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FALL 2021

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On the Cover – A print featuring
the full version of this painting of
Historic Harrington School by local
St. Simons Island artist Alyson Tucker
is on display inside the school.
See story on page 20.

In Our Lens

Among the lessons Mercer faculty members have learned from the pandemic: "Art is the first to adapt," said **Scot Mann**, associate professor of theatre. Pictured above is a scene from "The Phoenix Project: Renewal," a multimedia, creative outdoor spectacular put on by Mercer Theatre last spring on Cruz Plaza. The performance featured giant puppets, pyrotechnics and more, inspired by the societal upheaval of 2020 to ask what innovations and creativity will rise from the ashes, much like the mythical bird of its title. More University faculty share their thoughts on what their disciplines have learned from the pandemic on page 28.

Back to School

HAS A NEW MEANING

WALTER WHITE, FATHER
Adult Undergraduate
Student in Henry County

“I think it’s pretty cool. I was really happy for him when he got in.”

CAMERON WHITE, DAUGHTER
Residential Undergraduate
Student in Macon



When the fall semester kicked off at Mercer University, freshman Cameron White wasn't the only one in her family headed to class. While the residential undergraduate student was settling in on the Macon campus, her father, Walter White, began his journey as a working adult undergraduate student at Mercer's Henry County Regional Academic Center.

Walter, who is a lieutenant in the DeKalb County Police Department, said he didn't think about going back to school to finish his degree until after Cameron got into Mercer. When he learned the University offers classes in Henry County, he applied. Both he and Cameron were excited when he was accepted.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mercer offers both an immersive residential undergraduate experience on its historic Macon campus as well as flexible bachelor's degree programs in Metro Atlanta, Macon and online for busy parents, career changers and working adults.

WHERE CAN MERCER TAKE YOU NEXT?

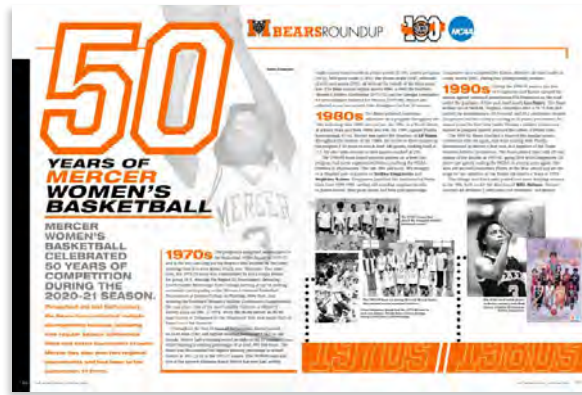
Join Cameron and Walter or refer a friend. Use code **MERCERIAN21** to waive the application fee for any undergraduate program* at **admissions.mercer.edu**

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A



s a founding member of the Mercer Teddy Bears, “50 Years of Mercer Women’s Basketball” resonated with me on a very personal level. Sadly, however, in an article laced with bold print coach and player names, one monumental name was glaringly absent — Coach **Peggy Collins**! That omission was an affront to Coach Collins and to all of us who were privileged to play and compete under her leadership.

Peggy Collins did not come to Mercer to coach basketball, but she was the right woman in the right place at the right time. She built a team from student walk-ons and developed it from a 3-5 organizational year to a 21-1 record and SWAC Championship the very next. In only the third year of the team’s existence, Coach Collins led the Mercer Women’s Basketball Team to the AIAW Tournament and a 5th place national ranking. Her sound belief in conditioning and her ability to adapt each team’s strategy to available personnel were key elements in a stellar career at Mercer. In seven



Coach Collins

seasons she had only one losing team — that organizational year. Of the 166 games that she coached, 133 were wins.

In addition to recognizing win-loss records, any organizational retrospective acknowledges its founder. Peggy Collins was the Founding Coach of modern era women’s basketball at Mercer. In a broader sense, she was a trailblazing giant in the inaugural years of collegiate women’s basketball. She certainly earned the right to be acknowledged as such on her “home court.” Every coach and player at Mercer in the past half century is standing on her shoulders.

Coach Peggy Collins changed my life and helped to lay the groundwork that would change the lives of female athletes at Mercer and beyond for generations to come.

– **Candace J. Head,**
CLAS ’73



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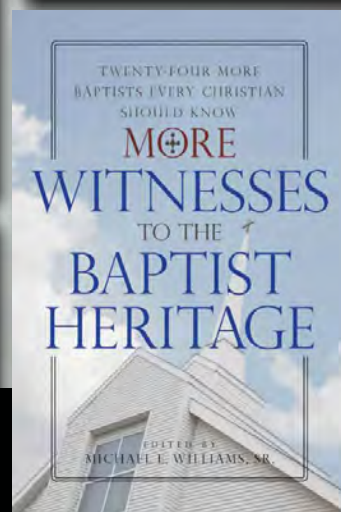
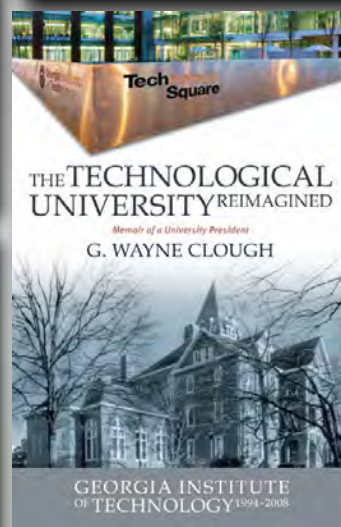
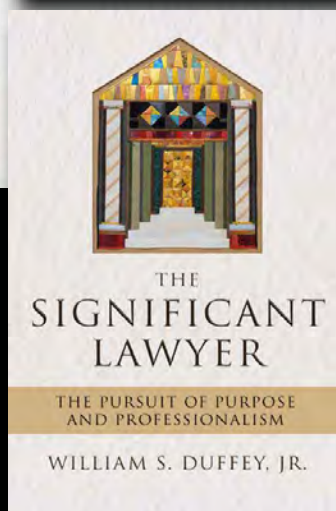
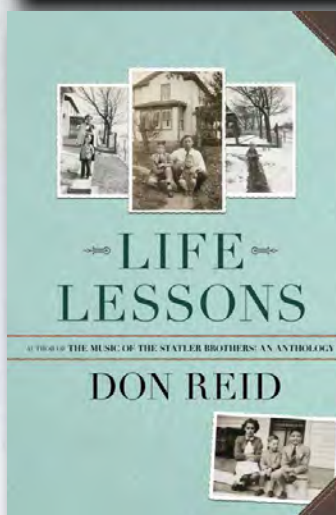
CELEBRATES
42ND YEAR OF
PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

Mercer University Press offers a new season of books rich in history, poetry, essays, memoir, literary criticism, philosophy, and religion.

Highlighted titles from the Fall/Winter 2021 season include: **Something in the Water** by Ben Wynne, a history of music in Macon, Georgia, from 1823 to 1980 highlighting the many talented artists who collectively forged the city's reputation as a creative center; **Life Lessons** by Country and Gospel Music Hall of Famer Don Reid, chapters on life, remembrance, and faith during a pandemic; **The Significant Lawyer** by Judge William S. Duffey Jr., powerfully challenges lawyers to live a value driven life of integrity, trust, fairness, civility, service to the public, and commitment to clients; **Reckless Misfortune** by Middle Georgia State University president Christopher Blake, a history of World War One and how the global conflict shaped the lives of subsequent generations; **The Technological University Reimagined** by G. Wayne Clough, a memoir of his time as president of Georgia Tech from 1994 to 2008; and **More Witnesses to the Baptist Heritage** edited by Michael E. Williams Sr., introductory biographies of important, lesser-known Baptists who have contributed greatly to Christian history.

Visit www.mupress.org to see a complete listing of titles. Books are available from your favorite independent bookstore and major online retailers.

By calling the publisher directly and identifying yourself as a Mercer alum, you will receive a 40% discount on your order. Taxes and shipping charges will apply. Call toll-free (866) 895-1472 or (478) 301-2880 direct.



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AUTHORS APPEARING include Christopher Blake, Rick Bragg, G. Wayne Clough, Billy Collins, Carmen Agra Deedy, William S. Duffey Jr., John Ferling, Malcolm Gladwell, William Rawlings, Janisse Ray, Barbara Brown Taylor, Suzanne Vizethann, and Ben Wynne. For additional information, email wallace_am@mercer.edu.

Sheridan Foundation Commits

Directors of the Macon-based Phil J. and Alice S. Sheridan Foundation gifted \$10 million to endow **The Sheridan Center at Mercer** to support the work of Mercer On Mission throughout the globe.

\$10 Million for New Center



The Center will maintain a special focus on the University's prosthetics program, which promises to become the largest supplier of high-quality prosthetics to people who could not otherwise afford them throughout the world. The gift was announced April 15 at a Mercer Board of Trustees dinner in Atlanta.

Since its establishment in 2007, Mercer On Mission every year deploys hundreds of students, faculty and staff to more than a dozen countries around the world where they carry out sustainable, impactful research and service programs that include mitigating pollution, providing clean water, improving health care, empowering women and promoting economic development. The longest-running of the Mercer On Mission programs is the Vietnam prosthetics initiative, which has fitted more than 16,000 Vietnamese with patented, highly durable and low-cost prosthetic legs that were designed and are manufactured by Mercer faculty, staff and students. Most of the patients fitted with the prosthetic legs have been victims of land mines left over from the Vietnam War.

"This transformational endowment gift — one of the largest in our history — recognizes that Mercer University's potential for positively impacting the lives of underprivileged and oppressed people

around the globe has never been greater,” said Mercer President **William D. Underwood**. “Mercer On Mission has defined what it means for Mercer to be faithful to its heritage as an institution where students are inspired and empowered to develop and deploy their God-given gifts and talents to change the world. This endowment will serve to empower the lives of impoverished persons globally through research and innovation. I am deeply grateful to the Sheridan Foundation directors for providing the funding to establish this Center.”

Since 2012, the Sheridan Foundation has provided financial support for the design, production and distribution of the prostheses created in Mercer engineering laboratories. The \$10 million endowment will fuel greater advances and larger numbers of prostheses for patients in developing countries.

Specifically, the endowment will allow the Center to hire additional faculty with expertise in prosthetics design, manufacturing and fitting and to expand administrative staff as needed. It will also fund components, supplies and travel, an increase in participation by Mercer students, and collaboration with other universities and organizations doing similar work around the world.

“The goal of this Center is to become the world leader in understanding the real-world problems of the poor and disadvantaged and in designing innovative, high-impact and sustainable solutions that will empower them to live whole and healthy lives,” said University Minister and Mercer On



The new Sheridan Center will focus on the Mercer On Mission prosthetics program, led by biomedical engineering professor **Dr. Ha Vo** (pictured above left), which promises to become the largest supplier of high-quality prosthetics to people who could not otherwise afford them throughout the world.



Mission Director **Dr. Craig McMahan**, who has worked on the Vietnam prosthetics initiative since its inception with **Dr. Ha Van Vo**, Distinguished University Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and other faculty in the School of Engineering.

“This gift to Mercer does not come from a bank account. It comes from the heart and soul of Phil and Alice Sheridan, from the prayers, works, joys and sorrows of their well-lived lives — two people who heard, who felt and who followed the voice of our constant, sustaining God,” said **Chris R. Sheridan**, chairman of the Sheridan Foundation Board of Directors and a Mercer trustee. “This partnership extends our reach beyond our experience and our lifetimes; it is one that multiplies the effect of our financial donation with infrastructure, reach, vision and results. President Underwood and Craig McMahan have hearts and souls like Phil and Alice, and they are perfect partners in our mutual commitment to changing the world.”

Phil J. and Alice S. Sheridan were longtime Macon residents and led lives of service, giving of their time, talents and financial resources to produce a lasting impact on the community. The Sheridans established the foundation to “help the poor, heal the sick and assist the lame to walk.”

“I am grateful to the Sheridan Foundation and especially to Chris Sheridan, who has been involved with the prosthetics program for more than a decade. The Foundation’s incredibly generous gift that will establish our Center will take our program to a whole new level so that we can change the lives of thousands of amputees in Vietnam and around the world,” said Dr. Vo, who as a teenager immigrated to the United States from Vietnam and whose lifelong goal has been to help alleviate the suffering that continues to result from the Vietnam War.

Puppy Prosthetic

Alumnus helps give people

By Jennifer Falk

— *and dogs* — the ability to walk again



M

Mercer University alumnus
Chris Scrivner was at
 work when he got a call
 about a three-legged puppy
 that needed some help.

The dog was missing a paw, and would he make a prosthetic leg for him?

“I said, ‘Yeah, absolutely,’” recalled Scrivner, who’d made and fitted prosthetics for other dogs in the past.

He and his wife, Mercer alumna **Loren Scrivner**, picked up the red fox Labrador named Goose that day and gave the pup not only a new paw but also a new family.

Now Goose is a common sight at Warner Robins-based Boland Prosthetic and Orthotic Center, where Scrivner is a resident.

“Goose is a great ice breaker [for patients] because he’s got such a simple issue and a simple solution. He’s missing a paw, and we built him a paw,” Scrivner said. “I think whenever you break it down to something that straightforward, a lot of times when people see that right off the bat, it kind of gets them to open up and gives them a lot of motivation.

“We’ve got a lot of patients that will walk these parallel bars, and Goose will walk on the outside of them next to them while they’re learning how to walk, and that’s a really cool thing.”

Scrivner became interested in prosthetics at a young age. Growing up, he sometimes brought a friend to his prosthetics and orthotics appointments.

The Mercer On Mission Vietnam program, in which students fit prosthetics and orthotics on amputees and children with disabilities, attracted Scrivner to Mercer. He went to Vietnam twice with the program, and the trips solidified his decision to pursue prosthetics and orthotics as a career.

"You've got these guys that will come in that haven't walked in 40 years that will do just about anything to try to figure out how to walk," Scrivner said. "You've got some people that are coming right off their farm that are all working with their hands, that are up gathering or working in the fields for their families.

"And so when they come in and you're able to get them up standing and walking, and they're able to go back to work and do those things. It's unbelievable."

At Mercer, Scrivner took biomedical engineering classes and other prerequisites for prosthetics school. With the help of a Mercer On Mission connection, he started working at Boland while still in college, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 2018.

He then went to Northwestern University, earning a master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics in 2020, becoming a resident at Boland that same year. After serving as a resident for two



Mercer alumnus Chris Scrivner and his dog, Goose, pictured outside Boland Prosthetic and Orthotic Center in Warner Robins, where Scrivner is a resident.

years, Scrivner will have the opportunity to become board certified.

Scrivner said he loves how each day of his job is different. On any given day, he could be treating someone with plantar fasciitis, fitting a baby with a corrective helmet or giving somebody the ability to walk again.

The first prosthesis he made for a dog was about a year ago. Before that, he made a wheelchair for a dog at a community member's request. Scrivner continues to make new paws for Goose as he grows.

He said he enjoys working with his hands and problem-solving.

"You can work and help [people] figure out how to overcome probably the biggest obstacle of their life," he said.

He recalled a patient who is a double amputee.

"We have a Marine that has an amputation above the knee and an amputation below the knee, and he now wakeboards regularly, and so he's the perfect example of [how you can] give somebody the ability to do all this cool stuff that a lot of people take for granted," he said.

"I think that it's very fulfilling, and I love that."



Read this
and
other
stories
about
**all
things
Mercer
at
the Den**
den.mercer.edu

Initiative Retires \$4.3 Million in Medical Debt in Rural Georgia

By Kyle Sears

Three families with deep ties to Mercer honored the University and its School of Medicine's founding mission to serve the citizens of rural Georgia by **retiring more than \$4.3 million in medical debt for nearly 3,000 individuals living in 33 Georgia counties.**

The **Mercer Family Cares Initiative** was conceived by the **Hon. William S. Duffey Jr.**, retired United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia and former partner at King & Spalding in Atlanta.

A couple of head-scratching experiences in the health care system inspired Duffey to take an interest in medical billing practices. In one instance, he observed his insurance

company price a medication at more than \$500 when the same drug over the counter would have cost around \$40. On another occasion, he noticed an inflated itemized charge for a sterilized Sharpie he was told to use to indicate which of his legs would receive surgery.

The more he researched, the more he saw evidence of a “broken” system, he said, that was needlessly confusing and imposed undue and unreasonable expense on people, especially those living in poverty.

“I’ve always wondered how people navigate the system, especially those who didn’t have the patience, time or resources,” Duffey said.

With Mercer’s School of Medicine working to solve issues related to access to care in rural Georgia, Duffey recruited longtime friends and Mercer Law graduates **Richard A. (Doc) Schneider**, a current University trustee, and **Dwight Davis**, a former trustee, to resolve the burden of medical debt carried by those living in poverty in counties served by Mercer.

“I believe in personal financial responsibility and have told a lot of lawyers it is a choice to manage their lives well fiscally,” Duffey said. “But it is seldom a choice to incur medical debt. When you’re sick, have an accident or suffer from disease, you have to get care. So, it’s an involuntary imposition of a debt on someone. That debt imposes a particularly harsh barrier for the poor.”

Duffey’s research led him to RIP Medical Debt, a nonprofit organization founded in 2014 by two former debt collections executives, which uses donations to buy large bundles of medical debt at discounted rates in order to relieve that debt with no tax consequences on recipients and a tax benefit to donors.

RIP Medical Debt reports that each day 79 million Americans choose between paying medical bills and basic needs like food and shelter. Some 66% of all U.S. bankruptcies and 25% of all U.S. credit card debt are tied to medical debt. Over seven years, the organization has eradicated in excess of \$4.5 trillion in medical debts for more than 2.6 million individuals and families.

Inspired by Mercer’s mission and its formative role in the lives of family members, his closest friends, and his mentors **Griffin Bell** and **Frank Jones**,



Duffey



This project is a happy confluence of good friends and a good cause. We all hope that our charitable donations are put to good use and RIP Medical Debt positively impacts the lives of an enormous number of people."

Duffey did not have to look far to find a connection to tie this philanthropic work to the University.

His son, **Charles**, a Mercer Law graduate, serves as chief operating officer for Mercer Medicine, the medical school's multi-specialty physician practice. In recent years, Mercer Medicine has opened rural health clinics in Sumter, Peach, Clay and Putnam counties, with plans underway for another in Harris County.

The elder Duffey asked RIP Medical Debt to tally the amount of debt available to be purchased for those living in poverty in the counties where Mercer's rural health clinics are located and all adjacent counties. These individuals were identified as either making less than two times the federal poverty level, having medical debt that represented 5% or more of their annual income, or facing insolvency with more debts than assets.

Bill and his wife, **Betsy**, who earned a graduate degree from Mercer, teamed with Doc and **Helen** Schneider and Dwight and **Brenda** Davis to donate the funds to erase

of Medicine's mission to improve rural health care. Brenda and I are so thankful that Bill brought this project to us and that we are in position to help," Davis added.

MUSM Dean **Jean Sumner**, M.D., FACP, said it is "an honor" for the School of Medicine to be part of such a "worthy and important" initiative.

"The Mercer Family Cares Initiative and those who support this effort may not fully comprehend the transformational impact this program will have on the lives of patients, access to care and the health of Georgians in need," Dr. Sumner said. "Access to quality health

care in rural communities is negatively impacted by a number of factors. None are more prohibitive than exorbitant price and needless bureaucracy that results in unwarranted cost of care. These factors contribute to insurmountable walls that interfere with patients' ability to freely seek and receive quality care. This gracious and generous offer will save lives, prevent disease and change our state for the better."

