soccer (MLS) draft, being taken with the 75th overall pick in the fourth round by Sporting Kansas City in 2017. Bagrou ranks third in program history in career goals (35) and points (84). Among the many awards he collected during his time as a Bear, Bagrou was named the 2017 SoCon Male Athlete of the Year, 2016 SoCon Player of the Year and 2014 SoCon Freshman of the Year and was a four-time First Team All-SoCon member.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Mercer women's basketball team returned to prominence in the 2010s, earning four SoCon regular season championships and two SoCon Tournament crowns. Mercer has made six postseason appearances since 2010, earning invitations to the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) in 2013 and 2015 and the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) in 2016 and 2017. The Bears qualified for the NCAA Tournament in 2018 and 2019, as well, after winning the SoCon Tournament both years.

The fortunes for the orange and black changed when head coach Susie Gardner was hired on June 24, 2010. Gardner has collected a program-record 177 wins at Mercer while producing six 20-plus win seasons in her time at the helm. She was named SoCon Coach of the Year three times (2015-16, 2017-18 and 2018-19), while coaching six SoCon Players of the Year.



The Bears began to see the shift when they jumped to 20 wins in 2012-13 from just six the year prior, resulting in a trip to the ASUN semifinals and the program's first postseason appearance since 1985. Mercer continued that success in its inaugural season in the SoCon in 2014-15. The Bears went 20-15 on the season with another semifinal showing and a trip to the WBI. Having gained postseason experience two

years prior, Mercer advanced to the WBI semifinals following wins over Troy (83-68) and Marshall (73-71).

Mercer began its reign over the SoCon the following season and continued to improve over each of the next three campaigns. The Bears put together the best season in program history in 2017-18, winning a school-record 30 of 33 games, including a perfect 14-0 mark in conference play. On top of generating a





27-game win streak from Nov. 26-March 4, Mercer claimed its first Southern Conference Tournament title with a 68-53 victory over ETSU to garner a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

That success rolled over into the next season as the Bears continued to dominate in the SoCon. Mercer went 25-8 in 2018-19 and completed its second-consecutive 14-0 season in conference play to push its winning streak against Southern Conference foes to 34 consecutive games. The Bears outlasted Furman, 66-63, in the championship game to earn their second consecutive conference tourney crown.

BASEBALL

Since the 2010 season, the Mercer baseball program has won 394 games and reached four NCAA Regionals (2010, 2013, 2015, 2019). During this decade, the 2010 Mercer Bears became the first team to reach an NCAA Regional after winning the ASUN Championship. Mercer earned

its first NCAA postseason victory in that year's Atlanta Regional with a 13-7 victory over Elon on June 5. The Bears won two ASUN championships before moving to the Southern Conference.

After joining the SoCon, Mercer's winning ways continued as it won the 2015 regular season and tournament in the first year as a member. Starting in 2015, the Bears won three straight regular season titles and earned conference tournament championships in 2015 and 2019.

With 38 wins to start the decade off in 2010, the Bears have had 35 or more wins in each season since. They are one of four teams in the nation to accomplish this feat, joining Louisiana State, Florida State and Vanderbilt.

Over each of the last six seasons, Mercer has had a player named to the Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American team. During the 2016 season, standout Kyle Lewis won the Golden Spikes Award, which is given annually to the best collegiate baseball player. Lewis

was also named the 2016 HERO Sports Hero of the Year, 2016 ABCA/Rawlings National Player of the Year Award and 2016 Baseball America Collegiate Player of the Year awards. He became the highest drafted player in Mercer and SoCon history when the Seattle Mariners took him 11th overall in the 2016 draft.

A large part of the program's success is due to its dominance at OrthoGeorgia Park at Claude Smith Field. The Bears are 170-76 overall at home since the start of the 2012 campaign, including a 24-4 mark in 2014 to rank seventh in the nation with a .857 home winning percentage. Mercer also has had program-defining victories over some of the nation's elite teams during this decade. The Bears have secured eight wins against nationally ranked opponents, including wins over No. 1 Florida (2018), a pair of wins vs. No. 6/9 Georgia Tech (2011), a three-game series sweep of No. 24 FGCU (2013) and a three-game road sweep of No. 8 East Carolina (2017).

MERCER MOURNS THE LOSS OF **FORMER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR** **BOBBY POPE,**

a Mercer University athletic administrator from 1980 to 2010, died on Sept. 6 at the age of 75.

"Over the more than three decades that Bobby Pope was associated with Mercer Athletics he touched the lives of hundreds of student-athletes, coaches and fans and was synonymous with the Mercer Bears," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol, Andy, Krissy and other members of the Pope family."

During his tenure at Mercer, he began broadcasting basketball games and became the Sports Information Director in 1980. Nine years later, Pope transitioned into the Director of Athletics role where he served for 21 years. He saw the growth of the department to 14 sports, as well as the addition of the first full-time coaches for men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis and cross country.

"Bobby Pope was a true prince of a man," said Mercer Director of Athletics Jim Cole. "He loved Mercer and all its students and student-athletes. He gave me a chance to compete back in the early 90s. I will forever be grateful. He will be truly missed by all the Mercer family."

Facility upgrades were a priority when Pope became athletics director, as evidenced by the state-of-the-art University Center, home to men's and women's basketball and volleyball. The building at the time housed all coaches' offices as well as locker rooms for all teams. Claude Smith Field, the home field for baseball, received a facelift in the fall of 2003, while Sikes Field, the home of softball, was completed shortly thereafter.

Pope was highly respected by his peers. He served two years as president of the ASun Conference and was a member of numerous committees, including eight years on the Executive Committee. He served on five NCAA Peer Review Committees.

Pope was inducted into the Mercer Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010, the Macon Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in February of 2020.

For nearly two decades, he was a sports

reporter, director and sports anchor at WMAZ-TV. Pope called high school football and basketball games from the mid-60s through 1972 on WMAC-AM radio and began his involvement with Mercer athletics in 1970 when he was the "Voice of the Bears." He served as Mercer's sports information director from 1980-1992.

Sybil Blalock, Mercer deputy athletic director and senior woman administrator, said "Bobby had an amazing reserve of love, compassion and generosity. He ran a great race full of life and encouragement for those around him. Bobby shared so much, including his sense of good humor, and we learned so much from him along his journey. I am eternally grateful for his friendship, and my heart goes out to his family. We've lost a tremendous person who had an incredible impact on so many people."

He was also engaged in the community, served as treasurer of the Macon Touchdown Club as well as serving on the Mayor's Recreation Master Plan Committee and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority.

A native of Thomaston, Georgia, Pope graduated from Georgia College and State University. He and his wife Carol have two children: Andy, a 1998 graduate of the University of Georgia, and Krissy, a 2001 Mercer graduate.

Contributions can be made in Pope's memory to Forest Hills United Methodist Church or The Bobby Pope Endowment Fund, c/o Mercer University Athletic Department, 1501 Mercer University Dr., Macon, Georgia 31207.



REMEMBERING...

LEGENDARY BASKETBALL COACH BILL BIBB

BILL BIBB, the winningest coach in Mercer men's basketball history with 222 victories during his 15 years at the program's helm from 1974 to 1989, died July 9 at the age of 86.

Under his leadership, Mercer twice reached the NCAA Tournament and won its first two Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) titles in 1981 and 1985.

Bibb was named conference coach of the year twice and mentored 17 all-conference student-athletes and eight players who were drafted by National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. Among Bibb's players was Mercer legend Sam Mitchell, who played in the NBA from 1989-2002 and coached with five NBA organizations, including Toronto, where he was named NBA Coach of the Year in 2006-07.

Bibb's success was extended as an administrator. While maintaining his coaching duties, Bibb also served as Mercer's director of athletics from 1980-89. He was a founding father of the TAAC — a men's sports league — in 1978 before becoming the conference's third full-time commissioner in 1991. He helped oversee the merger between the TAAC and the New South Women's Athletic Conference in the 1991-92 academic year. The conference name later changed to the ASun Conference beginning with the 2001-02 academic year.

Bibb was inducted into the Mercer Athletics Hall of Fame in 1997, the Macon Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 and later the ASUN Hall of Fame in 2016.

A native of Owensboro, Kentucky, Bibb was a two-sport athlete at the University of Kentucky, where he played basketball and baseball. He signed to play basketball for legendary coach Adolph Rupp and was a member of the Wildcats' 1954 team that finished 25-0. He later transferred to Kentucky Wesleyan, where he played two seasons, participated in the NCAA's first-ever Division II Championship Tournament and earned AP All-America honors as a senior in 1957.



CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY BEAR

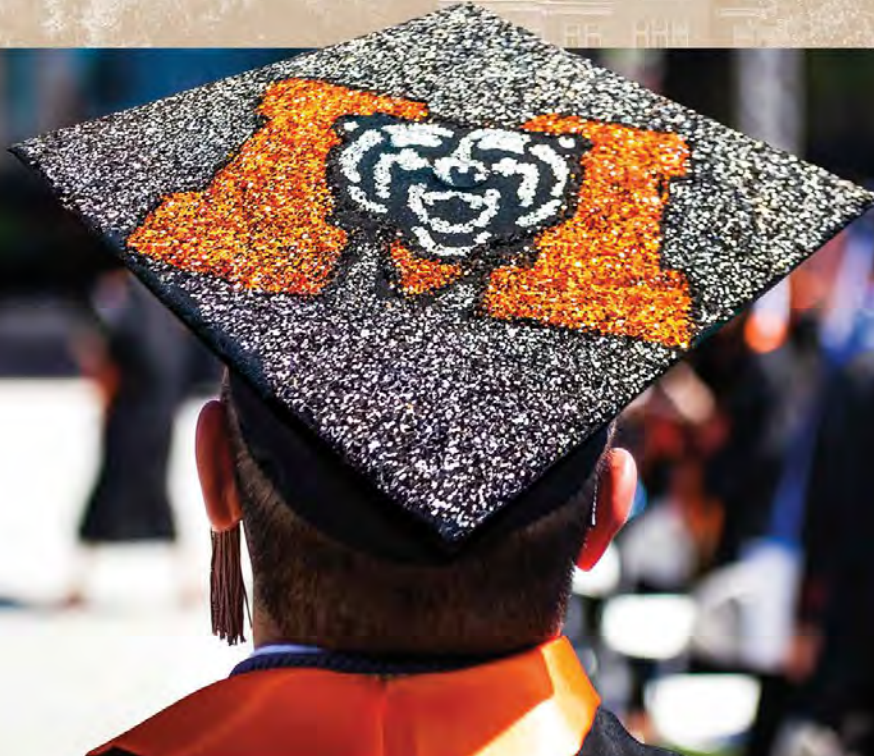
MERCER ALUMNUS AND FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER
CLARENCE "PAPPY" BOYNTON IS NOW

100 YEARS OLD. Boynton was a member of Mercer's 1941 football team.

He attended the groundbreaking event for Mercer's Five Star Stadium in 2011 and, in 2013, he participated in the coin toss and delivered a pep talk to the team during the first game after the football program was reinstated. Boynton turned 100 on July 31 and lives in Peachtree City.



MERCER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2020!



Welcome! The Mercer University Alumni Association is a non-dues lifetime membership organization **serving over 83,000 graduates** of Mercer University. It is the umbrella organization that encompasses your particular college/school's alumni association.

- **ALUMNI CHAPTERS** — Join or start one in your area! No dues or membership commitments. alumni.mercer.edu/chapters
- **CLASS NOTES** — New job? Promotion? Marriage? Baby? Send us your Class Note so we can share it with your fellow alumni in *The Mercerian*. alumni.mercer.edu/classnotes
- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT** — Mercer's Center for Career and Professional Development is ready to support you throughout your career stages. career.mercer.edu/alumni
Join Handshake to stay connected as a job seeker or employer who wants to hire Mercer students and alumni.
mercerojoinhandshake.com
- **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO** — You will automatically receive the *News@Mercer* monthly e-newsletter, *The Mercerian*, our bi-annual print magazine, and invitations to alumni events throughout the year. alumni.mercer.edu/contact

GET INVOLVED

ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS

The Alumni Association typically presents alumni awards during Homecoming weekend. See lists of past awardees and nominate a deserving alum.

alumni.mercer.edu/alumni-awards

GIVING TO MERCER

Make a gift online anytime to Mercer's annual fund, your Greek organization, or any other Mercer entity you wish to support. No amount is too small!

giving.mercer.edu

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MEDICINE

NIH GRANT SUPPORTS RESEARCH ON EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS

Gretchen Bentz, Ph.D., assistant professor of microbiology in the School of Medicine, recently received a National Institutes of Health Research Enhancement Award Program grant in the amount of \$424,500.

Dr. Bentz's research focuses on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), a herpesvirus that infects more than 90% of the world's population. Though primary infection usually shows no symptoms, the virus is a significant cause of infectious mononucleosis. As a herpesvirus, EBV establishes a lifelong latency

in the human body. Latent EBV infection is associated with several malignancies, including lymphomas in immunocompromised individuals.

EBV encodes for many proteins, and the principal viral oncoprotein is latent membrane protein-1 (LMP1). Dr. Bentz's lab seeks to understand how LMP1 modifies cellular proteins in order to induce the cellular changes observed in EBV-associated malignancies.



NIH GRANT SUPPORTS RESEARCH ON FRAGILE X SYNDROME

Mercer's College of Pharmacy recently received funding from the National Institutes of Health in the amount of \$424,499 to support research to improve outcomes for individuals with fragile X syndrome (FXS).

The grant's principal investigator is **Clinton Canal**, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, whose laboratory seeks to understand how unique serotonin (5-HT) receptors function. There are no medications approved for FXS, and Dr. Canal's lab is focused on investigating 5-HT receptors as targets for FXS drug discovery.

Numerous studies have reported alterations in the serotonin system in FXS and autism spectrum disorder, yet knowledge regarding the impact of specific 5-HT receptors on FXS phenotypes is lacking.

SUMNER RECEIVES ACP RALPH O. CLAYPOOLE SR. MEMORIAL AWARD

M

ercer School of Medicine Dean **Jean R. Sumner, M.D., FACP**, received the **Ralph O. Claypoole Sr. Memorial Award** from the **American College of Physicians (ACP)**, a national organization of internists and the largest medical specialty organization in the U.S.

Dr. Sumner is the first Georgian to receive the prestigious award, established by ACP's Board of Regents in 1979.

The Ralph O. Claypoole Sr. Memorial Award is presented annually to an

outstanding practitioner of internal medicine who has devoted her or his career to the care of patients. The practitioner must be a clinician who is highly respected by her or his peers and colleagues for clinical skills and who has been a role model.

"I am humbled to receive the Ralph O. Claypoole Sr. Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians," said Dr. Sumner. "Patient-focused care is the foundation of quality medicine. I am grateful and honored to be recognized in this area."

A member of the School of Medicine's first graduating class in 1986, Dr. Sumner has a passion for underserved areas and has practiced in rural Georgia most of her career as an internist in Washington and Johnson counties before becoming dean of Mercer's School of Medicine in 2016.

"Jean Sumner is a worthy recipient of the Ralph O. Claypoole Sr. Memorial Award," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "She has devoted her life to patient care in rural areas of Georgia, and since 2016 has led our School of Medicine to carry out its impactful mission to prepare physicians to practice primary care medicine in rural and underserved areas of our state. She models that mission for our students every single day. We are very proud to have Jean Sumner leading the Mercer University School of Medicine."



NEW SITE FOR COLUMBUS MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPANSION

Columbus community leaders offered Mercer a new site where it will locate its expanded four-year medical school campus that was announced last year. Original plans called for the renovation of an existing building owned by the W.C. Bradley Co. on 11th Street downtown.

Subsequently, a new site owned by TSYS, a Global Payments company, just north of the company's existing Riverfront Campus in Uptown Columbus, was proposed to the University.

The new location will allow for construction of a free-built structure to better suit the needs of medical school students, faculty and staff, and will also provide an iconic locale on the banks of the Chattahoochee.

University and Columbus community leaders, as well as major donors to the project, participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new campus on Sept. 3.



MUSM PARTNERS WITH SOUTH GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER ON NEW RESIDENCIES

South Georgia Medical Center and Mercer School of Medicine

on June 25 announced a partnership that will bring internal medicine and emergency medicine residency programs to Valdosta.

Upon approval by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the residency programs will begin in 2022.





NEW GRANT TO DEVELOP **TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY** IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

Andrea S. Meyer Stinson, Ph.D., associate director of the Master of Family Therapy Program and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences/

pediatrics in the School of Medicine, will serve as a partner and consultant on a two-year, \$200,000 grant from the Pittulloch Foundation, in partnership with Resilient Georgia, to integrate trauma awareness into the Central Georgia community.



INAUGURAL ATHLETIC TRAINING CLASS **HAS 100% FIRST-TIME PASS RATE**

The inaugural class of **Master of Athletic Training students in Mercer's College of Health Professions** achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the Board of Certification exam, which provides certification for entry-level athletic trainers.

The national average for first-time pass rate in 2019-2020 was 77.6%. Data from the 2020-2021 exam cycle will be available in 2021.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS PARTNERS ON CANCER-FIGHTING REPORT

Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education partnered with Mercer's College of Health Professions on a new report, released in February, indicating Georgia can expect to see more of its residents survive cancer if more funds received annually from a landmark tobacco settlement were directed to specific cancer-fighting activities.

"5 Actions to Save More Lives" cited five specific actions that, if taken, would improve cancer survivorship in the state. Currently, cancer is the second-leading cause of death for Georgians, ranking behind heart disease.

Nancy Paris (left), president and CEO of Georgia CORE, and Dr. Nannette Turner, professor and chair of public health in the College of Health Professions



CHRISTUS POWELL MINORITY FELLOWSHIP

Master of Family Therapy student

Quinten Oppong received this year's Christus Powell Minority Fellowship from the Georgia Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. The fellowship is awarded annually to one Georgia student of minority background who shows promise in and commitment to a career in MFT education, research or practice.



DRIVE-THROUGH PINNING

Georgia Baptist College of Nursing honored this year's 139 new pre-licensure nursing graduates during a drive-through pinning parade held May 5

on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta. Completion of a pre-licensure nursing program traditionally includes the awarding of a nursing pin, which symbolizes the graduate has met the requirements associated with taking the licensure examination. Each institution has its own pin to commemorate its students' entry into the profession. At Mercer, which has the longest-standing nursing program in Georgia, pinning has been a ritual for more than a century. While this tradition has always been important, it carried added meaning for the Class of 2020's nurses, who graduated to join the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



PAULA HELLER PHOTOS

PAUL AMBROSE SCHOLARS

Mercer's College of Health Professions had four students — **Kailey Barfield, Seo Ho Kim, James Pope** and **Krista Stocke** — among the 40 nationwide who were selected to participate in this year's Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, which prepares public health and clinical health professions students to promote change and be leaders in addressing population health challenges at the national and community level.

L-r, Kim, Stocke, Barfield and Pope



REMEMBERING...

