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SPRING 2021

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R2

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MEAN FOR YOU?

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Communications at Mercer University. ©2021 Mercer
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE MERCERIAN,
1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, Georgia 31207-0001.



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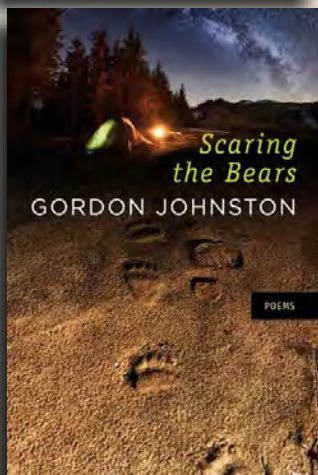
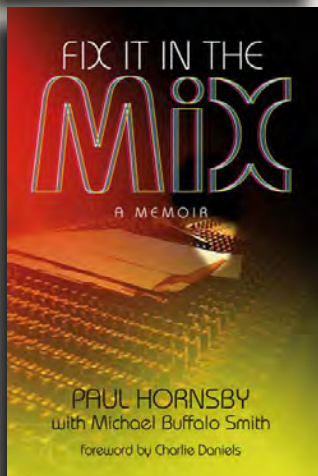
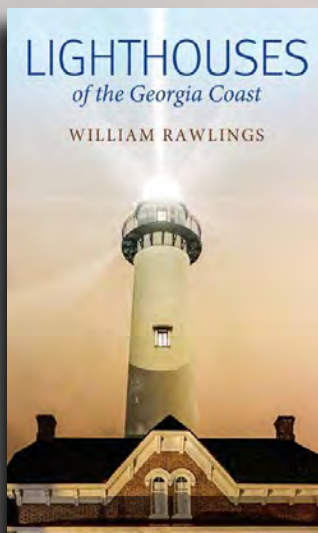
40 CLASS NOTES

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InOurLens

The annual **Light More Homes Christmas Celebration** benefiting Macon Area Habitat for Humanity was relocated this past holiday season to **Mercer Village**. The light show has been a tradition at Chick-fil-A on Tom Hill Sr. Boulevard for the past 12 years, but it was moved while the restaurant was undergoing renovations. The show featured a canopy of 50,000 white icicle lights strung between buildings, a pedestrian arch tunnel with thousands of color-changing LED lights, a snow machine, a nativity scene, and a Christmas tree designed and programmed by **Dr. Bob Allen** and Mercer computer science students.





MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

SPRING/SUMMER 2021



Continuously working throughout a pandemic year of challenges facing the publishing industry, Mercer University Press proudly offers a new season filled with music, fiction, poetry, history, philosophy, and religion.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021 SEASON highlighted titles include: **Lighthouses of the Georgia Coast** by William Rawlings, a richly illustrated look at the five existing Georgia lighthouses, their construction, and historical role as once essential parts of nautical navigation and commerce; **Eavesdropping on the Most Segregated Hour: A City's Clergy Reflect on Racial Reconciliation**, edited by Andrew M. Manis with Sandy Dwayne Martin, scriptural interpretations on the longstanding problem of White supremacy in American life from 14 Macon, Georgia, clergy from various faith traditions; **Fix It in the Mix** by Paul Hornsby with Michael Buffalo Smith, a memoir of Hornsby, the acclaimed record producer and musician best known for his work at Capricorn Records; **Scaring the Bears**, a debut collection of poems on fatherhood, marriage, faith, loss, and nature by Gordon Johnston, Mercer professor of English; **The Birth of a New South: Sherman, Grady, and the Making of Atlanta** by E. Culpepper Clark, a history of race and its influence on politics, economics, and culture in the New South; and **Liberty, Democracy, and the Temptations to Tyranny in the Dialogues of Plato**, a collection of 11 essays from the 2019 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas at Mercer University edited by Charlotte C.S. Thomas, Mercer professor of Philosophy.

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University Sets Record with Final Fall Enrollment



Mercer's final fall enrollment established a new record, surpassing 9,000 students for the first time. A total of

9,026

students were enrolled last fall in Mercer's 12 schools and colleges on campuses in Macon, Atlanta, Savannah and Columbus, surpassing 2019's record final fall enrollment of 8,759 by 3%. First-time students enrolled in Mercer's Macon undergraduate programs numbered 951, and 87 percent of first-year students from 2019 returned for fall 2020. Freshman-to-graduation retention reached 73.2%, also a new University record.

Mercer Featured Among Princeton Review's 'Best Colleges' for **18th** Consecutive Year

Mercer is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates to earn their college degree, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company profiled and recommended Mercer in the 29th edition of its annual college guide, "The Best 386 Colleges," released in August.



Mercer Rises Five Spots Among *U.S. News* Best Value National Universities

Mercer remains in the top tier of national universities and is among the top 35 best values in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual America's Best Colleges issue, released Sept. 14. The University improved five spots over last year's ranking of the best values among the 389 institutions in the national universities category. The best value ranking takes into account an institution's academic quality and the previous year's net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.



Mercer Recognized as a Top Producer of Gilman Scholars

Mercer is among the U.S. colleges and universities that produced the most Gilman International Scholarship recipients during the 2018-2019 academic year.

"Mercer's recognition as a top producer of Gilman Scholars proves that our students overachieve against our peer institutions, demonstrating not only the caliber of our

students but also the quality of our faculty and staff," said Provost **Dr. D. Scott Davis**. "I'm proud of this award, and I congratulate everyone involved with the process."

Each year, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces the top producing institutions for the Gilman International Scholarship Program at the Diversity Abroad Conference. The scholarship program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to the national security and economic prosperity of the U.S.

A total of 13 Mercer students earned recognition from the Gilman Program during the award year of 2018-2019. An additional 34 students received Gilman or Gilman-McCain scholarships in 2019-2020.



Mercer Fifth Nationally Among Peace Corps Prep Certificate-Issuing Institutions in 2020

The Peace Corps announced Sept. 30 that **Mercer ranked No. 5** among more than 140 Peace Corps Prep schools on the agency's list of top certificate-issuing institutions in 2020.

Mercer issued 28 certificates to seniors and juniors in 2020, tying the University for fifth place with Monmouth University in New Jersey. **A total of 55 students were enrolled in the Peace Corps Prep program at Mercer during the 2019-20 academic year.** Over the past year, six Mercer students were awarded Peace Corps placements.



Peace Corps



Wade and Thompson

WADE NAMED TOP SPEAKER AT DEBATE NATIONALS

Junior **Cam Wade** won the James "Al" Johnson Top Speaker Award, the highest individual honor presented at the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) championship, held virtually March 6-8.

Wade, a women's and gender studies and English double-major from Savannah, is the first African-American male to be named top speaker at the nation's largest parliamentary debate tournament and is the second Mercer student to win the James "Al" Johnson Award since 2015.

Mercer swept individual honors at this year's nationals, also taking home the Dan Henning Award for top novice speaker. Freshman **Matt Thompson**, a chemical commerce and French double-major from Canton, won the award, which was presented to Wade in 2020.

Additionally, sophomores **Ashley Pemberton**, journalism and media studies double-major from Macon, and **Madeline Smith**, biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) and Spanish double-major from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, won the novice division and were named second- and third-place speakers among novices, giving Mercer the top-three individuals in the division.

"This was a bit of a 'clean sweep' for Mercer and is a win that truly belongs to the University as a whole," said **Dr. Vasile Stanescu**, associate professor of communication and director of debate. "Debate is a public thinking event as much as it is a public speaking event. What these victories underscore is the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences continues to train some of the finest undergraduate minds in the entire nation."

NEW MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVED

Mercer's Board of Trustees during its fall meeting approved a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program.

The new graduate program in the College of Pharmacy on the Atlanta campus is designed to equip students with the necessary skills to perform in academia, in the pharmaceutical industry or in government, and addresses a shortage of entry-level researchers in agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Students must complete degree requirements within three years of matriculation and complete two years in residence.

STETSON-HATCHER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS RECOGNIZED AMONG THE PRINCETON REVIEW'S 'BEST BUSINESS SCHOOLS FOR 2021'

Stetson-Hatcher School of Business is one of the nation's most outstanding business schools, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company chose the school for its list, "Best Business Schools for 2021," released Dec. 8.

Mercer-Led Team Wins \$200,000 Top Prize in Artisanal Mining Grand Challenge Global Competition

A team of researchers involved in the Mercer On Mission program on Oct. 1 received the Gold Award and top prize of \$200,000 in the Artisanal Mining Grand Challenge.

The global competition, which received applications from 42 different countries, recognizes innovative solutions for transforming artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) for water and biodiversity conservation.

The Gold Award-winning application, titled "Mercury Capture Systems for ASGM Gold Shops," details a system developed by the Mercer-led team to remove dangerous elemental mercury vapor emitted during the final stages of gold extraction and at the initial stages of gold refinement.



Mercer Joins Universities Studying Slavery Consortium

Mercer joined Universities Studying Slavery (USS), a consortium of more than 70 institutions created and led by the University of Virginia to collaborate in sharing best practices and guiding principles about truth-telling projects addressing human bondage and racism in institutional histories. All member schools commit to research, acknowledgment and atonement regarding institutional ties to the slave trade, to enslavement on campus or abroad, and to enduring racism in school history and practice. USS hosts semi-annual meetings to allow participating institutions to work together to address both historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education and in university communities.



Mercer Music at Capricorn Affiliates with the GRAMMY® Museum



Mercer Music at Capricorn is now an affiliate of the GRAMMY® Museum. The affiliation allows Mercer and the Los Angeles-based GRAMMY® Museum to collaborate on educational and professional development programs, share museum curricula and resources, participate in traveling exhibits, and develop internships.



STEM Education Innovation Lab Partners with Gwinnett County Schools to Offer Innovative AgSTEM Learning Experience

Through an innovative AgSTEM research project utilizing aquaponics and smart sensor technology, and with support from an interdisciplinary team of research faculty, **educators in Gwinnett County's Archer School Cluster are being equipped with the tools and resources to teach every subject through the lens of urban agriculture and conservation.** Mercer's STEM Education Innovation Lab, in collaboration with Gwinnett's Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Lawrenceville District office, has engaged regional partners to implement agriculture-based science, technology, engineering and math (AgSTEM) in the Archer Cluster. The District awarded Mercer \$50,000 in funding to administer this initiative, led by **Dr. Justin Ballenger** and **Dr. Elaine Thurmond**, both faculty members in the University's Tift College of Education.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

21 GILMAN SCHOLARS

Mercer had 21 students among more than 3,400 recipients across the U.S. chosen during the two most recent selection cycles to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad.

Teni Aina, Joyell Bailey, Camryn Bierria, Hailey Christian, Lea Dulcio, Savannah Durringer, Hailey Ferrel, Brianna Gonsahn, Savannah Granito, Evelyn Johnson, Annie Lam, Stephany Leal, Walter Lopez-Chavez, Kallie McDaniel, Alexandra Norori, Ayomide Odeboh, Obehi Onabanjo, Omar Peralta Rios, Ja'Diyah Shamsiddin, Alexandria Swinson and

Tran Vo were selected during the spring 2020 and fall 2020 cycles. Given the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gilman Program will support students who are unable to start their programs abroad in their original destination or in the original timeframe by helping to identify alternative program options, by permitting students to defer to a program through the end of 2021, or by supporting participation in a virtual study abroad or international internship program.



Daniels

PICKERING FELLOWSHIP

Alumna **Ariel Daniels** recently received the prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship to pursue a master's degree in international relations before beginning work for the U.S. Foreign Service. Daniels, from Milledgeville, earned her bachelor's degree in May 2020 with a double-major in political science and international affairs and a minor in French.

BIO INNOVATION SUMMIT

Mercer students won two of five poster session awards presented at the Georgia Bio Innovation Summit held virtually Nov. 4-6 to gather hundreds of professionals from industry, academia and government to discuss major trends and issues in bioscience. College of Pharmacy student **Mani Deepika Vakkalanka** was one of three winners of the Anthony Shuker Scientific Poster Session Award, and School of Engineering student **Sarah Spalding** received the Down South Grace and Poise Award.



Vakkalanka



Spalding

GILMAN-MCCAIN SCHOLARSHIP

Junior **Marissa Murriel** received the Gilman-McCain Scholarship to participate in the Mercer On Mission program in Ecuador. Murriel, from Columbus, is a global development major with a minor in Spanish.



Murriel



Anderson

HARRIS DAVIS AWARD

College of Professional Advancement senior **Ricks Anderson II** recently received the inaugural Harris Davis Transformational Power of Education Award. The award, presented annually to an undergraduate student who has experienced the transformational power of education, is named for emeriti faculty members **Dr. Colin Harris** and **Dr. Duane Davis**. An anonymous College of Professional Advancement faculty member provided the initial gift of approximately \$25,000 to endow the award.

MCDONALD'S/APIA SCHOLARSHIP

Freshman **Mahnoor Sultan** was chosen as a recipient of the inaugural McDonald's/APIA Scholarship to provide financial support and opportunities to Asian and Pacific Islander American college students. Scholarships totaling a half-million dollars were awarded by McDonald's to 55 students across the country. Fifteen students, including Sultan, received four-year scholarships, while the remainder received one-year awards.



Sultan

PHILLIPS SCHOLARSHIP

Senior **Faith Alexis Parker** received the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Betty J. Phillips Scholarship, awarded through the PAGE Foundation. Parker, who is pursuing her Bachelor of Music Education in the Townsend School of Music, has committed to teach in Georgia for three years in exchange for receiving the \$1,000 scholarship.



Parker

MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Senior **McPherson Newell** was selected as a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship, which finances young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. Only as many as 50 Marshall Scholars are selected each year to study at the graduate level at a U.K. institution in any field of study. Newell, a biomedical engineering major from Augusta, has also been named a Goldwater Scholar, Newman Civic Fellow, Stamps Scholar and a finalist for the Truman Scholarship.



Newell

WOODROW WILSON FELLOW

Alumnus **Ryan McGuire** was named to the second class of Woodrow Wilson Pennsylvania Teaching Fellows, a highly competitive program that recruits recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in the STEM fields and prepares them to teach in high-need secondary schools. McGuire, from Kennesaw, began a master's degree program in education at the University of West Chester last fall. He earned his bachelor's degree, with a major in chemistry and minors in biology and economics, from Mercer in May 2020.



FACULTY & STAFF HONORS & RECOGNITION



BROWNBACK AND THITSA NAMED ALL-SOCON

Mercer was represented by **Matt Brownback**, assistant athletic director for student-athlete support services, and **Dr. Makhin Thitsa**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, on the All-Southern Conference Faculty and Staff Team, announced Dec. 17. Begun in 2016, the All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team consists of two individuals from each of the 10 member institutions who share the common characteristics of demonstrated service to the institution and contributions to campus life and the local community.



Brownback



Dr. Thitsa



Dr. Grant

GRANT RECEIVES FULBRIGHT AWARD TO UKRAINE

Dr. Chris Grant, professor and chair of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to Ukraine from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. He will use the award to conduct research and lecture at Kyiv Mohela Academy on the emergence of civil society in the former Soviet territory.

THOMAS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ACTC

Professor of Philosophy **Dr. Charlotte Thomas** was recently named executive director of the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), an international membership-driven professional organization dedicated to the improvement of liberal education through the use of core texts in commonly-taken undergraduate liberal arts courses. ACTC is one of a small handful of academic associations in the world working to temper the ever-increasing specialization of colleges and universities.



Dr. Thomas

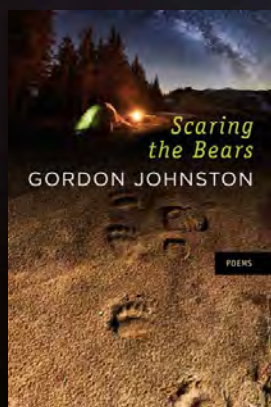


Dr. Cannon

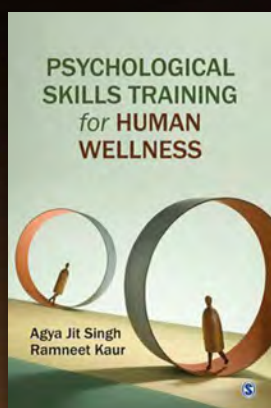
CANNON SELECTED FOR AMTE STaR PROGRAM

Tift College of Education faculty member **Dr. Susan Cannon** was recently selected to the Association of Mathematical Teacher Educators (AMTE) Service, Teaching and Research (STaR) Program. The STaR Program is an early career induction program for faculty in mathematics education with tenure track appointments at higher education institutions.