Duffey does not intend to stop with the \$4.3 million that has already been erased. He worked with RIP Medical Debt to determine that more than \$13 million owed by impoverished individuals in Fulton County could be relieved with donations totaling around \$200,000.

With some equity partners at major Atlanta law firms earning more than \$1 million annually and recent reports indicating first-year associates at major New York firms receiving salaries of \$205,000, Duffey is calling on the Atlanta law community to use its

abundant resources to help its neighbors.

He points to the Mercer Family Cares Initiative as an example of what can be accomplished.

"I'm going to propose that the lawyers in Fulton County collectively donate \$200,000 to retire the medical debt of every poor person in Fulton County," he said. "I think lawyers will embrace the challenge. If three lawyers who have been friends for 40 years can do something like we did, then a collective effort at a far lower price tag per person can have an immeasurable impact on the poor in our community. Frankly, I think if I went back to RIP Medical Debt and said, 'Tell me what the collective medical debt is for poor people throughout Georgia,' that lawyers could retire it all with the stroke of a pen. Well, maybe several pens."

"I join Bill and Dwight in calling on the legal community — and heck, let's get the entire community involved in this and send a wave of Mercer kindness to assist financially strapped individuals all across Georgia bring an end to the medical debt weighing them down," Schneider added.



Schneider



Davis

\$4,369,096.38 in debt across 33 counties, averaging \$1,524.46 per person among 2,866 individuals.

"Judge Duffey follows the map of his heart. I know this from long experience. He showed Helen and me the way we might make a difference, honor the Mercer mission and help some good folks in need. We jumped on board. When I saw how much medical debt we were able to retire, I was amazed," Schneider said.

"This project is a happy confluence of good friends and a good cause. We all hope that our charitable donations are put to good use and RIP Medical Debt positively impacts the lives of an enormous number of people. This project is also a perfect complement to Mercer School

McDuffie Center Receives Grant for New Symphony

Macon will once again have a symphony orchestra, thanks to a five-year, \$300,000 Peyton Anderson Foundation grant that will fund a collaboration between the world-renowned Robert McDuffie Center for Strings in the Townsend School of Music and musicians from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

The new orchestra — to be called **The Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra** — will re-establish a top-tier regional American orchestra in Macon, where the Macon Symphony ended its 41-year run in 2017. The closure left not only a void for McDuffie Center students who previously played with the orchestra, but also for the Middle Georgia community. Without the MSO, local residents interested in orchestral music have had to travel to Atlanta, Savannah, Columbus or outside the state to access a season of live performances.

The Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Mercer Distinguished Artist **Ward Stare**, with two fall performances and two spring performances each year beginning this fall at The Grand Opera House. Repertoire will include standard pieces by essential classical composers, as well as work by a wide range of contemporary composers from diverse backgrounds, reflecting the true breadth and depth of symphonic music today.

Thirteen members of the ASO's woodwind, brass and percussion sections — including all principal woodwind and brass players — will mentor and perform with the 26 Center students.

“The Peyton Anderson Foundation is pleased to partner again with Mercer University in a continued commitment to creating music in Macon,” said Foundation President, CEO and Trustee **Karen Lambert**. “This collaboration fills a void in our local arts and culture scene, returns life to the symphony stage and creates a premier performance opportunity in Georgia.”

“This unique combination of conservatory-level students and elite professional musicians from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will place Macon at the very top of American regional orchestras,” said Center for Strings Founder **Robert McDuffie**. “We also believe this will place Mercer firmly in the ranks of the top university orchestras in the country — and benefit our students with performance and learning opportunities they simply wouldn't find anywhere else.”

The next performance is scheduled for Nov. 22. For more information and to purchase tickets visit thegrandmacon.com/all-events/mmso1.





Petherbridge Appointed Dean of Business

Dr. Julie Petherbridge, who served as interim dean of Mercer's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business since June 13, 2019, has had the interim removed from her title.

Dr. Petherbridge also serves as associate professor of accountancy. Prior to her appointment as interim dean, she served as

associate dean of graduate programs in the School of Business.

Dr. Petherbridge earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Clayton State University in 1993 and has been a licensed Certified Public Accountant in Georgia since 1995. She worked full-time in public accounting until 2001, when she decided to transition to academia while continuing to practice. She earned her Master of Professional Accountancy in 2002 and Ph.D. in accounting in 2010, both from Georgia State University.

DeLoach Becomes Dean of Theology

Dr. C. Gregory DeLoach, who served as interim dean of Mercer's James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology since Aug. 1, 2018, has had the interim removed from his title.

Prior to being named interim dean in 2018, Dr. DeLoach served for 18 months as a development officer for the School of Theology and the College of Professional Advancement in the University Advancement Office.

A native of Eatonton and a former member of the Mercer Board of Trustees, Dr. DeLoach pastored congregations throughout Georgia for nearly three decades. He earned his undergraduate degree from Shorter College and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.



Sneddon Named Interim Law Dean

Karen Sneddon was named interim dean of Mercer Law School following Cathy Cox's appointment by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents as president of Georgia College and State University. Both appointments were effective Oct. 1.

Sneddon, who serves as professor of law and associate dean for faculty research and development, teaches, writes, and speaks in

the areas of legal writing, wills, and real estate transactions. Prior to joining the Mercer law faculty in 2006, Sneddon was a Forrester Fellow at Tulane Law School and an associate at a New York City law firm. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Louisiana State University and *summa cum laude* from Tulane Law School.

TRUSTEES APPROVE RECORD BUDGET, NEW DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

Mercer's Board of Trustees, meeting April 16 on the Atlanta campus, adopted a record **\$284.1 million operating budget** for 2021-22, exclusive of nearly \$40 million in federal research grants, and approved a new **Doctor of Public Health** degree in the College of Health Professions.

Continuing 10 consecutive years of below-market tuition increases, trustees voted to limit the tuition increase for Macon undergraduate programs to 2.5% for 2021-22. There was no tuition increase for undergraduate students in 2020-21. **There will be no tuition increase for students in the School of Medicine, College of Nursing and School of Theology.** Law students will see a 3% increase, and tuition increases for most other programs fall below 2.5%.

The Doctor of Public Health degree will be offered beginning in spring 2022 on the Atlanta campus. The program will focus on preparing public health leaders who identify, understand and address the social-structural factors of health and their effects on disease patterns and health distribution among diverse and marginalized groups, and mitigation of poor health outcomes.



The new H-SETA partnership, which includes Mercer's STEM Education Innovation Lab, launched earlier this year with a number of activities, including a zero-gravity flight at NASA's Kennedy Space Center for Atlanta International School student Kayley Walker (left) alongside retired astronauts Charlie Duke and Nicole Stott. (Photo by Shanna Lockwood)



SEI Lab Partners with Hines, Georgia Space

Mercer's **STEM Education Innovation (SEI) Lab** in the College of Education partnered with the **Hines Family Foundation** and **Georgia Space Grant Consortium** to support broader participation in STEM among underserved youth in Georgia. This partnership, formally recognized as the **HFF STEM Education and Training Alliance (H-SETA)**, sponsored its first activities this summer. These activities included summer research experiences for high school students from Archer High School in Gwinnett County and the Atlanta International School, along with a summer STEM camp for middle school girls at STARBASE Robins, a Department of Defense-sponsored program at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins. Mercer faculty members involved in the project include **Dr. Elaine Thurmond**, assistant professor of clinical practice and co-director of the SEI Lab; **Dr. Susan Cannon**, assistant professor of mathematics education; **Dr. Meenakshi Sharma**, assistant professor of science education; **Dr. Zipangani Vokhiwa**, associate professor of science in the College of Professional Advancement; and **Dr. Randal Henne**, visiting scholar in the College of Education. Additionally, five Ph.D. candidates from the College of Education's graduate programs — **Dr. Jami Friedreich**, **Stacey Rivers**, **Tynetta Jenkins**, **Caitlin Hochuli** and **Ashlee Lee** — will support H-SETA program activities.

MERCER ACCEPTED TO UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE

Mercer was accepted for membership in **United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)**, an initiative that aligns higher education institutions with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the realization of U.N. goals and mandates. UNAI member institutions commit to following these basic principles: addressing poverty, capacity building, education for all, global citizenship, access to higher education, human rights, intercultural dialogue, peace and conflict resolution, sustainability, as well as the principles inherent in the U.N. Charter.

UNITED NATIONS
academic
impact

Sharing
a Culture
of Intellectual
Social
Responsibility

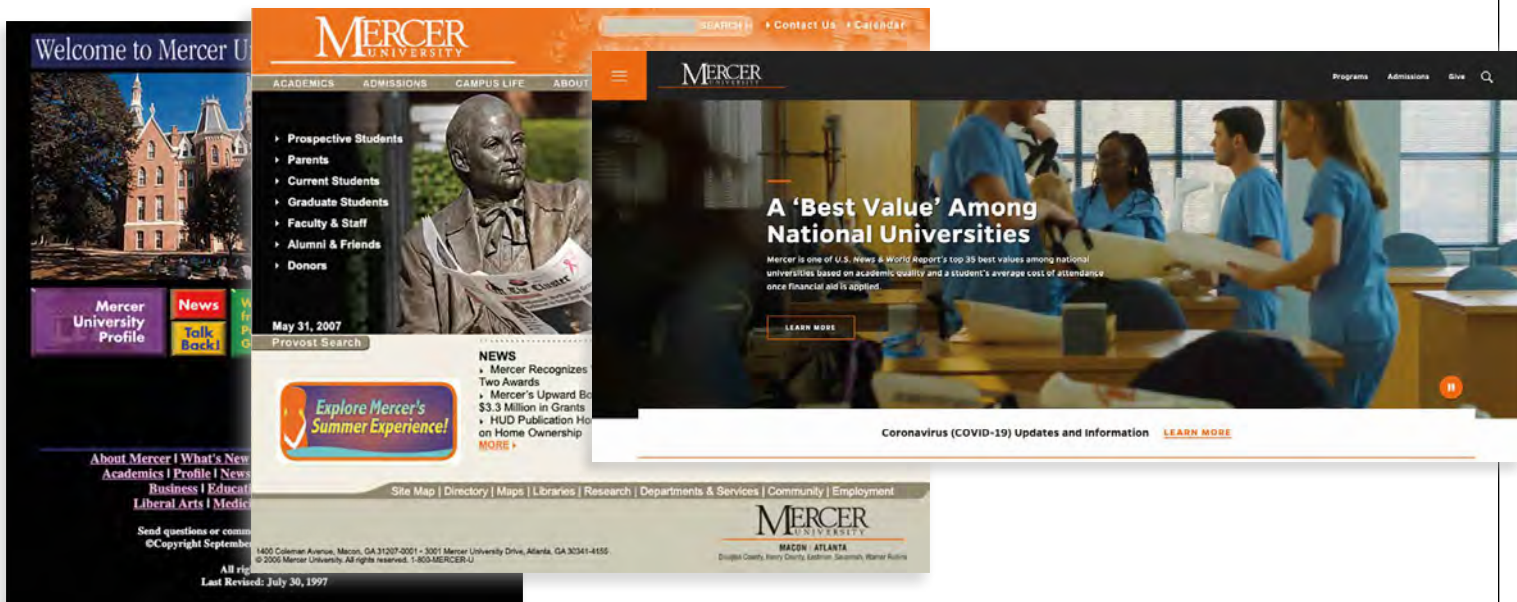
Theology Celebrates 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mercer's Board of Trustees in 1994 approved plans to establish a School of Theology to be located on the University's Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta. The School was named for longtime supporters **James and Carolyn McAfee**, who provided a \$10 million endowment for its founding. Construction was completed on the 32,000-square-foot facility in 1996, just prior to welcoming the charter class of students. Initially offering the Master of Divinity degree, McAfee School of Theology has expanded its offerings to include the Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and Doctor of Ministry, as well as several combined degree and certificate programs. McAfee is annually recognized among the "Seminaries that Change the World" by the Center for Faith and Service. Pictured below is the charter class, which graduated in May 1999.



Mercer Marks 25 YEARS ON THE WEB

On Sept. 7, 1996, Mercer University launched its first website. At a time when the World Wide Web was in its infancy, Mercer realized the potential of an online presence. Over the past 25 years, the website evolved into a daily source of information for the Mercer community and a first impression for prospective students. Each redesign introduced new capabilities, and the University's online branding became more modern and cohesive. No longer limited to the desktop computer, the Mercer website is today accessed mostly from mobile devices.



SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

NO. 1 IN ENGINEERING GOLDWATERS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

Mercer's School of Engineering this spring continued a run of unprecedented success with the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. For the third consecutive year, three students were announced as recipients of the nation's most prestigious scholarship for undergraduates in science, mathematics and engineering. Mercer leads all U.S. institutions with a total of nine engineering majors selected as Goldwater Scholars since 2019. **Sara Binet, Ebonye Smith,** and **Sarah Spalding** were among 410 college sophomores and juniors from across the U.S. — including 14 from Georgia institutions — to be awarded the scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year. Binet, Smith and Spalding bring the University's total number of winners to 15 over the past nine years, making Mercer one of the state's leading producers of Goldwater Scholars.



FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Class of 2021 graduates **Iran Hernandez,** **Kallysta "Kally" Jones** and **McPherson Newell** earned prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Awards. Hernandez and Newell both received Fulbright Graduate Study Awards to England, while Jones received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to Cyprus. Additionally, Class of 2020 alumna **Madeline Raine Cole** was named an alternate for an ETA in Italy, and seniors **Vidya Ganapathy** and **Yasmeen Hill** were selected as semifinalists. Mercer's three latest Fulbrighters bring the institution's total number of student Fulbright recipients to 20 since 2011.



Hernandez



Jones



Newell

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP

Class of 2021 graduate **Theori Alise Henry** was awarded a Boren Scholarship to study Swahili in Tanzania through the scholarship program's African Flagship Language Initiative. Boren Scholars commit one year to public service, working in positions critical to U.S. national security throughout the federal government, following their study overseas. Henry, an international affairs and global development double-major from Columbus, aspires to become a foreign service officer and diplomat for the United States in Africa.



Henry

MERCER'S FIRST TEACH FOR AMERICA AMBASSADOR

Senior **Geneis Crimé** was offered early admission into the Teach For America (TFA) corps and is serving as the University's first-ever TFA Ambassador during the current academic year. Crimé, from Dacula, is a criminal justice, sociology and Spanish triple-major. Following graduation from Mercer, she will begin a two-year commitment to TFA to teach middle-school bilingual education in San Antonio, Texas.



Crimé

HOLLINGS SCHOLARSHIP

Junior **Pierce Mastrion** was awarded the prestigious Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Mastrion is the institution's third Hollings Scholar in four years. The Hollings Scholarship Program is designed to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research and technology. Mastrion, from Atlanta, is a civil engineering major with a minor in engineering for development.



Mastrion

NEWMAN FELLOW, TRUMAN FINALIST

Senior **Ivy Clarke** is among 212 students from 39 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico who make up this year's cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. Clarke, an English literature and creative writing double-major from San Antonio, Texas, plans to use the fellowship opportunity to empower local high school students through facilitated poetry workshops. Also last spring, Clarke was selected as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship, the premier graduate fellowship in the U.S. for those pursuing careers as public service leaders.



Clarke

GILMAN SCHOLARS

Mercer had nine students chosen during the spring selection cycle to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. Mercer is one of the top producers of Gilman Scholars in the country and has been recognized as both a Gilman Top Producing Institution and Gilman Greatest Growth Institution. **Lidya Dereje, Genevieve Haskins, Samantha Johnson, Nyiah Kelley, Junho Kim, Phillip Middleton, Krupa Patel, Allison Ruiz** and **Julia Tra** are among more than 1,500 recipients — representing 467 colleges and universities across the U.S. — who will study or intern in 96 countries through the end of 2021.



Dereje



Haskins



Johnson



Kelley



Kim



Middleton



Patel



Ruiz



Tra

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Sophomore

Shaan Prasad

was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study Punjabi this summer.

Additionally, senior

Sanaa Yusuf

was named an alternate to study Urdu. The Critical Language Scholarship Program is a fully-funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American

undergraduate and graduate students with the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries. Prasad, from Athens, is a biology major with minors in chemistry and global health studies on the premed track, and Yusuf, from Fayetteville, is a neuroscience major on the premed track.



Prasad



Yusus

SCHOMBURG-MELLON INSTITUTE

Senior **Cam Wade** was selected to participate in this summer's Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute at the New York Public Library. The prestigious, highly competitive program was created by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to encourage minority students and others with an interest in African-American, African and African Diasporan Studies to pursue Ph.D.s in the humanities. Because of COVID-19, this year's institute, held June 2-July 2, was entirely online. The program provided Wade with a venue to explore issues broadly within the field of Black/Africana Studies and to work with leading names in the field. His research interests include the intersections among race, queerness, digital culture and video games.



Wade

NATIONAL STEM AWARD

Stacey Young Rivers, a Ph.D. candidate in the Tift College of Education, is a 2021 recipient of the Women of Color in STEM Technology All-Star Award.

The national award, sponsored by the Career Communications Group, recognizes accomplished career women of color who have demonstrated excellence in the workplace and in their communities. Rivers will be honored at a special recognition event during the Women of Color STEM Conference in October. Rivers is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in educational leadership with a focus in higher education on Mercer's Atlanta campus.



Rivers

LILLY FELLOW

Hannah Keller was recently selected as one of 10 Lilly Graduate Fellows nationwide by the Lilly Fellows Program. The program supports outstanding students who want to explore the connections among Christianity, higher education and the vocation of the teacher-scholar as they pursue graduate degrees in humanities and the arts. Keller, from McDonough, earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in May 2019 with majors in history and French and minors in Latin and English. She is attending The Ohio State University this fall to pursue a Ph.D. in history and plans to become a college professor specializing in medieval history.



Keller

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Cherie Bonder Dennis, who earned a Specialist in Education degree from Mercer's College of Education in 2019, was named 2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year on Aug. 7 during a virtual ceremony. Dennis teaches English to Speakers of Other Languages at Hesse K-8 School in Savannah.



Dennis

FACULTY & STAFF HONORS & RECOGNITION

KEENE, BUCHOLTZ RECEIVE \$344K DOD GRANT

Department of Chemistry faculty members **Dr. Joseph Keene** and **Dr. Kevin Bucholtz** were awarded a \$344,289 grant through the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP). This year's grants totaling \$50 million were provided to 85 institutions in 33 states to support purchases of major research equipment to augment current and develop new capabilities. Mercer's grant, awarded by the Office of Naval Research, will provide for the acquisition of state-of-the-art research instrumentation and equipment to expand ongoing work in the Department of Chemistry in collaboration with the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) related to corrosion prevention and control. Grant funding will be used to purchase a suite of equipment and instrumentation to bridge the gap between fundamental laboratory-based research and field-level implementation to detect, analyze and inform corrosion-related solutions.