Trustee and Generous Supporter

Babs Baugh

Barbara Nell “Babs” Baugh, University trustee and generous supporter, died June 14 following a long and courageous battle with Parkinson’s Disease. Born on April 23, 1942, in Houston, Texas, Baugh was known in her home state and nationally for her generosity, positive outlook and musical talent.

Recognized for her musical talent at age 4, she pursued that passion by studying music at Baylor University and finishing her music degree at the University of Maryland in 1964 while living in Washington, D.C. After completing her degree, she returned to Houston where she participated in a professional music-review group, served as an interim music minister for her church, and performed in various clubs and other venues.

In 1979, Baugh and her two daughters moved to San Antonio where she continued conducting and leading music and was a devoted member of the Sanctuary Choir at Trinity Baptist Church until 2005 when she became a member of Woodland Baptist Church. She served as a deacon, past church council chair and missions committee chair, among other leadership positions.

Baugh was in her third term as a Mercer trustee and served as president of the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation, established by her late parents, the founders of Sysco Corp. She also owned and operated a San Antonio travel agency for more than 30 years.

The Baugh Foundation has been a strong supporter of Mercer On Mission, investing millions of dollars to enable hundreds of students and faculty to carry out the program’s life-changing work around the world. The foundation also provided a \$2.5 million grant in 2012 to establish the Eula Mae and John Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership at Mercer, led by former longtime Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinator Dr. Daniel Vestal.

A longtime supporter of moderate Baptist causes, Baugh served on the boards of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Christian Ethics Today, and Baptist Child and Family Services. She also was a former member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinating Council and former president of the Baylor University Alumni Association. She was named a Life Member of the Mercer President’s Club in 2011 and received the University’s Meritorious Service Award in 2019.

Baugh is survived by her spouse of 23 years, John Jarrett; daughters Jackie Baugh Moore, also a Mercer trustee, and Julie Baugh Cloud; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.



ACHIEVEMENTS

1960s

Michael Braswell, CLAS ’69, together with his colleague John Whitehead, recently published *Teaching Justice* with Carolina Academic Press. The book encourages teachers and students to examine the different relationships they share in learning about criminal and social justice and promotes the value of critical thinking in addressing justice-related themes as well as pursuing a more just and ethical future. Braswell is a professor emeritus in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at East Tennessee State University.

The Hon. J. Nathan Deal, CLAS ’64, LAW ’66, received the Daily Report Lifetime Achievement Award for his lasting mark on the Georgia legal community.

William “Bill” B. Westwood, CLAS ’67, was named the 2020 Distinguished Graduate School Alumni by the Graduate School at Augusta University (formerly the Medical College of Georgia) in Augusta. Westwood is a 1972 graduate of the Medical Illustration Graduate Program and is an adjunct assistant professor in the program. He continues to practice his medical illustration business out of his studio in Albany, New York.

1970s

Hilda Heard Hankerson, CLAS ’78, was named *USA Today* Atlanta Coach of the Year for 2020. Hankerson is a former Mercer women’s basketball player. She coaches girls’ basketball at Westlake High School in Atlanta and won state championships in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Anne Longman, CLAS ’71, has been selected as a Florida Super Lawyer in the area of administrative law for the 12th year in a row. She shares this designation with only five percent of all attorneys in Florida. Longman is an attorney with Lewis, Longman & Walker in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The Hon. Samuel D. Ozburn, LAW ’76, retired in April from the Alcovy Circuit Superior Court, after serving since 1995. He has been appointed as senior superior court judge by the governor and will continue to preside over the Newton County Resource Court and other superior court proceedings.

Col. Charles David Reese, CLAS ’77, Chaplain Corps, USA (Retired), completed his Ph.D. in contemporary theology from the United Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in May 2019. His dissertation, *The Sundays After: An Integrated Framework for in extremis Preaching in the Aftermath of Public Tragedies*, provides a framework for integrating pastoral care and preaching. Reese is currently an adjunct instructor for homiletics at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

D. Jack Sawyer Jr., LAW ’77, joined Cresset as managing director in the Atlanta region. He previously served as southeast region president for Wilmington Trust.

1980s

Dr. Allen S. Anderson, CLAS ’86, was named the Janey Briscoe Distinguished University Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Chief of the Cardiology Division, Department of Medicine in the Long School of Medicine at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Cindy A. Brazell, LAW ’89, of Holland & Knight was named a Distinguished Leader by the *Daily Report* for achieving impressive results in 2019 and demonstrating leadership while doing so.

J. Christopher Clark, LAW ’89, received the Macon Bar Association William A. Bootle Professionalism Award. The award is given to a lawyer whose conduct and interactions with clients, adversaries, courts and the public demonstrate an ongoing commitment to integrity, to ethics, and to promoting respect and collegiality in the profession of the law. Clark, who serves on the Law Mercer Law School Board of Visitors, is a partner at Clark, Smith & Sizemore, a personal injury law firm in Macon.

Thomas Ellington, PHA ’87, was recently named assistant dean of assessment at the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Jeffrey R. Hussey, CLAS ’86, LAW ’89, was promoted to director of public interest & litigation at Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida Inc. (CLSMF) to ensure a strategic focus for program litigation and advocacy, and provide technical assistance, co-counsel, training, and strategic support on litigation and systemic advocacy and emerging legal advocacy approaches to CLSMF’s diverse and highly talented legal team.

Robert A. Mason, LAW ’88, was named to the 2020 edition of the *North Carolina Super Lawyers*. Mason is one of the first attorneys to be board-certified specialist in elder law by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. He is also a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation, past chair of the Elder Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association, and a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Doc Schneider, LAW ’81, of King & Spalding, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Daily Report* for his lasting mark on the Georgia legal community.

Ray S. Smith III, LAW ’87, was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp as chairperson of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association for a term of office ending Oct. 24.

The Hon. Christopher W. Yokom, BUS ’86, LAW ’89, was appointed by the Fulton County Superior Court to be a presiding juvenile court judge in Fulton County. Yokom was previously a juvenile court associate judge for more than two years.

1990s

James A.W. Balli, LAW ’99, joined Taylor English Duma LLP as a partner in the litigation practice group.

Mark E. Beatty, LAW ’98, was recently promoted to the role of senior vice president of global total rewards for

ViacomCBS Inc. following the merger of the two media companies. In this role, Beatty leads all compensation and benefits-related functions for the combined company.

The Hon. David L. Cannon Jr., LAW '95, was reelected to serve the Blue Ridge Circuit Post 1, representing Cherokee County on the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors and was installed on June 13.

J. Jeffrey Deery, LAW '90, was named chairman of the Lake Highland Preparatory School Board of Trustees. Deery is a shareholder with the law firm of Winderweede, Haines, Ward & Woodman PA in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Margaret C. Ellison, MED '93, of Gynecologic Oncology of Tallahassee recently joined Florida Cancer Specialists and Research Institute. In addition to her office practice, she will maintain surgical privileges at both Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Capital Regional Medical Center.

Andrew R. Fiddes, CLAS '95, BUS '96, LAW '00, was promoted to lieutenant commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. As a reservist, he is assigned to U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he serves as a domestic operations officer in support of homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities' missions.

Jeffrey R. Harris, BUSM '97, LAW '99, was named to Georgia Super Lawyers' Top 100 list of attorneys. Harris, a partner at the firm of Harris Lowry Manton LLP in Savannah and Atlanta, is a 12-time Georgia Super Lawyer and three-time Top 100 honoree.

Paola Parra Harris, LAW '96, received the Ultimate Attorney award in Family Law by the *Jacksonville Business Journal*. Harris was also recognized as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts Gateway Council and received the Business Leadership Award by the Jacksonville Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board. She opened her family law litigation boutique firm in Jacksonville, Florida, in January 2016.

Christopher D. Huskins, LAW '97, was reelected to serve the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors' Post 3 seat from the Ocmulgee Circuit. Huskins practices in Eatonton.

Sharell Fincher Lewis, LAW '95, was appointed and sworn in by Gov. Kemp as the new judge for Bibb County State Court. Lewis was formerly chief assistant solicitor general for Bibb County.

Dr. Michael Miller, CLAS '92, MED '96, recently joined the Cullman Regional Medical Group. Miller is passionate about improving the overall quality of life of his patients and working with local

primary care providers on the appropriate diagnosis and treatment of peripheral circulation issues of their patients.

Andrew Pace, BUS '96, was named senior vice president of business development for Hospitality Ventures Management Group (HVMG). In this role, he is responsible for assisting with growing and supporting HVMG's third-party management and new development efforts.

Lori Reese Patton, LAW '93, was named a new member of the Wesleyan College Board of Trustees and will begin serving in October.

Shelba Dawn Sellers, LAW '91, joined the National Society of Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century. Sellers lives and practices law in Thomasville.

Robert Smith, LAW '98, is serving on The Judicial COVID-19 Task Force established by Chief Justice Harold D. Melton as an ad hoc committee of the Judicial Council. The mission of the committee is to assist courts in conducting remote proceedings and restoring more in-court proceedings, including jury trials and grand jury proceedings, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

H. Craig Stafford, LAW '93, was reelected to serve the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors representing the Atlantic Judicial Circuit Post 1.

Hank Stone III, BUS '91, was named executive vice president and senior lending officer of Thomasville National Bank.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, founding shareholder of Atlanta firm Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenbery, was named Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Tuggle was also recognized by Super Lawyers for 2020 in the area of family law for the ninth year in a row.

Joseph Weider, EDU '95, joined Lincoln Financial Group as senior vice president of IT infrastructure. Weider will focus on accelerating the company's IT Infrastructure program to anticipate and respond to current and evolving business needs, opportunities and trends.

