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LEAH YETTER PHOTO; COVER, MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO

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In Our Lens

A Night of Georgia Music took center stage March 5 at Macon's historic Grand Opera House featuring students from Mercer's Robert McDuffie Center for Strings, internationally renowned violin soloist and Macon native Robert McDuffie, former Allman Brothers Band member and current Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell, and R.E.M. founding member and Macon native Mike Mills. The recorded concert will be distributed to public television stations across the country for airing later this year.



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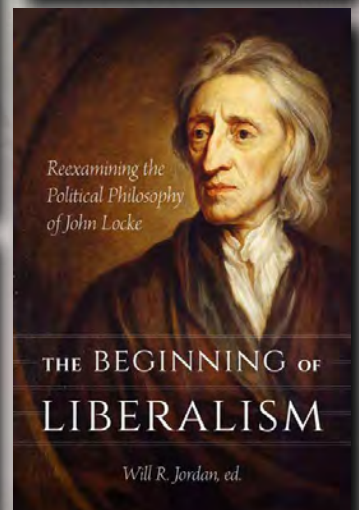
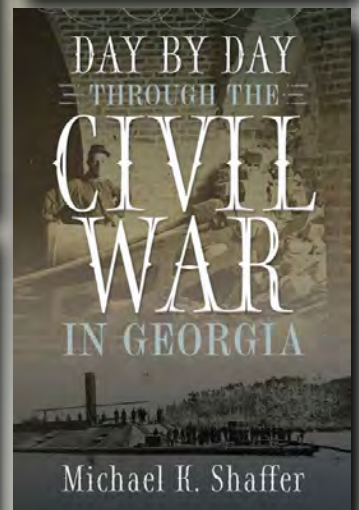
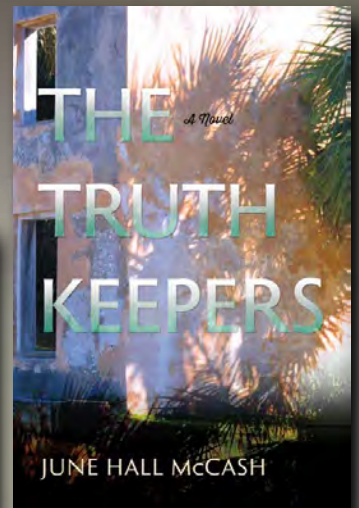
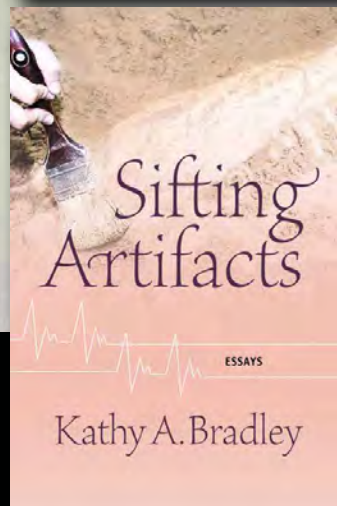
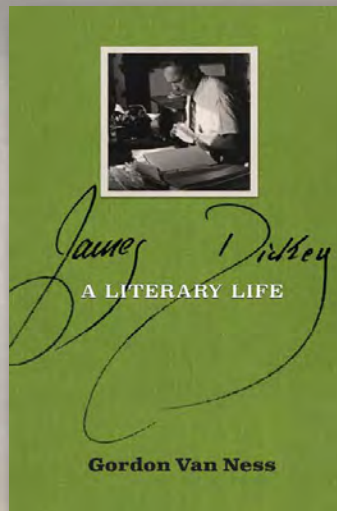
CELEBRATES
43RD YEAR OF
PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

Navigating the continuing challenges facing the publishing industry in yet another pandemic year, Mercer University Press offers a new season filled with biography, essays, fiction, poetry, history, philosophy, and religion.