Dr. Bucholtz and Dr. Keene

SNEDDON RECEIVES NATIONAL LEGAL WRITING AWARD

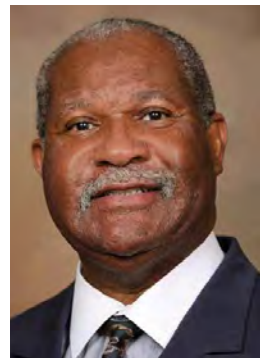
School of Law Professor and Interim Dean **Karen J. Sneddon** received the 2020 Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication from the Legal Writing Institute. Sneddon and co-author Susan Chesler, clinical professor of law in the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, received the Phelps Award for their article, "From Clause A to Clause Z: Narrative Transportation and the Transactional Reader," published in the *South Carolina Law Review*. The article explores the benefits of incorporating narrative techniques for writing transactional documents to increase reader engagement and comprehension.



Sneddon

HARTFIELD AWARDED HENDRICKS HONOR

Dr. Kedrick Hartfield, professor of mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was selected as the 2021 recipient of the Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award. The award recognizes a full-time teacher in one of Mercer's 12 schools and colleges who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguished siblings Joe and Jean Hendricks as teachers and mentors to generations of Mercer students. Dr. Hartfield, who just surpassed his 40th year of teaching at Mercer, is the longest-serving Black professor at the University and the longest-serving full-time faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



Dr. Hartfield

MAHONE NAMED VETERAN CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



Mahone

Director of Center Operations and retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. **Scott Mahone** was recently named one of 19 inaugural Veteran Champions of the Year in Higher Education by *G.I. Jobs*® magazine. The honor was created to recognize those who advocate for the advancement of America's veterans and military students in higher education by seeking to enable their success at colleges, universities and vocational schools. Mahone oversees operations at the University's regional academic centers in Douglas County and Henry County and at evening student support centers on the Atlanta and Macon campuses. These locations primarily serve working adult students, many of whom are military-connected individuals, including active-duty military, veterans, or spouses and dependents.

MORGAN, CRUTCHFIELD HONORED BY GULF-SOUTH



Dr. Morgan



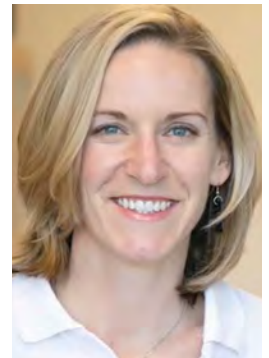
Dr. Crutchfield

Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was honored with the 2020 Gulf-South Award for Outstanding Practitioner Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education at the organization's annual conference held virtually in March. Dr. Morgan served as senior vice provost for service-learning for 13 years before returning to full-time teaching last year. As a former chair of the University's Department of Women's and Gender Studies, she developed service-learning courses on violence against women and sex trafficking.

Dr. Tammy Crutchfield, senior associate dean and professor of marketing in the School of Business, received the 2020 Gulf-South Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education-Instruction. She was recognized for her work with Traffick Jam, a social brand created in her classroom that teaches teens how to "drive out" sex trafficking and to mentor them to be all that they are created to be.

THOMAS RECEIVES INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Joanna Thomas, assistant professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering, was named the recipient of this year's Innovations in Teaching Award, co-sponsored by the Vulcan Materials Company and Mercer. The annual prize recognizes the efforts of an undergraduate faculty member who successfully provides student engagement learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Dr. Thomas joined the Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2016 and currently serves as director of undergraduate research for the School of Engineering.



Dr. Thomas

BOYER HONORED BY NACCU

NACCU, the National Association of Campus Card Users, recently presented Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services **Ken Boyer** with the prestigious J. Paul Melanson Award. The award is presented to members who have spurred the growth of the campus card industry, been pioneers in campus cards, significantly and freely helped NACCU members to implement or advance systems on their campuses, or been instrumental in the growth and stability of NACCU. Boyer is in his 29th year with Mercer and has served as the University's associate vice president for auxiliary services since January 2008.

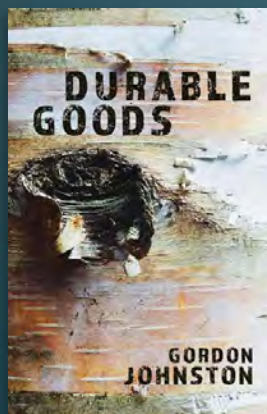


Boyer

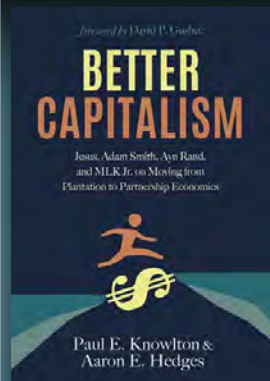
MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



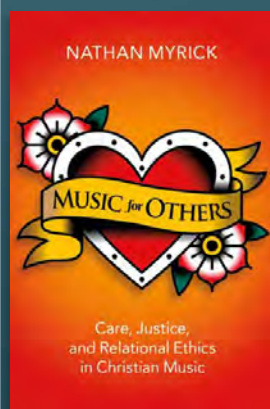
DR. WALLACE L. DANIEL, Distinguished University Professor of History, translated and edited *Women of the Catacombs: Memoirs of the Underground Church in Stalin's Russia* (Ithica: NIU/Cornell University Press). These memoirs offer a rare close-up account of the underground Orthodox community and its priests during some of the most difficult years in Russian history.



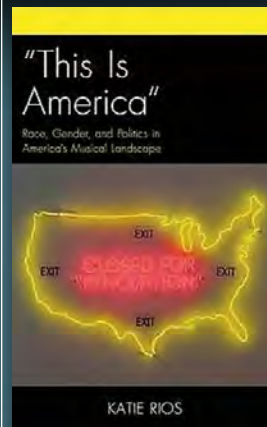
DR. GORDON JOHNSTON, professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *Durable Goods* (Finishing Line Press). Poem by poem, each finds lasting value in ordinary daily acts and objects — shaving with an inherited safety razor, listening to Neal Young on a cassette worn to the brink of uselessness, answering a toddler daughter's questions about air.



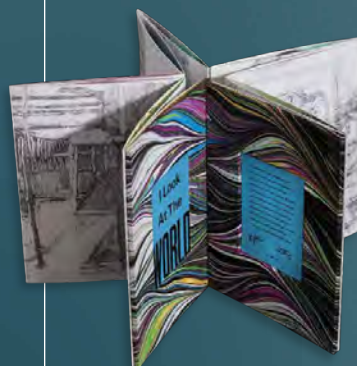
PAUL KNOWLTON, principal — marketplace initiative for the Center for Theology and Public Life, co-authored *Better Capitalism: Jesus, Adam Smith, Ayn Rand, and MLK Jr. on Moving from Plantation to Partnership Economics* (Wipf and Stock). *Better Capitalism* adds value across the full landscape of capitalism and the bridged worlds of business and faith.



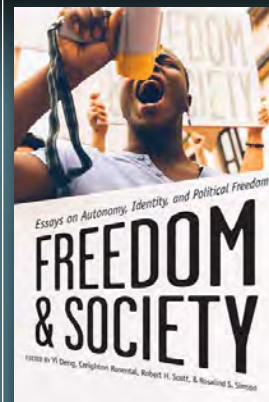
DR. NATHAN MYRICK, assistant professor of church music in the School of Music, authored *Music for Others: Care, Justice, and Relational Ethics in Christian Music* (Oxford University Press). Musical activity is one of the most highly valued forms of social interaction and can preserve people in and restore people to just relationships with each other.



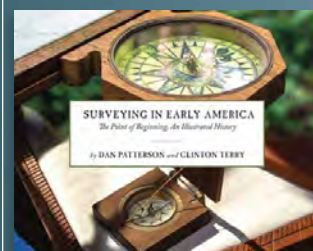
DR. KATIE RIOS, associate professor of music history in the School of Music, authored *This Is America: Race, Gender, and Politics in America's Musical Landscape* (Lexington Books). Rios considers current American artists who build encoded gestures of resistance into their works.



TENNILLE SHUSTER, associate professor of graphic design in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, published an artist's book, titled *I Look at the World*. Written by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Kandy Lopez-Moreno, letterpress printed on Epson velvet fine art paper at In Cahoots Residency in Petaluma, California, in a structure conceived, hand marbled, and produced in an edition of 12 by Tennille Davis Shuster. Seager/Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, California.



DR. ROSALIND SIMON, associate professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Creighton Rosental, professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, co-edited *Freedom and Society: Essays on Autonomy, Identity, and Political Freedom* (Mercer University Press). In order to preserve and ensure the vitality of freedom and democracy in democratic societies, it is important that citizens reflect deeply on the meaning of freedom and the conditions necessary to sustain it.



DR. CLINTON TERRY, associate professor of history and liberal studies in the College of Professional Advancement, co-authored *Surveying in Early America: The Point of Beginning, An Illustrated History* (University of Cincinnati Press). Award-winning photographer Dan Patterson and American historian Clinton Terry unpack the profession of surveying during the 18th century and provide an interpretive look at surveying as a primary means to building the American nation.

SQUEEZED

By Jennifer Falk • Photographs by Christopher Ian Smith

JAMES LOTSON
JULY 11, 1913
FEB. 6, 1984





OFF THE ISLAND

A MERCER CLASS HELPS PRESERVE
THE HISTORY OF A DISAPPEARING
COASTAL GEORGIA COMMUNITY



T
UCKED
INSIDE AN
EXCLUSIVE GOLF CLUB ON
ST. SIMONS ISLAND,
SHADED BY
LIVE OAK TREES
DRAPED IN MOSS,
LIE ABOUT 100 GRAVES
OF THE ENSLAVED
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

Accessible only to those with relatives buried there, Retreat Cemetery stands in contrast to the nearby fairway where golfers play.

For the past several years, Mercer University students have been learning the stories of African Americans buried at Retreat and elsewhere on the island. In doing so, they are helping preserve the history of a disappearing community in Coastal Georgia.

As part of **Dr. Melanie Pavich's** special topics course, "History of African Americans in Coastal Georgia," students in the College of Professional Advancement interview elders from the Gullah-Geechee community and create digital stories to share and archive.

"We're working against the clock in terms of trying to get as many oral histories as we can trying to build this archive," said Dr. Pavich, associate professor of history and interdisciplinary



Associate Professor Dr. Melanie Pavich, fourth from left, gathers with former students and others connected to her class at Retreat Cemetery, where some of their research has been focused. Below: The Retreat Plantation House ruins are preserved.





From left, alumnus Zachary Williams; Jerome Gratigny, director of academic technology services; student Tocarra Miller; Amy Roberts, executive director of the St. Simons African-American Heritage Coalition; alumna Tammy Wages; Dr. Melanie Pavich, associate professor of history and interdisciplinary studies; St. Simons Island resident Henry “Chip” Wilson; Dr. Fred Bongiovanni, chair of the Department of Liberal Studies; alumnus Keith Minor; and alumna Carol Minor gather at Retreat Cemetery.

studies in the College.

The Gullah-Geechee people are descendants of Africans enslaved on rice and cotton plantations in coastal areas of the Southeast. This included Georgia’s Golden Isles, which grew in wealth because of the work of enslaved Africans.

The Gullah-Geechee have their own distinct language, culture and foodways that were passed down from their ancestors. While they once made up most of the population in areas like St. Simons, their numbers now are dwindling.

“One of the things that’s happened on St. Simons and other places in Coastal Georgia is that these people from African American communities there — the majority of whom can trace their ancestry back to enslavement — have been squeezed off the island because of development,” Dr. Pavich said. “Some have left for work. Some have passed away. But many of the people ... have just been squeezed off the island.”

Henry “Chip” Wilson, 69, has lived his whole life on St. Simons. He can trace his family’s history on the island back to 1849, before the Civil War, when his great-grandfather was enslaved on the Harrington Plantation.

Wilson has seen firsthand the encroachment of development on these historically African American communities.

“Most of the families here in this area have been being taxed out of the land since — oh, goodness — ’94, ’95,” he said.

Wilson, who has been interviewed by several Mercer students for the project, said he thinks it’s great that they’re helping to preserve St. Simons’ African American history:

“How do you know where you’re going, if you don’t know understand where you came from?”

DISCOVERING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Dr. Pavich’s class is taught over two eight-week sessions. Students spend the first eight weeks learning about the history of African Americans in Coastal Georgia through reading, films, research, writing and class discussion. They also learn how to conduct an interview.

Typically, between the two sessions, the class takes a three-day weekend trip to St. Simons to tour the area and conduct interviews. The trip didn't happen this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so students interviewed the elders over the phone or Zoom.

During the second session, students transcribe their interviews and produce digital stories based on what they learned. At the end of the course, the students usually present their digital stories as part of a public program on St. Simons, although the pandemic prevented them from doing that in the spring. A presentation of their work is now planned for October.

The project and public programs have been supported by seed grants from Mercer's Office of the Provost as well as grants from Georgia Humanities and Mercer's Center for the Study of Narrative.

The yearly programs have brought together diverse communities on St. Simons Island and have connected Mercer students with guest speakers such as Daina Ramey Berry, professor and chair of the History Department and Oliver H. Radkey Regents Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin.

"It's been really wonderful because it has allowed this broader view and brought much more attention to the importance

of African American history, not just in Coastal Georgia but even throughout the state," Dr. Pavich said.

UNCOVERING THE PAST

The class works with the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition, which helps identify elders to interview and displays the students' digital stories in the Historic Harrington School. The stories, including interview transcripts, photos and videos, are also archived at Mercer and will become part of URSA: University Research, Scholarship, and Archives at the library.

The Harrington School, a one-room schoolhouse, was built in the 1920s and served as the main school for three African American communities on St. Simons until desegregation in the 1950s. Today, it serves as the home base for the coalition.

"The class normally gives us a digital story, and sometimes we play them when people come into the Harrington School. We play the digital stories, so they can hear for themselves what happened," said Amy Roberts, executive director of the coalition.

Past stories have included interviews of people who attended the Harrington School.

"They talk about the years that they were in school there and things that happened," said Roberts, who also went to the school. "So they get to learn more about what happened at the Harrington School and in the African American community on St. Simons."

Most recently, students have focused their research on African

Alumnus Zachary Williams, who took Dr. Melanie Pavich's class in 2019, looks at a grave in Union Memorial Cemetery, which is commonly known as Strangers Cemetery.

Far right: The graves of former Harrington School teachers are enclosed by a fence at Strangers Cemetery.



A dirt road leads through the entrance to Union Memorial Cemetery, commonly known as Strangers Cemetery. At right: Dried leaves and overgrown weeds surround the graves at Strangers Cemetery.





The Historic Harrington School, built in the 1920s, served African American communities on St. Simons Island. After falling into disrepair, the school has since been restored.

Below: From left, Amy Roberts, executive director of the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition, shares family photos with alumnus Zachary Wilson; Dr. Melanie Pavich, associate professor of history and interdisciplinary studies; and Jerome Gratigny, director of academic technology services. Alumna Tammy Wages and student Tocarra Miller look on.

American cemeteries on St. Simons, including the Retreat Cemetery on the former Retreat Plantation, one of the preeminent plantations on the island.

"If you can trace your ancestry back to enslavement on that plantation then you can still be buried in that cemetery, and people continue to be buried there," Dr. Pavich said.

This year, students interviewed relatives of people buried at Strangers Cemetery. Originally called Union Memorial Cemetery, it became known as Strangers because it was the burial ground for African Americans who could not trace their ancestry back to the former plantations.

Roberts, 74, has relatives buried at both Retreat and Strangers cemeteries. Her mother, father and two sisters are buried at Retreat,





Left: St. Simons Island resident Henry "Chip" Wilson. Wilson's great-grandfather was enslaved on the Harrington Plantation on the island. Above: Amy Roberts, executive director of the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition. Roberts' lineage traces back to the island's Retreat Plantation.

while her brother and uncle are interred at Strangers.

Even though her brother could have been buried at Retreat, "he didn't like the idea of golf balls hitting him in the head," she said.

Her late husband, who was from Liberty County, also is buried at Strangers.

Roberts has been unendingly generous with her time, Dr. Pavich said, helping identify people for her students to interview and showing her classes around the island.

LESSONS LEARNED

Student **Denise Fraser**, who is majoring in liberal studies, interviewed two sisters, ages 90 and 96, whose parents and a few other relatives are buried at Strangers Cemetery.

Fraser, who is from Boston, said the class opened her eyes to the history of African Americans in Coastal Georgia.

"I just learned about their community and their history of how they came over on the slave ships and some of the traditions that they have passed down, like basket weaving, and just what a really difficult time that they had when they came here," she said.

Mercer alumnus **Ashton Walker**, who graduated in 2017, recalled his interview with a musician on St. Simons.

"It was really interesting to see the sort of religious and musical language that he used to process his own personal history, his cultural history and the matrix of things that make up Southern history," Walker said.

Even after he graduated, Walker continued to bring his wife and children to St. Simons to hear the students' annual program.

"History is always contested. It's always fraught," he said. "For that community, I think [the project] is a really important focal point that [provides a space for] things that aren't always told and always preserved the way others are maintained."

Today, he lives in Clarkston, where he sits on the city's Historic Preservation Commission. He would like to replicate the oral history project there, he said.

Mercer alumna **Tammy Wages** graduated in 2018, but she enjoyed the project so much that she still works on it as a mentor to current students.

"We are giving a voice to the African American community on the island," she said. "By bringing their voices to light and recording their history and their stories, this is something that will stay in the historical society and the community indefinitely."

She said she feels the project makes a difference in the community, and "if we can make a change, that's something I want to be a part of."

WHAT WE HAVE

As we approach the two-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic,

LEARNED FROM

all aspects of society have been affected by the coronavirus and our efforts to

THE PANDEMIC

mitigate its spread and limit the amount of sickness and death in our communities.

The Mercerian asked faculty members from across the University to reflect on these impacts and how they've challenged us to consider new ways of doing things — ways that might prove to be better than our old ways — providing some glimmers of light for a brighter future on the other side of this pandemic.



What we were unwilling to do for the past 100 years in vaccine research was more than achieved in one year. Big Pharma was never interested in vaccine research since it involved low profit margins. This time, many governments pumped huge funds into vaccine research. So, all in all, the pandemic has provided a big boost for all kinds of vaccination, hopefully cancer vaccines and vaccines for diseases like diabetes, Alzheimer's and arthritis.

— **Dr. Martin D'Souza**, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
College of Pharmacy

Though we see all the horrible aspects of the pandemic, in terms of counseling it has really opened the door for people to understand the importance of counseling and how it fits into being healthy. Counselors had no other choice but to learn how to reach clients remotely and make sure their practice was being done ethically and legally. School counselors, in particular, found themselves not only providing counseling for the students, but the entire family. Even on a clinical mental health basis, those who are in private practice found that a client became a family instead of an individual. My experience is that parents first come to the counselor talking about their kids and then realize, "I can talk about me, too." It has definitely opened up the doors for people to come to the realization that there's no need to be afraid or ashamed of saying, "I need help, and I'm getting help," in order to deal with whatever mental issues they may be going through.

— **Dr. Karen Rowland**, Professor of Counseling
College of Professional Advancement





Mercer Theatre's "The Phoenix Project: Renewal" featured giant puppets, pyrotechnics and more last April on Cruz Plaza.

Our students learned a truth about the craft of theatre that has been the case for hundreds of years: art is the first to adapt. COVID-19 restrictions took away our physical theatre with the curtains and lights. So, we made our own lights with circus skill by learning to twirl fire. We used the curtain of night for our backdrop. Mercer Theatre students took the opportunity of a dark time to learn new ways to bring light and joy back into our community.