2000s

Megan E. Boyd, BUS '05, LAW '08, was promoted to senior lecturer at Georgia State University College of Law. Boyd joined the law faculty as a full-time professor in the fall of 2015.

T. Joseph Boyd, CLAS '94, LAW '04, announced the opening of his personal injury and workers' compensation practice, The Law Office of Joe Boyd. With more than 15 years of experience and \$32 million and counting recovered for his clients, Boyd offers services throughout Georgia.

Janette M. Carter, EDU '09, graduated with a specialist in education degree in educational leadership in 2019 and will complete a doctorate of education degree in 2021.

Freda B. Coleman-Jackson, LAW '09, joined the Washington and Lee University School of Law as assistant director of the office of career strategy. She was previously with Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana.

REMEMBERING...

Former Mercer Trustee

Juanita Jordan

Juanita T. Jordan was the ultimate "good-doer." Her fingerprints can be found on nearly every part of the Macon community. From the vibrancy and revitalization of downtown Macon, to the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail and Amerson River Park, to the countless nonprofits and educational institutions that exist to improve our community, she leaves an enduring legacy, which is a testament to her "good-doing." Jordan passed away on Aug. 24.

Jordan was born and raised in Macon. From humble beginnings, she made her own path, blazing a trail in the business world in Middle Georgia. From her early days as a school bus driver to working at the *Macon Telegraph* and then as an assistant

to local philanthropist Peyton T. Anderson Jr., Jordan was truly a pioneer. She was a real estate broker/developer and founded Hamlin-Jordan Realty Co. and Northlake Woods Inc. After the death of Anderson in 1988, Jordan carried out his vision for his estate to be used broadly for charitable purposes to improve Macon and the entire community. The Peyton Anderson Foundation was created in 1989 with Jordan as its president and has been investing in the "good-doers" of Macon since that time. Under her leadership, the foundation was instrumental in the creation of NewTown Macon, the Community Foundation of Central Georgia and countless other organizations that work for the betterment of Middle Georgia's people and places.

Jordan served on the Mercer Board of Trustees from 2000-2005.

She retired in 2012 as president of The Peyton Anderson Foundation and holds the distinction of trustee emerita on its Board of Trustees. She was a founder of the Georgia Grantmaker's Alliance and Macon Council on Foundations. She served on numerous boards, including Georgia Cities Foundation, NewTown Macon, Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Museum of Aviation and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce. She was also chosen to carry the Olympic torch in 1996 as it made its way through Macon.

Numerous awards bear her name, including the Juanita T. Jordan Community Service Leadership Award presented to an outstanding Peyton Anderson Scholar, United Way of Central Georgia's Juanita T. Jordan Community Impact Award and NewTown Macon's Juanita T. Jordan Community Service Award. She was the recipient of many other awards in her professional career, including Woman of Achievement by the Career Women's Network in 1996, Citizen of the Year by the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce in 2006, the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from Mercer in 2009, and 100 Black Men's Sam Hart Sr. Community Impact Award in 2017.

Jordan was preceded in death by her parents Elmer and Evelyn Tidwell and her husband Clyde M. Jordan Jr. She is survived by her children, Dianne Hattaway (Allan), Karen Lambert CLAS '77 and Darrell Jordan (Penny); her grandchildren, Asa Lambert CLAS '05 (Jessica), Josh Hattaway, Matthew Lambert (Alexis), Andrew Lambert BUS '09 (Taylor), Kris Vaughn (Ben), Libby Lambert, Kate Lambert EDU '13, David Lambert (Emily), Jared Jordan and Nicole Jordan; her sister, Shirley Hall (Ken); and eight great-grandchildren.



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.

REMEMBERING...

Alumnus and Generous Supporter

Bill McDuffie

William Robert “Bill” McDuffie Sr., alumnus and generous University supporter, died Feb. 17 at the age of 96.

Born Sept. 22, 1923, in Arlington, McDuffie graduated from Southern College of Pharmacy in 1951 and went into sales with Charles Pfizer Pharmaceuticals where he was a district manager. One year he was named the top district manager in the country. McDuffie retired from Pfizer in 1986, but still served as an ambassador representing Pfizer at medical conventions throughout the U.S. and Canada. McDuffie served a short time in the Army during World War II.

He was an avid golfer, playing in various tournaments and enjoying golfing vacations with his sons and grandsons. He was a member of Vineville United Methodist Church, Idle Hour Golf and Country Club, the Lions Club, and the Georgia Pharmaceutical Association. A devoted family man,

McDuffie was most proud of his wife, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he loved and supported dearly.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Enhancement Fund at Mercer.

This fund supports the McDuffie Center for Strings, a special institute within Mercer’s Townsend School of Music founded by McDuffie’s son, William Robert McDuffie Jr. The McDuffie Center combines an intensive, conservatory experience with the practicality of a specific business-oriented curriculum and prepares the entrepreneurial musician for success in the real world.



REMEMBERING...

Alumnus and Former Professor

Dr. Billy Lacefield

William Otis “Billy” Lacefield III, alumnus and former professor, died March 23 at the age of 52. Born in Louisville, Kentucky,

Lacefield moved to Macon and graduated from Southwest High School in 1985. He graduated *magna cum laude* with his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Mercer in 1989, then earned post-baccalaureate certification in early childhood education from Georgia College and State University in 1990. He earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1993, a specialist in education degree in early childhood education from Mercer in 1995 and a doctorate in curriculum studies from Georgia Southern University in 1999. After teaching elementary school in Bibb County for seven years while serving as an adjunct instructor at Mercer, Lacefield joined the Mercer faculty full-time in 1997 as instructor of mathematics education and middle grades education. He was granted tenure in 2003 and promoted to full professor in 2009.

Loved and admired by his colleagues and students, Lacefield sought to build positive attitudes



toward mathematics and, in addition to his work at Mercer, he privately tutored hundreds of learners of all ages and at all levels. He received numerous awards and accolades for his incomparable work inside and outside the classroom. Perhaps most notably, Lacefield was a recent recipient of the highly prestigious Hendricks Award, an award which recognizes faculty members who challenge and inspire teaching in and out of the classroom, actively engage students in the process of learning, discovery and leadership, as well as one who mentors and motivates students and junior faculty to achieve their highest aspirations.

Tomieka Richards Daniel, LAW ’02, of the Georgia Legal Services Program was recognized by the *Daily Report* as Best Mentor for her efforts to help less-experienced colleagues become better lawyers.

Stephen D. Dominy, BUS ’09, became the associate director of fraternity and sorority life at Texas Christian University.

Jason E. Downey, LAW ’03, was selected as vice chair of the State Board of Education, representing the 8th Congressional District of Georgia.

John Eggenspiller, BUS ’03, was promoted to manager of financial planning and analysis for Ascena Retail Group in February 2019.

Abby Feine Eichberger, BUS ’08, graduated in May from Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Science in systems engineering.

Kristin Starnes Gray, LAW ’06, was recently promoted to partner at the labor and employment law firm of FordHarrison LLP in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Gray focuses her practice on helping employers navigate human resources-related issues and litigation.

Bradley M. Harmon, LAW ’02, was selected as 2020 Georgia Super Lawyer in the area of Business Litigation. This is Harmon’s third recognition as a Super Lawyer. He is managing partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Canon Brown Hill, LAW ’05, was elected president-elect of the Macon Bar Association at the organization’s May meeting.

William P. Horkan, LAW ’09, of James Bates Brannan & Grover LLP was named among on-the-rise lawyers by the *Daily Report*, a list which notes Georgia’s most promising lawyers under the age of 40. Horkan was also elected secretary of the Macon Bar Association at the organization’s May meeting.

Cheri Lewis Husney, BUS ’00, was recently named chief marketing and business development officer for Littler, the world’s largest employment and labor law practice representing management. Prior to joining Littler, Husney spent a majority of her career with KPMG. Most recently, she served as the executive director of clients and markets, fulfilling a dual position of regional director while managing all marketing directors and teams. In this position, she drove marketing strategy, developed relationship-nurturing initiatives, enabled account-based marketing programs and established an overall strategic vision. In addition to these senior-level responsibilities, she played a leadership role in women and diversity initiatives.

Jad Johnson, LAW ’04, has been selected as circuit public defender of the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, covering Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade and Walker counties in northwest Georgia.

Allen “Jerry” Jones, COPA ’06, was promoted to assistant special agent in charge of the GBI Region 13 office in Perry. Jones began his law enforcement career in 1987 with the Cochran Police Department before spending 18 years working for the Middle Georgia College Police Department, Bleckley County

Sheriff's Office and Pulaski County Sheriff's Office before accepting a position as special agent with the GBI. Jones has been with the GBI for more than 12 years, beginning his career as a field agent in the Region 12 Office in Eastman. In 2016, he transferred to the GBI Training Unit where he served as a training coordinator and instructor until his promotion to ASAC in Perry where he will be responsible for the supervision of the special agents assigned to Region 13.

Mitchell T. Key, LAW '07, was named a member of the LaGrange College Board of Trustees. Key practices real estate, probate and business law in LaGrange.

Jed D. Manton, LAW '06, was named a Georgia Super Lawyer for 2020. Manton, a partner at Harris Lowry Manton LLP in Atlanta and Savannah, is an eight-time Rising Star honoree.

James Delroy Mayers Jr., LAW '07, graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine on May 16. Mayers is currently a resident physician at Augusta University Department of Family Medicine in Augusta.