Spring/Summer 2022 season highlighted titles include:

James Dickey: A Literary Biography by Gordon Van Ness, which centers on Dickey as poet, novelist, essayist, critic, and teacher; **Better to See You With** by Marshall Bruce Gentry, essays examining Flannery O'Connor's writing through lenses both original and surprising; **Sifting Artifacts** by Kathy A. Bradley, a collection of essays on nature, humanity, writing, and the search to find oneself; **The Truth Keepers** by June Hall McCash, a novel based on the life of the du Bignon family who lived on Jekyll Island, Georgia, from 1792 to 1886; **Day by Day through the Civil War in Georgia** by Michael K. Shaffer, a daily account of social, political, economic, and military events in Georgia just before secession until after the end of the Civil War; and **The Beginning of Liberalism: Reexamining the Political Philosophy of John Locke**, a collection of essays from the 2020 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas at Mercer University edited by Will R. Jordan, Mercer associate professor of Political Science.

Visit www.mupress.org to see a complete listing of titles or to download a catalog. Books are available from your favorite independent bookstore, major online retailer, or wherever fine books are sold. **Order from Mercer University Press directly and receive a 40% Mercer Alumni discount by calling (478) 301-2880.** Shipping charges and taxes will apply.



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A **Special** Pathway TO RURAL HEALTH CARE

"Mercer's mission and values align with my own, and the Special Consideration Program allows me to continue my studies at Mercer, which has become my new home."



Yash Jani calls Mercer University's **Special Consideration Program** for the School of Medicine "truly a blessing." Through the pathway program, the sophomore neuroscience major from Albany will seamlessly enroll in Mercer's M.D. program after completing his bachelor's degree on the Macon campus.

"My ultimate goal is to serve rural Georgia as a primary care physician and fulfill the need for preventative medicine in areas like my hometown. Shadowing physicians has shown me the ubiquitous need for rural health care resources, and it would be a privilege to help resolve this issue."

While at Mercer, Jani says he has grown academically and developed a strong foundation in the sciences and other disciplines. His undergraduate research is focused on analyzing the effects of heavy metal toxicity on renal function, and he's partnering with a major local health care system to expand his "Ray of Hope" foundation for grieving children. Jani has served as SGA Freshman Class President, alongside roles with MU Miracle, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and the Mercer University Ambassador Program, among others. He says it is the relationships formed with friends, faculty mentors and leaders that make his time at Mercer "life-changing."

"I have grown by cultivating my passion to become a physician and am becoming a better version of myself through the lifelong connections I have made here."

Explore Mercer's pre-professional tracks and special consideration pathways for careers in health care. Join Yash or refer a friend. Use code **MERCERIAN22** to waive the application fee for any undergraduate program* at **admissions.mercer.edu**

*Accelerated BSN not included

MERCER
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Remembering Martha Ann

By Andrea Honaker

Parents Create Endowed Scholarship at Mercer to Continue Daughter's Legacy

A new scholarship aims to keep the memory and dreams of a Mercer student alive and help others follow in her footsteps. **Martha and Sonny Murphy** have established the Martha Ann Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of their daughter, who died from a chronic illness on June 4, 2020, at age 27.

"There will never be another one like her, but I think she would be proud," said her mother, Martha. "I think she would love that we've done this for her."

This is the first endowed scholarship for Mercer's clinical psychology doctoral program, for which Martha Ann was a second-year student at the time of her passing. A degree in memoriam was awarded to Martha Ann during the College of Health Professions' hooding ceremony in Atlanta in May.

"Her academic efforts, compassion, insights and contributions have left a significant impression on the faculty, staff and students in the College of Health Professions," Dean **Dr. Lisa Lundquist** said during the ceremony. "The [Doctor of Psychology] faculty note that she brought great academic rigor and excitement to her studies, was a passionate student and voracious reader, and embodied the spirit that we want in our students with her love of learning."