— **Scot J. Mann**, Associate Professor of Theatre
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Ministers have learned many lessons from caring for people during the pandemic. The pandemic calls for us to practice what we preach — that God loves us no matter what is happening, that God's grace sustains us, that God walks with us even in the valley of the shadow of death. Many ministers have found that these tenets of our faith have become stronger and deeper as they have been tested. We are also learning how to communicate more deeply about the healing, guiding, sustaining, reconciling, liberating, empowering love of God. We have learned anew that both the presence of people who care and an awareness of the presence of God matters when people are suffering. Ministers are learning to communicate compassion and presence virtually. Those skills can only strengthen ministry in the future. "Fear not" is a vital message of the Christian scriptures and a teaching of many traditions. Ministers are being challenged to learn new and deeper ways to help people when they are afraid. To guide people to shift from feeling fear to knowing they are deeply divinely loved is powerful ministry during a pandemic, during a personal crisis and during the trials of ordinary life. This deepening of faith, practice and ministry skills will serve the church and the world well in the future.

— **Dr. Denise Massey**, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling
McAfee School of Theology



Work in critical care, and as we've been hit hard with COVID-19 one of the things we've learned is the value of communication and the value of family presence and involvement. Not being able to have family present as a part of the team when patients are really ill was a really big hurdle for us. I teach what is called evidence-based practice, which is incorporating what the science tells us, what the abilities of the health care team are and what the patient's family desires as part of the health care plan. In order to be evidence-based and providing great care, we have to have the patient and their family involved. The visual ability for the family to see what's going on helps with emotion, stress and also decision-making. I've been working in the ICU for 22 to 23 years, and our communication with family has typically all been over the telephone. Now we're using these advanced telecommunication tools like FaceTime, Zoom and Skype, and I definitely think that's something we're going to continue using going forward, even with non-COVID patients.

— **Dr. Brandon Frady**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing
College of Nursing



Mercer was the first physician assistant program in Georgia to begin actively working through the Georgia Department of Public Health's Volunteers in Health Care Program and the Community Organized Relief Effort organizing and supervising students administering vaccines in mass vaccination events at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. We will continue to work with these partners and others to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to underserved patients across the state through the use of mobile and 'pop-up' vaccination clinics within communities needing access to initial vaccinations and boosters. The biggest fear a lot of people have is going into a medical clinic. I think going straight into communities and also having people from those communities volunteer makes it so much easier for people to be interested and to bring their families. We've also begun engagement and training with the Southeastern Telemedicine Resource Center and the PA Foundation, as training in telemedicine has taken on increased focus for students to be prepared to offer access to rural and underserved patients as well as preparation for patient access during a pandemic.

— **Dr. Jill Mattingly**, Clinical Associate Professor and Chair of Physician Assistant Studies
College of Health Professions

The pandemic has drastically changed what we do in the business world, particularly in the areas of virtual meetings, recruitment and hiring,

as well as the selling of office space. Microsoft Teams and Zoom are platforms everyone is using for meetings, and Tableau, which was catching on before the pandemic, has really taken off as a tool to make presentations more interactive. The hiring process has changed as companies are asking candidates to send in videos and using artificial intelligence to select finalists. So many

major companies are downsizing their office space because of the number of workers they're keeping at home. It's a permanent shift that some might find improves productivity while others might not. There are still a lot of unknowns regarding how these changes will impact the business world going forward.

— **Dr. Julie Petherbridge**, Dean and Associate Professor of Accountancy
Stetson-Hatcher School of Business

We have learned that there are many ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. This includes, but is not limited to, increasing vaccination rates, maintaining social distancing guidelines, emphasizing the importance of personal hygiene and encouraging the use of face masks. Since March 2020, my undergraduate research team and I have studied the efficacy of face masks and found that wearing face masks correctly is the most effective way to prevent the spread and infection of the COVID-19 virus. Not only are face masks effective in containing the spread of COVID-19, but we also observed a decrease in the number of seasonal flu patients last winter, which may be correlated to increased use of face masks. We believe this will be a key metric to track as we continue to experience the spread of respiratory diseases in future years.

— **Dr. Sinjae Hyun**, Professor of Biomedical Engineering
School of Engineering



Townsend School of Music retrofitted its recital hall with new camera and audio mixing equipment to improve livestreaming quality for people unable to attend in-person concerts.

One of the things that has clearly come from the pandemic is the focus on the severe health disparities in our state. The highest death rates from COVID-19 came in primarily rural counties without quality primary care. I think the state of Georgia has always cared about rural areas, but this has refocused that concern and that determination. I think the state — and the nation — will recognize that care has to be local. You need basic, high-quality, primary care medicine from community-responsive physicians who care about their community and help their community become healthier. When you have a primary care doctor, not only do you have a physician, but you have an advocate. In this day and time in our health care system that is somewhat broken, you really need an advocate. Additionally, immunizations and vaccinations are probably the most meaningful discovery in all of medicine. They provide the ability to prevent disease, or at least moderate disease. Yet, somehow this vaccine has been called into question. It needed to be expedited, and I feel like it went through the right scientific rigor. I understand why people question the need because of the mixed messages they've gotten. But it's sad, because this vaccine is desperately needed in all areas of society, and it saves lives.

— **Dr. Jean Sumner**, Dean and Professor of Medicine
School of Medicine



We learned the value of sharing our music beyond the four walls of the music building. Because of the pandemic, we focused a good deal of energy on our livestreaming and social media as a way of compensating for the lack of in-person concerts. But we quickly discovered that doing so allowed folks who were otherwise unable to attend in person concerts — maybe it was a grandparent with health concerns or a family member who lived out of state — to see their loved ones' recitals and concerts. Now, we've retrofitted our recital hall to improve the quality of those livestreams with our new cameras and audio mixing station. Even though we may be returning to in-person concerts, we will still be livestreaming and recording them in order to share our music with as many others as possible.

— **Dr. Nathan Myrick**, Assistant Professor in Church Music
Townsend School of Music



Mercer Softball's

Allie Jones

Awarded 2021-22 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.

This is the second postgraduate scholarship Jones has earned after receiving the prestigious Dorothy Hicks Scholarship from the Southern Conference last spring.

Jones graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average while double-majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology. The Calhoun native will attend medical school at Mercer. Jones was a member of the Phi

Eta Honor Society and the American Chemical Society and participated in several research projects, ranging from traditional chemistry to a more biochemistry-focused investigation, and presented her findings at multiple conferences.

Jones, a two-year captain for the Bears, is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team selection and CoSIDA Academic All-American. She became the second player in program history to be named a CoSIDA Academic All-American in 2020. She is a three-time Academic All-SoCon selection and was named to the All-SoCon Second Team and the Southern Conference All-Tournament Team this season after being named to the SoCon All-Freshman Team in 2018.

NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships are awarded to student-athletes who intend to pursue advanced degrees, based on evaluation of their academics, athletics and community service.





WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Three-peats to NCAA

A come-from-behind win over top-seeded Furman clinched the Southern Conference championship and automatic berth for the NCAA tournament.

Sophomore **Shannon Urey** buried the score with under eight minutes left to punch the Bears' ticket to the dance. Mercer's run in the NCAA tournament ended after one game at the hands of sixth-ranked Florida in Gainesville.

"We had to come back against Furman in the championship game. We had an issue giving teams leads and having to play from behind," said coach **Samantha Eustace**. "Going into the Furman game I thought we had a plan that would work defensively. It clearly didn't so we had to switch gears and come back. Our team had been in that position before. We were the No. 3 seed. We had something to

prove and wanted that respect for the program that we are. We went 3-for-3 in the SoCon [Tournament] and ultimately got the respect that we wanted."

The Bears concluded the season with a 7-8 mark, while going 2-2 in conference play — but won their third consecutive SoCon crown. Five of the eight losses came by a deficit of six or fewer goals. Mercer faced tough tests against four other NCAA Tournament teams in High Point, Vanderbilt, top-ranked North Carolina and Jacksonville.

In the unprecedented season, the Orange & Black played only 12 regular season contests and had five games canceled on their run to the SoCon title. Mercer finished their third consecutive year with a .500 or better record at home.

Iseabel Cryne was named the Most Outstanding Player of the league tournament. She was the first goalie to win the honor. In the two games, she stopped 21 shots in 115-plus minutes of play. Her goals against average of 13.88 was among the best in Division I.

Six Bears were awarded seven All-Conference honors. **Hailey Rhatigan**, **Lily Morin** and **Emma Pizzo** were chosen to the SoCon's First Team. **Madi Koury** and **Sami Van Slyke** were selected to the Second Team, while Koury and **Chloe Schaeffer** were tabbed to the All-Freshman Team.

Women's Lacrosse Moves to Big South

Following a four-year stint in the Southern Conference, Mercer will join the Big South as an associate member for women's lacrosse, effective for the 2022 season.

The Bears were the only school to win the SoCon tournament championship, claiming three in a row from 2018-19 and 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no championship awarded in 2020.

In the final year of play in the SoCon, MU finished with a 7-8 record and ran the table for the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament before bowing out after a showdown with sixth-ranked Florida.

"We are excited to be joining the Big South [Conference] for women's lacrosse. They are a very strong conference, and we have played a number of those teams every year," said head coach **Samantha Eustace**. "We appreciate everything the Southern Conference has done for Women's Lacrosse. We look forward to competing for the Big South Championship next spring."

Except for the shortened 2020 season in which no conference games were contested, the Orange & Black never had a sub-.500 mark in SoCon play.

Furman and Wofford will join Mercer in the switch from the SoCon to the Big South.

The Bears, Paladins and Terriers will join current Big South members Campbell, Gardner-Webb, High Point, Longwood, Presbyterian, Radford and Winthrop.





The 1892 fund, established by the Rev. Dr. Gary L. Abbott Sr. (CLAS '69), his wife, Billie Abbott (CLAS '69), Louis Abbott Jr. (CLAS '99) and his wife, Jana Abercrombie-Abbott, with head football coach Drew Cronic (center).

Mercer Athletic Foundation Announces The 1892 Fund

The Mercer Athletic Foundation has announced the creation of the 1892 Fund endowment, designed to support and enhance the football program. The fund is named to commemorate the first college football game in the deep south featuring the Mercer Bears and the Georgia Bulldogs in 1892.

"The Abbott Family has helped Mercer's football program become positioned for long-term success by establishing The 1892 Fund," said Deputy Athletic Director and Director of the Mercer Athletic Foundation **Brian Gerrity**. "This endowment will become an important asset for

Coach Cronic to continue to elevate the program."

"Our program is incredibly thankful for the Abbott Family and their work to establish The 1892 Fund," said head football coach **Drew Cronic**, who is in his second year at the helm. "They are truly helping raise the bar for our student-athletes. We appreciate their support and look forward to continuing to take positive strides on and off the field as we develop a championship program."

The fund was established by

The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Abbott Sr., CLAS '69, his wife, **Billie Abbott**, CLAS '69, **Louis Abbott Jr.**, CLAS '99, and his wife, **Jana Abercrombie-Abbott**. The fund enhances the team's operating budget and use is determined by both the head football coach and director of athletics.

Louis and his wife, Jana, have supported Mercer and the Mercer Athletic Foundation for 20 years. They have been men's basketball courtside season ticket holders since 2011 and held football season tickets since the revival of the program in 2013. Louis is a founding partner of Roland Abbott & DeZort Insurance.

New Athletic Bands Director Appointed

Mercer's Townsend School of Music appointed **Dr. Nathan Gay** associate professor of music and director of athletic bands, effective July 1. Dr. Gay is responsible for directing Mercer's marching band, basketball pep bands and serves as a guest conductor of the wind ensemble. In addition, he is primary instructor for low brass and brass methods classes for music education majors. Dr. Gay earned both his Master of Music and Doctor of Music Arts from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.



Dr. Gay

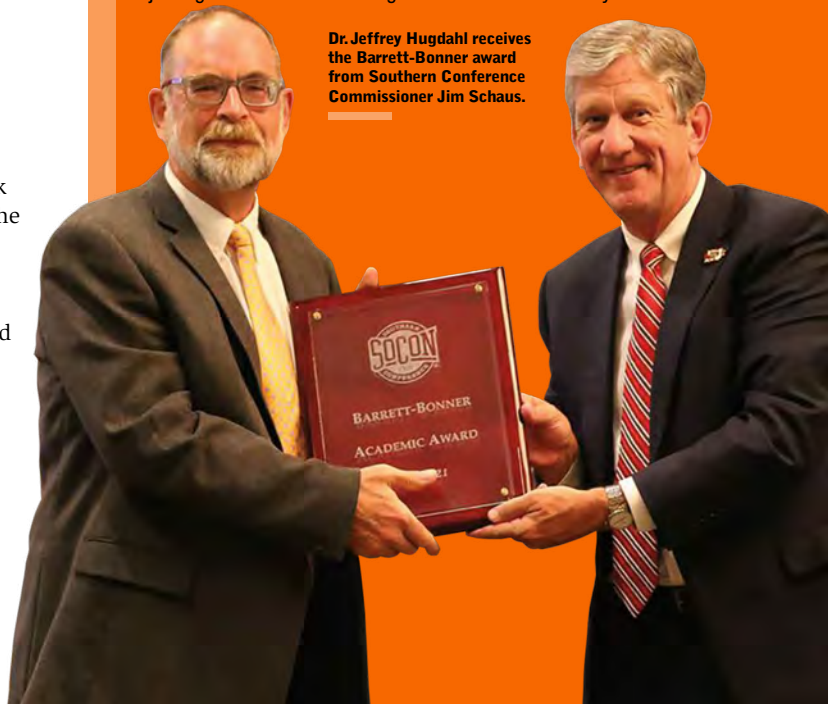
6 Mercer Receives 6th Barrett-Bonner

Mercer earned its sixth consecutive Barrett-Bonner Award from the Southern Conference at the conclusion of the 2020-21 academic year.

The Barrett-Bonner Award is given to the SoCon institution that places the highest percentage of its student-athletes on the league's academic honor roll. **Mercer placed 83% of its student-athletes on the Southern Conference Honor Roll.**

In addition to leading the SoCon in total Honor Roll selections and percentage of student-athletes on the Honor Roll, **the Bears had a league-best 114 student-athletes earn the Commissioner's Medal for posting a GPA of at least 3.8 and had a SoCon-high 41 student-athletes register 4.0 grade-point averages.**

Mercer has won the award each year it has been eligible since joining the conference during the 2014-15 academic year.



Dr. Jeffrey Hugdahl receives the Barrett-Bonner award from Southern Conference Commissioner Jim Schaus.

Women's Golf

Steady Steps to National Play

Upon her arrival in 2015, Mercer Golf Coach **Michelle Drinkard** had one main goal: take the team to an NCAA Regional Tournament.

The program had a solid base of players that helped set the tone and culture of the team.

However, two important areas of improvement changed their trajectory, leading them to the regional tournament. The first was the improvement in the quality of play, and the second was strengthening the schedule. Coach Drinkard played a hands-on role in working with players in fundamentals, core strategies, game approach, and overall mental toughness when facing nationally recognized opponents. In her first three years of coaching at Mercer, the quality of the women's golf team improved, allowing the program to play in better tournaments — increasing their ranking. Before this last season, the program came very close to tournament play. During the unprecedented COVID season, the team was able to combine Drinkard's successful coaching techniques and increased competitive opportunities to make their first NCAA Regional Tournament in program history.

Experience played a crucial role. **Payton Schanen**, a sixth-year senior (redshirt), and fifth-year **Lauren Lightfritz** returned for graduate school. Schanen and Lightfritz led the team, not only from a leadership perspective, but in their quality of play. They tied for first on the leader board, both finishing with 27 rounds. Schanen averaged her career best 72.96 while Lightfritz followed with her career best of 74.33. As a team, the Florida State Match-Up and the Brickyard Collegiate competitions solidified their journey to regionals. Their second-best finish was in Tallahassee where the Bears finished in 6th place. Despite being left with only four players in the Brickyard Collegiate due to COVID-19, the team finished second to Central Florida. During the SoCon Championship, the team finished third. At the NCAA Louisville Regional, Mercer had a second round of 287 (-1) and moved up to 7th headed into the final round with the top six moving on to the NCAA Championship. On the final day of the regional, the Bears fell a few holes short and did not advance.

“You can accomplish everything you dream of right here at Mercer and be ready for life beyond college.”

Following the tournament, the program has a few new goals. Drinkard says she wants the team to “be able to handle the feeling of being comfortable with the uncomfortable.” This year the team will focus on mindset and strategy in order to handle a higher level of competition. Now that a new level of achievement has been reached, another goal of the program is to put the team in NCAA regionals every year, as either SoCon Champions or as an at-large bid. The last goal for the program is to finish in the top 50 or better, every year.

The team will improve with three new additions: freshmen **Katie Song** and **Mikayla Dubnik** and sophomore Georgia Southern transfer **Hailey Katona**. Dubnik joins the Bear family after recently finishing competitions in the USGA Women's Amateurs. Katona will be the first player under Drinkard to shoot two rounds of 66 while on her way to winning the Alberta Women's Amateur. Katona also won the Ontario Women's Match Play last summer.

Coach Drinkard wants prospective players to know that “you can accomplish everything you dream of right

here at Mercer and be ready for life beyond college whether as a professional in the corporate world or as a professional athlete.”

Schanen is competing in the LPGA Tour Qualifying School and Lightfritz will begin her professional career this fall.



Schanen



MERCER MEDICINE OPENS NEW RURAL HEALTH CLINIC IN PUTNAM COUNTY

Mercer Medicine held a ribbon-cutting for the launch of its fourth rural primary care clinic, which opened March 1 at 117 Harmony Crossing, Suite 1, in Eatonton.

Mercer Medicine Putnam County will bolster local health care providers by offering high-quality primary care in a convenient, friendly atmosphere. **Dr. Diana Homeier** and staff offer primary care, geriatric care, mental health counseling, EKG, lab, immunizations and specialist visits via telehealth Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dr. Homeier earned her medical degree from the University of Southern California School of Medicine with highest distinction and completed a family medicine residency at David Grant Air Force Medical Center where she served as chief resident. In 2000, she completed a fellowship in geriatric medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. She is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine with an added qualification in geriatrics.

“Providing quality, primary care to the citizens of rural Georgia is the cornerstone of Mercer University School of Medicine and Mercer Medicine’s mission. We are looking forward to joining the health care professionals already in the area to improve access to primary care in Putnam County and the communities around it,” said **Jean Sumner**, M.D., dean of MUSM. “We are delighted to have Dr. Homeier join the Mercer Medicine team. She is an outstanding physician who has specialized training and certification in geriatrics.”



Participants in February's ribbon-cutting at Mercer Medicine Putnam County included (l-r) MUSM Executive Director of Finance and Administration Ben West, Dr. Miles Wei, Dr. Diana Homeier, MUSM Dean Dr. Jean Sumner, Harmony Crossing Developer Lowell White Jr., Lowell White III and Mercer President William D. Underwood.

D'SOUZA AWARDED NIH GRANT FOR NANOPARTICLE STUDY IN CHILDHOOD EPILEPSY

College of Pharmacy Professor **Dr. Martin D'Souza** and researchers at Emory University were awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to study whether oxytocin-encapsulated nanoparticles targeted to the brain will help lessen seizures and behavioral deficits in childhood epilepsy.