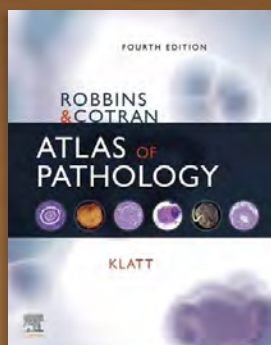
MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



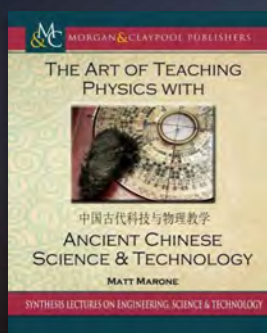
DR. GORDON JOHNSTON, professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *Scaring the Bears* (Mercer University Press). Wryly funny and earthy, these poems refuse to waste their troubles. They talk back to the dangers along the trail.



DR. RAMNEET KAUR, adjunct professor in the College of Professional Advancement, co-authored *Psychological Skills Training for Human Wellness* (SAGE Publications). The book provides a comprehensive reference to all aspects of PST and presents a holistic view of the subject area.



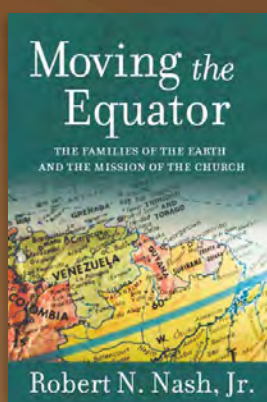
DR. EDWARD C. KLATT, professor of pathology in the School of Medicine, authored *The Robbins and Cotran Atlas of Pathology, 4th Ed.* (Elsevier Health Sciences). Designed to complement *Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th Ed.*, and *Robbins Basic Pathology, 10th Ed.*



DR. MATT MARONE, associate professor of physics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *The Art of Teaching Physics with Ancient Chinese Science and Technology* (Morgan and Claypool). Blending physics with the study of ancient Chinese science, technology, and culture is a unique and highly effective way to present the fundamentals of physics to non-science majors.



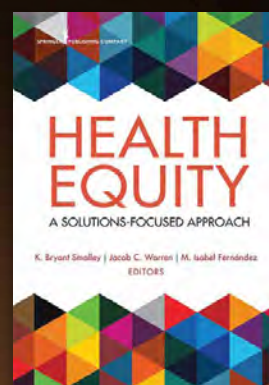
DR. LYDIA MASANET, professor of Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *Enhebradas* (Editorial Adarve). *Enhebradas* is a polyphonic of sixteen female voices at defining moments in their lives. Slivers of revelation explore a vast range of issues.



DR. ROBERT N. NASH JR., associate dean and professor of mission and comparative religion in the School of Theology, authored *Moving the Equator: The Families of the Earth and the Mission of the Church* (Smyth and Helwys Publishing). We inhabit a diverse world, but the full benefit of such a world is possible only if we overcome our fears of other cultures, religions and worldviews.



DR. MICHAEL L. RUFFIN, adjunct professor of religion in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *Praying with Matthew* (Smyth and Helwys Publishing). The Gospels bear witness to Jesus's earliest followers' remembrances of and the early Christians' understanding of his life and teachings.



DR. BRYANT SMALLEY, associate dean for research in the School of Medicine, and **DR. JACOB WARREN**, associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion in the School of Medicine, co-authored *Health Equity: A Solutions-Focused Approach* (Springer Publishing). *Health Equity* is a comprehensive textbook that illustrates existing conditions of health disparities across a range of populations.

WHAT DOES R2 MEAN FOR you ?

MERCER'S
HIGH RESEARCH
ACTIVITY RESULTS
IN NATIONAL
RECLASSIFICATION

By Kyle Sears

In December 2018, Mercer announced the University's most recent rise within the Carnegie Classification®, the leading system of recognizing and describing academic diversity within U.S. higher education institutions since 1973.



Tionna Burner,
senior, biochemistry and
molecular biology major

Among 30 categories, Mercer was elevated to the second-highest level — Doctoral University with High Research Activity (R2) — representing the University's second promotion within the classifications since 2014.

What Provost

Dr. D. Scott Davis called a “quantum leap” within the Carnegie Classification and the landscape of American higher education was the result of more than a decade of strategic planning to enhance the research profile of the University while maintaining the distinctive characteristics that have defined the Mercer experience for generations of alumni.

What is the Carnegie Classification?

The Carnegie Classification “is intended to be a descriptive taxonomy,” said Dr. Victor Borden, professor of higher education and student affairs at the University of Indiana and project director for the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

In the mid-2010s, the classifications were restructured to separate doctoral research universities from doctoral professional universities, which helped pave the way for Mercer's acceleration through three categories in a span of four years.

When the classifications were updated in 2015, Mercer was well above the thresholds for research Ph.D.s and expenditures to be considered a doctoral research university. By the next update in 2018, restructuring led to the University's elevation from the discontinued R3 (Doctoral University with Moderate Research Activity) category to R2.

By the numbers, Mercer's 12 research Ph.D.s awarded in 2008-09 had risen to 59 by 2016-17, which was the target year used for the 2018 update. The University had \$21.9 million in research expenditures in 2008-09 compared to \$34.2 million in 2016-17. This figure is projected

Mercer Research Expenditure Growth

\$49 million*
2019-20

\$21.9 million
2008-09



*Projected

to reach nearly \$50 million when the 2020 numbers are finalized.

The R1 (Doctoral University with Very High Research Activity) and R2 levels represent what the Carnegie Classification views as the country's 262 research institutions as of the most recent update.

"These are universities that have a strong focus on research that has national and international impact. They have the appropriate resources to provide opportunities to do a certain level of research in a variety of areas," said

Dr. Wayne Glasgow, Mercer's senior vice provost for research.

"These institutions are also significant players in terms of how many Ph.D.s they are producing. They are producing people who are well-equipped to be leaders in their fields, and they also have the appropriate faculty to serve as mentors to these doctoral-level students."

Dr. Borden emphasizes that the Carnegie Classification is not intended to indicate any measure of "quality, impact or other outcome." While terms like 'rise' are used to describe movement through the classifications, they are not designed to be a ranking of one institution over another. The classifications exist for "research and policy setting purposes," he said, though they have been "appropriated for other uses."

Such uses include annual rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report* and others, eligibility for particular types of state and federal funding and admission to certain research consortiums and organizations.

In many ways, the Carnegie Classification serves as a stamp of approval not just for the aforementioned opportunities but for Mercer



Dr. Wayne Glasgow Senior Vice Provost for Research

students applying to master's and doctoral programs.

"Mercer has always had a good reputation for our undergraduate students matriculating to graduate schools across the nation," said Dr. Davis. "Being at the R2 level allows even easier access for those students in that they've received that personalized undergraduate experience that they can't get at other schools and it's happening at a national research university."

R2 status also serves as a recruiting tool for professors, sending a message to prospective faculty members that "You'll be able to accomplish all you want to accomplish, and you'll be competitive for high-level grants," said Dr. Glasgow.

'We're really fulfilling our mission'

High research activity "cuts across" all seven tenants of Mercer's mission to teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower and to serve, said Dr. Glasgow. "It gives us an opportunity to create original ideas and be involved in discovery, not just learning about what other people have done."

Mercer's rise in the Carnegie Classification is a result of a strategic, intentional process that has seen the University's research expenditures incrementally rise from \$18 million to almost \$50 million over the last dozen years.

Simultaneously, University leadership has identified ways in which to draw upon Mercer's long-held strengths while expanding its research portfolio.

Examples include interdisciplinary majors like neuroscience as well as biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) that are research-intensive while leaning into Mercer's emphasis on undergraduate education. Mercer On Mission draws upon the University's service ethos while carrying out life-changing research across the globe. Additionally, the School of Medicine's foundational mission to provide physicians and health care professionals for rural and underserved Georgia has resulted in Mercer becoming a national leader with its Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities, one of only two rural-focused National Institutes of Health (NIH) Centers of Excellence in the U.S. The medical school also houses the Georgia Rural Health



Dr. Kevin Bucholtz Director of Undergraduate Research

Dr. Scott Davis Provost



Innovation Center, established in 2018 by state lawmakers to address the health-related challenges and disparities facing Georgia's rural communities.

For these reasons and more, Mercer's growing research profile is a product of decades of distinctive programming and institutional values that have defined what it means to be a Mercerian.

"A lot of graduates were integral in this process. It didn't happen overnight with one researcher or one program," said

Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, professor of chemistry and director of undergraduate research. "We don't get this growth without the students — whether they participated in undergraduate research, Mercer On Mission, a graduate program or service learning — and they should be proud."

"Mercer alumni are part of an institution that is considered one of the top research institutions in the country," added Dr. Glasgow. "Our faculty and students are engaged in research that is solving important problems in society. We're getting funding from the highest levels. Our graduates are equipped to be leaders in research fields with national and international recognition. We're really fulfilling our mission."

A balancing act

For some institutions, climbing the ladder of the Carnegie Classification has its pitfalls. Funneling resources into research can create deficiencies elsewhere.

Mercer is committed to maintaining

“It gives us an opportunity to create original ideas and be involved in discovery.”

its uniqueness — particularly its focus on undergraduate education — while being recognized as a top research university nationally.

“A lot of institutions that grew into doctoral-level research institutions sacrificed that individualized undergraduate experience, particularly as it relates to research,” said Dr. Davis. “We’re committed to not doing that.”

Undergraduate research is not an easy undertaking for faculty, who must work around the busy schedules of undergrads as opposed to having full-time graduate-level research assistants.

In spite of these challenges, the University makes a promise when recruiting prospective students that they will receive individualized opportunities with faculty to do research.



“Undergraduate research is very fulfilling, and we hire faculty who want to be a part of that,” said Dr. Davis. “The vast majority of them did undergraduate research so they want to perpetuate what they experienced. When we interview candidates for positions, one of the things we focus on is that they understand that balance and how important it is to us.”

At Mercer, the classroom experience is just as important as the research experience.

“We don’t separate the scholarship from the teaching — it’s just kind of embedded in what we do,” said Dr. Bucholtz. “What we are looking for is great teachers and at the same time great researchers. It goes hand in hand. Staying vibrant in our scholarship makes us more dynamic teachers.”

The University’s commitment to this balance is supported by how it allocates resources to research.

“We try to focus on the students first, and when appropriate we do as much as we can with researchers to get projects started, collect preliminary data for grant applications and travel to present their work,” said Dr. Bucholtz. “As an institution, there’s a commitment to research and a culture of getting research done and valuing research.”

The business of transforming lives

Mercer’s promotion within the Carnegie Classification has put the University in the same discussions as the top research institutions in the country.

The fruits of those discussions — whether they be postgraduate opportunities for students or research grants for faculty — will likely be the biggest impacts of the University’s rising profile.

“On a day-to-day basis, I don’t think things are going to change much,” said Dr. Bucholtz. “We got here because we were doing the right things. It’s simply a validation that what we’re doing is working.”

Mercer’s R2 status is “the natural evolution of the University,” said Dr. Davis. “It’s the trajectory we want to be on in that we want to have an expanded research presence from the undergraduate program all the way through the graduate, professional and doctoral programs.”



Above, Kayla Kelley, senior chemistry major, will attend the School of Medicine in the fall after working in the research lab of Professor of Pharmacology Dr. Kristen Ashley Horner for two years as an undergrad. Kelley has contributed to Dr. Horner’s research studying neural pathways involved in methamphetamine addiction.

Left, Dr. Joshua Rodefer, assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is pictured in the lab with neuroscience majors Maddie Runion (left) and Jimmy Jian (center).

The importance of research, said Dr. Glasgow, is as apparent now as ever, living in the midst of a pandemic where infectious disease researchers are playing a critical role in society. “Here’s a problem. What’s the solution? — that should be what all universities are about.”

This fundamental commitment to problem-solving is what makes Mercer a place where everyone majors in changing the world.

“Mercer is a university that’s constantly evolving, constantly aspiring to be better, not in one particular sector but across the entire institution,” said Dr. Davis. “At the same time, we’re trying to maintain that unique character that alumni experienced decades ago that transformed their lives.

“That’s what we’re in the business of doing — transforming lives — and we do it while balancing the research agenda of the University and respecting the value of high-quality research.”

OPPORTUNITIES SET
MERCER STUDENTS
APART AND **AHEAD** FOR
THEIR **FUTURES**

UNDERGR RESEARCH

By Andrea Honaker

M

aïson Clouatre has published four research papers, presented at conferences as far away as France, and is part of a team developing new traffic control algorithms for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) ... and he's only a junior at Mercer. An electrical engineering and math double-major, he joined the research lab of engineering professor **Dr. Makhin Thitsa** the first semester >>



A D U A T E

Maison Cloutre,
junior, electrical engineering
and math double-major

of his freshman year and has worked on a number of cutting-edge, advanced research projects since then.

Opportunities like this are not uncommon for undergraduate students at Mercer. They are encouraged to get involved in research early, and not just as observers.

“A lot of schools work with undergraduates, but

I think what really separates us here is the undergraduates are participating and leading research that is producing novel discoveries. That’s in all disciplines,” said **Dr. Kevin Bucholtz**, professor of chemistry and director of undergraduate research at Mercer.

Almost all departments in Mercer’s undergraduate colleges have research courses in their catalog, and some academic tracks like the engineering honors program require students to complete research projects. Students are also welcome to get involved in research outside of their class requirements.

More and more Mercer students are taking advantage of the opportunities at their fingertips. From the 2009-2010 academic year to 2019-2020, the number of undergraduates enrolled in research-based courses increased 162%, according to a report from Dr. Bucholtz. In 2019, 32% of Mercer’s graduating seniors had participated in at least one designated research course.

In addition, the number of students who presented their research at regional and national conferences increased 242% over the past decade.

Setting the standard

Many Mercer researchers don’t have access to graduate students, so they rely on the participation of undergraduates to help advance their research goals, Dr. Bucholtz said.

Physics professor

Dr. Frank McNally has two to four students do data analysis with him each semester for the international



Above, Dr. Makhin Thitsa, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, School of Engineering, is pictured with former students Runyu Cai (left) and Zac Rice (right), both of whom won the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship.

Right, Luke Jones, senior, neuroscience major



IceCube Collaboration. Mercer is one of 53 institutions in 12 countries that make up the collaboration, which is measuring data from a detector buried deep in the ice in Antarctica. Last year, Mercer was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for the project.

“Research is a really collaborative exercise. It involves a lot of different skills,” he said. “Showing students what research really is and that they could do it in a meaningful way as undergraduates opens up a lot of potential doors for them.”

Each semester, at least one undergraduate student works in the lab of **Dr. Kristen Ashley Horner**, a pharmacology professor in the School of Medicine. She currently has eight students involved in a project to study neural pathways that contribute to meth addiction, which is funded by a \$500,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant.

Similarly, Dr. Thitsa, an electrical and computer engineering professor, normally mentors one or two students at a time in

her research lab, but she currently has nine students helping with a GDOT-funded project to effectively control traffic and coordinate traffic signals at the new diverging diamond interchanges.

The projects they are working on are quite advanced, said Dr. Thitsa, who over the last five years has mentored three engineering students who have been awarded highly competitive Goldwater Scholarships, the nation’s most prestigious STEM scholarship for undergraduate students. She collaborates with faculty from Georgia Tech and MIT, and her students go head-to-head with the Ph.D. and postdoctoral students on those teams.

“There’s something really special going on at Mercer. We recruit our very bright, talented undergraduate students, and they get to take leading roles in these projects,” she said. “When I have them onboard to work on my projects, I don’t treat them as undergraduate students. I have very high expectations of them, and they know that. I push their limits, and they push their own limits. We are putting the standard of research very high for the undergraduate students.”

Students who can do this level of quality research have endless opportunities, whether they go on to Ph.D. programs or into the industry, she said.

“It really sets students up for future success,” Dr. Horner said. “For a student interested in pursuing a career in research, it’s crucial for them to have that experience as an undergrad. For students going into medicine, it’s important to see what happens before you go to the clinic and the patient.”



Dr. Kristen Ashley Horner,
professor of pharmacology,
School of Medicine

Fostering a love of science

Research opportunities ultimately led Clouatre, one of Dr. Thitsa's Goldwater Scholars, to choose Mercer over other prestigious institutions to which he had been accepted. As a high school student, he was familiar with Dr. Thitsa's work and contacted her, and she expressed a willingness to work with him if he came to the University.