Martha Ann was a true intellectual who pulled for the underdog and advocated for people all her life. From early on, she was precocious, articulate, curious and competitive, her mother said. She was a talented swimmer and traveled all over the country with Dynamo Swim Club, where she still holds an all-time top 10 record in the 200-meter backstroke, until the diagnosis of a congenital heart defect put an end to that chapter when she was a teen.

Martha Ann read and wrote constantly and was the valedictorian of



her graduating class at Atlanta Country Day School. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Oglethorpe University and taught art and AP psychology at her former high school before starting the doctoral program at Mercer.

"She wrote to understand her place in the world," said her older sister, **Dr. Sharon Augustine**, assistant dean and associate professor of education for the Tift College of Education. The pair bonded over a shared love of writing and reading, especially *Harry Potter*. "The ideas that she thought, the books that she read, the people that she knew ... it's like she took all of that and she tried to make sense of that through her writing. She was on a journey to understand people."

Martha Ann had hundreds of books, and she was eager to share her collection with others.

"Martha Ann was a voracious reader who continually brought new materials into the classroom discussion," said **Dr. Craig Marker**, chair of the Clinical Psychology Department. "In my individual meetings with her, I would leave with many new articles and books to read."

One of Martha Ann's last wishes was for her books to go out into the world, so people could experience what she had through them, Martha said. Stacks of books were set out at her Celebration of Life service, and family and friends were encouraged to take some to read and pass on.

A fiercely independent, persistent and detail-oriented person with high standards, she devoted her full focus to any goal she set, Dr. Augustine said. She wasn't accepted to Mercer's clinical psychology doctoral program the first time she applied, so she worked hard to increase her volunteer experience and was accepted when she reapplied.

"She really wanted this," Dr. Augustine said. "That always impressed me with her. She was really excited to be on this career path. There was urgency behind it. Once she was in that [program], she was obsessed with it."

Her deep interest in understanding human psychology and firsthand experiences as a patient led her to the path she was pursuing. She was already predisposed to helping people in need, and she figured out how to channel that into the perfect career setting, Dr. Augustine said.

"Martha Ann had a unique perspective on the health care field in that she had personal experience with health crises that did not have any psychological integration," Dr. Marker said. "This experience led her to want to advocate for psychology's inclusion into health care."

There's often a lack of communication between specialists in different doctor's offices and hospitals, and patients and families feel helpless when they are in the middle of that, Martha said. Martha Ann had been through that countless times, as she visited doctor's offices and hospitals often because of her congenital heart defect. She wanted to ease the burden on others by coordinating with all the parties involved in patient care. While at Mercer, her clinical experience included time in the transplant unit

at Children's Hospital of Atlanta, where she worked with patients and families facing life-changing medical procedures, Dr. Marker said.

"From going from one specialist to another, she developed a real patient advocacy mantra and decided

that's what she wanted to be ... the [person] in between the doctor and the patient to help that communication," said her father, Sonny. "She felt like she had a gift and a calling to fill that space."

"Nobody can take her place, but she can inspire other people to go down the same road that she was starting. Maybe we can get several Martha Ann-like people out in the advocacy and filling an important place in young people's lives."

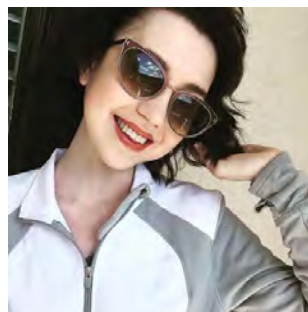
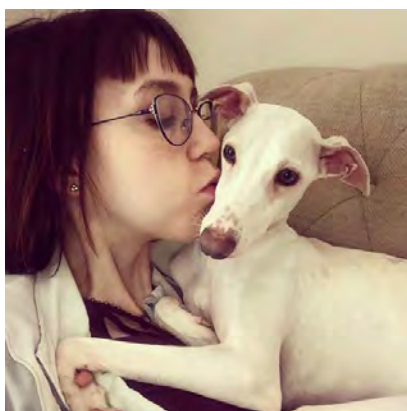
After Martha Ann's passing, her parents started talking right away about what was most important to her and what they could do to honor her and continue her dream. Creating a scholarship in her memory was at the top of their list, they said.