Most anti-epileptic drugs do not adequately treat severe seizures and behavior deficits and come with a host of side effects. More effective, longer lasting treatments are needed. Previous research has shown neuropeptides can control seizures and improve behavioral abnormalities but that they do not easily cross the blood brain barrier.

This R01 grant of \$2.4 million will provide Dr. D'Souza \$284,000 over five years to provide Emory with nanoparticle-encapsulated

oxytocin, which has been shown to penetrate the blood brain barrier and to confer sustained resistance to seizures in mouse models.

Dr. D'Souza is a nationally known expert in nanotechnology whose laboratory focuses on the design of novel patented technologies to deliver nano vaccines via oral-, buccal-, parenteral- and microneedle-based transdermal routes. He has developed two potential dry particulate vaccines, one for gonorrhea and another for ovarian cancer, which will be the first ovarian cancer vaccine to reach clinical trials.

This new study will look at whether nanoparticle encapsulated oxytocin can address seizures and behavioral deficits in mouse models of severe childhood epilepsy caused by mutations in two sodium channels.



Dr. D'Souza

PHARMACY PROJECT AIMS TO REMEDY HYPERTENSION AMONG BLACK MEN

Barbershops traditionally have been a gathering spot for Black men, places not only to get a haircut but also to socialize. Now there is an effort underway to make the barbershop a place of health and wellness learning.

Two College of Pharmacy faculty are leading a project to put pharmacists into barbershops in an effort to improve the health of Black men, who as a group have high rates of hypertension and stroke. The team will train barbers and stylists to screen for blood pressure, discuss the importance of taking their medications, and live a healthy lifestyle with their clients. They also intend to embed a pharmacist in the barbershop to adjust medications, when necessary.

Gina Ryan,

Pharm.D., chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and **Jenn Nguyen,** Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacy practice, will launch the project at a barbershop in Stone Mountain after receiving contracts from the National Association of Chronic

Disease Directors and the Georgia Department of Public Health, totaling \$24,340. They hope to grow the number of locations in the future.

Dr. Nguyen envisions training barbers to slip a blood pressure cuff on a client's arm when they snap a cape on for a haircut. A previous study conducted in Los Angeles with pharmacists-led medication management led to a significant lowering of blood pressure among the barbershop's customers.



Dr. Nguyen



Dr. Ryan

GRANT APPOINTED GEORGIA RURAL HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Glenda Grant, who has served as interim executive director of the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center at the Mercer School of Medicine since April 6, has been selected as its executive director.

Grant joined the School of Medicine in 2017 in the Department of Academic Affairs and has worked with Special Programs, Academic Success, and most recently served as director of strategic initiatives. She has a strong background in rural hospital administration, nonprofit management and higher education.

Grant has held many roles in health care administration, from starting a medical foundation to building a wellness center to managing rural health clinics. She is also dedicated to making a difference in the community. Whether Grant is serving as president of Main Street Business Association or delivering meals to the homeless, she has a heart for service and a love for people.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from Valdosta State University



Grant

and completed her Master of Business Administration with a focus on health care administration in Mercer's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business this summer.

HUWE NAMED GOVERNOR'S TEACHING FELLOW

Peter Huwe, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry in the Mercer School of Medicine, was recently selected as a 2021 Governor's Teaching Fellow. He is representing Mercer among a select group of faculty from institutions of higher education across the state during the fellows program's academic-year symposia. Dr. Huwe primarily focuses on teaching preclinical sciences to first- and second-year medical students, and his research focuses on using computational modeling and simulations to elucidate



Dr. Huwe

the functional effects of novel mutations in proteins. He earned his B.S. in biology and chemistry from Mississippi College and Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed postdoctoral study in structural bioinformatics at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Mercer University

HOMECOMING

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Events will include the 9th Annual Alumni Career Speaker Series; 6th Annual Alumni Awards Celebration; Half Century Club Induction and Celebration; Recognition of the Undergraduate Classes of '70, '71, '80, '81, '90, '91, '95, '96, '00, '01, '10, '11; Homecoming 5K; Second Saturday in Mercer Village; Campus-Wide Tailgating; Football Game vs. Chattanooga Mocs ... and much more!

Visit homecoming.mercer.edu for schedule and registration.

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.



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

1940s

Thomas H. Morton, CLAS, LAW '49, was recently honored by the Meansville City Council for 23 years of service. Morton, 98, has served as an attorney for 72 years.

1950s

Susan Lindsley, CLAS '58, received the silver medal in an international literary contest for her collection of short stories *Finding Bigfoot*. Her 18 books include historical novels, poetry, nonfiction and short stories. She has published freelance articles about Flannery O'Connor, Susan Myrick (a Macon notable) and wildlife. She has also won numerous awards at state, regional, national and international levels for books, articles and short fiction and served as speaker at various events.

1960s

James W. Hurt, LAW '68, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Cordele Circuit.

1970s

Carmen Garcia Leffler, PHA '77, retired as pharmacy director with Ascension St. West Pharmacy on Feb. 26 after 43 years of dedicated service.

Ronald Arthur Lowry, LAW '75, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Cobb Circuit Post 2.

Michael D. McRae, LAW '75, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Tallapoosa Circuit Post 1.

Cecil B. Patterson Sr., CLAS '76, was honored when Jones County High School recently renamed its baseball field the Cecil Patterson Field. Patterson earned All American honors at Mercer prior to starting his coaching career at Jones County High School in 1977, coaching football, basketball and baseball. In 1994, he was inducted into the Mercer University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Dr. Nelson E. Pollock, CLAS '71, one of the founding internists at Internal Medicine-Emerywood, a division of Wake Forest Baptist Health, recently retired after more than four decades of practicing medicine.

J. Lynn Rainey, LAW '77, and John D. Vaughan III announced the formation of Rainey & Vaughan LLC, a law firm based in Cobb County. The father-son legal team focuses on business law, contract negotiation, ethics, government law and representation of Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) in Georgia. Rainey serves as outside counsel to and on the management committee of Gas South LLC, one of the largest natural gas marketing companies in the southeastern United States. He is the leading expert in the formation and representation of CIDs in Georgia as he represents 21 CIDs in Barrow, Clayton, Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall and Newton counties. Rainey also serves as general counsel to the Cobb County Board of Ethics. Rainey previously served as a chief assistant district attorney in the Alcovy

Judicial Circuit, as the chief assistant solicitor of Cobb County and worked in private practice for most of his career. **David C. Will**, LAW '79, was appointed to the Certificate of Need Appeals Panel by Gov. Brian Kemp.

1980s

Chibueze Okechukwu Agba, BUS '88, was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of Hartford HealthCare in September. Since 2016, he has served as chief financial officer for Cleveland Clinic — first in the Clinic's extensive center in Abu Dhabi, the first integrated health delivery system in the United Arab Emirates, and more recently for Cleveland Clinic's Florida region. Previously, he was CFO and treasurer at Tufts Medical Center and Floating Hospital for Children in Boston. He has also held executive finance positions at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital in Boston, and the Massachusetts-based Partners Healthcare System.

Nancy A. Grace, CLAS '81, LAW '84, signed a multi-year contract with Fox Nation, a streaming service. Her show, "America's Most Wanted Overtime," aired on March 15. The show offers a deeper dive into cases showcased on "America's Most Wanted."

Curtis S. Jenkins, LAW '82, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Towaliga Circuit.

Andrew Ronald Light Jr., CLAS '89, joined the Biden Administration in January as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the Department of Energy. Currently, Light is on a leave of absence from his position as professor of philosophy, public policy, and atmospheric sciences at George Mason University. He previously served as a distinguished senior fellow at the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C. From 2013-2016, he served as senior adviser and India counselor to the U.S. Special Envoy on Climate Change and on the staff of Secretary of State John Kerry's Office of Policy Planning in the U.S. Department of State. Light has authored or co-authored dozens of policy reports on international energy and climate issues, and he has been a long-time champion of work demonstrating the benefits of international climate and energy cooperation on the employment opportunities, security, environmental quality, and health of the American people.

The Rev. Emory C. Lussi, CLAS '85, is a retired USN Chaplain Commander.

Jay D. Mitchell, LAW '88, received the 2021 *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Corporate Counsel Award for small legal departments honoring top attorneys in Georgia practicing in corporations, associations and other private-sector organizations and nonprofits. *James Magazine* also gave him the distinction of Most Influential Attorney Award in 2021 for having a discernible impact on policy, politics and the practice of law. Mitchell is general counsel of Jackson Healthcare, which assisted organizations in finding needed staffing during the pandemic.

The Hon. M. Cindy Morris, CLAS '80, LAW '84, of the Conasauga Judicial Circuit

REMEMBERING...

Mercer Faculty and Staff

Dr. Melissa Browning

Rev. Dr. Melissa Browning, former McAfee School of Theology faculty member, died on April 8, having battled for several years with cancer. Browning had a B.A. degree in religious studies from Gardner-Webb University, an M.Div. degree from Baylor University, and a Ph.D. in Christian ethics from Loyola University. Following her doctoral studies, she worked as a professor to inspire, equip and empower seminary students at Loyola University, McAfee School of Theology, and Columbia Theological Seminary.



Elizabeth Drinnon

Elizabeth Drinnon, former director of university relations at Mercer, died on July 20. Drinnon had a long career in public relations and as a freelance writer. Prior to her position at Mercer from which she retired, she served as public relations and program director at the Macon YWCA, handled public relations for the annual Georgia State Fair, and headed the public relations campaign for Bibb County's Stop Polio campaign.



Superior Court, was named chairperson for the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. She was sworn in by Justice John J. Ellington, Supreme Court of Georgia, at the Feb. 3 Commission meeting.

Laura L. Seidel, BUS '89, was named partner at the national law firm of Ballard Spahr. Seidel is a co-team leader of the Insurance Company and Institutional Investments Team and represents leading clients nationwide in the areas of secured lending and commercial real estate.

Anita Wallace Thomas, LAW '89, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors representing the Atlanta Circuit Post 39. Wallace Thomas is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Atlanta.

J. Henry Walker IV, LAW '86, was elected in June to membership in the prestigious American Law Institute, the only Georgian elected this year. He continues to serve as the chair and CEO of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP in Atlanta.

1990s

Sally Brown Akins, LAW '90, was installed as State Bar of Georgia's president-elect at its annual meeting in June.

Garrett N. Barket, LAW '90, was appointed a magistrate/child support hearing officer for the State of Florida Fourth Judicial Circuit. The appointment began on July 1, 2020.

M. Brian Blake, EGR '97, was named the eighth president of Georgia State University by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in August. Blake has been provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at George Washington University since 2019. Before that, he was an administrator at Drexel University in Philadelphia, at the University of Miami and Notre Dame. He began his academic career as a computer science professor at Georgetown after working as a software developer. He is the first African American to lead Georgia State.

The Hon. Michael P. Boggs, LAW '90, was unanimously elected by the justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia to serve as presiding judge, succeeding Justice David Nahmias, who became the court's chief justice on July 1.

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

Benjamin B. Bush, CLAS '98, is a new Ausley McMullen shareholder whose practice includes the areas of transactional real estate law, commercial and agricultural lending, and real property and land use law. Additionally, Bush is a Florida Bar board certified real estate attorney, a member of the Georgia Bar, and an authorized agent for issuance of title insurance in Florida and Georgia. Prior to joining Ausley McMullen, Bush was a shareholder and vice president of Gardner, Bist, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia, Wright &



*Scan the codes with your mobile device to view complete obituaries.

Dr. Martin Greenberg

Dr. Martin H. Greenberg, beloved pediatrician and educator, passed away on June 15. Greenberg earned a B.S. degree from New York University and an M.D. degree from the Free University of Brussels Medical School in Brussels, Belgium. Following his residency in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital, he joined the United States Air Force and served as a Captain and the first Neonatologist in the Air Force. He returned to New York after his service and served on the faculty of Albany Medical College. In 1977, Greenberg moved to Savannah to develop a sophisticated pediatric program. He served in the School of Medicine as Bioethics Director and Assistant Director to the Office of Professional Practice.



Perry PA. He received his law degree from Florida State University and has an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell.

The Hon. Victoria F. Darrisaw, LAW '93, was elected one of five new directors of AB&T by its shareholders at its annual meeting in May, expanding the board of directors from 12 to 17. Darrisaw currently serves as a member of the Mercer Law School Alumni Association Board.

Michael T. Estes, BUS '95, '97, was named the new senior vice president and

chief lending officer for First Community Bank. In this position, Estes will oversee all lenders, develop customer relationships and manage the bank's loan portfolio. Estes brings 20 years of banking experience to FCB. He joins FCB from First Community Bank, N.A. (VA), where he was the commercial team leader vice president. Prior to that, he was the senior relationship manager/senior vice president at the Bank of Tennessee, market president/senior vice president and vice president/senior business.

Charles N. Faaborg, LAW '92, joined the Southwestern Circuit District Attorney's Office serving Sumter, Lee, Webster, Macon, Schley and Stewart counties.

Cheri Gunnells Frame, BUS '93, is celebrating her first year as a loan officer with Midtown Mortgage in Macon. Frame and her husband, Rick, have been married for 24 years and have three children: Sadie (20), a junior at Georgia Tech; Truett (18), a freshman at Kennesaw State University;

and Cammie (16), a junior in high school.

James W. Gilmore, PHA '92, was recently appointed chief pharmacy and procurement officer for the American Oncology Network LLC (AON). Prior to joining AON, Gilmore served as executive vice president at Georgia Cancer Specialists in Atlanta. After earning his Pharm.D. degree, Gilmore received advanced clinical training from Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta. He began his career as a clinical pharmacist then transitioned into oncology program administration, as well as managing large clinical research, imaging and data mining programs. He is a reviewer for *Community Oncology and Advances in Therapy*, and has co-authored over 65 published articles, abstracts and book chapters.

Brad Stephen Gregory, BUS '99, was named executive director of the newly formed Colquitt County Education Foundation. Gregory, a 1995 graduate of Colquitt County High School, began

his career in the Colquitt County School System as an instructional provider and transitioned to C.A. Gray Middle School in early 2002 to work as a remedial reading teacher. He spent the following five years teaching fourth grade at Stringfellow Elementary and reading and language arts at Willie J. Williams Middle School before becoming assistant principal of R.B. Wright Elementary. Five years later, Gregory became the comptroller for Colquitt County Schools where he has served for the past 10 years. He most recently held the title of senior assistant superintendent of finance and business services.

Rebecca Liles Grist, LAW '94, was elected to the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors as a representative for the Macon Circuit Post 3.

Neil A. Halvorson, LAW '98, was recognized by the Macon Bar Association with the 2021 William A. Bootle Professionalism Award for his dedication to the District Attorney's Office and the professionalism he exhibits to everyone he encounters through his work.

Jeffrey R. Harris, BUS '97, LAW '99, was named to the prestigious Georgia Super Lawyers' Top 100 list, making him a four-time Top 100 honoree. A founding partner at Harris Lowry Manton LLP in Atlanta and Savannah, Harris was also recognized as a 2021 Georgia Super Lawyer in the Personal Injury General: Plaintiff category.

Margaret Daly Heap, LAW '92, was appointed to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles by Gov. Kemp.

Dustin J. Heizer, EGR '98, was named the first executive director of The Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership. Heizer brings to this new role more than 20 years of experience across a range of issues in his work as an environmental consultant focused on the natural and built environment. Heizer is the president and founder of Reliance Consulting Company, an environmental, management and strategy practice. He has served on the Georgia Environmental Conference steering committee and as president of the Georgia Brownfield Association board.

Thomas John Van Auker, BUS '98, established a new real estate company affiliation with Coldwell Banker-Bellaire, serving Texas real estate needs for southwest Houston, Texas.

Kimberly Wilkerson Higginbotham, LAW '95, was elected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Northern Circuit Post 1.

Roderick Hilton, EDU '97, was named principal of Warren County High School. Hilton, who is originally from Waynesboro, has served as an administrator for the past 14 years, the last four years in Washington-Wilkes County as the assistant principal. Hilton played basketball for Mercer as a part of the junior varsity team for three years and dressed out for a few varsity games.

Donna Stanaland Hix, LAW '93, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for Chattahoochee Circuit Post 4.

William Dixon James, LAW '99, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Stone Mountain Circuit Post 2.

The Hon. John F. Kennedy, CLAS '87, LAW '90, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Macon Circuit Post 1.

David W. Long-Daniels, LAW '90, joined Squire Patton Boggs LLP as a partner practicing labor and employment law in Atlanta.

Nicole Mass, BUS '99, recently joined the Seabreeze Management Company Inc., a leading residential and commercial property management firm, as vice president of community management. Mass will oversee all Northern California associate managers, offering mentorship and expertise to each team member. In addition, Mass will act as liaison for all Northern California board members and communities.

Frank R. McKay, LAW '91, was reappointed to the State Board of Worker's Compensation by Gov. Kemp.

Dana Albertson Nichols, CLAS '97, was named interim president of Georgia Highlands College. The appointment became effective July 7. Nichols is the college's chief academic officer and provost.

Kirk Nooks, EGR '96, BUS '98, delivered Mercer University's 2021 Founders' Day address Feb. 17 in Willingham Auditorium on the Macon campus.

Kirby D. Oberdorfer, LAW '99, was named director of the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight in Jacksonville, Florida, on Oct. 1. Oberdorfer has been deputy director since 2015.

Mark H. Rosen, CLAS '90, was named news director of WFXG FOX54 in Augusta in June and oversees the station's newsgathering operations. Rosen brings nearly 30 years of broadcast journalism experience to WFXG. In 1993, he started his career as a newscast producer in his hometown of Augusta at WJBF. Rosen was part of the original team that launched news on WFXG FOX54 through a partnership with WJBF-TV. For the last three years, Rosen has served as news/content director for WTVM-TV (ABC) in Columbus.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, was recognized in the 2021 Georgia Super Lawyers for family law.

Susan M. Usry, EDU '93, was recently named executive director of The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton. Usry spent the majority of her career as an administrator in the Putnam County Charter School System, serving as assistant principal of the elementary school, director of special education, and then principal of the elementary school, the primary school, and the middle school before retiring. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Alabama before earning a master's degree in middle grades education from Mercer. She went on to obtain specialist and doctorate degrees in educational leadership at the University of Georgia.

Blake D. Watts, CLAS '94, was named chief executive officer of Piedmont Rockdale in Conyers. Watts joined Piedmont Rockdale (then Rockdale Medical Center) as executive director of operations in April 2016. He most recently served as the hospital's interim CEO. Watts has nearly 30 years of experience in healthcare leadership, having first served

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in administrator and executive officer roles in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps before joining the civilian sector at Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany as an operations manager. He has also served as vice president of physician and professional services at St. Mary's Health System in Athens, senior director of operations for Piedmont Heart Institute, CEO of Barrow Regional Medical Center in Winder, and COO for Walton Regional Medical Center in Monroe.

2000s

Barret S. Albritton, LAW '03, joined Chartwell Law in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a partner representing businesses in a wide variety of legal matters. Albritton continues the firm's growth by expanding its operations in Tennessee.

Robert Amrozowicz, BUS '00, was promoted to head of IT Global Hub-America.