"I knew that I wanted to be involved in this undergraduate research, and if I went to a larger school or one without Mercer's reputation for including undergraduate students, I wouldn't have had that opportunity," he said. "Every

single one of my peers who wants to be in a research lab is in one. While they must first express that interest to a faculty member, at Mercer there is always space for an interested student to be involved in the research of their choosing."

Under the wing of Dr. Thitsa, Clouatre has tackled a number of unique research projects related to control theory, including work with high-power laser microscope systems, traffic control networks, quadrotor drones and autonomous cars. Clouatre said he wouldn't be the researcher that he is without an adviser like Dr. Thitsa who welcomed and encouraged his ideas. His goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in engineering related to control theory.

"He is going to be somebody who is going to do great things," Dr. Thitsa said. "He works extremely hard, and it's such a joy to work with those students, because we feed off of each other's energy. They say I motivate them and inspire them but, from my point of view, they inspire me."

Discovering passions

These early research experiences sometimes change the trajectory of students' careers and open their eyes to new opportunities.



Above,
Dr. Emilianne Limbrick
(right), assistant
professor of chemistry,
College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences, and
Shailey Shah, senior,
biochemistry and
molecular biology major

Right, Professor of
Chemistry Kevin Bucholtz
(center) serves as
director of undergraduate
research at Mercer.



Alumni **Dr. Leslie Aldrich** and **Dr. Andrew Jones** entered Mercer wanting to be doctors but decided to go in different directions.

Dr. Aldrich, a 2008 graduate in chemistry, worked with **Dr. Alan Smith** in the biology department to develop a procedure for the detection of tick-borne illnesses during her sophomore year and contributed to an organic synthesis project with Dr. Bucholtz her junior and senior years.

"I was originally on the pre-med track, and these research experiences changed my mind, in a good way," she said. "They gave me the opportunity to think about what I am passionate about and what's most important to me. What I realized by doing undergraduate research is that basic science and research can help improve human health, and that's what I felt like was more of my calling."

Dr. Aldrich went on to earn a Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University and complete a postdoctoral fellowship with Harvard University and the Broad Institute. She fell in love with organic chemistry as a student at Mercer, and now she teaches it at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She also runs a lab that studies a cellular process called autophagy.

"The faculty at Mercer create this delicate balance between this one-on-one mentorship and giving you challenging projects that allow you to work independently," Dr. Aldrich said. "This really enabled me to learn how to deal with failure but also deal with complex problems that may not have an immediate answer. The way the professors would design projects and classes provided additional opportunities to hone your skills."

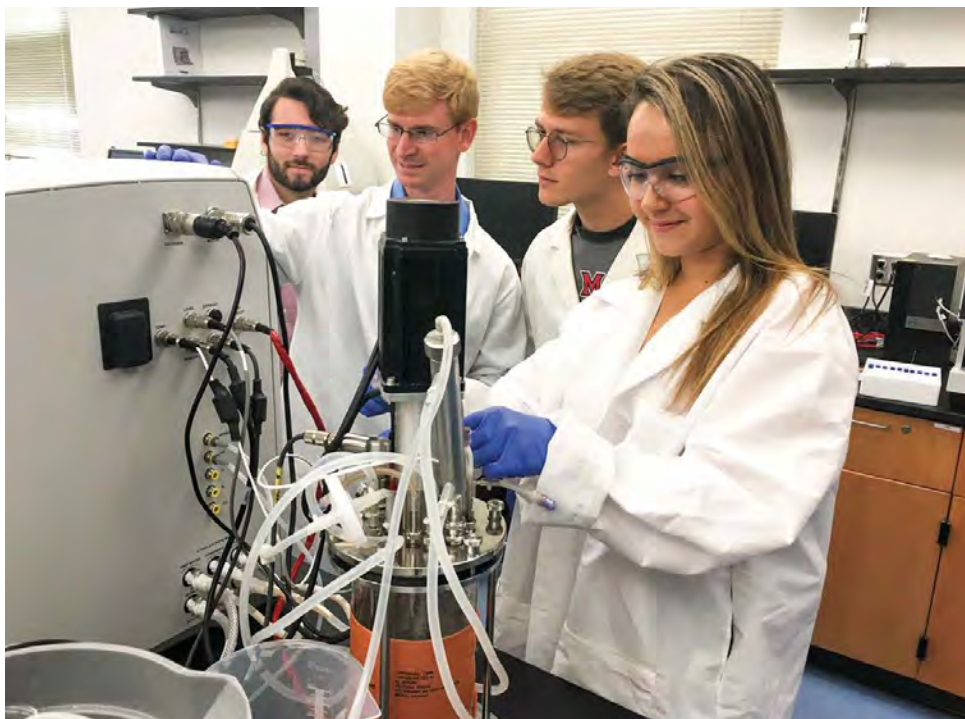
Dr. Jones, who graduated in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in

engineering and a master's degree in environmental engineering, found his interest piqued by biological research after assisting on a project his sophomore year with **Dr. Michael Horst** in the School of Medicine.

After a Mercer On Mission trip to Mozambique, he completed a water treatment analysis project with chemistry professor **Dr. Adam Kiefer**. He also worked on a solar distillation unit to purify saltwater and a project related to the removal of fluoride from groundwater with **Dr. Laura Lackey**, now dean of the School of Engineering. These experiences led him to want to pursue a Ph.D. in chemical and biological engineering, which he earned at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"These research experiences are the reason I ended up where I am today," said Dr. Jones, who is now an engineering professor at Miami University in Ohio and runs a metabolic engineering research lab. "I came into Mercer wanting to be a medical doctor. What I learned is that I have a passion for discovery. ... I credit the one-on-one direct mentoring I received from several Mercer faculty members as a model for my current lab."

As he strives to impact the world outside of academia with his research, translating novel discoveries into technologies that directly improve human health, Dr. Jones said Mercer's "Research That Reaches Out" mantra resonates with him. The tagline, coined in 2014, perfectly captures what has come to be known as a hallmark of the Mercer experience — the ability for all students to participate in high-impact research focused on real-world problems.



Top, Alumna Dr. Leslie Aldrich, CLAS '08, fell in love with organic chemistry as an undergraduate at Mercer and went on to earn her Ph.D. and complete a postdoctoral fellowship with Harvard University and the Broad Institute.

Above, Alumnus Dr. Andrew Jones (second from right), EGR '12, developed an interest in biological research as an undergraduate researcher and participant in a Mercer On Mission program to Mozambique. He earned a Ph.D. in chemical and biological engineering and is now an engineering professor at Miami University in Ohio.

ROOKIE OF

Former Bear

KYLE LEWIS



becomes first Mercerian to win Rookie of the Year honors

By a unanimous vote, former Mercer outfielder **Kyle Lewis** was named the 2020 American League Rookie of the Year in recognition of his breakout season with the Seattle Mariners.

Lewis becomes just the fourth Georgia-born player to win the prestigious honor and the second player from a Georgia university to

win the honor. The last Georgia-born player to win the award was Buster Posey (Leesburg), while the only other collegiate player from a Georgia university was Nomar Garciaparra (Georgia Tech).

"We are extremely proud and happy for Kyle," said his former head coach **Craig Gibson**. "His contributions were a pivotal part of the Mariners success this season, and it has been a joy to watch. Kyle is an outstanding baseball player and even a better person. He is a great representative of Mercer, and

I am glad to see him having success in Major League Baseball. He is just starting to scratch the surface of his potential."

The other unanimous choices: Carlton Fisk, Mark McGwire, Sandy Alomar Jr., Tim Salmon, Derek Jeter, Nomar Garciaparra, Evan Longoria, Mike Trout, Jose Abreu, Aaron Judge and Yordan Alvarez. There have been 13 unanimous winners in the National League.

This marks the fourth time a Seattle player has been honored. The others

THIRTY-ONE YEAR

were Alvin Davis in 1984, Kazuhiro Sasaki in 2000 and Ichiro Suzuki in 2001.

Lewis, who was the only player named on every ballot, is the seventh centerfielder to win the AL award, joining Mike Trout, Carlos Beltran, Fred Lynn, Tommie Agee, Bob Allison and Albie Pearson. There have been eight centerfielders who won in the NL.

The 25-year-old centerfielder played in 58 games for the Mariners and became just the second rookie since 1969 — joining the A's Mark McGwire in 1987 — to lead his team in batting average (.262), home

runs (11), runs (37) and walks (34). His FanGraphs WAR (1.7), runs, walks and total bases (90) led all AL rookies, and he finished second in hits (54) and RBIs (28) and fourth in stolen bases (five).

With his dynamic play, including some highlight-reel home run robberies at the wall, Lewis, a first-round pick in the 2016 MLB Draft, gave Seattle a spark. He became the first Mariners player to win the Rookie of the Year honor since Suzuki in 2001.

In his first at-bat of the 2020 campaign, Lewis hit a home run off Justin Verlander. The next night, he followed with an opposite-field home run. Late in the season,

Lewis took a grand slam away from Ramon Laureano of the Oakland Athletics in a robbery that reminded Mariners fans of Ken Griffey Jr.

Lewis is the most decorated student-athlete in Mercer history. In June 2016, he won the Golden Spikes Award, given annually to the top amateur baseball player in the country. He also became the highest pick in Mercer and Southern Conference history, being selected 11th overall by the Mariners in the MLB Draft.

In his final year at Mercer, the Snellville native led the Bears to their second-consecutive SoCon regular-season title and a seventh-straight season with at least 35 wins. In addition to his 20 homers and 72 RBI, he ranked in the top-five nationally in walks (66), on-base percentage (.535) and runs (70) and in the top-15 nationally in batting average (.395). These numbers earned him recognition as a consensus All-America first-team selection, Baseball America National Player of the Year, American Baseball Coaches Association Player of the Year and Dick Howser Trophy semifinalist. He was also named the SoCon Player of the Year for the second straight season.

50

YEARS OF **MERCER** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MERCER
WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL
CELEBRATED
50 YEARS OF
COMPETITION
DURING THE
2020-21 SEASON.

Throughout the last half-century, the Bears have collected multiple championship banners, including nine regular season conference titles and seven tournament crowns. Mercer has also won two regional tournaments and has been to the postseason 14 times.

1970s The program's inaugural season came at the beginning of the decade in 1970-71, and it did not take long for the Bears to find success on the court, winning their first-ever game, 45-23, over Wesleyan. Two years later, the 1972-73 team was commended by the Georgia Senate for going 18-3, winning the Region III Tournament, defeating fourth-ranked Mississippi State College, earning a top-16 ranking nationally, participating in the Women's National Basketball Tournament at Queens College in Flushing, New York, and winning the Southern Women's Athletic Conference championship the year prior. One of the most notable victories in Mercer's history came on Dec. 7, 1974, when the Bears earned an 84-83 road victory at Tennessee in the Volunteers' first year under Hall of Fame coach Pat Summitt.

Throughout the first 10 years of the program, Mercer posted its most wins (190) and highest winning percentage (.742) in any decade. Mercer had a winning record in eight of the 10 seasons, while boasting a winning percentage of at least .800 five times. The Bears also documented the highest winning percentage in school history at .955 (21-1) in the 1971-72 season. The 1979-80 team was one of the greatest offensive teams Mercer has ever had, setting

single-season team records in points scored (3,139), points per game (89.5), field goals made (1,309), free throws made (514), rebounds (1,631) and assists (598), all without the benefit of the three-point line. The Bears earned regular season titles in both the Southern Women's Athletic Conference (1971-72) and the Georgia Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (1979-80). Mercer also collected seven tournament titles throughout its first 10 seasons.

1980s The Bears achieved numerous milestones as a program throughout the '80s, including their 200th win on Jan. 24, 1981, in a 96-63 victory at Albany State and their 300th win Feb. 20, 1989, against Florida International, 67-62. Mercer was under the direction of **Ed Nixon** throughout the entirety of the 1980s. He is one of three coaches in the program's 50 years to win at least 100 games, ranking third at 115. He also ranks second in most games coached at 281.

The 1984-85 team found national success on a level the program had never experienced before, reaching the NCAA Division II Tournament. The late '80s and early '90s brought in a dynamic pair of players in **Andrea Congreaves** and **Stephany Raines**. Congreaves patrolled the hardwood of Porter Gym from 1989-1993, setting still-standing program records in points scored, field goals made and field goal percentage.

Congreaves was supported by Raines, Mercer's all-time leader in career assists (851), during two championship seasons.

1990s During the 1990-91 season, the duo of Congreaves and Raines opened the season against perennial powerhouse Old Dominion on the road under the guidance of first-year head coach **Lea Henry**. The Bears walked out of Norfolk, Virginia, victorious after a 74-71 win and carried the momentum to 18-9 overall and 10-2 conference records. Congreaves led the nation in scoring at 33 points per contest. By season's end the first New South Women's Athletic Conference banner in program history adorned the rafters of Porter Gym.

The 1991-92 Bears clinched a share of the regular-season conference title yet again, this time sharing with Florida International in Mercer's first year as a member of the Trans America Athletic Conference. The Bears posted their only 20-win season of the decade in 1991-92, going 20-8 with Congreaves (31 points per game) leading the NCAA in scoring once again. She won her second Conference Player of the Year award and set the stage for her selection to the Kodak All-America Team in 1993.

The Orange and Black only posted two more winning seasons in the '90s, both under the direction of **Billy Holmes**. Holmes coached six different 1,000-point club members, and Mercer



The 1970-71 team that played the inaugural women's basketball season.



The 1973-74 team was among the early Mercer teams that notched several impressive victories.

Vivian Humphrey helped lead the 1979-80 team to wins over Auburn, Florida State (twice), Georgia, Georgia Tech (twice) and Pittsburgh.



One of the most noted players in Mercer women's basketball history is Kodak All-American Andrea Congreaves.



1970s / 1980s

50 YEARS OF MERCER

added the program's 400th win on Dec. 15, 1997, in a 77-45 victory over Brewton-Parker.

2000s The 2000s was a decade of change for the Bears as the Trans America Athletic Conference transformed into the Atlantic Sun Conference. This rebrand coincided with the departure of head coach Billy Holmes following the 2000-01 season. He was the first of five coaches for Mercer in the decade followed by **Sharon Baldwin** (2001-02), **Brenda Welch-Nichols** (2002-06), **Sybil Blalock** (2006-07) and **Janell Jones** (2007-10).

The Bears earned a pair of major awards from the conference during the decade, starting in 2002 when Baldwin was named the ASUN Coach of the Year. She led Mercer to a record of 16-13 in her only season, including a 12-8 mark in conference play.

Courtney Ford added the program's first Defensive Player of the Year honor in 2009-10 as she set the program's single-season steals record with 98.

Mercer recorded win No. 500 in a 61-57 victory over ETSU on Jan. 28, 2006. The decade saw four players hit the 1,000-point mark in their careers in **Tracy Henry** (1998-02), **April Dyer** (1999-03), **Sarah Russell** (2003-08) and **LaToya Jackson** (2007-10).

2010s The dawn of a new era began in the 2010-11 season when the Bears hired **Susie Gardner**, who is in the midst of her 11th year as head

coach, the longest tenure in program history. She holds program coaching records for wins (188) and games coached (333). Mercer returned to prominence in just her third season (2012-13), posting a 20-12 overall record and the program's first 20-win season since 1991-92. The Orange & Black went 13-5 during ASUN Conference play, setting a program record for most league wins in a single season. Mercer capped off the season by earning the No. 1 seed in the 2013 Women's Basketball Invitational for its first appearance in a nationally sponsored postseason tournament since 1985.

The Bears notched their second 20-win season in three years during the 2014-15 campaign, the program's first in the Southern Conference. Mercer registered its second WBI appearance, advancing to the semifinals. In addition, Mercer recorded a 46-39 win over SEC foe Alabama for the Bears' first win over an SEC opponent since Dec. 19, 1981. The 2014-15 season also featured Mercer's next dynamic duo, **Kahlia Lawrence** and **Sydni Means**. Lawrence led all Southern Conference freshmen in scoring with 13.4 points per game and was named 2015 SoCon Freshman of the Year.

The following season, a young Mercer team tallied a 24-9 record. The Bears notched a SoCon regular season championship, an appearance in the SoCon Tournament Championship game and a WNIT berth. Lawrence and newcomer **Linnea Rosendal** were named Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year, respectively.

In 2016-17, the Bears notched 25 wins, setting a new program record for most victories in the NCAA Division I era. Lawrence



The 1990-91 team upset Old Dominion on the road and then claimed the championship of the New South Women's Athletic Conference.