Dr. Marker said the endowed scholarship will help to continue to develop students who,

like Martha Ann, have a passion for clinical psychology and its integration into other health care professions.

"She had an expansive mind that I think would have been really important in the field that she wanted to go into," Dr. Augustine said. "She always was hopeful, even in the end. ... The great thing about her scholarship is that someone will be able to carry that on for her. But it will also be the heartbreak, because she figured it out and didn't get to do it."

To make a gift in support of the Martha Ann Murphy Scholarship, contact Paul McClendon, director of development for the College of Health Professions and College of Nursing, at (678) 547-6453 or mcclendon_pg@mercer.edu.



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

Mercer Sets Enrollment Record for 15th Consecutive Year

Mercer set a fall enrollment record of 9,033

students across all campuses. It is the 15th consecutive year that the University has enrolled a record number of students. The record number comes as colleges and universities across the country are seeing declining enrollments. **More than 1,000 new undergraduate students on the Macon campus are included in this fall's total.** Nationwide, new freshman enrollment at private, not-for-profit colleges and universities is down almost 5% over the past three years.



TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Mercer's Board of Trustees approved new graduate programs in business and nursing during its annual Homecoming meeting in November.

The new **Master of Science in Integrative Business** will be offered beginning next fall through the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business and provide

students with the option of attending in-person classes on the Atlanta campus or pursuing the degree entirely online. The customizable program is oriented toward students from a diverse set of backgrounds in business, math, science, law or technical areas such as engineering and allows them to create a personalized graduate portfolio suitable to their career plans. It incorporates core areas of business combined with topical areas of business specializations, such as fintech, analytics in business, women in leadership, diversity, equity and inclusion, and entrepreneurship and innovation. The program will also allow non-degree certificate options.

Mercer's College of Nursing on the Atlanta campus will begin offering a **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to Ph.D. option** in fall 2022 to help mitigate the shortage of nursing faculty across the nation. Currently, the College only accepts Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)-prepared students to the Ph.D. program. The new program will require all courses in the traditional post-master's Ph.D. program, plus two additional BSN-Ph.D. intensives, one BSN-Ph.D. nursing education practicum, one MSN course and two additional doctoral courses for a total of 73 credit hours.

BOARD ELECTS NEW TRUSTEES

The University's Board of Trustees elected 10 new trustees during its annual Homecoming meeting. The new trustees, whose terms began at the conclusion of the meeting, included

William H. (Billy) Anderson, Macon; **Tom Bishop**, Acworth; **Liza Chapman**, Atlanta; **Dwight Davis**, Atlanta; **A. Rabun Matthews**, St. Simons; **J. Thomas McAfee**, Juliette; **Eli Morgan**, Forsyth; **Cynthia (Cindy) Morris**, Dalton; **Barbara Brown Taylor**, Demorest; and **Claude M. (Mick) Kicklighter**, McLean, Virginia.

Anderson, Bishop, Chapman, Davis, Matthews, McAfee, Morgan, Morris and Kicklighter are Mercer graduates. Kicklighter will serve out the unexpired term of **Pete Robinson**, who died earlier this year.

Trustees who rotated off the board and were recognized for their service include **Cathy Adams**, Fernandina Beach, Florida, who also has served as board chair the last two years;

Carolyn McAfee Bruner, Macon; **Malcolm Burgess**, Macon; **Milton Cruz**, San Juan, Puerto Rico; **Nancy Grace**, Atlanta; **Doc Hollingsworth**, Atlanta; **Genelle Jennings**, Hawkinsville; **Carl Reynolds**, Macon; and **Joe Sam Robinson**, Macon.