Patrick M. Mincey, LAW '08, was listed among the 2020 North Carolina Rising Stars. Mincey is a partner in the Raleigh and Wilmington offices of Cranfill Sumner and Hartzog LLP.

Julia Bowen Mize, CLAS '05, LAW '08, was named city attorney for Warner Robins in March. Mize most recently served as assistant district attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office in middle Georgia.

Brandon L. Peak, LAW '04, was one of three finalists for *Daily Report's* Attorney of the Year Award. Attorney of the Year goes to the attorney who had the biggest impact on the law or the Georgia legal community or who did the most to advance the cause of justice. Peak is a partner with Butler Wooten Peak and won a \$280 million verdict in a landmark trucking case.

Amber Aiken Pelot, LAW '09, was elected partner at Alston & Bird. Pelot was recently elected as secretary for the Mercer Law School Young Alumni Council.

Jeffrey H. Perry, LAW '05, was elected partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP effective Jan. 1. Perry practices at the firm's Atlanta office focusing on venture capitals and corporate mergers and acquisitions.

Krishna G. Ramaraju, LAW '03, joined Syngenta in Durham, North Carolina, as assistant general counsel in February.

Charlotte Jenkins Redo, LAW '06, was selected to the 2020 Georgia Super Lawyers list in the area of employment law. She also served as chair of the Labor and Employment section of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys for five consecutive years.

Jewel Hanson Scott, LAW '00, won her bid for Clayton Circuit Superior Court.

Gregory K. Smith, LAW '01, was elected as a new partner at Smith Gambrell & Russell. Smith practices in both the firm's Atlanta headquarters and its Washington, D.C., office. Smith has government contracts and construction practice,

handling procurement and construction contracts as well as dispute resolution and litigation.

Jennifer Smith Thomas, CLAS '05, started as a new partner at RumbergerKirk.

Zachary H. Thomas, LAW '04, was elevated as a named partner, and the firm's name has been changed to Bergen, Bergen & Thomas to represent this appointment. Thomas has been a partner in the Savannah firm since 2013. He practices medical malpractice and personal injury.

Liz Valliyil, CLAS '00, recently joined WGN America as a breaking news producer, helping to launch a new national primetime newscast called *News Nation*, which premieres Sept. 1 and will air seven days a week from 8 pm - 11 pm EST. Before joining WGN, Valliyil spent 16 years as a writer/producer and executive producer of the weekend morning news at CBS 2 Chicago.

Connie L. Williford, LAW '00, is this year's recipient of the Macon Bar Association Lawyer of the Year Award. This award is given to a lawyer considered to have a high degree of professional ethics and a reputation within the legal community of a good moral status. Williford practices family law in Macon.

Jonathan B. Zeitlin, LAW '00, was promoted to assistant legal attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

2010s

Ashley A. Akins, LAW '13, was installed a co-editor of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division newsletter for a second year starting June 12.

LaToya S. Bell, LAW '12, was recognized with the ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division's Dorsey Award for serving as an outstanding public defender.

Megan Bilgi, BUS '18, joined LS3P Associates Ltd. as a marketing coordinator. She is based in the Charleston office.

Edward J. Cochran, LAW '13, was elected partner at Coleman Talley LLP effective Jan. 1. Cochran practices in the firm's Valdosta office focusing on commercial real estate, commercial transactions, affordable housing and banking.

Nicolas D. Bohorquez, LAW '15, was recognized as a Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2020. Bohorquez practices real estate law at Williams Teusink LLC in Decatur.

Kindall E. Browning, LAW '15, joined the Macon office of the Georgia Legal Services Program as a staff attorney on June 1. She was previously with the Houston County Public Defender's Office.

Will Collins, LAW '17, joined the Atlanta office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC as an associate attorney in February.

Josh Cone, BUS '12, was named vice president of the Thomasville National Bank (TNB). He originally joined TNB as a management trainee. Today, Cone manages a sizable loan portfolio while also focusing on sales and new business development.

REMEMBERING...

Friend and Generous Supporter

Kelley O'Quinn

Kelley Smith O'Quinn, friend and generous University supporter, died July 22 after a short bout with cancer. Born in 1945 in Walhalla, South

Carolina, O'Quinn lived most of her life in Anderson, South Carolina. She had a long career in the medical administrative and planning fields and was a lifelong supporter of people in need. O'Quinn helped found the Community Foundation in Anderson that assisted charitable organizations and was active with the Women Who Care group in Augusta. For many years, she was also active in the Medical Association of the Medical Association of South Carolina and served as president for one term. She enjoyed working with the Judd C. Hickey Center for Alzheimer's Disease and served on the Board of Managers. She also served on the Foundation Board of the Medical University of South Carolina for 12 years and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by MUSC in 2013 in addition to the Board of Regents of Anderson University and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by that institution in 2014. O'Quinn is survived by her husband James, a Macon native and 1956 Mercer graduate. In 2018, the O'Quinns were leadership donors in the construction efforts of the Spearman C. Godsey Science Center. They were named Life Members of the University's President's Club in 2019.



Maggie L. Conerly, LAW '19, earned a Master of Laws degree in international legal studies from American University Washington College of Law in May. Conerly currently represents asylum seekers in immigration court in Washington, D.C.

Ronald E. Daniels, LAW '12, was named as an On-the-Rise lawyer by the *Daily Report*, recognizing him as one of Georgia's most promising lawyers under the age of 40. Daniels was installed as treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division on June 12.

Abby Feine Eichberger, EGR '10, graduated in May with a Master of Science degree in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Beatrice C. Hancock, CLAS '13, LAW '18, started as associate attorney at Chambliss Higdon Richardson Katz Griggs LLP in Macon. Hancock previously served as law clerk at Dougherty County Superior Court in Albany.

Charlotte Harris, CLAS '12, partnered with Mercer alumnus **Philip Thoren**, BUS '12, to form a sports agency, Athletes Abroad Management. Mercer athletics laid the foundation for them to help professional athletes gain contracts with clubs in Europe and to help international athletes go to college in the U.S.

Jasmin Severino Hernandez, LAW '17, was chosen as Latinx Community Impact Award recipient by Emory's Latin American Law Student's Association. In March, she joined the Atlanta office of

Chamberlain Hrdlicka as an associate in its Trusts and Estates practice group where she works closely with private wealth clients to establish estate and business succession plans.

Abriana B. Horton, LAW '19, graduated with a Master of Laws degree in taxation from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, where she served as a graduate editor for the *Florida Tax Review*. Horton will join Grant Thornton as a tax associate in Atlanta, specializing in mergers and acquisitions and corporate tax compliance.

Bingzi Hu, LAW '14, was recognized as 2020 Elite Lawyer for her outstanding performances and contributions in litigation and criminal defense. Hu practices with Lowther Walker LLC in Atlanta.

Norbert D. Hummel IV, LAW '12, was promoted to partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Atlanta. He was installed as the 74th president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 12 at a swearing-in ceremony conducted by Justice Keith Blackwell.

Meagan R. Hurley, LAW '19, started as Alabama Fellow for the Georgia Innocence Project in September 2019. Hurley also started as adjunct professor of media law and ethics at Reinhardt University in January. As Georgia Innocence Project's Alabama Fellow, she began co-teaching a wrongful convictions seminar at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama, in May. As a guest lecturer for the course, Hurley teaches students about post-conviction innocence work and Alabama criminal procedure. She also supervises

student work on select Alabama innocence cases.

Stacy R. Jenkins, COPA '15, recently ran for the Macon-Bibb Georgia Office of District 8 Commissioners Seat and came in second place. She plans to run for another political office in 2021.

Eleanor deGolian Kasper, LAW '13, joins Mulliken Weiner Berg & Jolivet PC in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as an associate attorney practicing commercial, construction and employment litigation. Kasper was formerly a law clerk at the United States Magistrate Court in Colorado Springs.

Cory Kustermann, COPA '14, is a law enforcement officer and was recently promoted to senior corporal.

Yoojin Lee, LAW '17, joined the Atlanta office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate focusing on bankruptcy, creditors' rights and restructuring. Lee previously served

as a judicial clerk with the United States Bankruptcy Courts in New Jersey and Georgia.

Natalie John Merrels, PHA '15, was recently promoted to clinical pharmacy specialist in critical care at CarolinaEast Medical Center in New Bern, North Carolina.

Randal M. McGinley, LAW '11, was sworn in as interim district attorney for the Alcovy Circuit on June 2. McGinley previously served as chief assistant district attorney since January 2017.

Erica L. Opitz, LAW '10, shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta, was selected to *Georgia Trend Magazine's* 2019 Legal Elite in the corporate category. Opitz was also named a 2020 Rising Star in business and corporate law by Super Lawyers. This is her second year to be recognized.

Nadia Osman, CLAS '09, BUS '15, joined Senior Citizens Inc. In her new

role, she will plan and organize ongoing and special project funding programs for the organization.

Adam F. Peoples, LAW '10, was elected partner at Hall Booth Smith PC. Peoples is a civil defense attorney at the firm's Asheville, North Carolina, office.

Ashana Puri, PHA '19, received a \$10,000 grant to fund her research on the development of transdermal systems of naloxone for treatment of opioid addiction. Sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the New Investigator Award provides start-up funding for the independent research programs of early-career pharmacy faculty.

Nyonnhoewah S. Seekie, LAW '16, was elected as a member of the board of directors for the Georgia Legal Services Program, serving a two-year term ending in 2022. Seekie has a general practice law firm in Macon.

Conley J. Scott III, LAW '19, graduated with a Master of Laws degree in taxation from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, on May 15.