Head coach Billy Holmes and assistant coach Sybil Blalock prepare for a game during the 2000-2001 season.

1990s / 2000s

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

was named Georgia Women's College Player of the Year, as well as SoCon Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. Means ranked third nationally in assist/turnover ratio. The duo guided Mercer to its third WNIT berth after claiming the SoCon regular season title for the second straight year.

The 2017-18 season saw a rising Mercer program achieve new heights with program records of 27 consecutive victories and 30 overall wins. The Bears finished 14-0 in league play and won conference regular season and tournament titles for the first time in program history. The Bears earned the SoCon's automatic bid to the Big Dance, marking the first NCAA Division I appearance in program history. Lawrence was named SoCon Player of the Year for the third consecutive season. Meanwhile, Means capped off an astonishing career, ranking second in career assists (686) and steals (246). The team's win over Chattanooga on Jan. 27 marked Gardner's 134th victory with the Bears to make her the winningest coach in program history. The season also saw the rise of **KeKe Calloway** into a perimeter threat. She grabbed the nation's attention with an NCAA record-tying 12 three pointers against Furman on Jan. 6. Calloway set both a Mercer and SoCon record with 99 threes in a single season, while also taking over the top spot in program history with 219 career treys.

The Bears carried that success over into the next season as they earned their fourth-consecutive SoCon regular season championship and second-straight SoCon Tournament crown. The 2018-19 squad

finished with a 25-8 record for its sixth 20-win campaign in seven seasons. Mercer swept its way through the Southern Conference for the second year in a row, going 14-0 in conference play as part of a 17-game winning streak. **Amanda Thompson** and Calloway shared SoCon Player of the Year honors. Thompson was named SoCon Female Athlete of the Year across all sports, and Calloway was recognized as the Most Outstanding Player in the conference tournament. Gardner was recognized as the Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season and third time in the last four years. The senior quintet of Calloway, Rosendal, **Rachel Selph**, Thompson and **Ally Welch** closed out their careers as the winningest four-year class in program history, accumulating a record of 104-27. Mercer returned to the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row, and nearly knocked off No. 2 seed Iowa in the first round.

Another key piece to the 2018-19 team was **Shannon Titus**, who added a third ring to her collection as a senior this spring. In her transition from a role player to a focal point, she became the 27th member of the program's 1,000-point club and is the only player in program history with at least 100 blocks and 150 steals. In 2019-20, she earned conference Defensive Player of the Year honors after becoming the first player in the team's 50 years, as well as the only player in Division I, to record 50 or more blocks and 75 or more steals.



Head coach Susie Gardner, her assistant coaches and players, and Mercer fans celebrate claiming a Southern Conference Tournament championship.

Kahlia Lawrence, one of the most dynamic players in Mercer women's basketball history, was the SoCon Player of the Year multiple times and also named the Georgia Women's College Player of the Year for the 2016-2017 season.

The 2017-2018 team will be remembered as the squad with a record 27 consecutive victories, 14-0 in conference play, winning the regular season and tournament championship and earning a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.



2010s

2021 SoC



BACK ON TOP! MERCER CLAIMS 2021 SOCON CROWN

The Mercer women's basketball team captured its third Southern Conference Tournament Championship in the last four years with a 60-38 victory over No. 4 Wofford at Harrah's Cherokee Center in Asheville, North Carolina, on March 7.

With the win, the Bears earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament, securing the automatic bid from the SoCon.



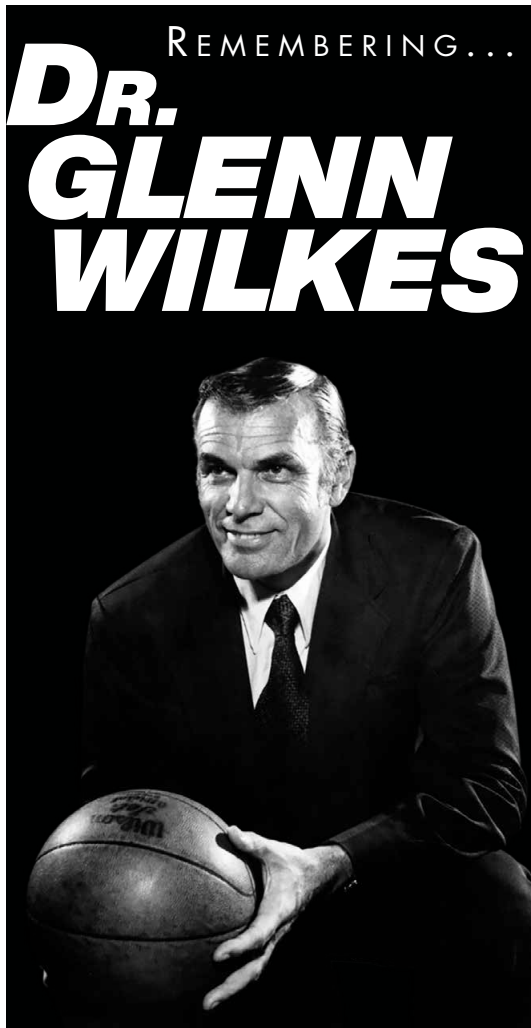
Mercer led wire-to-wire in the title game and held the Terriers to just 38 points to set a new SoCon Championship Game record. The Orange and Black also posted the largest margin of victory in the title game since 2014.

The Bears prevented any of the Terriers from reaching double figures in scoring while limiting Wofford to just 24.5% (13-of-53) from the field, marking the third time this season Mercer held its opposition below 25% from the floor.

Three Bears scored double figures in the game, led by **Jaron Dougherty's**

game-high 19 points. **Amoria Neal-Tysor** added 16 points of her own, while **Jada Lewis** chimed in with 13 points.

Neal-Tysor was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, averaging 25.7 points over three games while shooting 45.3% (29-of-64) from the field and 40.7% (11-of-27) from 3-point range. The Sanford, North Carolina, native scored 27 points against Western Carolina in the quarterfinals before going off for a career-high 34 versus Furman in the semifinals.



REMEMBERING... **DR. GLENN WILKES**

GLENN WILKES, CLAS '50, of Deland, Florida, died Nov. 21, 2020, one week shy of his 92nd birthday. Wilkes played basketball and earned his bachelor's degree from Mercer in 1950. He eventually went on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees at George Peabody College (now a part of Vanderbilt University).

During his career at Mercer, Wilkes totaled 1,738 points, which still stands as the fifth-highest in career total in school history. During the 1949-50 season, Wilkes averaged 24.2 points per game and his career scoring average of 18.3 points per game is tied for fifth in Mercer's history. He was the first Mercer athlete to have his jersey retired in March 1950.

Despite earning the esteemed title of "Dr. Wilkes," he was most proud to be called "Coach." He is best known as the long-time men's basketball coach at Stetson University and as the founder of the Glenn Wilkes Basketball School.

He was a mentor, lover of the arts, writer and storyteller who wrote many books. Wilkes was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014. He was a generous supporter of Mercer Athletics.

Jack Raines

Awarded NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship

First-team Academic All-American **JACK RAINES** was one of only 21 male student-athletes nationwide to be awarded a 2020-21 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

The NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship is a highly selective award bestowed on only 42 student-athletes (21 male and 21 female) from each sports season (fall, winter, spring) across all three NCAA Divisions. Awardees include student-athletes who have excelled academically and athletically and have demonstrated superior service and leadership.

Raines is currently working for UPS in Atlanta in a corporate finance role. After graduating from Mercer, he was accepted into Columbia University's MBA program, which he plans to begin in 2022.

A first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American in 2019, Raines is a three-time Academic All-SoCon performer and four-time SoCon Academic Honor Roll selection, earning the Commissioner's Medal all four years for posting a GPA of 3.8 or higher, including a 4.0 GPA in three of four years. He finished his undergraduate career with a 3.99 grade-point average, completing the University Honors Program curriculum and graduating *summa cum laude*.

A double-major in finance and Spanish at Mercer, Raines is a member of Columbia Business School's first deferred enrollment class, which will allow him to enter the workforce for two to four years before enrolling to complete his MBA.

NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, worth \$10,000 each, are awarded to student-athletes who intend to pursue advanced degrees in graduate or professional school based on an evaluation of their academics, athletics and community service.



Jack Raines, CLAS '20, No. 57



Mercer University

HOMECOMING

NOVEMBER 12-13 | 2021

Save the Date

We look forward to seeing you again!
Mark your calendar and watch for
registration details in late summer.



Featured events will include the 9th Annual Alumni Career Speaker Series; recognition of the Classes of 1970/1971, 1980/1981, 1990/1991, 1995/1996, 2000/2001 and 2010/2011; 6th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner; 50th and 51st Class Reunion Dinner; Half Century Club Luncheon; campus-wide tailgating; Mercer Bears football game vs. Chattanooga Mocs...and much more!

View photos from past Homecoming celebrations at homecoming.mercer.edu.

Mercer is committed to providing a safe Homecoming experience for all attendees. We are carefully monitoring the pandemic situation and its potential impact on our plans. Please check homecoming.mercer.edu for the latest updates on Homecoming 2021.

MEDICINE

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE BREAKS GROUND ON **NEW** **CAMPUS IN COLUMBUS**

Mercer held a groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 3 at the site of its new medical school campus in Uptown Columbus on the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

The University's relocation and expansion of its Columbus campus, first announced in May 2019, will enable the School of Medicine to increase the campus' enrollment to 240 M.D. students over the next several years, eventually equaling the size of its campuses in Macon and Savannah.

Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp, Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan and House Speaker David Ralston were among the dignitaries who attended the Sept. 3 groundbreaking for the School of Medicine's new campus in Columbus.





MUSM student Chelsea Lee, Dean Dr. Jean Sumner, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Ben West, former Clay County hospital nursing assistant Leroy Peterson, Fort Gaines Mayor Barry Waters, State Rep. Gerald Greene (R-Cuthbert), Mercer President William D. Underwood and MUSM student Nikki Catt participate in the ribbon-cutting for Mercer Medicine Clay County on Nov. 12.

MERCER MEDICINE HOLDS RIBBON- CUTTING FOR **NEW RURAL HEALTH CLINIC** IN **FORT GAINES**

Mercer Medicine Clay County on Nov. 12 celebrated a ribbon-cutting at its offices, which opened earlier in November at 101 Hartford Rd. West, Suite 1, in Fort Gaines. The 4,885-square-foot clinic is located at the site of the county's former hospital facility and is adjacent to the public health department. The facility was refurbished with a grant from the OneGeorgia Authority in addition to local contributions.

MEDICINE PROFESSORS RECEIVE **\$1 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO COMBAT OPIOID OVERDOSE** IN RURAL NORTH GEORGIA

School of Medicine professors **Bryant Smalley**, Ph.D., and **Jacob Warren**, Ph.D., received a \$1 million grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration for a comprehensive prevention, treatment and recovery initiative to combat opioid overdose in a four-county region of rural North Georgia. The grant builds upon prior work that established the North Georgia Opioid Prevention and Education Network, a multi-sector consortium focused on the prevention of opioid use disorder and opioid overdose in Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon and Polk counties.



Dr. Smalley



Dr. Warren

MUSM, NORTH CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT RECEIVE \$600K GRANT TO PROVIDE RAPID ANTIRETROVIRAL HIV/AIDS THERAPY

The School of Medicine's Department of Community Medicine and the North Central Health District's COMPASS Cares Community Pharmacy and Health Innovation Center were

awarded a \$600,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration as part of the Special Projects of National Significance Program. COMPASS Cares' HOPE Center, a comprehensive, Ryan White-supported health clinic in Macon for people living with HIV/AIDS, is one of 10 sites nationally selected for this award. Funding will support a multidisciplinary team-focused intervention to provide Rapid Initiation of Therapy to clients who are new to care and newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.



TAYLOR NAMED DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF PRACTICE

David Taylor, PT, DPT, GCS, clinical associate professor of physical therapy in Mercer's College of Health Professions, was named a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice. The National Academies of Practice advance interprofessional health care by fostering collaboration and advocating policies in the best interest of individuals and communities.



Dr. Taylor

MEDICINE FACULTY RECEIVE \$407K NIH GRANT FOR HERPESVIRUS RESEARCH

School of Medicine faculty members **Robert Visalli**, Ph.D., and **Melissa Visalli**, M.S.Ed., were recently awarded a \$407,629 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Enhancement Award (R15) to support development of a first-of-its-kind antiviral drug for human herpesvirus. The grant proposal, titled "Targeting the Structurally Conserved Portal Protein as a Strategy to Develop a First-In-Class Broad-Spectrum Herpesvirus Antiviral Drug, PORT 1," was funded through the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) as a Research Enhancement Program (REAP) award.



Dr. Melissa Visalli



Dr. Robert Visalli

PHARMACY RECEIVES NIH GRANT TO DEVELOP TREATMENTS TO COUNTERACT EFFECTS OF ARSENICALS-BASED CHEMICAL WARFARE

The College of Pharmacy's **Ajay Banga**, Ph.D., received funding from the National Institutes of Health CounterAct Program to develop topical treatments to help combat suffering and death from arsenicals-based

chemical warfare agents. Dr. Banga and his research team will develop topical spray and other formulations of 4-phenylbutyric acid, a compound used for the treatment of urea cycle disorders where ammonia builds up in the blood stream, and N-acetylcysteine, used to counteract acetaminophen overdose. His laboratory will test both compounds individually and in combination on skin from human cadavers. Decontamination studies also will be done in the Mercer lab using a surrogate arsenical agent.

The College's subgrant, from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, is \$400,000 over five years.



Dr. Banga

NURSING TO OFFER RESIDENCY PROGRAM WITH VINSON VA

Georgia Baptist College of Nursing recently received approval from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer a Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency (PC-NPR) Program with the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin during the 2021-2022 academic year. Mercer's program will begin with two residency positions in fall 2021, with as many as four positions available in future years contingent on the successful implementation and administration of the program.



MEDICINE, COLLABORATORS RECEIVE \$550K NSF GRANT TO INVESTIGATE PRIMATE FEEDING STRATEGIES

School of Medicine faculty member **Dr. Janine Chalk-Wilayto** and collaborators from Duke University, the University of Southern California and the University of Arkansas received a \$550,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to investigate the development of feeding strategies in nonhuman primates. This research will integrate data on the physical properties of food, the behaviors of individuals while opening and eating foods, and jaw muscle mechanics across a range of ages in two primate species, providing insight on how anatomy and behavior interact to influence feeding performance during important developmental milestones. The three-year project, titled "Collaborative Research: Feeding Ontogeny at the Interface of Behavior and Morphology," includes a \$129,000 subaward for Dr. Chalk-Wilayto, who specializes in nonhuman primate behavior and morphology.



Dr. Chalk-Wilayto

MEDICINE, COLLABORATORS RECEIVE \$2.6 MILLION NSF GRANT FOR KENYA RESEARCH

School of Medicine faculty member **Francis Kirera**, Ph.D., is part of a multi-institutional, multi-national team that received a \$2.6 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to explore the geology and paleontology of the East African Rift Valley (EARV) in Kenya. The EARV began developing around the onset of the Miocene, a geological epoch

that extends from about 23 million to 5.3 million years ago. The area is known for its rich fossil record, especially those belonging to early humans. The three-year project, titled “Parsing the influence of climate and tectonics on Miocene ecosystems and faunal evolution in the East African Rift, Kenya,” is led by Dr. Isaiah Nengo of Turkana Basin Institute and involves more than 20 researchers from institutions in the U.S., Europe and Africa.



Dr. Francis Kirera focuses his research on reconstructing the paleoecology and biogeography of ancient mammals, including early humans, primarily in Kenya. His latest grant is part of a collaborative effort to explore the geology and paleontology of the country's East African Rift Valley.

PT STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT APTA ImPacT 2020

Four Doctor of Physical Therapy students — **Michelle Dennis**, **Jillian Watson**, **Carly Esposito** and **Nathan Vassey** — were recognized Oct. 24 at the business meeting held during APTA Georgia's ImPacT 2020 Virtual Conference. APTA Georgia is a chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), a national professional organization representing more than 100,000 members with the goal of fostering advancements in physical therapy practice, research and education. Dennis was selected as a Centennial Scholar, while Watson was a finalist and Esposito a semifinalist for the scholarship. Vassey was recognized as the Outstanding Core Ambassador by the APTA Student Assembly Board of Directors.