Bruner was elected as a Life Trustee. She joins **Jimmy Carter**, the **Hon. W. Homer Drake Jr.**, **Dr. Spencer B. King III** and **Robert F. Hatcher** as a Life Trustee.

William A. (Tony) Moye of McDonough was elected as board chair for 2022.

Longtime General Counsel Bill Solomon Retires



William G. Solomon IV, Mercer's chief attorney for the last quarter century, announced his retirement, effective Jan. 4. With Solomon's retirement, Associate General Counsel **Matthew Hall** was appointed by Mercer President **William D. Underwood** as interim general counsel. Also, **Rachel Turnbull** was promoted from assistant general counsel to associate general counsel. Appointed to lead the Office of General Counsel in 1996, Solomon has also served as secretary of the corporation since 2000. Although retired from his full-time role as general counsel and secretary of the corporation, Solomon will remain available to the University for consultation in a more-limited role as Of Counsel to Mercer.

Music Dean Dr. David Keith Announces Retirement



Dr. C. David Keith, dean of Mercer's Townsend School of Music since 2013, announced that he will retire at the end of this academic year. Provost **Dr. D. Scott Davis** has appointed a seven-member search committee to assist in the recruitment of Dr. Keith's successor. Prior to being appointed dean in 2013, Dr. Keith served as interim dean, professor of music and director of graduate studies at Mercer. He joined the School of Music's faculty in 2010 as director of the Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Studies in Church Music after serving for 27 years as professor of conducting and church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He also has served as director of music and worship at Brentwood United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, adjunct professor of music at Belmont University, chorus director for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and director of choral activities at Howard Payne University, as well as interim minister of music at a number of congregations.

NEW FABIAN CENTER FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE TO FEATURE **WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS, SCHOLARS IN CONCERTS AND SYMPOSIA**

Townsend School of Music recently began presenting internationally renowned artists and scholars for the community through the Fabian Center for Musical Excellence. Former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Jane Chu spoke on "How the Arts Prepare Us for Leadership" on Nov. 30, and leading touring ensemble Canadian Brass presented a holiday concert on Dec. 1 to kick off the free offerings to the community in this series. The Fabian Center for Musical Excellence was created through the generosity of philanthropist Jo Phelps Fabian. "Through the invisible hands of music the soul is touched and healed," Fabian wrote about her gift. The 2021-2022 academic year marks the beginning of this significant institute, which alongside educational programs for outstanding aspiring musicians, supports concerts by leading artists around the world and symposia on music, philosophy and the arts by prominent scholars. All of the programs in the inaugural season are presented free and open to the public.

MERCER, ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE EXTEND **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Mercer and Robins Air Force Base on Oct. 23 held a signing ceremony at Drake Field House on the Macon campus to extend the existing Educational Partnership Agreement between the two entities. The working relationship between Mercer and Robins Air Force Base predates the founding of the University's School of Engineering in 1985. Nearly four decades later, more than 60 representatives from the Mercer, Robins and the Middle Georgia community gathered to witness the signing of a document extending the partnership that exemplifies collaboration between a higher education institution and a military installation. The new agreement extends the partnership an additional three years until 2024.

Beloved Community Symposium Receives **\$20K** Griffith Foundation Grant

Mercer's Building the Beloved Community Symposium was recently awarded a **\$20,000 grant from the Griffith Family Foundation to produce a series of short videos focusing on Macon's racial history** to be shared with the community through town halls, churches, civic clubs, schools and other venues. The Beloved Community Symposium contracted Macon-based And So We Go Productions to develop four to five 10-minute videos designed to spark candid, constructive conversations on race and overcoming racial division. **Dr. Matt Harper**, associate professor of history and Africana studies and co-convener of the Beloved Community Symposium, will lead the project. Dr. Harper's training and research focus on race and religion during slavery and Reconstruction. Videos may be filmed on location in sites associated with significant racially historic events, such as the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood, the former slave auction block on Second Street and Cotton Avenue, Linwood Cemetery and the Douglass Theatre, or involve interviews with local clergy and veterans of the Civil Rights Movement.