The Rev. Joshua Wilkins Scott, DIV '16, associate pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, was featured preacher on Day 1 with host Peter Wallace on April 26. The nationally broadcast ecumenical radio program is also accessible online at Day1.org and via podcast.

Spencer G. Smith, CLAS '17, was appointed a visiting lecturer of biology at Mercer University for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ryan E. Spell, LAW '11, was elected partner at Coleman Talley LLP effective Jan. 1. Spell practices in the firm's Atlanta office focusing on commercial real estate and secured real estate lending.

Christopher A. Steele, LAW '11, shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta, was selected to *Georgia Trend Magazine's* 2019 Legal Elite in the taxes/estates/trusts category. Steele was also selected as 2020 Rising Star in the area of estate planning and probate by Super Lawyers.

Stephen G. Swinson, LAW '15, joined Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP in Savannah focusing his practice on municipal bond law and public finance, business law, estate and asset protection planning, and ancillary real estate matters.

Barclay R. Taylor, LAW '10, was recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in the area of tax law. Taylor is an associate at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta.

Philip Thoren, BUS '12, partnered with Mercer alumna **Charlotte Harris**, CLAS '12, to form the sports agency, Athletes Abroad Management. The pair feel that Mercer athletics laid the foundation for them to help professional athletes gain contracts with clubs in Europe and to help international athletes go to college in the U.S.

Seth K. Trimble, LAW '10 was named partner at Taylor English Duma LLP as of Jan. 1. Trimble focuses his practice in technology litigation and intellectual

property disputes involving patents, trade secrets, trademarks and copyrights. He has nationwide experience litigating patent and trademark infringement cases, including cases in federal district courts in Georgia, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Florida, New York and Virginia.

MARRIAGES BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

1990s

Charlotte Tomlinson Cline, EGR '93, and her husband Dave Cline adopted four daughters, Kailey, Kayden, Cassidy and Kendall on Jan. 10.

2000s

Eleta Andrews, CLAS '09, and her husband Will Hunter announce the birth of their daughter, India Donelan Hunter, born May 24.

Claire Steinbeck Battle, CLAS '09, and her husband Ryan announce the birth of their daughter, Marjorie Grace, born May 5.

Megan E. Boyd, BUSM '05, LAW '08, married Comdr. M. Scott Simmons, U.S. Navy (Retired), and the couple announced the birth of their son, Rowan Grey, in March.

Melissa Coone Cornett, BUS '09, and **Adam Cornett**, CLA '10, announce the birth of their third son, Theodore Hayes, born March 17.

Charles Crain, CLAS '09, married Richard Eisenberg on March 7 in Washington, D.C.

2010s

Kalie O'Neil Brewton, LAW '17, and **Tyler Brewton**, LAW '17, announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Louise, Jan. 13.

Jasmin Severino Hernandez, LAW '17, married Jose Luis Hernandez on Oct. 19, 2019. Severino Hernandez practices estate planning and tax at Davis, Matthews & Quigley PC in Atlanta.

Michael G. Kaufman, LAW '15, married Sophie Loghman of Atlanta in Joshua Tree National Park in California. Kaufman practices personal injury and workers compensation in Atlanta.

Kelsey L. Kicklighter, CLA '15, LAW '18, married Trey Bartlett on May 23 in Jekyll Island. Kicklighter is an associate at Hall Booth Smith PC in Atlanta.

Priya M. Patel, LAW '16, married Shalin Patel on Dec. 22, 2019, in Ahmedabad, India. Patel is an associate at Smith, Welch, Webb & White LLC in McDonough.

Ruslyn Daves Ruby, LAW '16, and her husband Jeffrey announce the birth of their daughter, Hayden Clarice Ruby, born on Oct. 17, 2019.

Trevor J. Vanzant, LAW '17, and his wife Brittany announce the birth of their first child, Bentley Reese, on June 12.

Morgan G. West, LAW '16, and her husband Eric announce the birth of their third daughter, Birdie Belle West, on Jan. 17.

REMEMBERING...

Alumnus and Generous Supporter

Don Randall

Donald A. "Don" Randall, alumnus and generous supporter, died June 22 at the age of 86. Born in Lyons, Randall graduated from Mercer's School of Law in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1961, acting as Aide-de-Camp to the Chief Signal Officer of the Army.

After resigning his commission, Randall continued to serve in the Reserves, acting as alternate General Counsel, Selective Service, retiring as Colonel in 1985. His career as an attorney included the Federal Trade Commission, 1961-1967; U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly, 1967-1973; and private practice in Washington, D.C., 1973-1993, specializing in commercial antitrust law. He was author of *The Great American Auto Repair Robbery*, a best seller published in 1982.

Randall was active in retirement for the communities of residence in

Maryland and Florida. He was instrumental in the passage of legislation affecting private communities in Maryland and in the leadership of the Homeowners Association of Palm Acres in Florida. Randall was previously active in the Lee Coast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He received numerous awards and commendations for his service to the military and legal profession. Randall was an ardent supporter of the School of Law and was a Life Member of the University's President's Club since 2002.



REMEMBERING...

Former Trustee and Double Bear

Tommy Day Wilcox

Thomas Day Wilcox Jr., senior superior court judge, died Aug. 20 at the age of 77 due to complications from cancer. Wilcox was born Dec. 27, 1942, in Fitzgerald. The son of the late Tommie Day Wilcox and Laura McLeod Wilcox, he grew up in Wilcox County. He was valedictorian of his high school class at Abbeville High School and graduated from Mercer University with an A.B. degree in 1965 and a J.D. degree in 1973. While at Mercer, he served as president of the Student Government Association and was captain of the varsity basketball team, later being inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame.

Wilcox served in the United States Navy, reaching the rank of lieutenant. Following his military service and graduation from Mercer Law School, he began the practice of law with John E. James and B. Robert Shipp in Macon. During his time as a



lawyer, he was president of the Macon Bar Association, chairman of the State Disciplinary Board for Lawyers and a member of the Georgia State Bar Board of Governors. He was appointed judge of the Superior Court of the Macon Judicial Circuit in 1981. While in office, he was elected president of the Council of Superior Court Judges. He was a charter member of the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts. In 2014, the Administrative

Office of Courts in Georgia created the Judge Tommy Day Wilcox Award to honor court personnel who exemplify vision and sound leadership in promoting the mission of accountability courts in Georgia, honoring his role in creating the first Adult Drug Court in Georgia. He was the first recipient of the award.

Wilcox was also active in civic affairs. He served as a trustee of the Macon-Bibb County Library Board, chairman of the board at the Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences, on the board of the Methodist Home for Children and Youth, and on the Mercer Board of Trustees. He was also president of the Mercer Alumni Association from 1976-1977. He was a member of Vineville United Methodist Church, where he was a trustee and served a term as chairman of the Administrative Board. He was also a founder of the Allen Sanders Fellowship Class.

Wilcox is survived by his wife of 52 years, Cindy; children, Sally Anne Wilcox Brown (Scott) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and Thomas Day Wilcox III (Jessica) of Athens, Georgia; grandchildren, Benedicte Eloise Brown, Thomas Day Wilcox IV and Adaliene Anne Wilcox; a brother, Roderick McLeod Wilcox (Sally) of Albany, Georgia; and several nieces and nephews.

IN
MEMORY

1940s

Fleming R. Childs, CLAS '45, of Macon, on May 10.
James Milton Christian, CLAS '49, PHA '54, of Dunwoody, on Feb. 4.
Stewart Orme Cunningham, CLAS '49, of Macon, on Aug. 23, 2019.
Jo Ellen Cureton Dale, CLAS '46, of Richmond, Missouri, on May 6.
Bettye Anochors Dittmer, CLAS '47, of Lincoln, on March 30, 1930.
Leonora Shannon Hart, CLAS '46, of Macon, on May 22.
Vivian Cato Herring, PHA '46, of Sandersville, on April 19.
Mary Littlejohn Hogan, TIFT '49, EDU '59, of Thomaston, on Jan. 16.
Joy McDonald Holt, EDU '48, of Waynesboro, on June 15.
Patissue S. Jackson, TIFT '47, of Montgomery,

Alabama, on Jan. 2.
Willard R. Jordan, CLAS '49, of Sandersville, on May 5.
Doris Huff Kime, CLAS '43, of Salem, Virginia, on June 26.
Pauline Parham Morgan, CLAS '43, EDU '62, of Macon, on April 18.
Alleen Jones Morris, CLAS '49, of Fairhope, Alabama, on Dec. 3.
Marion Farris McKeown, TIFT '46, of Augusta, on Feb. 10.
Dorothy Lucille Walters Smith, CLAS '49, '76, of Tifton, on April 6.
Betty Barrow Varner, TIFT '47, of Duluth, on Dec. 31, 2019.
Barbara Goggans Waldrop, TIFT '46, of Forsyth, on May 13.
Kathryn Barger Wilson, TIFT '48, of Jackson, on May 11.

1950s

George R. Barfield III, CLAS '57, of Macon, on June 21.

Joseph D. Bartley, CLAS '53, of Warm Springs, on Jan. 13.
Gloria Twitty Baxter, CLAS '55, of Mableton, on June 25.
Bobbie J. Branyon, TIFT '50, of Greenville, South Carolina, on June 7.
Dinah Cutter Brown, CLAS '59, of Macon, on April 18.
James W. Burnham Jr., CLAS '51, of Macon, on May 5.
James Norman Cavender, CLAS '58, of Alpena, Michigan, on Feb. 22.
Marvin L. Cochran, CLAS '52, of Meansville, on April 10.
Hilda Crow Corbett, TIFT '52, of Jefferson, on June 21.
Dorothy Dodson Cornell, CLAS '53, of Fort Myers, Florida, on Feb. 17.
Margaret Lewis Gannon, CLAS '53, of Stone Mountain, on June 17.
Joyce Slaughter Gross, TIFT '56, of Falling Waters, West Virginia, on July 12.