Carmelia "Lia" Loman Amuna, CLAS '03, was appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors for a term set to expire on Feb. 1, 2027. Amuna is the director of the Student Wellness and Counseling Center at Texas A&M University. She is the president of the Texas University Counseling Center Directors Association, Rotary International-Killeen Heights Chapter, Texas A&M Chancellor's Century Council and Greater Killeen Community Clinic. After graduating from Mercer, Amuna earned a Master of Arts in counseling from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology and a Doctor of Philosophy in health education from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences.

Traylor Miles Brantley, BUS '03, was recently promoted by Regions Bank to commercial banking market executive for Northwest Georgia.

The Hon. Stephanie D. Burton, LAW '01, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for Oconee Circuit Post 2.

Ivy N. Cadle, LAW '07, was sworn in as the secretary of the State Bar of Georgia. Cadle previously represented the Macon Circuit on the Board of Governors, and he was elected to also serve on the Executive Committee of the State Bar. As secretary, Cadle will continue to serve on the executive committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Cadle is a shareholder at Baker Donelson in Macon.

R. Scott Christopher, LAW '03, joined Sterling Seacrest Partners, an insurance brokerage and consulting firm in Atlanta, as a client advisor. Christopher was previously with Slappey & Sadd.

The Hon. Elizabeth Emery Coolidge, LAW '05, was inducted as the 24th president of the Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise. Coolidge was elected state court judge for Chatham County in 2020.

Shruti P. Desai, CLAS '03, is the newly appointed associate vice president of student affairs for campus life at Duke University. Desai began her new role on March 15. Prior to her appointment at Duke, she worked in higher education for more than 15 years, of which the past seven were at Washington University in St. Louis. In her associate vice president role, Desai will help oversee Duke's relationship with student government at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Desai's role also includes overseeing Greek life and involvement in identity and cultural spaces at Duke, as well as performance venues.

Frieda Marie Dumas, EDU '02, retired from Delta Air Lines Inc. on July 30, 2020, after 22 years of service.

Patrick M. Durham, PHA '09, was named head of the new Cempa Community Pharmacy in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Durham brings with him more than 12 years of chain pharmacy experience. He is a native of South Pittsburg and a graduate of the University of Tennessee of Chattanooga.

Erick Woods Erickson, CLAS '97, LAW '00, was recently placed in WSB Atlanta's noon to 3 p.m. slot, which became open after the death of Rush Limbaugh.

The Hon. Rosemary M. Green, LAW '00, was appointed judge on the Cherokee Judicial Circuit Superior Court, which includes Bartow and Gordon counties, by Gov. Kemp. She was most recently the district attorney for the Cherokee Circuit.

Gina Ginn Greenwood, LAW '01, joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as partner and co-chair of the firm's data breach response team. Greenwood was most recently co-chair of a similar group at Baker Donelson.

George Greer, LAW '02, joined Greer Wealth Advisors of Raymond James in Macon in January. In addition to his bar card, Greer now holds the following certifications: SIE, Series 7 and Series 66.

Keitaro Harada, MUS '07, '08, recently received his fifth Sir Georg Solti Career Assistance Award. The Solti Foundation U.S. previously presented Harada with the honorable award in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2020. Upon receipt of The Sir Georg Solti Career Assistance Award, Harada, music and artistic director of the Savannah Philharmonic and Associate Conductor of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, is recognized on both a national and international level as one of 15 prestigious young conductors selected as the recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Career Assistance Award.

Trisha Dodd Hargrove, LAW '04, joined Aspirion as associate general counsel. Hargrove was previously with Buchanan Law Firm.

Bradley M. Harmon, LAW '02, was selected as 2021 Georgia Super Lawyer in the area of Business Litigation.

Bryce A. Johnson, LAW '04, was elected district attorney of the Tifton Judicial Circuit in November 2020. The Tifton Circuit covers Irwin, Tift, Turner and Worth counties.

K. Alexander Khoury, LAW '03, joined the Atlanta office of Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP as the firm's first director of e-discovery and as a partner in its litigation practice. Khoury was most recently with Balch & Bingham LLP.

Brittany Adams Lavalie, LAW '08, was named education and training attorney for the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference in May.

Julia Hall Magda, BUSM '98, LAW '01, was recognized by the Macon Bar Association with the 2021 Lawyer of the Year Award for her work in the Macon community and her dedication to the practice of law.

Jed D. Manton, LAW '06, was named a 2021 Georgia Super Lawyer in the

REMEMBERING...

Mercer Staff and Generous Supporters

Nona Junkin

Winona "Nona" Saturday Junkin, TIFT '54, former Trustee, staff member and generous supporter, died on May 30. Following the University's merger with Tift College in 1986,

Junkin held several leadership positions at Mercer, serving a five-year term on the University's Board of Trustees and serving as president of the Tift College Alumnae Board of Directors and the Mercer University Alumni Board of Directors. She was director of Tift Alumnae Programs for five years, during which time she developed the Tift College Scholars Program to continue the legacy of Tift College on Mercer's campus. In 1998, Junkin and her late husband, **William T. Junkin**, established the William T. and Winona S. Junkin Endowed Scholarship for Women in Ministry at Mercer. Junkin was named a President's Club Life Member in 2017.



Personal Injury General: Plaintiff category for his exceptional work advocating on behalf of his clients. Manton is a founding partner at Harris Lowry Manton LLP in Atlanta and Savannah.

M. Cayce Myers, LAW '09, was named director of graduate studies for the Virginia Tech School of Communication, where he is also an associate professor in the advertising and public relations division. His most recent book, *Public Relations History: Theory, Practice, and Profession*, was published by Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis. He resides in Roanoke, Virginia, with his wife **Anne Carol Myers**, LAW '09, and daughter, Cayce Anne.

Brandon L. Peak, LAW '04, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Chattahoochee Circuit Post 2.

Richard L. Perryman III, LAW '02, was appointed judge on the Alapaha Judicial Circuit Superior Court, which includes Atkinson, Berrien, Clinch, Cook and Lanier counties by Gov. Kemp.

Kathryn L. Powers, LAW '09, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for the Clayton Circuit Post 1.

Jo Shaw, EDU '04, was named head coach of the Dunbar High School girls' basketball program. Shaw has served as assistant for the program for the past five years. She excelled at the Division I level, finishing her career at Mercer ranked third in school history for 3-point shots made. She also lettered for four years and was selected first-team all-conference one season. After college, Shaw decided to turn down offers to play overseas to begin her coaching and teaching career. In addition to her time with Dunbar, she also coached for the

Florida girls basketball AAU program.

Lindsey R. Stewart, CLAS '06, LAW '09, joined Speed Seta Martin Trivett & Stubble LLC as an associate in Lawrenceville. She was previously director of admissions and financial aid at Mercer University School of Law.

Joseph C. Sumner Jr., BUS '98, LAW '03, was reelected to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors as representative for Dublin Circuit.

Catherine Szpindor, BUS '00, is the first woman to serve as chief administrative officer for the U.S. House of Representatives. Szpindor previously served as chief information officer for the House and has a decades-long career as a leading expert in information technology. Szpindor first joined the House in 2011 as director of enterprise applications and rose through the ranks to deputy chief information officer (CIO), acting CIO and then CIO, which she held from December 2015-December 2020. Prior to joining the House, Szpindor served as vice president of information technology for Thomas Nelson Community College and vice president of information technology for Nextel, Sprint and Sprint/Nextel. In addition to her master's degree from Mercer, she has a certificate in strategy and innovation from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a certificate in strategic business leadership from Georgetown University. She earned her undergraduate degree in human resources from Brenau University.

The Hon. Deneen Dodson Tavares, LAW '00, was appointed an administrative appeals judge in the Department of Health and Human Services on its Medicare

Appeals Council in Washington, D.C., in March 2020.

Corie Noble Tewari, MED '07, was recently named a member of the DeKalb Medical Foundation Board of Directors. Tewari is a board-certified physician in internal medicine with more than 13 years of experience as a hospitalist. She has practiced at Emory Decatur Hospital for nearly a decade.

Jeanine Nguyen Thompson, BUS '01, recently joined Great Oaks Bank as vice president and commercial relationship manager. Thompson has been in the banking industry in the greater Savannah area for 20 years, serving customers in various roles. Thompson will serve customers from the Savannah Quarters office.

Dr. Tameeka Law Walker, MED '02, was named board chair of the Atlanta-based Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) in July. In this position, Law Walker leads a team of executives from many of Atlanta's top corporations who serve on the PADV board.

Kevin Weinsheimer, COPA '09, was recently promoted to chief operating officer of the real estate auction firm Tranzon Driggers. Weinsheimer has been with the Ocala, Florida, based company for more than 11 years. He is also a licensed Florida Real Estate Sales Associate and an active member of the National Auctioneers Association. Weinsheimer also holds the Auction Marketing Management designation from the National Auctioneers Association's Education Institute.

Wendell Frank White Jr., CLAS '06, LAW '09, accepted a position on the House Armed Services Committee as a

Dr. Whitney McMath

Whitney McMath, former staff member, passed away on July 3. McMath graduated from Texas Women's University with a B.A. in English and journalism and continued her postgraduate studies earning a master's in English from Texas Tech University and a Ph.D. in English from The University of Tennessee. McMath joined Mercer University in 1987 as executive assistant to the dean of the School



of Law. McMath served in a number of senior administrative positions during her 25 years at Mercer, including vice provost for institutional effectiveness which she held until her retirement in 2012.



professional staff member after working on defense policy on Capitol Hill for more than eight years. A graduate of Mercer Law, Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law and the United States Army War College, he will support the readiness subcommittee with a portfolio that includes army operations and maintenance, operational energy, and military privatized housing. White also graduated from Johns Hopkins University with an M.B.A. in May.

2010s

Bishara Abdul-Hamid, COPA '13, is the founder and technology director for Hexagon-STEM, an entrepreneurial startup located in Atlanta committed to empowering the future with STEM.

Jarvis Adams, EDU '09, '14, was named the new principal at Westlake High School in Fulton County.

Wesley Adams, EGR '15, EDU '17, was promoted to coach of the North Hall Trojans wrestling team. Adams is a North Hall High graduate and spent the most recent season as a North Hall assistant, after two years as head coach at Mount de Sales Academy in Macon.

Brian J. Aplin, LAW '17, was appointed municipal public defender for the city of West Point.

Brittany Spornhauer Bennett, LAW '16, and **Andrew T. Bennett**, LAW '18, announced that Bennett Law & Mediation Services LLC was named "Best of Georgia" for 2020 in the Business Law category.

William Lovett Bennett, LAW '18, graduated with a Master of Laws in taxation (LL.M.) from New York University Law School. Bennett is an associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP in New York, New York.

Terri K. Benton, LAW '12, joined the Atlanta office of the U.S. Department of Education as an attorney case manager in the Multi-Regional and Foreign School Division.

Michael C. Berthiaume, LAW '19, joined the Dallas office of Norton Rose Fulbright in the Financial Restructuring and Insolvency Group after completing a clerkship with the Hon. Mark X. Mullin of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas.

The Hon. Candice Phillips Branche, LAW '10, was sworn in as chief juvenile court judge of Newton County on Jan. 1. Branche was previously a magistrate judge and associate probate judge for Newton County and was formerly deputy chief assistant district attorney for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. She is also a trainer for the National Drug Court Institute. She currently resides in Covington with her two daughters Lexie and Lindsey.

Amanda Brantley, EDU '01, '07, '10, was named principal of Byron Elementary School in July.

Kathryn Ferris Burmeister, CLAS '08, LAW '14, wrote the book *Overcoming Addiction to the Status Quo*. Burmeister, an author, speaker and attorney, owns an Atlanta law firm that specializes in personal injury with a focus on the impacts injuries have on mental health.

Jenna Lasseter Carroll, LAW '13, was named partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. Her practice focuses on representing commercial lenders, including commercial banks, life insurance companies, CMBS lenders and other fixed-income lenders in real estate finance transactions, and representing real estate developers and investors in commercial real estate transactions, corporate governance, borrower financing, commercial acquisitions and sales and real estate development.

S. Jake Carroll, LAW '14, was elected vice chair and chair-elect of the Construction Section of the Atlanta Bar Association starting June 1, until May 31, 2022. Carroll is an associate at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Atlanta.

Paulding Chichester IV, LAW '11, was promoted to director of global employee relations for ServiceNow Inc. in Santa Clara, California. Chichester joined the company as senior human resource business partner in March 2020 after serving at Stanford University School of Medicine in its labor and employee relations department.

Wesley E. Childs, LAW '14, was named partner at Chambliss Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs LLP in Macon.

Jennifer Clowers, EDU '17, was recently promoted to principal at Partee Elementary in Gwinnett County. Clowers served as assistant principal at Partee Elementary before being named principal.

The Rev. Hannah Marshall Coe, DIV '14, was named the new pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, in April. For the past six years, Coe was the associate pastor of children and families at First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. She and her husband, David, a human resources professional, have three daughters.

J. Daniel Cole, BUS '07, LAW '12, was named a partner at Parks, Chesin & Walbert PC in Atlanta in January 2021, specializing in employment law and business litigation.

Elizabeth Lambert Cox, LAW '15, joined the law firm of Gregory, Doyle, Calhoun & Rogers in Marietta as part of their Trust & Estates and Taxation and Business Transactions & Corporate Groups.

Falen O. Cox, LAW '10, was named a Rising Star in the 2021 Super Lawyers list for Georgia.

Charles V. Crowe IV, CLAS '06, LAW '10, was named a 2021 Super Lawyer in the area of family law.

Ronald E. Daniels, LAW '12, was sworn in as president-elect of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting in June.

The Hon. Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman, CLAS '06, LAW '10, was sworn in as

Forsyth's new municipal court judge on June 21.

Cherie Bonder Dennis, EDU '19, was named 2022 Georgia State Teacher of the Year. Dennis has been teaching for 12 years and is an ESOL teacher at Hesse K-8 School in Savannah. Prior to being named Georgia State Teacher of the Year, Dennis was named Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools' District Teacher of the Year. As the 2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Dennis will travel around the state, as COVID-19 protocols allow, serving as an ambassador for the teaching profession in Georgia. She will also be entered in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Laura K. DiBiase, LAW '16, joined the Atlanta office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate, focusing her practice on debt finance and real estate finance transactions. DiBiase was most recently with Miller & Martin PLLC as a part of the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group.

The Rev. Megan Turner Doud, DIV '14, was named coordinator for young Baptist ministries by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Georgia. Most recently, Doud served as minister for students and missions at First Baptist Church in Aiken, South Carolina, and previously was a student ministry resident at First Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. She has served on the coordinating council for CBF South Carolina and is currently serving on the CBF Ministries Council and is the current past-president of the CBF Youth Ministry Network.

Adam Elrod, BUS '18, was recently named among a group of professionals in the *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, as one of the top in the industry in their June 2021 edition of the magazine. Elrod, who has worked for GreyStone Power in Hiram for the past six years, was among this year's group recognized for his talents and work during the past year. He is nationally known for his work in customer satisfaction. Elrod has garnered recognition for his skills in producing video blogs and podcasting, and has used those skills in part during the pandemic to spread messages among fellow employees and customers.

Shaun J. Foley, LAW '16, joined the Atlanta office of Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP as an associate. He was most recently with Busch Reed Jones & Leeper PC.

Emily French, CLAS '14, CHP '16, was selected as an American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Centennial Scholar. French is a second-year University of North Georgia Doctor of Physical Therapy student. She is one of two scholars from the APTA's research section and one of 100 total APTA Centennial Scholars. Coinciding with APTA's 100th anniversary in 2021, the APTA Centennial Scholars are part of one-time, yearlong program to help build a cadre of future APTA leaders at the component and national levels to support the organization's collective quest for a diverse and prepared leadership pool.

Dr. Jason A. Glow, CLAS '06, MED '10, recently joined the Metter medical staff of the Chandler Medical Group. Glow comes to Metter from Richmond Hill, but he is a native of Macon. He attended Mercer on a tennis scholarship and received a

bachelor's degree in biochemistry. While an undergraduate at Mercer, he was involved with the school's ROTC program. After graduation, he was commissioned into the United States Army and received an educational deferment to attend Mercer Medical School. He also received an Army scholarship for the study of medicine. Following graduation from medical school, Glow received three years of training at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Nicholas P. Greer, LAW '19, joined the Huntsville, Alabama, office of Maynard Cooper & Gale as an associate in the firm's government solutions group serving government contractors and businesses with resolving disputes. Greer recently served as a law clerk in the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts of the Northern District of Georgia.

Zandra V. Hall, LAW '15, joined Americold in Atlanta as corporate counsel for employment and labor. Hall was most recently with Mohawk Industries in Calhoun.

The Hon. Amanda N. Heath, LAW '10, was elected to the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors as representative for the Augusta Circuit Post 1.

Kelsey Hicks-Bunns, EDU '13, was recently named head of equity and inclusion at Atlanta International School.

Cynthia "Cindy" Shaw Johnson, NUR '16, was appointed the first Experiential Learning Center assistant dean for the University of West Georgia.

Paul Knowlton, DIV '14, together with classmate **Aaron Hedges**, BUS, DIV '14, co-authored the book *Better Capitalism: Jesus, Adam Smith, Aynd Rand, and MLK Jr. on Moving from Plantation to Partnership Economics*, an Amazon No. 1 new release in May.

Aliza Krug, CHP '12, was appointed clinical director of Arbacare, a workers' compensation focused utilization management and peer review organization. Krug brings more than a decade of experience to the role, most recently as a physician assistant for the Georgia Institute of Technology, Stamps Student Center, Primary Care. She previously worked in occupational medicine, treating workers' compensation patients in both urgent care and orthopedic settings and has experience in pulmonology. In addition, she is proficient in diagnostics, procedural skills, medical therapies, records review and monitoring.

Morgan E. Lyndall, LAW '18, was named a Rising Star in the 2021 Super Lawyers list for Georgia. Lyndall practices personal injury law at Butler Law Firm in Atlanta.

Daniel J. O'Connor, LAW '12, was named a Rising Star in the 2021 Georgia Super Lawyers list.

Michaela Mericle, LAW '11, joined the family law firm of Naggiar & Sarif LLC as a partner.

Rasheed D. Merrell, LAW '18, joined the Fulton County Public Defenders' Office as an assistant public defender.

Lauren Bridgers Meyers, LAW '18, joined Crowell & Moring LLP as recruiting and human resources coordinator.

Catherine Bell Mitchell, LAW '11, was named partner in the real estate department of Fox Rothschild LLP in its Charlotte, North Carolina, office.

Kathleen Aumann Morales, NUR '17, was appointed student success coordinator for the Tanner Health System School of Nursing at the University of West Georgia.

Garon O. Muller, BUS '08, LAW '11, was listed among the 2021 Super Lawyers Georgia Rising Stars. Muller is a partner at Burnside Law Firm in Augusta, practicing personal injury law.

Priya M. Patel, LAW '16, was recognized by Georgia Super Lawyers as one of the Rising Stars in 2021.

Estefania P. Ramirez, LAW '19, joined Forward Air Corporation as in-house counsel practicing labor and employment and contracts law. She was most recently an associate at Ford & Harrison LLP.

Peter D. Rehm, LAW '14, joined the international tax practice of Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta as an associate.

Sara Kate Brannan Rumsey, LAW '13, was named partner at James-Bates-Brannan-Groover. Rumsey practices commercial real estate and banking.