College of Education Collaboration Allows High School Students to Produce Documentaries

Mercer's College of Education, in partnership with nonprofit Student Leadership Johns Creek and the Johns Creek Historical Society, received a **\$2,500 Georgia Humanities grant to fund high school student research on the history and preservation of the Macedonia**



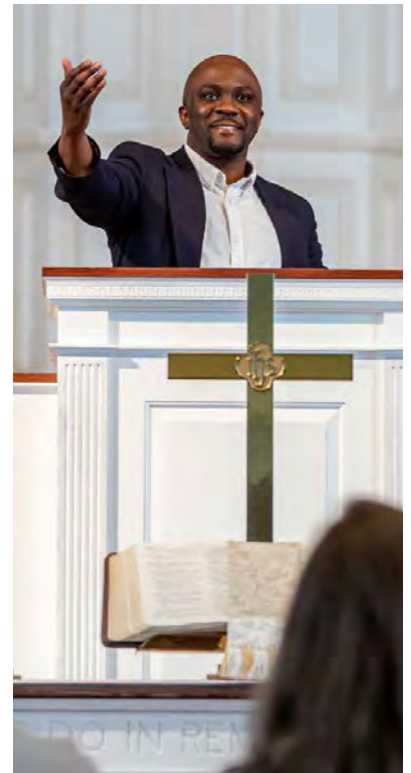
Chattahoochee High School students interview Emily Cobb, education outreach manager of the Atlanta History Center, at the Macedonia African Methodist Church Cemetery in Johns Creek, while students from Centennial High School serve as the camera and audio crew.

African Methodist Church Cemetery in north Fulton County. In early 2022, two special events — at Johns Creek High School on Jan. 27 and on Mercer's Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta on Feb. 18 — showcased four student-produced documentary films. These films cover topics such as the history of Macedonia Cemetery, the relationships between those who lived in the Johns Creek area, the importance of historical research and ultimately why it is important to preserve such historical cemeteries.



School of Theology Receives Near-Million Dollar Grant from Lilly Endowment

McAfee School of Theology received a near-million dollar grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support a groundbreaking initiative aimed at **reimagining seminary theological education and training for pastors and lay ministers.** The School of Theology was notified Nov. 29 it had received a Phase 2 grant in the amount of \$907,179 through the Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative designed to help theological schools strengthen and sustain their capacities to prepare and support pastoral leaders for Christian churches. A total of 84 Phase 2 grants, ranging from \$500,000 to \$1 million, were awarded to institutions in 28 U.S. states and seven Canadian provinces. The School will embark on a four-year program to comprehensively recalibrate the seminary student formational experience and radically decenter the seminary from seminary education by focusing on church-centric theological education.



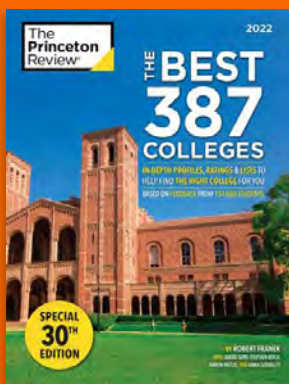
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Mercer Continues Rise as *U.S. News* Best Value National University

Mercer remains in the top tier of national universities and climbed one spot to the No. 34 **Best Value** in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual America's Best Colleges issue, released Sept. 13. The best value ranking takes into account an institution's academic quality and the previous year's net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid. Mercer rose five spots in the category — to No. 35 from No. 40 — last year. Additional *U.S. News* rankings received by Mercer this year include:

- No. 38 for **Best Online MBA Program for Veterans**
- No. 53 for **Best Undergraduate Engineering Program**
- No. 56 for **Best Online MBA Program**
- No. 58 for **Best Undergraduate Teaching**
- No. 79 for **Best Online Master's in Engineering Program**
- No. 80 for **Best Online Master's in Education Program**
- No. 96 for **Best Undergraduate Nursing Program**
- No. 101 for **Best Online Bachelor's Programs**
- No. 120 for **Top Performers on Social Mobility**

Additionally, the University is ranked among the top 150 **Best Colleges for Veterans** and top 250 **Best Undergraduate Business Programs**.