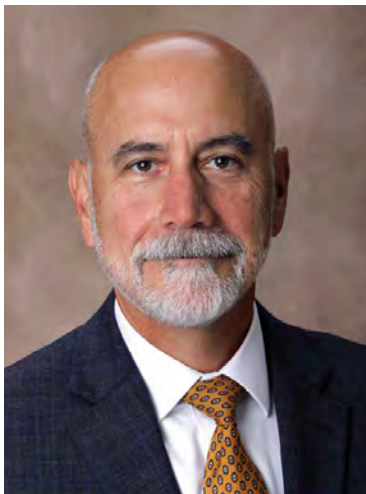
Dennis



Vassey

SOLIS APPOINTED SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR COLUMBUS CAMPUS

Jean R. Sumner, M.D., dean of Mercer School of Medicine, recently appointed **Maurice M. Solis, M.D.**, professor of surgery, as senior associate dean for the Columbus campus. Dr. Solis has a longstanding relationship with MUSM, beginning in 1988 when he served as an instructor of surgery. Since then, he has held many faculty positions at the School of Medicine, including assistant professor of surgery, associate professor of surgery and clinical professor of vascular surgery.



Dr. Solis

NELSON WELCOMED AS NEW GRHIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center in Mercer School of Medicine welcomed **Tiffany Nelson** as its executive director.

A registered nurse with a passion for rural health initiatives,

Nelson has developed and implemented outreach strategies for clinical business involving physicians, acute care and post-acute care facilities. She has served as a liaison between healthcare providers, local government entities and community stakeholders. Additionally, she has facilitated clinical affiliations between small rural hospitals and larger acute care facilities. Nelson previously served as grant program coordinator for the Georgia Healthcare Association, president of Bonagent LLC, a company specializing in healthcare collaboration to solve issues facing rural providers, and she was regional director for HCA Healthcare's South Atlantic Division.



Nelson

MFT STUDENTS SELECTED FOR MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Master of Family Therapy (MFT) students **Grace Choi** and **Jayla Head**, M.S., were recently accepted to the Minority Fellowship Program offered by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



Choi



Head

M.D. STUDENT SELECTED AS CARTER GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOW

School of Medicine second-year M.D. student **Alexis Strahan** was recently selected as an Anne C. Carter Global Health Fellow by the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). The two-year fellowship is awarded to only four AMWA student members each year.



Strahan

ClassNotes

MERCER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES — BUS — School of Business; CHP — College of Health Professions; CLAS — College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; COPA — College of Professional Advancement; DIV — School of Theology; EDU — College of Education; EGR — School of Engineering; LAW — School of Law; MED — School of Medicine; MUS — School of Music; NUR — College of Nursing; PHA — College of Pharmacy; TIFT — Tift College

ACHIEVEMENTS

1950s

William Guy Webb, CLAS '57, retired Georgia and Virginia Baptist pastor, now 85, has entered retirement a second time after 20 years as a historic interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia.

1960s

Thomas "Tommy" Malone, LAW '66, was posthumously awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service, the highest recognition given at the 21st Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service for his demonstrated long and distinguished commitment to volunteer participation in the community throughout his legal career.

Toni Vissage Sweeney, CLAS '65, recently signed a contract with Aethon Books for a six-novel high epic series, *The GodChosen*. The first novel was released Dec. 23, 2020, and is currently No. 4 in Amazon's fantasy category.

1970s

Comdr. William "Keith" Baker, CLAS '78, was reelected to a second four-year term as county commissioner in Chaffee County, Colorado.

The Hon. Thomas E. Cauthorn III, CLAS '69, LAW '72, was recognized with the 2020 Tradition of Excellence at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting. The "Tradition of Excellence" is awarded to four outstanding members of the General Practice & Trial Law Section.

The Hon. Hermann W. Coolidge Jr., LAW '73, retired from the Chatham County State Court after 16 years of service.

Randall A. Jordan, LAW '76, was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2021 in the area of Railroad Law. Jordan is a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Don Robinson, CLAS '76, recently released his book, *Doctor Undaunted*, which was written to validate the reality of the impact of mild traumatic brain injury and subsequent vestibular dysfunction. Robinson hopes his book "may be used for the good of [his] fellow victims and those who care for them."

David F. Sipple, LAW '72, was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2021 in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law. Sipple is a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Bill Spencer, CLAS '78, recently published his book *Uranus Is Always Funny: Short Essays to Make You Laugh with Humor Outcasts Press*.

Richard Swift, CLAS '79, was named the president and CEO of Health New England. Swift previously served as Health New England's interim chief financial officer since April 2020.

Erica T. Taylor, LAW '14, received the 2019-20 Award of Achievement for Service to the Profession from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting in June 2020.

1980s

Virgil L. Adams, LAW '80, was recognized with the 2020 Tradition of Excellence at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting. The "Tradition of Excellence" is awarded to four outstanding members of the General Practice & Trial Law Section.

Stephanie J. Batcheller, LAW '84, received the 2020 Wells College Association of Alumnae and Alumni Award for Distinguished Career in the Field of Law and Public Service as a Public Defender and Legal Educator.

The Hon. R. Violet Bennett, CLAS '78, LAW '81, was sworn in by Judge Tammy Thornton on Dec. 21, 2020, to begin her third term as state court judge for Wayne County.

Tyson Blue, LAW '83, announced the release of *Hope and Miracles: "The Shawshank Redemption" and "The Green Miles" (Two Screenplays by Frank Darabont)*, published by Gauntlet Press. This is Blue's second book and his first as an editor.

Dan Buffington, PHA '87, was installed as president-elect of the Florida Pharmacy Association during the annual meeting in July 2020.

David M. Calhoun, LAW '88, of Morris, Manning & Martin LLP, was recognized by the *Daily Report* as Most Effective Deal-Maker in 2020. The award recognizes transaction lawyers who get repeat business for how they achieve their clients' goals so that both sides sign on the dotted lines.

T. Martin Fiorentino, LAW '83, was recognized in the third edition of *Florida Trend's* Florida 500 list, highlighting the 500 most influential executives in different economic sectors throughout the state. Fiorentino serves as president of The Fiorentino Group, one of the largest government affairs and business development firms in Florida.

Evelyn F. "Lyn" Harris, CLAS '83, was named the 2020 recipient of the Chi Omega President's Award. The President's Award recognizes extraordinary service to Chi Omega and is the highest honor the fraternity can bestow upon an alumna member.

John "Cal" Harris Jr., LAW '89, joined the Atlanta business litigation firm Poole Huffman LLC. Harris was most recently with the Law Office of Kenneth Sisco representing Farmers Insurance.

W. Joseph Hollis Jr., LAW '85, joined The McMahan Law Firm in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Frederick "Rick" L. Hooper III, LAW '88, was elected chair of the Georgia Association of Manufacturers. Hooper is the vice president, chief legal and advocacy officer of Shaw

REMEMBERING...

Mercer's Oldest Alumni

Gladys Giddens

Gladys Holder Giddens, CLAS '37, of Macon, died Dec. 8, 2020, four days after her 103rd birthday. Giddens grew up in Macon on College Street, attending Alexander II

Elementary School, Lanier Girls and Miller High School. She graduated from Mercer with Bachelor of Arts in 1937. While a student, she was one of the first two female cheerleaders and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. She also helped organize and played on the first girls' basketball team, which played other teams from cities in Georgia and served as the forerunner to Mercer's intercollegiate women's basketball team.

Giddens married Howard P. Giddens, CLA '35, HON '55, in 1940 and enjoyed 68 years of marriage before his passing in 2008. After marrying, Giddens worked as a math and science teacher in Sylvester and Ashburn and in Kentucky. She also complemented her husband's pastorates at various churches in Kentucky and Georgia and supported his work with the Georgia Baptist Convention and Mercer, where he began teaching in 1967.

When the Giddenses returned to Mercer, where they had met, Mrs. Giddens sponsored the Campus Baptist Young Women's organization, of which she was the founder and director. The couple also helped reinvigorate the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Mercer. Giddens was active with BSU, Baptist Christian Ministries and the Baptist Christian Fellowship. She was considered a mother away from home for many Mercer students.

Giddens received the "Equipper of the Saints Award" from Georgia BSU in 1995, the Meritorious Service Award from the Mercer Alumni Association, and a commendation from the University in 1984, all for her dedicated work with students. She was a member of Mercer's President's Club; Half Century Club, serving twice as its president; and was a benefactor of Mercer University Press. She also served as president of the Mercer University Women's Club and remained active with Alpha Delta Pi, serving as president of the Macon Alumnae Association and receiving the organization's National Sorority Memorial Service Award in 1974.



Industries Group Inc. in Dalton.

John H. Irby, LAW '88, was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to the board of directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

Randall Kitchens, CLAS '83, was named deputy chief of chaplains for the entire U.S. Air Force on July 31, 2020.

Wesley T. Leonard, LAW '87, was elected judge of Troup County State Court, succeeding the

Hon. Jeannette L. Little, LAW '79, who is retiring at the end of her term.

Drew Miller, PHA '80, of Wynn's Pharmacy in Griffin is the 2020 recipient of the Georgia Pharmacy Association Bowl of Hygeia Award for his more than 40 years of service and leadership in his community, in various practice settings, including chain, hospital and independent pharmacy. Miller has owned Wynn's Pharmacy since 2007 and serves

on the Spalding County and the Georgia Medicaid boards of health. **Susan Miller**, PHA '79, '83, received the College of Pharmacy Award of Excellence in Service. She has served the College since 1979 in a variety of leadership roles including associate dean for administration and vice chair and chair of Department of Pharmacy Practice.

The Hon. David C. Morgan, CLAS '78, LAW '81, announced his retirement

Dona Cox

Dona Nicholas Cox, CLAS '37, of Independence, Virginia, died Dec. 2, 2020, at the age of 108.

Born on June 12, 1912, in Macon, she received her bachelor's degree from Mercer in 1937. In 1938, Cox married Harvey William Glazier, an Episcopal priest she met while a student at Mercer.

In addition to being a minister's wife and raising three children, Cox worked as a school teacher and as a leader with the Girl Scouts in Wilmington and High Point, North Carolina, and Winchester, Massachusetts. After her husband's passing in 1959, Cox returned to Macon and became director of the Appleton Church Home for Teenage Girls.

Cox met and married Gayle J. Cox and moved to Independence, Virginia, in 1966. Cox taught English in Virginia schools from 1968-1981. She retired from teaching at the age of 65 and remained in Independence where she lived for 54 years until her passing.

Cox was a founding member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Galax, Virginia, a member of the Red Hat Society, and above all, a local 'celebrity' beloved by all of her tight-knit community.

Cox had fond memories of Mercer and participated in her 80th class reunion in 2017.

Giddens and Cox, both graduates of the class of 1937, were Mercer's oldest known living alumni at the time of their passing.



at the end of 2020 after 24 years of service on the Indian River County Court bench. Judge Morgan and his wife reside in Vero Beach, Florida.

Jan Horton Spence, BUS '89, earned the Certified Speaking Professional Designation from the National Speakers Association. Less than 10% of professional speakers worldwide obtain this achievement.

Arthur R. Thompson, BUS '86, celebrated the 20th anniversary of his business, Silks 2gems, during a three-

day event in April. The event featured customers and vendors from all over the Southeast United States.

Deborah D. Tillman, LAW '88, retired as chief assistant district attorney for Mobile County in Alabama after 25 years of service. Tillman previously served as U.S. Air Force Staff Judge Advocate (JAG) for five years upon graduation from Mercer and received an honorable discharge.

1990s

Bryan D. Anderson, LAW '92, was promoted to executive vice president and president of external affairs for Southern Company.

Tabitha Ponder Beckford, LAW '99, was appointed magistrate judge for Cobb County. Beckford currently serves as development officer for the BLSA Alumni Council.

The Hon. Vincent C. Crawford, LAW '90, was reappointed chief judge of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court for another two-year term.

The Hon. Sara L. Doyle, LAW '94, received the 2019-20 Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting in June 2020.

Lee Folsom, BUS '93, was named chairman of the Cook County (Georgia) Board of Assessors on Jan. 5.

Holly Fontenot, NUR '97, recently accepted a new job as associate professor and Frances A. Matsuda Chair in Women's Health at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Jonathan W. Hedgepeth, LAW '91, was named to the SuperLawyers Top 100 list for the second year in a

row. Hedgepeth was also included in the 2021 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. He is a founding partner of Hedgepeth Heredia LLC, a family law firm based in Atlanta.

Athena Bolden Lock, CLAS '99, will retire from the United States Army on Aug. 31.

L. Scott Mayfield, CLAS '92, LAW '99, was appointed solicitor for the City of Griffin Municipal Court by the Griffin Board of Commissioners. Mayfield is a partner at Smith Welch Webb & White LLC in Barnesville.

Cheveda Grier McCamy, LAW '98, was appointed judge on the Alcovy Circuit Superior Court by Gov. Kemp. McCamy was formerly chief assistant district attorney in Henry County. McCamy also serves as Mercer's Black Law Student Association Alumni Council secretary.

Lester M. Miller, CLAS '91, LAW '94, was sworn in as the mayor of Macon-Bibb County on Dec. 30, 2020, after being elected to office in August for a four-year term.

Chris Misamore, CLAS '95, was recently named market president, senior vice president of Ameris Bank in south Georgia.

Ruby Fowler Nancy, CLAS '90, earned a doctorate in rhetoric, writing and professional communication from East Carolina University in July 2020. Nancy was promoted to assistant professor of business communication at the University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School of Business and Economics in August 2020.

Lynne Moore Nelson, LAW '94, was named court administrator for the Magistrate Court of Fulton County. Nelson was most recently chief of staff for Fulton County's District Attorney Paul Howard Jr.

Barry Patel, PHA '92, and

Wade Smith, PHA '88, founders of Galt Pharmaceuticals, recently announced FDA approval for a new drug, Orphengenic Forte, a non-opioid painkiller.

R. Hank Pittman, LAW '95, was named partner at Hall Booth Smith PC. Pittman practices transportation, education, government, general liability, agribusiness and food and medical malpractice.

Mark E. Powell, LAW '96, was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court Mediation Panel. The panel is a collection of highly-accomplished legal professionals to which the court refers mediation work. Powell recently joined Holland & Knight's private wealth services practice group in Los Angeles, California, as a partner.

Bryan C. Ramos, LAW '99, was appointed by United States Commission on Civil Rights to serve on the Georgia State Advisory Committee for four years. The committee will assist the commission with its fact-finding, investigative, and information dissemination functions. Ramos, a

Filipino-American, practices workers' compensation in Atlanta.

Texanna Reeves, BUS '87, '97, was hired by Rite Aid to develop and implement the organization's overall diversity, inclusion and belonging strategy.

Wade Smith, PHA '88, and **Barry Patel**, PHA '92, founders of Galt Pharmaceuticals, announced FDA approval for a new drug, Orphengenic Forte, a non-opioid painkiller.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, founding shareholder of Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle, was once again recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* 2021 as a leading lawyer in the area of Family Law.

Daphne Dunaway Whetsel, EDU '93, is the special education program specialist for Houston County Board of Education.

2000s

D. Barton Black, LAW '07, announced the launch of Blue Sky Law in Smyrna on May 1, 2020. Black is a partner of the firm, providing comprehensive business counsel to the Atlanta community and beyond.

Nikki Adams Bryant, PHA '03, of Adams Family Pharmacy in Preston, was presented the NASPA Excellence in Innovation Award for demonstrated innovation in her practice during GPhA's annual convention.

Lakesha Wiley Butler, PHA '05, was promoted to director of diversity, equity and inclusion at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She also recently received the AACP Health Disparities and Cultural Competency SIG Outstanding Member Award.

William E. Carlan, LAW '09, running unopposed, was named to the Canton City Council, representing Ward 2. His term ends in 2021.

Rebecca McKelvey Castañeda, LAW '06, was named to the 40 under 40 list by *The Nashville Business Journal*. Castañeda is a partner at Stites & Harbison in Nashville and Franklin, Tennessee, practicing family law.

The Hon. Toqeer A. Chouhan, LAW '05, was appointed a part-time judge to the Cobb County Magistrate Court by Chief Magistrate Judge Brendan Murphy.

Jacob E. Daly, LAW '00, was awarded the 2020 President's Award from the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association. Daly practices tort and catastrophic loss at Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP in Atlanta.

Tomieka R. Daniel, LAW '02, was appointed a member of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Kemp. Daniel received the inaugural BLSA Alumni of the Year award at the virtual BLSA Alumni Gala on Oct. 23, 2020. She also received the Commitment to Equality Award from the Houston County Bar Association as its luncheon on Dec. 4, 2020.