Caroline LeMay Scaif, LAW '19, joined the Atlanta office of Copeland, Stair, Kingma & Lovell as an associate in their healthcare and general liability practice groups in July. Prior to joining CSKL, Scaif clerked for two years with Justice Verda Colvin while she served at Bibb County Superior Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Sarah Ilig Sevech, LAW '17, was named junior partner at her firm Teague Law in Ellijay.

Ashleigh Provost Smaha, BUS '09, LAW '17, joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate in the firm's data breach response team. Smaha was most recently at Baker Donelson.

Bryson M. Smith, LAW '13, was named partner at James-Bates-Brannan-Groover. Smith practices commercial real estate and banking.

Christopher A. Steele, LAW '11, joined MendenFreiman LLP as a partner in its estate planning, tax, estate administration and business law practice areas in Atlanta. He serves as a trusted adviser to individuals, families and business owners. While income, gift and estate tax planning are a large part of his practice, Steele also advises clients concerning both the tax and non-tax considerations of their planning.

Mandisa C. Styles, LAW '17, established The Styles Law Firm, a boutique law firm focusing on business, intellectual property and entertainment law.

L. Blade Thompson, LAW '11, was selected to the Super Lawyers 2021 Rising Star list.

Bonnie Keel Tolliver, BUS '10, EDU '15, began working as the director of college counseling at Whitefield Academy in July 2020.

Crystal C. Tucker, EDU '18, was named 2021 Houston County Teacher of the Year. Tucker is a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Northside Elementary School in Warner Robins.

Christopher A. Underwood, LAW '12, joined Alston & Bird's Atlanta office as counsel in the area of corporate debt finance. Underwood was previously an associate at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP.

Trevor J. Vanzant, LAW '17, joined The Shrable Law Firm PC in Americus.

Lindsey Hancock Warden, CLAS '15, recently 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.

Rebecca Lynn Wells, CLAS '10, was awarded the University of Georgia College of Public Health Excellence in Teaching Award. Wells is a clinical assistant professor and is jointly appointed to the College of Public Health and School of Social Work.

L. Rachel Wilson, CLAS '08, LAW '11, was elected to serve as a board member of the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia until 2023.

Tracey Morris Wofford, EDU '14, recently changed roles at Mercer, moving from enrollment management to the Tift College of Education. Wofford serves as graduate academic advisor, program director and instructor, and occasionally still recruits for the College.

Doroteya Nikolova Wozniak, LAW '11, was named partner at James-Bates-Brannan-Groover. Wozniak represents financial institutions and other clients in creditor's rights, bankruptcy and other litigation and regulatory compliance matters, with a focus on cannabis banking, government-guaranteed loan workouts and data privacy.

MARRIAGES BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

2000s

Michael E. Mayo, CLAS '06, LAW '09, wife **Dana Lindsey Mayo**, CLAS '08, MED '13, big sister Julia and big brother Boston welcomed Demi Knox Mayo on May 20.

Rebecca L. Wells, CLAS '10, married Stephen Lapiere on Sept. 26, 2020.

Kathryn "Katie" E. Ray, LAW '07, married Jim Conrad on June 19 in Cashiers, North Carolina. Ray serves as associate general counsel for Brasfield & Gorrie LLC and lives in Atlanta.

2010s

Courtney Michelle Britt, LAW '18, married Kevin Duncan on May 2 in Dahlonega. Britt is an assistant public defender in Macon-Bibb County.

Kindall Elizabeth Browning, LAW '15, married Tyler Rickle on April 24 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jenna Lasseter Carroll, LAW '13, and her husband, S. Jake Carroll, announce the birth of their son, Colton Carroll, on Dec. 26, 2019.

Amber M. Fountain, EDU '13, and

Darius Moten, EGR '15, were married June 22, 2019. They are expecting their first child in November 2021.

Amanda Tatman Freeman, LAW '10, and **Spencer G. Freeman**, LAW '10, announce the birth of their son, James Skylark Freeman, born on Feb. 22.

Megan Beardsley Glimmerveen, CLAS '12, LAW '15, and her husband,

Thomas A. Glimmerveen, EGR '10, BUS '16, announce the birth of their daughter, Annabelle Blake, on March 2.

Kristina Hanson, EGR '15, married

Miles A. Schmidt, BUS '14, on April 24 at the DeKalb History Center in Decatur.

REMEMBERING...

Alumni and Generous Supporters

Hugh McNatt

Hugh Brown McNatt, CLAS '69, LAW '72, alumnus and generous University supporter, died on June 1. McNatt earned an undergraduate degree and a law degree from Mercer University. He was rated as one of Georgia's top trial lawyers over a career that spanned five decades. At the time of his passing, McNatt was a managing partner at Balch & Bingham in the Vidalia office. He was a long-time generous and loyal supporter of Mercer's School of Law.



Pete Robinson

Pete Robinson, LAW '80, alumnus and former University trustee, died on July 1. A native of Columbus, Robinson received his B.A. from Emory University and his J.D. degree from Mercer School of Law. He was a partner at King & Spalding LLP, where he practiced in the Government Advocacy and Public Policy Group. Robinson served as a trustee for both Mercer University and the University System of Georgia Foundation.



In October 2018, he established the Mike Sabbath Support Fund to benefit students enrolled at Mercer Law School. Most recently, he played an instrumental role in the decision to bring a Mercer School of Medicine campus to Columbus.



Dot Way

Dorothy "Dot" Margaret Cook Way, friend and generous supporter, passed away on April 25. Way graduated from the University of Georgia and worked as a school teacher until she married Sam Way of Hawkinsville in 1956. Way had four children and found great joy in raising her children and taking care of her family. She was an active member of First Baptist Church and was involved in many of its ministries. The Way family has been long-time University supporters. Way and her husband established an endowed scholarship in the McAfee School of Theology, and her husband served two terms on the University's Board of Trustees.



Ramsey Way

Ramsey Thomas Way Jr., LAW '90, alumnus and generous supporter, passed away on April 30. A graduate of Emory University, Mercer University School of Law, and New York University, Way was a partner at Way & Way Attorneys at Law in Hawkinsville. Way's family includes generations of Mercerians who have supported the University for decades. His uncle, **Samuel Albert Way III**, established an endowed scholarship in the McAfee School of Theology and served two terms on the University's Board of Trustees. His sister, **Elizabeth Way Chandler**, BUS '89, currently serves as chair of the Board of Visitors for Mercer's School of Business.



Sharon E. Hastings, CLAS '11, LAW '16, married Christopher Chamberlain on April 18 in Pasadena, Maryland.
Jessica B. Haygood, LAW '18, and her husband, Erik, announced the birth of their son, Barrett Lewis Haygood, on May 31, weighing 6 lbs.-13.7 oz., 18.75 in. long.
Lauren Riley Howell, PHA '11, and her husband, David, welcomed their second son, Carter Riley, on May 4.
Lauren Elder Hyatt, BUS '05, '07, and her husband, **Darren Hyatt**, BUS '07, announce the birth of their daughter, Riley Elizabeth, born on Aug. 10, 2020.
Jennifer M. Jones, EGR '12, and her husband, **William Jones III**, BUS '09, announce the birth of their son in August 2019 and their daughter in July.
Clayton T. Kendrick, LAW '19, and his wife, Morgan, announce the birth of their son, Joseph Clayton, born on Feb. 6, weighing 7 lbs.-11 oz., and 20.5 inches long.
Sarah Barry King, CLAS '18, married **Clarence Paul King**, CLAS '21, on June 12 in Richmond Hill.
Aurora Olivia-Lynn Kirbo, LAW '19, married **William Reese Giddens**, LAW '19, on Dec. 24, 2020, in Ashburn.
Kate Reynolds Kirbo, LAW '16, and **Barret W. Kirbo**, LAW '16, announce the birth of their second son, George Hughes Kirbo, on Feb. 5.

Robert H. Malone IV, LAW '18, wife Jessica and daughter Kate welcome Robert H. "Finn" Malone V, born on Jan. 21, weighing 9 lbs.-15.9 oz.
Dana Lindsey Mayo, CLAS '08, MED '13, husband **Michael E. Mayo**, CLAS '06, LAW '09, big sister Julia and big brother Boston welcomed Demi Knox Mayo on May 20.
Kaitlyn Marie Ruhl-Pirone, LAW '19, married Austin J. Pirone on Nov. 13, 2020, at Hightower Falls in Cedartown. Ruhl-Pirone is with the Law Office of Patricia King in Canton.
Sarah Ilig Sevech, LAW '17, married Jason Sevech on March 28 in The Wildflower Barn at Little River in Alpharetta.
Bonnie Keel Toliver, BUS '10, EDU '15, and her husband, David, announce the birth of their daughter, Emma, born on Aug. 16, 2019.
Thuan Vo, PHA '14, married Huyen Nguyen on March 14, 2019. The couple announced the birth of their son, Henry Vo, on Dec. 17, 2019.
Jessica Canedo Wallace, LAW '16, and **D. Jacob Wallace**, LAW '16, announce the birth of their daughter, Sara Joy, born on Feb. 6, in Columbus.
Lauren Willis Winters, CHP '14, announces the birth of her third child, Mason Lauren, on Jan. 30.

IN MEMORY

1940s

Juanita Adams, TIFT '46, of Gainesville, on July 26.
Betty Loftin Anthony, NUR '46, of Greenville, South Carolina, on Jan. 26.
Avis Wynne Chambless, TIFT '42, of Smyrna, on May 29.
Louise Smith Compton, CLAS '49, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, on June 21.
George English, CLAS '49, of Cocoa Beach, Florida, on June 16.
Martha Wolfe Flanders, CLAS '47, of Dublin, on Dec. 13, 2020.
Ralph Garner, CLAS '48, of Dublin, on April 1.
Phoebe Gragg, CLAS '49, of Greensboro, North Carolina, on May 26.
Geraldine Averitt Hinesley, TIFT '43, of Augusta, on Jan. 14.
Ethel Mintz Hudson, CLAS '47, of Black Mountain, North Carolina, on Jan. 25.
Margaret Garrison Koehler, CLAS '48, of Atlanta, on Dec. 17, 2020.
Delores Ward Leslie, CLAS '48, of Macon, on July 28.
Janet Horne Lanier McLendon, TIFT '42, of Thomasville, on Jan. 31.
Evelyn Pritchett Akins Sellers, NUR '46, of Mableton, on Dec. 3, 2020.
Anthony Shippy, CLAS '49, of Bloomington, Indiana, on April 9.
Ellen Means Spinks, TIFT '42, of Zebulon, on March 28.
Doris Waddell Spruill, NUR '47, of Atlanta, on June 2.
Millie C. Stewart, CLAS '49, of Macon, on Dec. 3, 2020.

1950s

Jack F. Abel, CLAS '51, EDU '57, of Jonesboro, on April 10.
Wallace K. Aske, CLAS '47, LAW '50, of Manchester, on Feb. 22.
Joseph P. Bailey Jr., CLAS '52, of Augusta, on June 19.
Jesse V. Bone, EDU '59, of Butler, on Feb. 5.
George R. Boyd Jr., CLAS '51, of Haralson, on Dec. 15.
Harry Bell Bradford Jr., PHA '51, of Winter Garden, Florida, on Feb. 23.
Robert L. Z. Bridges, CLAS '57, of Bainbridge, on April 8.
Jean Norris Brown, NUR '56, of Birmingham, Alabama, on Jan. 3.
Jennie B. Tallman Burrell, CLAS '56, of Hiwassee, on Feb. 4.
Anne Smith Carr, CLAS '55, of Gray, on May 15.
W. Kenneth Cauthen, CLAS '50, of Rochester, New York, on March 10.
Florence Able Chapman, CLAS '41, EDU '55, of Macon, on Jan. 22.
Charles E. Cleary, CLAS '55, of Gordon, on March 23.
Wayne J. Coleman, CLAS '59, of Franklin, North Carolina, on Jan. 8.
Jewel Smith Davis, TIFT '53, of Sylvania, on Jan. 6.
Peggy Irwin Davis, NUR '57, of Colbert, on Sept. 15, 2020.
Antonio F. Doganiero, LAW '58, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, on July 9.
Janice A. Duncan, CHP '58, of Bowdon, on April 1.
Charlie Barron Farmer, CLAS '51, of Newnan, on Jan. 16.
Suzanne Edmondson Field, EDU '53, of Rome, on March 28.
Robert O. Ford, CLAS '50, of Macon, on Feb. 27.

Alfred Joel Greene, CLAS '50, of Iron City, on March 28.
Eva Claire Shaw Gunter, CLAS '57, of Clemmons, North Carolina, on April 16.
Fred Jackson Gunter, CLAS '50, of Decatur, on Jan. 5.
Herman Eugene "Gene" Hall, CLAS '50, EDU '54, of Decatur, on Jan. 30.
Shirley H. Hammond, NUR '56, of Griffin, on June 4.
Charles Richard Hardy, CLAS '56, of Burlington, North Carolina, on March 22.
Hazel Bowen Hiltabidel, CLAS '53, of Bloomfield, Connecticut, on Nov. 25, 2020.
Wade D. Hiltabidel, CLAS '54, of Bloomfield, Connecticut, on Jan. 4.
Marilyn Davis Howard, TIFT '50, of Cleveland, on June 21.
Harvey L. Jay Jr., CLAS '59, of Jacksonville, Florida, on April 27.
Jerry W. Joyner, CLAS '58, of Goose Creek, South Carolina, on July 4.
William Heard Kilpatrick, CLAS '54, of Peachtree City, on March 4.
Homer Lassiter, CLAS '55, of Perry, on Aug. 2.
Jane Craig Lewis, PHA '58, of Powell, Tennessee, on May 15, 2020.
LaVerne Epps Little, CLAS '50, of Corinth, Mississippi, on March 16.
Betty Dyer Lively, TIFT '50, of Dacula, on Dec. 14, 2020.
Lois Cawthon Long, TIFT '53, of Huntsville, Alabama, on Nov. 30, 2020.
Charlotte Marie Hawkins Manuel, TIFT '54, of Dowling Park, Florida, on April 20.
Karen Ann King Martin, TIFT '59, of Barnesville, on March 5.
Frances Henderson McNorrell, EDU '58, of Macon, on Feb. 14.

Alton Newton Miller, CLAS '59, of Tucker, on April 19.
Robert Ernest Milner, PHA '59, of Lithia Springs, on March 12.
Barbara Snell Youman Morris, CLAS '55, of Metter, on Dec. 13, 2020.
Shirley Yvonne Newhouse Myklytyn, PHA '56, of Temple, on April 18.
Athol Odom, CLAS '53, of Jacksonville, Florida, on July 23.
Ossie Eugene Pitts Jr., CLAS '54, of Griffin, on Aug. 27, 2020.
Jean Sewell Pope, CLAS '57, of Charlotte, North Carolina, on Dec. 5, 2020.
Edmond A. Pruett, CLAS '59, of Bedford, New Hampshire, on Sept. 29, 2020.
Gailya Rentz Raines, TIFT '54, of Monroe, on Feb. 2.
Barbara Fisher Register, CLAS '55, of East Point, on July 10.
Sybil Smith Register, NUR '58, of Jacksonville, Florida, on Nov. 24, 2020.
Carolyn R. Richardson, NUR '53, of Atlanta, on Dec. 16, 2020.
Thomas Anderson Roach, LAW '50, of Canton, on March 4.
Margaret Ann "Peggy" Musselwhite Slade, TIFT '59, of Lithia, Florida, on Nov. 13, 2020.
Bertis E. Hardegree Spence, TIFT '51, of Longview, Texas, on Feb. 5.
Jean Stewart Thigpen, TIFT '56, of Cochran, on July 6.
Branan Greene Thompson Jr., CLAS '59, of Roanoke, Virginia, on Feb. 24.
Weldon Thornton, CLAS '55, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on July 15.
Nolan F. Treglown, CLAS '50, of Apalachicola, Florida, on Jan. 28.
James H. Venable, CLAS '51, of Columbus, on Feb. 7.
James A. Waters, CLAS '52, of Atlanta, on March 8.

James Atwell Waters, CLAS '52, of Atlanta, on March 8.
Terrell F. Waters, CLAS '59, of Ashburn, Virginia, on Dec. 24, 2020.
Adele Burgin Weaver, CLAS '55, of Macon, on March 8.
Donna Wendham Wenning, CLAS '59, of Butler, on May 6.
Andrew Jackson West, CLAS '57, of Ringgold, on Feb. 23.
Frank R. Whiteley Jr., CLAS '59, of New Orleans, Louisiana, on Sept. 27, 2020.
Dorothy James Wiley, TIFT '50, of Greenwood, South Carolina, on Jan. 1.
Elaine Bice Wilkerson, CLAS '59, of Snellville, on July 28.
Shirley Carter Williams, TIFT '57, of Tallahassee, Florida, on March 14.
Francis Wilson, CLAS '54, of Abilene, Texas, on July 16.
June Deavours Worsham, TIFT '54, of Thomaston, on Feb. 23.
Edna Roquemore Young, TIFT '58, of Atlanta, on May 21.

1960s

Farrar M. Atkinson, CLAS '61, of Lawrenceville, on Jan. 15.
Nancy Causey Barger, NUR '62, of Pine Mountain, on Nov. 22, 2020.
Ronald W. Briggs, PHA '69, of Detroit, Michigan, on Jan. 11.
Henry James Brown, CLAS '64, of Manchester, on March 10.
Stephen Phillip Brown, LAW '67, of Macon, on Jan. 28.
James Carlton Burke Jr., CLAS '65, of Wilmington, North Carolina, on Feb. 16.
Boyce Butler, PHA '63, of Augusta, on Feb. 28, 2019.
Velma Gene Young Clarke, CLAS '61, of Macon, on Feb. 21.

Rachel Cole Colbert, CLAS '69, of Fayetteville, on Jan. 30.
John Robert Cooper, CLAS '67, of Allentown, on Jan. 27.
Grace Ann Corn, NUR '61, of Blue Ridge, on April 27.
F. Marion Cummings, LAW '67, of Canton, on June 30.
Selmer A. Davidson, LAW '67, of Lacey, Washington, on Feb. 21.
Donna Hayes Dolive, TIFT '65, of Roswell, on June 29.
James T. Dryman, PHA '61, of Columbus, on Jan. 5.
Susan Ann Gilbert Fagan, TIFT '60, of Clemson, South Carolina, on March 23.
Ruth Sponcler Funderburk, CLAS '67, of Snellville, on May 5.
Faye Rowland Gregory, CLAS '62, of Durham, North Carolina, on Feb. 9.
Ophelia Holton Hancock, EDU '62, of Macon, on Dec. 25, 2020.
Douglas E. Harris, CLAS '60, of Cartersville, on Jan. 25.
Charles Heard, CLAS '61, of Branson, Missouri, on July 11.
Mary Causey Howard, TIFT '61, of Fort Valley, on Feb. 28.
Robert Charles Jackson, PHA '63, of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, on May 6.
Kerry Jay, TIFT '67, of Macon, on May 27.
Albert P. Johnson, CLAS '69, of Macon, on May 30.
Claire Walters Johnson, CLAS '60, of Duluth, on Jan. 27.
Mary Margaret Cooper Jones, TIFT '69, of Grayson, on Dec. 4, 2020.
Gayle Peters Kimball, NUR '66, of Decatur, on Feb. 2.
Thomas H. Lowe, CLAS '67, of Macon, on March 6.
William B. Lumpkin Jr., CLAS '65, of Atlanta, on Jan. 23.