Jennie R. Haugabrook, Tift '85, EDU '88, of Warner Robins, on April 25.
William P. Hicks, LAW '53, of Atlanta, on May 24.
Charles M. Hildebrand Jr., PHA '54, of Tallapoosa, on Jan. 11.
Patricia Hickman Hobby, CLAS '57, of Springfield, on March 10.
Charlotte JoAnne Port King, TIFT '56, of Atlanta, on Jan. 22.
Theron R. Ledford, CLAS '54, of Tucson, Arizona, on April 7.
Lehman Lindsey Jr., CLAS '57, of Alpharetta, on Jan. 29.
Jacquelyn Ward Marshall, CLAS '50, of Perry, on Jan. 16.
Max Reginald McGlamry, LAW '52, of Columbus, on March 14.
William M. McGraw Jr., CLAS '53, of Lubbock, Texas, on Jan. 10.
Erie Gee McDaniel Mobley, CLAS '51, of Bentonville, Arkansas, on May 25.

Martha A. Newton, TIFT '56, NUR '62, of Cartersville, on May 1.
Carole Adams Nichols, CLAS '55, of Macon, on April 21.
Martha Ann Nichols, EDU '55, of Cuthbert, on Jan. 2.
Walter Ed Norwood, CLAS '50, of Macon, on Jan. 9.
Sylvia Bowen Palmer, CLAS '57, of Gainesville, on June 3.
Larry N. Painter, CLAS '59, of Charlotte, North Carolina, on March 24.
James F. Panter, CLAS '53, of Atlanta, on July 16.
Ann Brackett Penney, CLAS '56, of New York, New York, on Feb. 19.
Charles A. Pippin, CLAS '54, of Augusta, on May 8.
Joseph W. Popper Jr., LAW '59, of Macon, on June 20.
Margaret Sipple Smith, NUR '50, of Savannah, on Jan. 14.
Sara Gray Smith, TIFT '51, of Milledgeville, on June 6.
Garrett W. Thornton Jr., CLAS '50, of Dunwoody, on Feb. 18.

Charles Tornabene, EDU '54, of Rockledge, Florida, on Jan. 15.
Corliss Aaron Van Buren, CLAS '52, EDU '72, of Macon, on March 6.
Frank C. Varner Jr., CLAS '59, of Thomaston, on Feb. 19.
Beth Nena Murray Walker, TIFT '56, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on June 8.
Spencer D. Walker, CLAS '56, of Newnan, on July 16.
Scott Walters Jr., LAW '50, of East Point, on Feb. 14, 2019.
Stanford E. Wilson, CLAS '50, EDU '68, of Decatur, on April 3.
Elaine Rankin Wilkerson, CLAS '53, of Macon, on Feb. 14.
George A. Willis, CLAS '55, of Macon, on July 10.
Delbert L. Wilson, CLAS '55, of Hoscht, on May 13.
Waldo Martin Woodcock, CLAS '52, of Waycross, on Dec. 26, 2019.

Gloria McAfee Wynn, CLAS '50, of Macon, on May 16.

1960s

Gayle Bennett Aiesi, CLAS '67, of Travelers Rest, South Carolina, on May 6.
Cynthia Ann Adams, CLAS '64, of Thomaston, on March 13.
William Philip Addy Jr., CLAS '62, of Preston, on June 26.
Asbury Quillian Baldwin Jr., LAW '69, of LaGrange, on March 15.
John J. Bell, PHA '60, of Atlanta, on May 6.
GentryAnn Haverfield Brady, CLAS '69, of Monroe, North Carolina, on May 18.
Frank Jackson "Jack" Burel Jr., PHA '66, of Ellijay, on April 6.
James N. Butterworth, LAW '68, of Cornelia, on March 28.
Jack Lane Caldwell, CLAS '60, of Macon, on July 29.
Charles B. Clements, CLAS '60, of Pelham, Alabama, on June 1.

Clarence Everett Drummond, CLAS '62, of Cumming, on Feb. 27.
Robert L. Graham, EDU '61, of Lakemont, on May 25.
Albert Sidney Goss III, CLAS '67, of Daniel Island, South Carolina, on Feb. 9.
Stephen M. Gower, CLAS '69, of Toccoa, on March 21.
Anne Collins Hannah, CLAS '60, of Atlanta, on June 7.
Dianne Grant Harris, CLAS '65, of Suwanee, on Feb. 1.
William R. Hetzler, CLAS '67, of Roswell, on March 20.
Clyde K. Laney, LAW '66, of Pauline, South Carolina, on April 30.
Rosalind Norman Lewis, NUR '60, of Moultrie, on June 18.
Dennis Ray Mann, PHA '67, of Huntington, West Virginia, on March 7.
Robert Robider Markwalter, CLAS '63, LAW '66, of Macon, on Feb. 14.
Carolyn Cochran Mitchell, CLAS '65, BUS '89, of Macon, on May 28.
Algia Jerrell Pritchett, CLAS '60, of Lawrenceville, on April 23.
Joseph D. Re', PHA '67, of Burlington, North Carolina, on Dec. 5, 2019.
Floyd H. Sanders, CLAS '62, of Warner Robins, on June 5.
Steven R. Smith, CLAS '61, of Savannah, on May 10.
Gloria Jean Bryant

Stokes, CLAS '65, EDU '80, of Jonesboro, on Feb. 24.
Janet Lee Sullivan, CLAS '69, of Atlanta, on Jan. 7.
Marylene Frost Williams, TIFT '69, of Cordele, on Feb. 4.
William Morris Williams, CLAS '62, of Moultrie, on March 9.
Carolyn Feagin Wilson, NUR '61, of Fort Valley, on Jan. 10.
Sara Jane Wood, TIFT '63, of Athens, on March 21.
Leroy S. Young, CLAS '65, of Clayton, on April 26.
Wanda Denmark, NUR '73, of Richmond Hill, on March 18.
Betty Cream Gomez, TIFT '76, of Stockbridge, on Aug. 17, 2019.
Larry E. Falls, CLAS '73, of Warner Robins, on June 11.
David Stanley Howell, CLAS '74, of Macon, on June 14.
Linda M. Reid Jackson, TIFT '74, of Heflin, Alabama, on Feb. 1.
Frances C. Lewis, CLAS '72, of Norcross, on Jan. 31.
James R. Lindsay, CLAS '76, of Washington, D.C., on May 12.
Phyllis McCloud Lively, TIFT '70, of Rossville, on May 24, 2019.
Mary Faye Henderson

Martin, TIFT '74, of Warner Robins, on Feb. 12.
Pamela Dale Smith McElroy, NUR '76, of Tallapoosa, on May 19.
Rosamond Minnie "Roz" Pappy, PHA '77, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on April 29.
Julius Authell Powell Jr., CLAS '79, LAW '82, of Macon, on March 26.
Judy Fears Price, TIFT '77, of Jackson, on Jan. 31.
Wade H. Robinson, CLAS '77, of Nashville, Tennessee, on Jan. 31, 2019.
Gary M. Russell, CLAS '77, of Atlanta, on April 25.
James Michael Scandlyn, PHA '73, of Montgomery, Alabama, on Jan. 10.
Henry Lynn Simpson, PHA '74, of Waycross, on Jan. 12.
Lindsey Vale Stanford, CLAS '77, of Marietta, on Feb. 22.
Mary Frances Stenson, TIFT '70, EDU '75, of Macon, on April 8.
Christopher A. Townley, CLAS '74, LAW '77, of Chickamauga, on March 6.
Frances Boroughs Watson, TIFT '72, of Thomaston, on May 15.

2000s
Ellen Diana Price Beverley, EDU '05, '07, '12, of Athens, Tennessee, on Jan. 31.
Cynthia Wise, EDU '07, of Palm Harbor, Florida, on July 19.

2010s
Corbin M. Butler III, NUR '12, of Sarasota, Florida, on Jan. 18.
Margaret Virginia Alford Seldon, EDU '14, of Newnan, on June 4.
Keith D. Young, CLAS '12, of Macon, on May 19.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

Carolyn Banks, friend, of Barnesville, on Feb. 25.
Carolyn Barber, friend, of Macon, on Jan. 19.
William "Bill" C. Bibb, athletic director/coach, of Macon, on July 9.
Ruth Miller Brewster, spouse, of Macon, on May 1.
Dempsey S. Brown Jr., former faculty MUSM, of Amelia Island, Florida, on June 16.
Phillip Capps, friend, of Macon, on March 7.
Nancy K. Ice, friend, of Atlanta, on Jan. 15.
John Lansing Kimmey III, spouse, of Atlanta, on Feb. 13.
Michael S. Leonard, friend and former faculty, of Macon, on Jan. 24.
Patricia Berry Lewis, spouse, of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, on Nov. 27, 2019.
Judith F. Massey, friend, of Peachtree City, on Feb. 28.
Judy Milner, friend, of Eastman, on March 18.
Robert L. Stephenson, friend, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on March 20.
T. Don Stokes, friend, of Macon, on March 2.
George L. Watts, adjunct instructor, of Gray, on May 1.
Alfred Eliot Youman, former faculty, of Macon, on April 4.
Martha Ann Murphy, Ph.D. student, of Atlanta, on June 4.

REMEMBERING...