Susan Hammontree Gifford, BUS '05, recently completed her

Submit your Accomplishments, Marriage/Births/Anniversary or In Memory announcements for *The Mercerian* to Erin Lones, Director of Advancement Communications, at lones_ep@mercer.edu.

educational specialist degree in instructional technology at Valdosta State University.

The Hon. Robert W. Guy Jr., LAW '02, was given the Governor's Award of Excellence by the Rotary International District 6920 for his outstanding service through leadership by example.

Bradley M. Harmon, LAW '02, was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2021 in the area of Litigation - Construction. Harmon is the managing partner of HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Afiya Folan Hinkson, LAW '09, received the 2020 Chief Justice P. Harris Hines Child Advocacy Award for her dedication to improve justice for children and families. Hinkson became the first African American special assistant attorney general in Forsyth County in May 2019. She is a certified child welfare law specialist.

The Hon. Bryan T. Johnson, LAW '09, was elected Superior Court judge in the Rome Judicial Circuit in June 2020 and began serving in January.

Nicholas J. Laybourn, LAW '05, was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2021 in the area of Litigation-Construction. Laybourn is a partner and the head of the specialty litigation practice group at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

J. Felicia LeRay, LAW '05, was named partner at Hall Booth Smith PC. LeRay focuses her practice on healthcare law.

Michael J. Lunday, EGR '09, recently accepted a role as director of manufacturing engineering with Keurig Dr Pepper in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Lunday was also recently promoted to lieutenant commander as an engineering duty officer in the United States Navy and is currently assigned to the Naval Reserve CNO Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4R) unit in Washington, D.C.

Darryl Lunon II, LAW '08, was recently named deputy general counsel and chief ethics and compliance officer at The Georgia Institute of Technology. He previously served as associate general counsel and director of compliance. Prior to his position at the university, Lunon served as assistant counsel for the United States Navy, as well as assistant district counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He also spent time as a civil litigator in private practice, as well as a civil engineer prior to practicing law, and is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Reserve's Judge Advocate General Corps.

Mitch Miller, EGR '05, '09, was promoted to element chief of JSTARS Mission Support at Robins Air Force Base.

Patrick M. Mincey, LAW '08, was listed among 2021 Legal Elite in Criminal Law and Litigation by *Business North Carolina*. Mincey is a partner in the Raleigh and Wilmington offices of Cranfill Sumner and Hartzog LLP.

Scott A. Minot, LAW '01, announced the launch of Blue Sky Law in Smyrna

on May 1, 2020. Minot is a partner of the firm, providing comprehensive employment and business counsel to the Atlanta community and beyond.

Shaun Mock, EDU '03, was promoted to president and chief executive officer of Snapping Shoals EMC.

Ashley Morris, CLAS '07, was selected by Savannah Technical College to serve as its vice president for academic affairs. As vice president, Morris will administer, plan and evaluate institutional services including supervision and leadership in activities of instruction personnel, institutional academic programs, in-service activities and budget related to operation of the department.

Andrea Pendleton, CLAS '05, was elected to the Alpha Gamma Delta 2020-2022 International Council.

Wesley G. Person, LAW '03, was appointed Gwinnett County Recorder's Court judge by the judges of Gwinnett County State Court.

Samantha Shipley Roberts, PHA '07, was recently recognized as a Champion of Opioid Safety by the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation. The program helps pharmacists implement best practices to fight opioid misuse in their own communities.

Timothy C. Sanders, CLAS '97, LAW '03, was appointed Thomasville city attorney by the city council. Sanders is a partner at Alexander & Van LLP and serves as a member of the Mercer Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dr. Andrew Spell, MED '01, was named a new associate for Doctor Imaging Group. He completed his residency at the University of Florida College of Medicine in neuroradiology and is board certified in radiology.

The Hon. Amanda E. Meloun Trimble, CLAS '98, LAW '04, was promoted to full-time presiding judge for the Western Circuit Juvenile Court in Athens. Trimble has served as the Juvenile Court's part-time judge since 2016.

Q. Bonita Wang, LAW '05, joined Bialock Walters PA in Sarasota, Florida, focusing her practice on tax, corporate and health care laws.

The Hon. Connie L. Williford, LAW '00, was named Superior Court judge for the Macon Judicial Circuit by Gov. Kemp. She fills the vacancy left by Judge Verda Colvin, who was recently appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals. Williford was also honored as one of the recipients of the 2020 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service for her significant contributions to her community, demonstrating the positive contributions of members of the bar beyond their legal or official work.

Kathryn Smith Willis, LAW '09, joined the Macon office of James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP as counsel in its general litigation and trial practice.

2010s

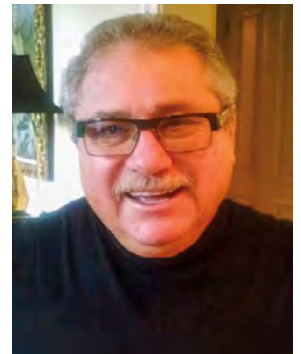
Dr. John Allen, MED '12, joined East Georgia Medical & Surgical Associates

REMEMBERING...

Alumni and Generous Supporters

Roman DeVile

Roman DeVile, LAW '69, of Atlanta, died Dec. 20, 2020. Born in Germany, DeVile fell in love with Atlanta while visiting relatives at the age of 15. He graduated from Georgia Military Academy in 1963 and attended Emory University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in three years. DeVile received his Juris Doctor from Mercer in 1969 and moved back to Atlanta where he worked for Legal Aid before going into private practice. He practiced law for more than 45 years with emphasis on real estate, banking and corporate practice. DeVile also helped his parents build Tempo Real Estate, a multifamily property management company. Inclusive in his numerous professional achievements was his 1993 appointment as chairman of the board and CEO of Capital South Financial Services. He also served as director and general counsel for several banks, including NCNB National Bank and the Bank of North Georgia. His experience, expertise and passion for the law and property management is reflected in the success of his company, The DeVile Group. DeVile was a generous and ardent supporter of Mercer Law School.



Neal Pope

Neal Pope, CLAS '54, of Atlanta, died Nov. 10, 2020. Pope graduated from Mercer in 1954 and served four years in the U.S. Naval Reserve during the Korean conflict as a medic. In 1953, Pope began what would become his lifelong automotive career at Wade Motor Co. and Foster Ford before opening his own dealership, Neal Pope Ford, in 1970. He was involved in the acquisition and operation of 10 dealerships before he retired in 2001. Pope was a member and supporter of Mercer's Executive Forum, a corporate and community outreach program of the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business and the Office of University Advancement.



and Cedar Surgical Associates as a general and bariatric surgeon.

Sheri Bagheri, LAW '13, announced the launch of her employment law firm, Sheri Bagheri Law, serving employees in all aspects of employment law. Bagheri also offers limited general counsel services to businesses that see the value in providing safe, equal, and fair work environments.

Evan C. Barker, LAW '16, was named managing partner of Howard Barker Lane PC, formerly Howard & Whitley PC. Howard Barker Lane handles

family law matters throughout Savannah, the Coastal Empire and surrounding areas.

Monica Batiste, EDU '14, was named permanent associate superintendent of human resources and talent management for Gwinnett County Public Schools.

Andrew T. Bennett, LAW '18, received the President's Award from the Houston County Bar Association on Dec. 4, 2020. This award recognizes a member's dedication and contributions to the organization throughout the year. Bennett also

served as the association's IT director for the 2020 year and will serve again in 2021.

Ollena S. Bennett, LAW '16, joined Bennett Law and Mediation Service LLC in Warner Robins. She was most recently a staff attorney with the Houston County Superior Court.

Ken Blair, COPA '14, was appointed director of the First Year Experience at Wesleyan College in Macon.

Nicolas D. Bohorquez, LAW '15, joined the real estate practice group in the Atlanta office of Chamberlain Hrdlicka.

Doug Pullen

Douglas C. Pullen, CLAS '67, LAW '70, of Columbus, died Sept. 22, 2020. Pullen was appointed Superior Court Judge in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit by then-Gov. Zell Miller in 1995 and served in that position until his retirement in 2011. Before his appointment, the Columbus resident served 23 years in the Office of the District Attorney for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. He spent the last six of those years as district attorney and the previous 10 years as chief assistant district attorney. Dedicated to his community and the welfare of its citizens, Judge Pullen was founder of the first Victims and Witnesses Rights Center in the Columbus area. He gave generously of his time and effort, providing astute leadership to organizations that serve others. He was a generous supporter of Mercer Law School and received the Mercer Law Meritorious Service Award in 2004. In 2005, Mercer awarded Pullen an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Thanks to the vision, wisdom and judgment of Judge Pullen, the Mercer Law School created a public interest fund that provides stipends and a loan forgiveness program for students who choose to work in the public interest field.



Sandy Sims

John "Sandy" Sims, LAW '63, of Tifton, died Dec. 7, 2020. Sims graduated first in his class at Mercer Law School in 1963. When he graduated, he had offers from the top three law firms in Atlanta and an offer to clerk with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He was a member of the Georgia Bar Association and an attorney and owner at Sims and Fleming Law Offices. He was voted Best Lawyer in Tifton six years in a row. Sims was a generous supporter of Mercer Athletics and Mercer Law School.



Elizabeth Manley Brooks, LAW '17, was selected as one of 18 Georgia attorneys to participate in the 2020-21 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's prestigious Leadership Education and Advanced Direction Program. Brooks is an associate at Harris Lowry Manton LLP in Savannah.

S. Jake Carroll, LAW '14, joined the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate in its Atlanta office.

Josanne Celestine, LAW '11, joined the Atlanta office of Hall Booth Smith PC as of counsel defending clients in

transportation claims.

M. Chase Collum, LAW '19, joined the McDonough office of Smith Welch Webb & White LLC as an associate practicing general civil litigation.

Hannah M. Couch, LAW '18, joined Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders as an associate attorney in its Atlanta office after completing her clerkship with **The Hon. Marc T. Treadwell**, LAW '81. She was invited to be a member of the Georgia Bar Young Leaders Division Leadership Academy, Class of 2021.

Dustin E. Davies, LAW '11, was made a name partner, changing the firm name to Hasty Pope Davies. Davies is the first partner added since Hasty &

Pope formed in 2008.

Mary Duskin, CLAS '11, recently began working as a board-certified family medicine physician at Sterling Group Primary Care.

Diantha V. Ellis, LAW '18, graduated with honors with a Master of Laws in business and health law from Emory University School of Law on May 11, 2020. Ellis currently teaches at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton.

Brandon Feil, PHA '18, began a pharmaceutical industry fellowship at Arbor Pharmaceuticals, in partnership with the College of Pharmacy. In his role, he facilitates

business development activities that support Arbor's portfolio and corporate strategy.

Yolanda Nicole Fountain, COPA '09, '15, DIV '09, was the recipient of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Northwest Georgia Chapter, 8th Annual Women of Impact Awards in Health.

Hillary L. Freeseimer, LAW '16, joined BakerHostetler LLP as an associate in its employment litigation practice representing employers and organizations in federal and state litigation and administrative matters.

Whitley E. Grimes, MED '20, was recently hired to be the academy director for Legacy Reserve at Old Town. Legacy Reserve at Old Town is a new, luxury senior community serving independent living, assisted living, and memory care residents. Her role oversees the lifestyles of all residents to include wellness events, educational seminars and activities of all types.

Hayley Strong Hall, LAW '11, became a shareholder with the firm Davis, Matthews & Quigley PC in Atlanta. Hall focuses her practice on estate planning and wealth management.

Lindsey Warden Hancock, CLAS '15, had her essay "Lockdown, Night and Day" win first prize and be accepted for publication in Lifewrite Press's "The Corona Silver Linings Anthology." She lives with her family in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Margaret A. Head, LAW '10, was named partner at Cohen & Caproni LLC in Atlanta practicing estate planning, probate litigation, trust and estate administration, tax planning and business law.

Brittain Z. Hunt, LAW '19, joined DuBose Law Group LLC in Madison.

Meagan R. Hurley, LAW '19, an Alabama Fellow at the Georgia Innocence Project, began co-teaching a wrongful convictions seminar at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama, in May 2020. As a guest lecturer for the course, Hurley teaches students about post-conviction innocence work and Alabama criminal procedure, and she supervises student work on select Alabama innocence cases.

Ethan C. Hyde, LAW '16, accepted a career law clerk position with United States District Court Judge Tilman E. "Tripp" Self III.

Juawn Jackson, EDU '17, was recently elected to the Bibb County Board of Education representing District 4.

Brian M. Jasper, LAW '11, was named partner at the Thomas Law Offices in Prospect, Kentucky. Jasper focuses his practice in plaintiff's nursing home and medical malpractice litigation. Jasper and Tad Thomas, the firm's founding partner, won a \$2.2 million verdict in August 2019, and a \$5 million verdict in January 2020, both in McCracken Circuit Court in Paducah, Kentucky.

Catherine "Cat" Jenkins, LAW '18, was elected Meriwether County Tax Commissioner in November 2020.

Jessica Jones, PHA '10, was named Wayne State University's Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Warrior Preceptor of the Year. Jones is a critical care clinical pharmacy specialist at Beaumont Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan.

Lorien Jordan, EDU '12, was named assistant professor of educational statistics and research methods at the University of Arkansas. Before joining the university, Jordan was an assistant professor at Mercer's School of Medicine.

D. Jordan Josey, LAW '16, was selected as one of 18 Georgia attorneys to participate in the 2020-21 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's prestigious Leadership Education and Advanced Direction Program. Josey practices personal injury with the MacArthur Law Firm in Macon.

Virginia Josey, LAW '16, joined Buzzell, Welsh & Hill in Macon as an associate attorney practicing personal injury, workers' compensation and family law.

Hayley McCoy Kehner, LAW '19, joined the family law firm Naggiar & Sarif in Atlanta as an associate attorney. Kehner was most recently a law clerk for the Houston County Superior Court.

Jacob S. Langley, LAW '18, was invited to be a member of the Georgia Bar Young Leaders Division Leadership Academy, Class of 2021.

Samuel M. Lyon, LAW '20, joined the Sutton Law Group LLC in Marietta as an associate attorney.

Morgan E. Lyndall, LAW '18, received the 2019-20 Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting in June 2020.

Anna Mills, LAW '18, joined Bowers and Gibson in LaFayette as an associate attorney.

Amanda M. Morejon, LAW '17, joined the Macon office of Constangy Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP, practicing employment and labor law. Morejon serves as Mercer Law's Young Alumni Council president.

Chrystal McDowell, MED '17, was awarded the Emory and Dorothy Johnson Endowed Scholarship by the College of Human Science at Florida State University.

Alex G. Myers, LAW '18, took the oath of office to become an associate magistrate court judge in Dawson County. Myers is an associate at Miles Hansford & Tallant in Cumming.

Dr. Bradley William Newton, MED '16, began work as an obstetrician and gynecologist at Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Obstetrics & Gynecology in St. Marys. He also serves as a member of the Camden hospital medical staff.

Nathan R. Nicholson, LAW '18, was selected as one of 18 Georgia attorneys to participate in the 2020-21 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's prestigious Leadership Education

and Advanced Direction Program.

Nicholson practices personal injury with Cook Law Group in Gainesville.

The Hon. Rizza Palmares O'Connor, BUS '07, LAW '10, was recognized with the Best 40 Under 40 Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Mark Ogunsusi, PHA '10, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America as Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch. Ogunsusi earned his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and is an associate in the drug pricing and 340B program practice group of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Pool O'Neal, LAW '11, was appointed assistant solicitor for the City of Griffin Municipal Court by the Griffin Board of Commissioners.

Taylor Orgeron, LAW '17, joined Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers as an associate attorney in the firm's litigation practice group.

Kyle C. Owenby, LAW '16, was promoted leader of the elder and disabled abuse unit for the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office. Owenby will also continue in his role as prosecutor in the general crimes division.

Logan Moses Owens, LAW '17, joined the Atlanta office of Carlton Fields as an associate focusing on complex torts, products liability, premises liability, transportation, bad faith litigation and business litigation. Owens was a former staff attorney at the Fulton County State Court.

Sujal Patel, PHA '12, of Guardian Pharmacy in Kennesaw, was presented the GPhA Mal T. Anderson Outstanding Region President Award for his service in Region Seven.

Devin B. Phillips, LAW '13, was promoted to partner at the firm Weener Nathan Phillips, which changed its name to reflect his promotion. Phillips focuses on business litigation and also advises individuals on estate planning and tax liability.