Jacquelyn Chapman Mann, TIFT '54, EDU '66, of Macon, on March 3.
Kathleen Andregg McLean, CLAS '67, of Palo Cedro, California, on July 28.
Cletus J. Mullis, CLAS '62, of Cochran, on Feb. 1.
Michael J. Parella, CLAS '67, of Macon, on Feb. 8.
Ruth Kilpatrick Pearce, CLAS '60, of Gainesville, on Oct. 20, 2020.
William E. Post Jr., PHA '67, of Reidsville, North Carolina, on June 8.
Sandra Kay Rayburn, NUR '65, of Savannah, on Dec. 31, 2020.
Virginia Harris Schultz, CLAS '66, of Athens, on Jan. 5.

John N. Spears, CLAS '60, of Asheville, North Carolina, on April 30.
Elizabeth Osborne Studdard, NUR '61, of Americus, on Feb. 14.
Roy N. Tucker, CLAS '66, of San Antonio, on Dec. 27, 2020.
Joan Whaley, NUR '61, of Summerville, on June 12.
Marian E. Wildeboer, NUR '65, of Dawsonville, on Aug. 30, 2020.
Charles Youmans Jr., CLAS '63, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on Jan. 8.

1970s

Martha Rogers Abrams, CLAS '76, of Ocala, Florida, on March 25.

Cynthia Pipes Arnst, CLAS '79, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on March 1.
Rita M. Bennett, TIFT '74, of Jackson, on Jan. 2.
Millard L. Biloon, CLAS '75, LAW '78, of Savannah, on April 6.
John Clyde Campbell, LAW '73, of Monroe, on Jan. 15.
John Wayne Crowley, CLAS '69, LAW '72, of Macon, on March 15.
Donna Ferguson, NUR '77, of Proctorville, Ohio, on June 17.
Alice M. Bash Fish, CAS '71, of Greenville, South Carolina, on April 28.
Sherry Elizabeth Cone Haizlip, NUR '73, of Macon, on Dec. 12, 2020.

David Handy, CLAS '78, of Macon, on Jan. 20.
James Thomas Harper, CLAS '72, of Hoover, Alabama, on Dec. 19, 2020.
William G. Harrison, CLAS '77, of Macon, on Dec. 16, 2020.
Jon A. Hoovestol, CLAS '79, of Duluth, on Jan. 20.
Sandra Emmons House, NUR '74, of Gainesville, on March 2.
Joyce Jackson Hudson, EDU '70, of Macon, on Dec. 26, 2020.
Michael Guinn Hurst, BUS '76, of Atlanta, on Feb. 19.
Cornelia Bennett Jackson, CLAS '71, of Rockmart, on May 6.
Rebecca Speir Merry, CLAS '75, of Dahlonega, on June 5.
Richard Even Nettum, LAW '75, of Americus, on May 1.

Tammy Jane Robinson, CLAS '86, of Douglasville, on Jan. 19.
Robin Shellow, LAW '86, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Feb. 25.
Linda J. Shirley, CAS '85, of Covington, on March 23.
Jacquelyn Halleck Sisk, PHA '82, of Dallas, on Dec. 26, 2020.
Phyllis McGarity Vann, BUS '87, of Atlanta, on Feb. 17.
Annette T. Westberry, TIFT '84, of Jesup, on April 8.
Barbara Ann Wright Willis, LAW '89, EDU '83, CLAS '81, of Sumner, on Jan. 17.
Elizabeth Callender Wirick, CLAS '80, of Sylvania, Ohio, on Dec. 2, 2020.
Rebecca S. Young, CLAS '84, of Macon, on Feb. 21.

Sandra Elizabeth Lamb, NUR '12, of Woodstock, on May 9.
Bailee Emelle Kitchens Lauersdorf, CLAS '14, of Atlanta, on March 19.
Sandy Morgan, COPA '10, of Jeffersonville, on June 27.
Monika A. Robinson, COPA '19, of Atlanta, on March 19.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

Frank Eugene Allison, friend, of Nashville, Tennessee, on March 6.
Paul W. Anger, friend, of Brenham, Texas, on Dec. 12, 2020.
Gail Miller Arnold, friend, of Cartersville, on Feb. 9.
Charlie Bedford, friend, of Atlanta, on Jan. 23.
Janice Hall Bell, friend, of Savannah, on Nov. 10, 2020.
David P. Bunnell, head of public services and Tift College of Education faculty, of Atlanta, on April 13.
Jerry E. Cole, friend, of Macon, on April 2.
Sammy J. Dame, friend, of Macon, on Jan. 31.
Carol E. Eyley, former staff, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Sept. 23, 2020.
William Henry Fields, friend, of Toccoa, on Feb. 7.
Charles Barker Gaulding, friend and President's Club Life Member, of Auburn, Alabama, on April 19.
Susan Gladin, friend, of Lizella, on July 4.
Benjamin Daniel Harnsberger, friend, of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, on Dec. 25, 2020.

Emily S. Herrington, adjunct faculty, of Conyers, on April 2.
Nancy R. Jay, associate professor in the School of Business, of Atlanta, on Feb. 4.
Jack F. Menendez, former staff, of Macon, on Dec. 11, 2020.
Kathryn Miles-Anderton, friend, of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, on Feb. 18.
Mary Julie Murphy, friend, of Saint Helena Island, South Carolina, on Feb. 10.
Lorena Williams Peach, friend, of Jasper, Florida, on March 17.
Robert Schwartz, friend, of Savannah, on July 15.
Helen Marie Sidella, friend, of Auburn, Pennsylvania, on May 8, 2019.
William C. Smith, friend, of Leesburg, on April 7.
Barney L. Watts, former Mercer Police staff, of Macon, on Dec. 19, 2020.
Sylvia B. Westbrook, friend, of Greenwood, South Carolina, on Jan. 14.
James B. Wharton, former IT staff, of Macon, on Feb. 21.
John F. Willingham, friend, of Macon, on March 5.
Mary Shibli Zumot, former staff, of Atlanta, on Jan. 16.

REMEMBERING...

Generous Supporters

Robert Wells

Robert Wells, generous University supporter, died on June 15. Wells

earned his B.S. and M.D. degrees from Emory University. After serving as an Army physician with a MASH unit during the Korean War, he completed his specialty training in orthopedics at the Campbell Clinic in Memphis.

In 1955, he returned to Atlanta



where he began his orthopedics practice which later became Peachtree Orthopedics. Wells and his wife, **Ruth West Wells**, LAW '74, have supported Mercer Law School and Mercer University Press for many years.



Jane Woodruff

Jane Woodruff, former trustee and generous University supporter, died on July 29. Best known for her monumental charitable endeavors,

Woodruff deeply touched the lives of many people. Her current endowments stretch from medical establishments originally supported by her father,

George W. Woodruff, to educational institutions that she

and her family supported throughout their lives. Woodruff served

as a Mercer trustee from 1984 to 1990. The Woodruff

Family Foundation has a long history of generous support for Mercer School of Law and many other University programs and initiatives.



1990s

Patsy Wilson Broadwell, EDU '97, of Conyers, on April 30.
Debi Lynn Dermatis Bruno, BUS '93, of Douglasville, on April 13.
Kenneth Boyd Dennard, CLAS '92, of Eatonton, on April 22.
Courtney Virginia Flanders, CLAS '98, of Savannah, on Feb. 26.
Richard "Richie" Crawford Foster, LAW '95, of Marietta, on April 6.
Amanda O'Brien Gibson, CLAS '94, of Snellville, on April 4.
James D. Hill, LAW '94, of Aylett, Virginia, on July 24.
Douglas L. Kirkland, LAW '93, of Ocala, Florida, on June 28.
Norman R. Lee Jr., EGR '94, of Jefferson, on Dec. 25, 2020.
Mary Masters Millians, BUS '97, of Smyrna, on May 27.
Frederick Moody, BUS '93, of Macon, on July 2.
William J. Mulcahy, BUS '97, of Atlanta, on May 23.
Ziad Riad Nassar, BUS '95, of Atlanta, on Nov. 12, 2020.
David Wayne Norman, BUS '96, of Winterville, on March 4.
Joanne B. Reeves, COPA '93, of Thomaston, on June 28.
Hilda R. Sanford, EDU '96, of Talking Rock, on Jan. 24, 2020.
Susan Lambert Scott, CLAS '95, LAW '97, of Austin, Texas, on Jan. 12.

1980s

Jiles M. Barfield, LAW '80, of Vidalia, on Jan. 30.
Dorothy Jane Speir Brook, EDU '82, of Atlanta, on April 6.
James M. Cameron, CLAS '83, of Fort Valley, on June 4.
Clay Worthington Clayton, CLAS '85, of Orlando, Florida, on May 1.
Smith Dolliver, BUS '81, of Gordon, on May 26.
Phillip McCoy Durrence Jr., LAW '83, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Aug. 28, 2020.
Gloria Lynn Murphree Finney, LAW '89, of Newman, on Jan. 20.
Gwendolyn Joseph Green, CLAS '84, of Jonesboro, on Dec. 4.
Linda Harris Holley Hine, EDU '80, of Rome, on May 10.
Tom Hlass, CLAS '81, of Buford, on May 20.
Karl E. Holley, CLAS '86, of Wildwood, Florida, on Feb. 21.
John M. Hospodar, BUS '85, BUS '89, of Cumming, on Feb. 27.
Wadyce F. Jenkins, LAW '88, of Townsend, on July 11.
John D. Jett, TIFT '80, of Griffin, on Feb. 3.
Thomas Lowndes III, BUS '86, of Milledgeville, on Dec. 23, 2020.
Connie L. McClain, BUS '82, of Toccoa, on March 26.
Walter Millsaps, LAW '87, of Ponte Verda Beach, Florida, on June 27.
William Ware Mitchell, PHA '80, '81, of Gray, Tennessee, on May 6.
James Logan Porter, TIFT '82, of Glennville, on April 4.
Jean Farmer Robinson, PHA '82, of Alpharetta, on May 19.

2000s

Katie Ann Bridges, NUR '03, of Ellijay, on April 15.
Walter Frank Chambers, PHA '08, of Columbus, on Feb. 8.
Susan Kick Hall, BUS '01, of Daphne, Alabama, on Jan. 19.
Jamya L. Hall-Marable, BUS '02, of New Orleans, Louisiana, on Feb. 20.
Arthur Paul Melton III, CLAS '02, of Gray, on Feb. 14.
Chadwick R. Mullis, COPA '01, of Warner Robins, on Feb. 9.
Gregory N. Roark, PHA '08, of Ootewah, Tennessee, on June 3.
Sandy Lee Smith, COPA '07, of Marietta, on April 11.
John Trotter, LAW '04, of Fayetteville, on July 3.

2010s

Alayah J. Baath, LAW '18, of Marietta, on July 27.
Ayana Chaney, COPA '18, of Conyers, on Feb. 14.

MERCER LOYAL

60 YEARS OF GIVING

"I THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS OVER,"

said 94-year-old **Mary Frances Harrison Newsome**, CLAS '46, reflecting on her graduation from Mercer at the age of 18. She had such a great experience and loved her college home so much that, at the time, she couldn't imagine there was life after Mercer.

In 1943, 15-year-old Mary Frances began her freshman year at Mercer. The daughter of Mercer Law alumnus **Carnage B. Harrison**, Mercer was in her blood. When the time arrived for her to go off to college, she never considered any place but Mercer.

While a student, Newsome was very involved in campus life, participating in almost every campus organization. She was active in Greek life as a member of Alpha Delta Pi, and was named the sweetheart for Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. She was also active in student government and became the University's first female class president during her senior year.

While there were a lot of rules in place for women at Mercer in the 1940s, especially for a such a young college student like Newsome, she was allowed the same freedoms as other students who were older than she, thanks to her father. Newsome recalls, "My father wrote a letter to the house mother for Mary Erin Porter dorm informing her that his daughter could go anywhere she wanted to go. I had lots of dates and enjoyed attending dances at the Shrine Club."

After graduating from Mercer, Newsome taught for two years at Dublin High School before earning a master's degree in counseling at the University of Georgia. An only child, she returned home after the death of her mother to help run a merchant store in downtown Wrightsville that her mother had opened when Newsome was a child. She met her late husband, Robert Newsome, after the Korean War and married at the age of 29 in her family home — the same home in which she still lives today.

Newsome gave her first gift to Mercer in 1961 and has made a gift every year since, making her Mercer's most loyal donor to date with a 60-year record of giving. Newsome said her family has always been philanthropic and helped support the community, but when asked specifically why she chooses to give to Mercer, she said, "I love Mercer; it is great and worth supporting! I don't give a lot, but I think giving back to Mercer is the right thing to do."

Newsome loves her alma mater and cherishes the memories of her college days. While her gifts may seem small to her, her love and loyal support for the University make a big impact in the lives of current students.



ADVANCEMENT STAFF UPDATES

Ceallsach Crouch, previous coordinator of alumni services, transitioned into the role of coordinator of alumni programs in February. In this role, Crouch oversees alumni chapters, the Mercer Ambassador program, the alumni travel program and other alumni programs and initiatives. Crouch has a B.A. degree from Columbus State University and an M.A. degree from Georgia State University.

Diane F. Johnson joined the Office of University Advancement in June as the new director of family philanthropy programs. Johnson most recently retired after 15 years at the University of Georgia where she worked in alumni relations and parent fundraising within the Division of Development and Alumni Relations. Prior to that, she worked in various sales and sales management positions at several major corporations. Johnson holds a B.B.A. degree in management from the University of Georgia. Her experience in fundraising will bring a focused attention and commitment to raising support from parents and family members for various needs and priorities of the University.

Giuliana "Julie" Mayfield, CLAS '19, joined the Office of Alumni Services as coordinator of alumni services in May, serving as a primary point of contact for University alumni. Mayfield graduated from Mercer with a degree in graphic design. Before enrolling at Mercer, she served

in active duty with the United States Air Force. Previously, she served as an academic adviser at Georgia Military College.

Andy Towson joined the Office of University Advancement as a gift processing support specialist in February. In this role, his primary responsibility is the timely processing and acknowledgement of gifts to the University. Towson brings to Mercer more than 30 years of experience in the insurance industry, holding various roles including customer service manager, sales technology trainer, national account manager, and telephonic enrollment manager for Colonial Life in Columbia, South Carolina. Towson is a double graduate of the University of Georgia, earning a B.B.A. and M.B.A.



Crouch



Johnson



Mayfield



Towson

UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES NEW PRESIDENT'S CLUB LIFE MEMBERS

New Life Members of The President's Club were recognized on April 16, during the University's 55th annual celebration of its most generous supporters. Members of The President's Club gathered for dinner at The St. Regis Hotel, Atlanta.

The Mercer University President's Club was established in 1964 to recognize alumni and friends who provide a nucleus of support for the University. Over the years, this select group of alumni and friends has supplied nearly three-quarters of the gifts from individuals for annual support. Friends and alumni of Mercer who contribute \$1,000 or more during the calendar year are eligible for membership in The President's Club.

The University's highest level of leadership giving, President's Club Life Member, is conferred on those individuals and churches who have contributed at least \$100,000

to Mercer. At this year's event, the following were recognized for achieving Life Member status: **Mark and Cathy Adams, Barbara Carlton and Janet Overstreet.**

(L-R, back row): Mark Adams, James Carlisle Overstreet, President William D. Underwood (L-R, front row): Cathy Callaway Adams, TIFT '81; Janet Eastburn Overstreet, LAW '94; Barbara Castleberry Carlton, CLAS '53



A Lasting Legacy

Jean Culver

The late **Dr. James Culver** and his wife, **Jean Culver**, both had successful careers in the medical field. Dr. Culver was a decorated Air Force general and esteemed medical professional in the field of ophthalmology, and Mrs. Culver was a registered nurse.

Though Dr. Culver only attended Mercer for one year in 1943 after transferring from Virginia Military Institute and finishing his medical training at the Medical College of Georgia, he and Mrs. Culver always had a strong connection to Mercer. Dr. Culver and his brother, Chuck Culver, grew up in Macon, and his brother was a longtime Macon attorney and Mercer Law graduate.

In recognition of the importance a strong science education played in their medical careers and with a desire to enhance applied sciences at Mercer, the Culvers chose to include Mercer in their estate plans. By making a planned gift, the Culvers were able to benefit from a steady income for their lifetimes, receive an income tax deduction and leave a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations of Mercer students.

Making a planned gift is one way to show your support and appreciation for Mercer and its mission while accommodating your own personal, financial, estate planning and philanthropic goals. When you include Mercer in your estate plan, your generosity enables you to contribute to Mercer far into the future. Visit mercer.edu/give for more information on planned giving.

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2021-2022 **MERCER** **BEARS BASKETBALL**

MEN'S SCHEDULE

NOV. 3 FORT VALLEY STATE
Nov. 9 @ Arkansas
Nov. 13 @ Winthrop
NOV. 16 LIFE UNIVERSITY
Nov. 20 @ St. Louis (Cancun Challenge)
Nov. 23 Bucknell @ Cancun Challenge
Nov. 24 MTSU or Rider @ Cancun Challenge
NOV. 27 MILLIGAN
Dec. 1 @ Kennesaw State
DEC. 4 GEORGIA STATE
Dec. 6 @ Coastal Carolina
DEC. 11 GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Dec. 19 @ FGCU
DEC. 22 TROY
Dec. 29 @ The Citadel*
JAN. 1 CHATTANOOGA*
JAN. 5 SAMFORD*
Jan. 8 @ Furman*
JAN. 13 VMI*
JAN. 15 UNCG*
Jan. 19 @ ETSU*
JAN. 22 WESTERN CAROLINA*
Jan. 26 @ Samford*
JAN. 29 FURMAN*
JAN. 31 WOFFORD*
Feb. 5 @ Chattanooga*
Feb. 10 @ VMI*
Feb. 13 @ UNCG*
FEB. 16 ETSU*
Feb. 19 @ Western Carolina*
FEB. 23 THE CITADEL*
Feb. 26 @ Wofford*

HEAD COACH
GREG GARY



WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

NOV. 9 WAKE FOREST
NOV. 11 APPALACHIAN ST
NOV. 15 TROY
Nov. 18 @ Georgia
Nov. 21 @ Gardner Webb
Nov. 24 @ Alabama
Nov. 26 @ South Alabama
NOV. 29 KENNESAW ST
Dec. 3 @ Middle Tennessee St
Dec. 5 @ Tennessee St
DEC. 12 CENTRAL FLORIDA
DEC. 19 UAB
DEC. 21 BETHUNE COOKMAN
DEC. 28 UNC WILMINGTON
DEC. 31 LAGRANGE
JAN. 6 ETSU*
JAN. 8 CHATTANOOGA*
Jan. 13 @ UNCG*
Jan. 15 @ Western Carolina*
JAN. 20 FURMAN*
JAN. 22 WOFFORD*
JAN. 29 SAMFORD*
Feb. 3 @ Chattanooga*
Feb. 5 @ ETSU*
FEB. 10 WESTERN CAROLINA*
FEB. 12 UNCG*
Feb. 17 @ Wofford*
Feb. 19 @ Furman*
Feb. 26 @ Samford*

HEAD COACH
SUSIE GARDNER



* SOCON GAME

March 3-6, 2022
SoCon Tournament, Asheville, NC

* SOCON GAME
March 4-7, 2022
SoCon Tournament, Asheville, NC