Alumnus, Generous Supporter and Former Alumni Board Member

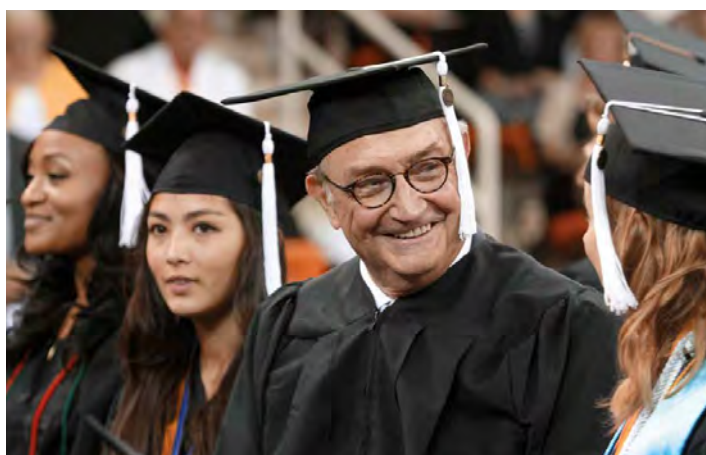
Dr. Roy Vandiver

Roy Wesley Vandiver, Mercer alumnus, generous supporter and former alumni board member, died April 15 at the age of 84, following a battle with cancer. A native of Edison, Vandiver started at Mercer in 1953 and completed nearly all of his requirements in just two years. However, before receiving his bachelor's degree, he left for the Medical College of Georgia, where he earned a doctor of medicine degree. After 32 years as a successful surgeon, he became the CEO and chairman of MAG Mutual Insurance Co., a malpractice insurance firm. He served there for 10 years until his retirement in 2011.

When Vandiver left Mercer for medical school, he was three classes shy of a degree. In 2011, he reenrolled at Mercer and commuted from his home in Decatur to Macon taking classes in Old Testament, New Testament and Geology. In 2012, he completed his degree

and became the oldest student to receive a Bachelor of Science in Medicine and the third oldest person to receive a bachelor's degree from Mercer.

Vandiver loved Mercer and gave generously to various academic programs and funds at the University to help support educational



opportunities and experiences for current students. He and his wife, Maureen, made a significant commitment to support the construction of the Godsey Science Center, and the Center's STEM Quad patio is named in honor of their support. Vandiver proudly served on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Advisory Board and was a Life Member of the University's President's Club.

1990s
George Lynwood Donald, BUS '94, of Lizella, on Feb. 19.
Russell Brooks Poole, LAW '95, of Jacksonville, Florida, on March 24.
Barbara Galeski Rothschild, EGR '90, of Columbus, on June 25.
Emily Katherine Turner Smith, LAW '99, of Pawley's Island, South Carolina, on June 10.
Ryan Patrick Tuttle, EGR '98, of Atlanta, on March 18.
Karen Ingram Williams, BUS '97, of Decatur, on April 2.

SANDS LEGAL EAGLE AWARD ESTABLISHED, INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS NAMED

MERCER LAW SCHOOL

recently named the inaugural recipients of the **Hon. W. Louis Sands Legal Eagle Award**, an award that assists third-year law students with expenses related to bar exam study and bar exam applications. **Precious Okonokhua** and **Brandon Rosenstein** are the first recipients of the newly established award.

Before attending Mercer Law, Okonokhua earned a B.A. in sociology and psychology from the University of Notre Dame and M.S.S. in administration of justice and political science from Mississippi College. She graduated in May from the combined J.D. and MBA degree program offered by Mercer Law and the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business.

"I thank Judge Sands and the Legal Eagle Award Scholarship committee for appreciating and acknowledging my hard work to date. I look forward to continuing on the path of success and showing my gratitude by giving back. I feel honored to be a part of Judge Sands' Legal Eagle family. This award has helped me both financially and mentally because it is great to know that I have the support of others throughout my legal career. I am forever grateful."

Rosenstein earned a B.A. in journalism from Georgia State University before attending Mercer

Law. He graduated *cum laude* from Mercer Law in May and was in the top third of the class.

"It is an honor and a privilege to have been selected as one of the two inaugural recipients of the Hon. W. Louis Sands Legal Eagle Award. Mercer Law School offers such a unique community and, throughout the past three years as a member of the student body, I have enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in a variety of different organizations," said Rosenstein. "I can't begin >>



"Legal Eagles" Tiffany Watkins (left), LAW '15, Tanya Jeffords (second from right), LAW '01, and Tiffany Mallory Moore (right), with Judge Sands during the unveiling of his portrait at Mercer Law School in 2019.



Rosenstein



Okonokhua

to thank Judge Sands and the award committee enough for this amazing honor and gift.”

Okonokhua and Rosenstein received their awards in May and had the opportunity to meet with Sands via Zoom.

The Hon. W. Louis Sands Legal Eagle Award was established in honor of Mercer alumnus **Louis Sands**, CLAS '71, LAW '74, by Mercer Law alumni and other attorneys who had the opportunity to clerk for Sands. These lawyers, who Sands refers to as his “Legal Eagles,” wish to provide assistance to students who demonstrate financial need, a commitment to public and community service and who have performed well academically.

Tanya Jeffords, LAW '01, one of the Legal Eagles who clerked for Sands at the U.S. District Court in Albany in 2001, said, “Judge Sands holds a special place in the lives of all his former clerks because he was not only our boss but also our mentor who continues to help us see life and the law as a vehicle

for helping people. With this award, the Legal Eagles want to honor Judge Sands with an annual award that offers other Mercer Law graduates the experience of meeting him and gaining some of his wisdom and courage to do the right thing, and we hope other lawyers will join us in this effort.”

Sands, who currently resides in Albany, was appointed to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia by President Bill Clinton on May 9, 1994. He was the first African American to serve in a number of prominent legal roles, including assistant district attorney for the Macon Judicial Circuit, assistant U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, superior court judge in the Macon Judicial Circuit, and district court judge and chief judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

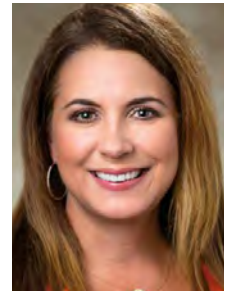
Upon graduating from Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1971 with a B.A. in political science and music, he was commissioned in the United States Army Reserves Signal Corps, where he attained the rank of captain upon completion of his service. He earned his J.D. from Mercer’s School of Law in 1974. In addition to his judicial and military service, Sands has been a board member and chair for many organizations, including three terms on the Mercer Board of Trustees.

To make a gift to The Hon. W. Louis Sands Legal Eagle Award, visit law.mercer.edu/givenow or contact Leslie Cadle, director of development, at cadle_l@law.mercer.edu or (478) 301-2232.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT ADDS NEW STAFF

The Office of University Advancement has added two new staff members to assist with fundraising efforts for the University.

■ **Nicole Kummer** joined the staff as director of development for the Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) in July. Kummer comes to Mercer from Texas, where she completed undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University and was previously employed at Texas A&M, Appalachian State and Lamar University. She brings a working knowledge of development and fundraising to her position with her past experience managing athletics sponsorships, donor relations and engagement, marketing and special events. In addition, Kummer has been professionally involved with chambers of commerce where she has lived and worked and also has been involved in the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement and the Association of Donor Relations Professionals. Her primary role at Mercer includes generating capital, scholarship, operational and endowment support for the medical school, as well as developing relationships with MUSM alumni and constituents.



Kummer

■ **Paul McClendon** began work as director of development for the College of Health Professions and College of Nursing in August. McClendon has lived in Georgia for more than 30 years and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia and master’s studies in nonprofit management at Georgia State University. He most recently worked with the Center for the Visually Impaired in Atlanta. He has also served in development and other leadership roles at the Waldorf School of Atlanta, Environmental Educational Alliance of Georgia, Chattahoochee Nature Center, and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. As director of development, McClendon’s responsibilities include researching prospects, developing relationships with alumni and constituents, and generating annual fund and major gifts for the health professions and nursing programs.



McClendon



“Setting up a monthly gift is convenient.”

Dedicating a small amount each month is more forgiving to our family budget, and we never have to remember whether or not we made a gift. We hope that by continuing to give even our small contribution, we may be able to help someone create their own Mercer story.”

Set It & Forget It!

When **Morgann Belcher Bradshaw**, CLAS '13, and **Stephen Bradshaw**, CLAS '12, BUS '14, began their college searches, they originally thought they wanted to attend large universities. The tight-knit community, small class sizes and rich history ultimately led them both to Mercer.

The couple met and developed their relationship through their classes, participation in Reformed University Fellowship, and study sessions in Tarver Library. Stephen proposed to Morgann on the roof of Tarver Library, and the couple married in Newton Chapel on the Macon campus in August of 2013.

The Bradshaws both benefitted from academic scholarships which allowed them to attend Mercer and realize they may not have had the opportunity without the generosity of others who support the University. After graduating, they wanted to help other students have the same experiences and opportunities that made Mercer so special to them. However, as a young family, they didn't feel they could make a large, annual contribution. They decided to set up a small Recurring Gift that is automatically debited from their checking account each month. For roughly the cost of one specialty coffee a month, the Bradshaws are able to share their love for Mercer and make a significant impact in the lives of current students.

The Bradshaws reside in Augusta with their two children, Finn and Amelia. Morgann is currently a full-time wife and mother, and Stephen is a commercial banker with Queensborough National Bank and Trust.

To set up a Recurring Gift, visit mercer.edu/givenow or contact the Office of University Advancement at giving@mercer.edu or (478) 301-2715.

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