Natalia Polukhtin, LAW '11, was named among the top 25 investment immigration attorneys in the U.S. by *EB5 Investors* magazine, a leading industry publication. To be eligible, distinguished immigration attorneys must primarily file investor petitions, and have their nomination supported by investment advisers, attorneys and clients.

Philip R. Potter, LAW '11, was selected as one of 18 Georgia attorneys to participate in the 2020-21 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's prestigious Leadership Education and Advanced Direction Program. Potter is a partner at Westmoreland Patterson Moseley & Hinson in Macon.

Jasmin Morris Robinson, LAW '16, appeared on "The Afternoon Tea" radio show on REAL 1100-AM in Atlanta, where she discussed her mission to help thousands of Black men and women become lawyers that make the justice system better.

Stephen C. Rogers, LAW '11, was promoted to shareholder at Maynard Cooper & Gale PC. He practices correctional litigation, general litigation, complex litigation and construction law.

Veronica N. Rogusky, LAW '18, received the 2019-20 Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting in June 2020. Rogusky recently joined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a trial attorney in its Atlanta office.

Christa Russie, PHA '10, was recently recognized as a Champion of Opioid Safety by the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation. The program helps pharmacists implement best practices to fight opioid misuse in their own communities. Russie is a pharmacist at The Pharmacy at Emory Midtown.

Kyle W. Sharry, LAW '14, was appointed by Gov. Kemp to serve as solicitor general of the Barrow County State Court. Sharry was most recently a partner at Massey & Sharry LLP in Winder.

Tom Shaw, LAW '16, joined the Thomasville law firm of Alexander & Vann LLP, practicing general civil litigation. Shaw was most recently with Alston & Bird in Atlanta and previously clerked for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia in Macon.

Melissa M. Spearman, BUS '06, LAW '10, joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka White Williams & Aughtry in January, practicing tax law.

Jordan C. Spivey, LAW '19, joined the Macon Circuit Public Defender's Office. Spivey was previously with the Georgia Legal Services Program in Macon.

Christopher A. Steele, LAW '11, was named to *Georgia Trend's* 2020 Legal Elite in the Taxes, Estates and Trusts category. This is his fourth recognition as Legal Elite. Steele is a shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka's Atlanta office.

John "JB" Strauss, LAW '17, recorded a new single at Capricorn Recording Studios in November 2020 with plans to record his debut full-length LP in 2021. Strauss wrote the new Travis Tritt single "Ghost Town Nation."

Warren M. Tillery, LAW '14, was elected partner at Smith Welch Webb & White in McDonough. Tillery practices eminent domain and local government law.

Austin Tull, PHA '13, of Cherokee Custom Script Pharmacy in Canton was presented the Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award during GPhA's annual convention.

Wesley C. Turner, LAW '10, was elected partner at Krevolin & Horst LLC practicing commercial real estate and corporate law.

Tameika Turner-Haynes, EDU '17, was appointed principal of Jenkins Elementary School.

M. Cole Walker Jr., LAW '19, joined Hawkins Parnell & Young as an associate defending corporations and

REMEMBERING...

Faculty and Staff

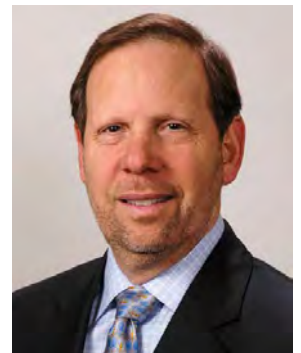
Dr. James Bartling

James W. Bartling, PHA '76 and '77, former associate dean for student affairs at the College of Pharmacy, died Sept. 24, 2020. Dr. Bartling graduated from the Southern School of Pharmacy with a Bachelor of Science in 1976 and a Doctor of Pharmacy in 1977. He practiced at Doctors Memorial Hospital in Atlanta before being named director of admissions, job placement and continuing education at Mercer. He later became associate dean for student affairs and admissions, a role in which he served for 38 years until his retirement in 2016. Memorial gifts may be made to the James W. Bartling Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mercer's College of Pharmacy.



Dr. David Byck

David B. Byck, a professor in the School of Medicine, died Nov. 19, 2020. Dr. Byck practiced as a physician for more than 30 years and held many positions at Memorial Health in Savannah, including chief of staff, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology, and director of the obstetrics and gynecology residency program. He was a tireless advocate at the state level for women's reproductive rights and investing in ongoing medical education programs.



individuals in business disputes and premises liability.

Andrew Werkheiser, BUS '13, was named the CEO of Koch-Chemie USA, a subsidiary of Koch-Chemie GmbH out of Germany.

Jillian Whatley, EDU '17, was hired as executive director of student services for the Clarke County School District.

Deena Miller Wingard, DIV '18, published and released her book, *My Body, God's Temple*, in February.

Lou Woods, PHA '14, was recently recognized as a Champion of Opioid Safety by the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation. The program helps pharmacists implement best practices to fight opioid misuse in their own communities. Woods is a pharmacist at The Pharmacy at Emory Midtown.

Lauren N. Wortman, LAW '17, joined Hall Booth Smith PC as a workers'

compensation associate in its Atlanta office.

Emily R. Wright, LAW '17, joined the Adams Law Firm as an associate in March 2020.

MARRIAGES BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

2000s

Emily M. Bradfute-Kolokoff, CLAS '03, LAW '06, and **Jeffrey M. Kolokoff**, LAW '06, announce the birth of their son, Isaac Wallace Kolokoff, born on July 16. Isaac joins a 6-year-old sister, Abby, and a 2-year-old brother, Jacob. **Molly Starkie Durham**, PHA '09 and her husband, Eric, announce the birth of their son, Eric Wayne Jr. "EJ," born on Jan. 17, 2020.

Gabe McLemore, PHA '06, and **Risa Hiroshima**, PHA '12, announce the birth of their son, Remi Emerson McLemore, born on July 3. He joins a 3-year-old sister, Reina.

2010s

Sharon Jackson Barker, LAW '16, and **Evan C. Barker**, LAW '16, announce the birth of their son, Hendley Hohn Barker, born on Nov. 19, 2020.

Monique Jacqueline Bianco, LAW '18, married **Nicholas Michael Shackelford**, LAW '19, on Oct. 15, 2020, in Marble Hill.

Joshua D. Boyd, LAW '18, married Jordan Pidcock on Sept. 12 in Thomasville. Boyd recently joined the Kelley Law Firm practicing workers' compensation and personal injury law. **Elizabeth L. Evinger**, LAW '16, married Jacob Daniel Meyer on Nov. 14, 2020, at the Country Club of Roswell. Evinger

Dr. Susan Conner

Susan Jaye Punzel Conner, former Tift College faculty member, died Nov. 28, 2020. Dr. Conner completed her master's and doctoral studies at the Institute for Napoleon and the French Revolution at Florida State University. After her postgraduate studies, she began a distinguished academic career first as a tenured professor at Tift College in Forsyth, and then at Central Michigan University, where she was named professor of history *emerita* and joined the ranks of the administration as associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. She continued her career as vice president for academic affairs at Florida Southern College and provost and professor of history at Albion College, from which she retired in 2014.



is an associate at Prieto, Marigliano, Holbert and Prieto Law in Atlanta.

David Whitlow Frost, LAW '10, and his wife, Michelle, announce the birth of their son, Adams Whitlow Frost, born on Oct. 3, 2020. Adams joins a brother, David Brooks Frost.

Gould B. Hagler II, CLAS '06, and his wife, Amy, announce the birth of their daughter, Carolyn Elizabeth Hagler, born in July 2020.

Risa Hiroshima, PHA '12, and **Gabe McLemore**, PHA '06, announce the birth of their son, Remi Emerson McLemore, born on July 3, 2020. He joins a 3-year-old sister, Reina.

Norbert "Bert" D. Hummel IV, LAW '12, and his wife, Christina, announce the birth of their second child, Harper Blair Hummel, born on Sept. 16, 2020. Harper joins a big sister, Mary Olivia.

Christina A. Huseman, CLAS '05, and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of their son, Judah Tobias Huseman, born on Oct. 11, 2020.

Kelsey A. Jones, BUS '14, married Theron Bassett in October 2020. She also began work on her doctorate in higher education at Valdosta State University in August 2020.

Lauren Shurling Kirkland, LAW '02, and her husband, Kelly, announce the

birth of their first child, Cooper Wade Kirkland, born on April 24, 2020.

Bruna Bretas Rodrigues, CLAS '14, LAW '17, and **William Richard Morehead**, CLAS '14, celebrated their wedding on Aug. 15, 2020, at Pierce Chapel in Macon.

Rahul Sheth, LAW '12, married Alice Jablonski in Atlanta on Dec. 6, 2020. Sheth was named partner at Bovis, Kyle, Burch and Medlin LLC in Atlanta, where he practices workers' compensation and subrogation.

Ashley Countiss Thompson, LAW '17, married Nicolas Kammerdiener on Jan. 9 in Powder Springs.

Bonnie Keel Toliver, BUS '06, EDU '10, and her husband, David, announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Toliver, on Aug. 16, 2019. Toliver started a new job as the director of college counseling at Whitefield Academy in July 2020.

Stephanie White, PHA '16, announced her engagement to Kenneth Bellows. The couple resides in Hope Mills, North Carolina, and are planning their wedding in Jacksonville, Florida.

Kathryn Grace Witcher, CLAS '18, married **Dillon Lee Watkins**, MUS '17, on Nov. 23, 2019, in Milner.

IN MEMORY

1940s

Marcia Wells Argo, TIFT '43, of Athens, on Aug. 12, 2020.
Thomasine McCoy Barger, CLAS '46, of Reidsville, on July 30, 2020.
Laura Major Cheek, CLAS '47, of Atlanta, on July 29, 2020.
Martha Andrews Culpepper, CLAS '49, of Macon, on Sept. 7, 2020.
Opal L. Keith, NUR '48, of Smyrna, on Aug. 12, 2020.
Margaret Garrison Koehler, CLAS '48, of Atlanta, on Dec. 17, 2020.
Millie C. Stewart, CLAS '49, of Macon, on Dec. 3, 2020.
James N. Threadgill, PHA '49, of Decatur, on Nov. 20, 2020.
Grover Francis Tyner Jr., CLAS '46, of Culloden, on Nov. 26, 2020.

1950s

Holst Clay Beall Jr., CLAS '57, of Macon, on Aug. 22, 2020.
Henry A. Bennett, PHA '51, of Saint Marys, on June 13, 2020.
James Reese Brewer Jr., PHA '50, of Mexico Beach, on Oct. 1, 2020.

Wayne J. Coleman, CLAS '59, of Franklin, North Carolina, on Jan. 8.
Robert E. Comas, CLAS '56, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on Aug. 30, 2020.
T. Richard Davis, CLAS '55, of Gainesville, on Nov. 23, 2020.
Jewel Smith Davis, TIFT '53, of Sullivan, on Jan. 6.
Anne Walden Davis, EDU '56, of Silver Creek, on Aug. 5, 2020.
Malcolm C. Davis, CLAS '51, of Macon, on Sept. 1, 2020.
Kenneth D. Gaskins, PHA '54, of Thomaston, on July 25, 2020.
Larry Neil Glausier, CLAS '59, of Hoover, Alabama, on Sept. 14, 2020.
Fred Manning Glenn, CLAS '54, of Dublin, on Nov. 7, 2020.
Nelda Pratt Goergen, TIFT '53, of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, on Nov. 13, 2020.
David Russell Grant, CLAS '59, of Macon, on Oct. 7, 2020.
Ruth Ray Mosely Green, CLAS '57, EDU '82, '90, of Macon, on Sept. 21, 2020.
Sarah McKay Hairston, CLAS '50, of Albany, on Sept. 13, 2020.
James T. Hurt, PHA '58, of Barnesville, on Aug. 20, 2020.
Wilma Joan Joyner-Hilton, CLAS '55, of Macon, on Sept. 17, 2020.

Nancy Caroline Burks Kethley, CLAS '58, of Athens, on Sept. 27, 2020.
Shelba Jean Pickard Key, NUR '57, of Eatonton, on Sept. 9, 2020.
James Marcus Leger, CLAS '57, of Woodstock, on Oct. 19, 2012.
J. Richard R. Lewis, CLAS '58, of Bagdad, Florida, on Nov. 10, 2020.
Dayton N. Logan, CLAS '57, of Athens, on Oct. 22, 2020.
Lois Cawthon Long, TIFT '53, of Huntsville, Alabama, on Nov. 30, 2020.
William I. Long, CLAS '53, of Richton, Mississippi, on Nov. 10, 2020.
Robert J. Lott, CLAS '57, of Macon, on Aug. 20, 2020.
James G. Maddox Sr., LAW '52, of Jeffersonville, on Oct. 29, 2020.
William Clay Manley, CLAS '57, of Loganville, on Feb. 11, 2020.
Robert L. Mason Jr., CLAS '55, of Covington, on Jan. 1.
Rosalyn Reeves McCard, TIFT '57, of Macon, on Sept. 12, 2020.
Joanne Wommack McDaniel, CLAS '56, of Columbus, on Sept. 6, 2020.
Jack McKinley, CLAS '56, EDU '69, of Thomasville, on Oct. 4, 2020.
Betty Garrett Parker, TIFT '51, of Dublin, on April 19, 2020.

Emory G. Ray, CLAS '52, of Panama City, Florida, on Oct. 16, 2020.
Joan Smith Reid, CLAS '53, of Augusta, on July 29, 2020.
Margaret "Peggie" Musselwhite Slade, TIFT '59, of Lithia, Florida, on Nov. 20, 2020.
Maxine Smith Sims, CLAS '53, of Evans, on Oct. 20, 2020.
John W. Smith III, CLAS '50, of Austin, Texas, on Dec. 27, 2020.
Ann McElrath Stewart, CLAS '53, of Macon, on Nov. 14, 2020.
Andrew Lonie Thome Jr., PHA '56, of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, on Aug. 18, 2020.
Jane Busbee Turton, CLAS '51, EDU '55, of Cordele, on Dec. 14, 2020.
Scott P. Watson, CLAS '59, of Calhoun, on Oct. 10, 2016.

1960s

Robert Hardeman Baer, LAW '68, CLAS '62, of Saint Simons Island, on Aug. 16, 2020.
Martha Anne Preston Behling, TIFT '65, of Monticello, on Aug. 4, 2020.
Carolyn Scoville Brantley, EDU '64, of Panama, Florida, on Aug. 16, 2020.
Ronald W. Briggs, PHA '69, of Detroit, Michigan, on Jan. 11.

James M. Campbell, CLAS '69, of Winter Park, Florida, on Sept. 4, 2020.
John Maurice Campbell, PHA '63, of Rockledge, Florida, on Aug. 23, 2020.
Jackie W. Clark, EDU '66, of Hazlehurst, on Aug. 3, 2020.
Patricia Cunningham Conley, CLAS '67, of Brooksville, Florida, on Aug. 1, 2020.
Robert M. Copeland, PHA '66, of Cave Spring, on Aug. 4, 2020.
Martha Ruth Arrowood Crooms, EDU '66, of Cochran, on Oct. 28, 2020.
William G. Cutts, CLAS '60, of Canton, on Sept. 19, 2020.
James T. Dryman, PHA '61, of Columbus, on Jan. 5.
Alice Rochelle Fuller, TIFT '61, of Toccoa, on Sept. 19, 2020.
Beth Asbill Gasses, TIFT '60, of Greenville, on Aug. 20, 2020.
Sandra Harrison Golden, CLAS '68, of Tyrone, on Jan. 4.
Elaine Buchanan Graddy, CLAS '64, of Griffin, on Aug. 15, 2020.
Kathleen Eubanks Hall, TIFT '65, of Spring Hill, Florida, on Aug. 14, 2020.
Richard L. Hawk, CLAS '61, of Clemson, South Carolina, on Nov. 20, 2020.
Barbara Lynne Every Howell, CLAS '65, of Fayetteville, on Oct. 29, 2020.

Leo Bennette Huckabee III, CLAS '64, of Highlands, North Carolina, on Sept. 25, 2020.
Mary Margaret Cooper Jones, TIFT '69, of Grayson, on Dec. 4, 2020.
B. Keith Kenimer, CLAS '60, of Montrose, Colorado, on Sept. 5, 2017.
Anne Jones Lingg, EDU '60, '67, of Macon, on Dec. 7, 2020.
J. Ward Lowrance, CLAS '63, of Floyd, Virginia, on Aug. 8, 2020.
Allen S. May Jr., LAW '67, of Stone Mountain, on July 22, 2020.
Drusilla Nagle, NUR '67, TIFT '69, of Claxton, on Nov. 9, 2020.
Sandra Kay Rayburn, NUR '65, of Savannah, on Dec. 31, 2020.
Boyd A. Reeves, CLAS '61, of Dearing, on Aug. 25, 2020.
Janice Wylene Rholetter, TIFT '66, of LaGrange, on July 30, 2018.
William R. Rogers, PHA '60, of Murphy, North Carolina, on Sept. 22, 2020.
Virginia Harris Schultz, CLAS '66, of Athens, on Jan. 5.
Audrey Lavenia Hannah Sorrells, TIFT '60, of Rockmart, on Oct. 24, 2020.
Ruth Meisner Stevens, CLAS '69, of Macon, on Oct. 24, 2020.

Shirley Glenn Toole, TIFT '64, of Albany, on Aug. 11, 2020.
Charles L. White Jr., PHA '69, of Cleveland, on Oct. 26, 2020.
Julian D. Whiting, CLAS '65, of Albany, on Nov. 2, 2020.
David Emerson Willcox, CLAS '66, of Spring, Texas, on Oct. 29, 2020.
Patricia Shellnut Yarbrough, CLAS '62, of Burlington, North Carolina, on Dec. 27, 2019.
Charles Youmans Jr., CLAS '63, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on Jan. 8.

1970s

Rita M. Bennett, TIFT '74, of Jackson, on Jan. 2.
Janet Snyder Bennett, CLAS '76, of Lakeland, Tennessee, on Nov. 17, 2020.
Clarence "Hank" N. Channell Jr., EDU '74, of Warner Robins, on Oct. 9, 2020.
Francis DeBenedittis, BUS '78, of Lady Lake, Florida, on Dec. 30, 2020.
James W. Edmonds, CLAS '75, of Warner Robins, on Oct. 27, 2020.
Anne D. Cherry Haisten, TIFT '70, of Griffin, on Oct. 5, 2020.
James Thomas Harper, CLAS '72, of Hoover, Alabama, on Dec. 19, 2020.

Tina Kight Harper, TIFT '74, of Forsyth, on Oct. 29, 2020.

Hal J. Henderson, PHA '76, of Flowery Branch, on Aug. 20, 2020.

Ronald Richard James, CLAS '71, of Alpharetta, on Sept. 10, 2020.

Stan Z. Lee, PHA '76, of Young Harris, on Feb. 27, 2019.

Norma "Jean" Daniel Martin, EDU '76, of Griffin, on Sept. 22, 2020.

Stephen L. New, CLAS '72, of Gainesville, Florida, on July 19, 2020.

Gloria Jean Raven-Montgomery, CLAS '78, of Omaha, Nebraska, on Sept. 7, 2020.

Catherine Price Robinson, CLAS '70, of Carrollton, on July 23, 2020.

Cynthia Ann Crocker Roper, TIFT '77, of Hillsboro, on Oct. 5, 2020.

Timothy Spencer, CLAS '72, of Rockmart, on Nov. 14, 2020.

Teresa Joy Straner, Tift '77, of Fayetteville, on July 13, 2020.

Joe Bradford Wright III, CLAS '78, of Covington, on Sept. 3, 2020.

1980s

Christopher P. Adams, CLAS '88, of Marietta, on Sept. 22, 2020.

Leesa McKneely Arce, CLAS '80, of Lakeland, Florida, on Aug. 26, 2020.

James B. Blackburn Jr., LAW '84, of Savannah, on Nov. 1, 2020.

Isabelle Rosamond Bush, CLAS '87, of Warner Robins, on Oct. 1, 2020.

Larry M. Christian, BUS '81, of Las Vegas, Nevada, on Aug. 30, 2020.

James Michael Davis, CLAS '82, of Buford, on Oct. 24, 2020.

Kirk W. Driver, CLAS '82, of Clearwater, Florida, on Nov. 9, 2020.

James J. Fason III, LAW '86, of Kennesaw, on May, 2019.

Patricia K. Pace Fordham, EDU '82, of Elko, on Nov. 12, 2020.

Rosalyn Welch Gilreath, TIFT '87, of Griffin, on Aug. 1, 2020.

Richard G. Groff, LAW '83, of Bradenton, Florida, on Aug. 30, 2020.

Virgie LaVerne Nobles Harris, EDU '82, of Warner Robins, on Nov. 11, 2020.

John Dumas Harrison, CLAS '88, of Lookout Mountain, on Nov. 22, 2020.

Dana Branton Harwell, EDU '88, of Clinton, South Carolina, on 9/9//2020.

Ronald G. Keller, CLAS '85, '87, of Lawrenceville, on Oct. 30, 2020.

Rhonda Anne Holt Kelley, TIFT '89, of Atlanta, on Nov. 27, 2020.

Mark David Long, BUS '84, of Atlanta, on Sept. 22, 2020.

Gwendolyn Jones McIntosh, CLAS '81, of LaGrange, on Nov. 8, 2020.

Ellen Still Meadors, CLAS '81, of Covington, on Oct. 21, 2020.

Patrick Camille O'Malley, BUS '86, of Shreveport, Louisiana, on Oct. 13, 2020.

Claude C. Payton, CLAS '84, MED '87, of Warner Robins, on July 22, 2020.

Robert D. Redford, CLAS '82, of Tucker, on June 7, 2020.

Celeste Bedinger Roberts, EDU '83, of Bedford, Texas, on Nov. 9, 2020.

Gregory V. Stajich, PHA '79, '80, of Savannah, on Nov. 21, 2020.

Michael Francis Stapleton, BUS '86, of Cleveland, on July 25, 2020.

David Randall Turner, PHA '87, of Carrollton, on Nov. 9, 2020.

Bill Walling, BUS '87, of Dallas, Texas, on Dec. 26, 2020.

Elizabeth Callender Wirick, CLAS '80, of Sylvania, Ohio, on Dec. 2, 2020.

Elsa Luanne Ziemann, TIFT '80, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on Feb. 5, 2020.

2000s

Amber Pike Campbell, CLAS '07, of Macon, on July 10, 2020.

Amanda Nicole Dodge, NUR '06, of Marietta, on Oct. 13, 2020.

Todd A. Ropeccka, CLAS '01, of Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 6, 2020.

2010s

Jerrica Jade Mathis Hallum, PHA '15, of Dalton, on Aug. 12, 2020.

Whitney Shepherd McArthur, BUS '16, of Macon, on Aug. 28, 2020.

Carey Lynn Reimer, CLAS '16, of Orlando, Florida, on Sept. 25, 2020.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

Macram Marcus Ayoub, faculty, of Macon, on Dec. 3, 2020.

William Thomas "Tom" Bass, former staff, of Macon, on Aug. 22, 2020.

Caroline P. Clotfelter, former staff, of Atlanta, on Dec. 8, 2020.

Virginia Pekor Culpepper, friend, of Columbus, on April 13, 2014.

Ruth Borcharding Daws, friend, of Macon, on Oct. 15, 2020.

Eugene Cox Dunwoody, friend, of Macon, on Jan. 9, 2020.

Catherine Miller DuPree, friend, of Macon, on Nov. 25, 2020.

Harry L. Eskew, friend, of Macon, on Nov. 29, 2020.

Carol E. Eyler, former staff, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Sept. 23, 2020.

Clayton Henson Farnham, friend, of Atlanta, on Oct. 17, 2020.

Stephen L. Gaines, staff, of Macon, on Aug. 4, 2020.

Betty Ruth Walker Garner, friend, of Warthen, on Oct. 26, 2020.

Dicky R. Gourley, former dean of College of Pharmacy, of Knoxville, Tennessee, on Dec. 12, 2020.

Karen M. Greer, friend, of Atlanta, on Aug. 31, 2020.

Betty F. Heard, friend, of Macon, on July 25, 2020.

Charles F. Heard, friend, of Macon, on April 3, 2006.

N. Brent Kennedy III, former staff and Mercer University Press board member, of Kingsport, Tennessee, on Sept. 21, 2020.

Nell R. Key, friend, of Augusta, on Jan. 5.

Gloria Collier Lacy, friend, of Fort Valley, on Nov. 7, 2020.

Daniel Oliver Littlejohn, friend, of Atlanta, on Nov. 12, 2020.

Peter N. Lycurgus, friend, of Sarasota, California, on Dec. 1, 2019.

Joyce McAfee Martin, friend, of Macon, on June 21, 2020.

Carey E. McDonald, friend, of Ocala, Florida, on July 29, 2020.

Rachel Mills, friend, of Springfield, Illinois, on Oct. 29, 2020.

Kenneth Wayne Mixon, former faculty, of Martinez, on Aug. 9, 2020.

Barbara Brown Page, friend, of Columbus, on Aug. 23, 2017.

Benjamin E. Robuck, friend, of Lexington, Kentucky, on Aug. 2, 2005.

Robert "Bob" Rush, friend, of Macon, on July 22, 2020.

D. Gregory Sapp, former faculty, of Macon, on Sept. 19, 2020.

Phillip Bond Sartain, friend, of Gainesville, on Dec. 28, 2020.

Bess B. Shirley, friend, of Macon, on July 27, 2020.

Benjamin James Tarbutton Jr., friend, of Sandersville, on June 9, 2020.

David Henry Thompson, friend, of Macon, on Dec. 25, 2020.

Charles Robert Tuck, friend, of Dalton, on Oct. 28, 2019.

Donna C. Turner, former staff, of Macon, on Dec. 28, 2020.

Victor Verdi, former faculty, of Lilburn, on Dec. 21, 2020.

Duncan DeVane Walker Jr., friend, of Macon, on Nov. 19, 2020.

REMEMBERING...

Faculty and Staff

Dr. Charles Roberts

Charles Henry Roberts, CLAS '69, a professor of mathematics in the College of Professional Advancement, died

Oct. 21, 2020. A student at Mercer in the 1960s and a member of only the third class that admitted Black students, Dr. Roberts helped to push Mercer forward through the turbulent years of integration, opening the doors for generations of students to follow. When he changed roles from student to professor, he did so with commitment, charisma and competence, working tirelessly to ensure every student's success in his courses. He was honored with the Joe and Jean Hendricks Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2015.



Dr. Mary Zumot

Mary S. Zumot, former faculty member and international student adviser on the

Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta, died Jan. 16. Born in Amman, Jordan, Dr. Zumot came to the United States in 1961 to pursue higher education, receiving her bachelor's degree from Baylor University, her master's degree from Southern Methodist University and her doctorate from Arizona State University. Teaching was the love of her life, and she enjoyed welcoming and advising international students. Dr. Zumot was one of the founders of the Arab American Women's Society of Georgia in 1985 and served as its president from 1989-1991. She helped host the Alif Arabic class on the Atlanta campus and was one of the founders of the Arab American Business Association in Atlanta.



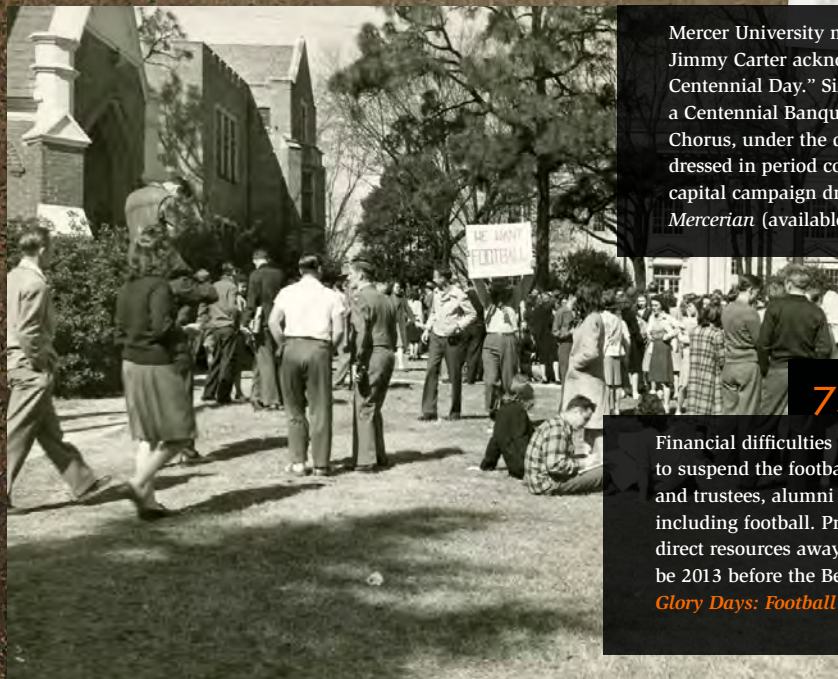
50-75-100 YEARS AGO

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



50 YEARS AGO

Mercer University moved from Penfield, Georgia, to Macon in 1871. Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter acknowledged the event by proclaiming Nov. 12, 1971, "Mercer in Macon Centennial Day." Six-hundred Mercer alumni and friends commemorated the move with a Centennial Banquet and Ball held that evening at the Macon Hilton Hotel. The Mercer Chorus, under the direction of John Van Cura, entertained guests, many of whom were dressed in period costumes. The University used the celebrations to kick off a five-year capital campaign drive for \$42.5 million, as reported in the January 1972 edition of the *Mercerian* (available online at <https://mercer.openrepository.com/handle/10898/4607>).



75 YEARS AGO

Financial difficulties and the demands of World War II led Mercer President Spright Dowell to suspend the football program in January 1942. By February 1946, the war was won, and trustees, alumni and students (pictured here) called for Mercer to reinstate athletics, including football. President Dowell opposed reinstating football, fearing that it would direct resources away from Mercer's emphasis on ministerial training. As a result, it would be 2013 before the Bears returned to the football field. (See Robert E. Wilder's *Gridiron Glory Days: Football at Mercer, 1892-1942*.)



100 YEARS AGO

The Mercer Medical Association plies its trade in the 1921 *Cauldron* (pg. 108). Mercer began offering pre-medical courses in 1918 after approval had come from the Board of Trustees in 1914. Participants in this program, including these Mercerians, could complete two to four years of courses at Mercer before moving on to the Medical College of the University of Georgia or another medical school. Plans for Mercer's own School of Medicine accelerated in the 1970s, and the first class entered in August 1982. (See Mercer University's Course Catalogs online at <https://mercer.openrepository.com/handle/10898/2885>.)

UNIVERSITY RAISES SUPPORT THROUGH CROWDFUNDING



Over the past decade, **crowdfunding campaigns**, online giving campaigns that usually occur over a short period of time and allow donors to encourage participation within their networks, have been growing in popularity as a fundraising tool for higher education. In 2017, the Office of University Advancement launched crowdfunding programs with its first Day of Giving, a 24-hour event that raised support for the initiatives of students, faculty and staff, while also increasing alumni engagement and giving participation rates.

Since 2017, the University has received more than \$687,107 from 5,203 donors through 33 crowdfunding campaigns. These campaigns have raised funds for a marching band scholarship, Mercer Music at Capricorn, a diversity in nursing scholarship, bar preparation support for Mercer law students, athletic programs and various other initiatives.

Last year, with the challenges of virtual classes, working remotely and canceling in-person events, crowdfunding became a valuable resource in helping the University continue to raise much-needed funds to support our students. A total of **12 crowdfunding campaigns were held in 2020**, including a Week of Caring in May that raised support for a student hardship fund.

Five athletic crowdfunding campaigns also took place last year. In March, the Mercer Athletic Foundation's (MAF) annual Donor Drive Challenge raised more than **\$90,000** for student-athletes. MAF coordinated the 50/50 Challenge campaign in August to encourage past donors to support student-athletes and coaches with funds that will provide championship or leadership activities and training. The women's basketball campaign in October raised funds for resources to help players be successful and prioritize both their physical and mental well-being. Another October campaign provided more than **\$225,000** for a complete renovation of the baseball locker room, and a November campaign raised support for the women's lacrosse team to provide new technology and bring in professionals to work with the team on nutrition and sports performance.

Several campaigns are already planned for 2021, including the **Week of Giving, to be held May 3-7**. For more information about crowdfunding, visit Giving Opportunities at mercer.edu/give.



Orange & Black Give Back – A Week of Giving

May 3-7, 2021

mugiveback.com

ORANGE & BLACK
GIVE BACK 


Mercer
BEARS



ORANGE & BLACK GIVE BACK is an online-based fundraising event to increase awareness, support and donor participation for The Mercer Fund, the foundation of all charitable funded support for the University. This year's event will be held Monday, May 3 – Friday, May 7. Visit MUGIVEBACK.COM to learn more about the WEEK OF GIVING and find out how you can get this year's LIMITED EDITION T-SHIRT.

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