Mercer Among The Princeton Review's 'Best Colleges' for 19th Consecutive Year

Mercer is among the nation's best institutions for undergraduates according to The Princeton Review®. The education services company profiles and recommends Mercer in the 30th edition of its annual college guide, *The Best 387 Colleges*, released Aug. 31. Only about 14% of America's 2,700 four-year institutions are profiled in the book. Mercer was also recognized by The Princeton Review on its list of Best Business Schools for 2022, released Dec. 14.



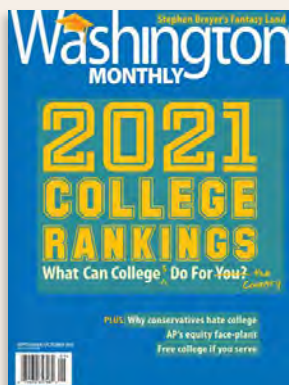
Mercer 4th Nationally Among Peace Corps Prep Certificate- Issuing Institutions

The Peace Corps announced in September that **Mercer ranks fourth nationally among Peace Corps Prep certificate-issuing institutions** in 2021. Mercer's Peace Corps Prep program aims to prepare students for intercultural fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. Together with the Peace Corps, the University has created a streamlined path for students to complete the program in all of its undergraduate programs. No matter their major or school, all Mercer students can complete the necessary requirements to earn a certificate from the Peace Corps Prep program. Mercer, which ranked fifth among Peace Corps Prep institutions in 2020, issued **33 Peace Corps Prep certificates to the graduating class of 2021**, trailing only Virginia Commonwealth University (114), the University of South Florida (58) and the University of Florida (37).



Peace Corps

Mercer is No. 14 'Best College for Student Voting'



Mercer is ranked No. 14 among *Washington Monthly's* 2021 **America's Best Colleges for Student Voting**. The University's place in the top 7% of 205 ranked institutions demonstrates the commitment it has made to promote civic engagement among its student body, encouraging students to vote and actively participate in community decisions. Mercer — **the top Georgia institution in the ranking** — was given special distinction for having a voter registration rate above 85%, a feat achieved by only 15 other institutions. The University was also recognized for its voter engagement efforts by receiving the Best Action Plan Award and the Gold Seal in the 2021 ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

Mercer Named a Member of U.S. CYBERCOM Academic Engagement Network

Mercer was recently selected as a member of the **U.S. Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) Academic Engagement Network (AEN)**, consisting of 84 colleges and universities representing 34 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. **Mercer is one of only three AEN institutions in Georgia.** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences specialization and degree programs in cybersecurity and computer science secured selection into the program.



Mercer Earns Tree Campus USA® Designation

Mercer is once again among nearly 400 institutions across the U.S. to receive 2020 **Tree Campus USA®** recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for



commitment to effective urban forest management. Tree Campus Higher Education, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. Mercer earned this year's recognition, alongside 391 other colleges and universities,

by meeting Tree Campus USA's five core standards, including establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS CHOSEN AS **GILMAN SCHOLARS** TO STUDY ABROAD

Scholarship allows students with high financial need to participate in transformational international learning experiences, including faculty-led programs and Mercer On Mission. The following students — a record number for the University during a single selection cycle — received a total of \$97,500 to participate in programs between Dec. 1, 2021, and Oct. 31, 2022: **Derrick Buie, Chrishawn Chappelle, Lea Dulcio, Lily Dwyer, Ariana Flores, Rynne Franklin, Victoria Glazier, Savannah Granito, Jordan Griffin, Justin Henry, Charys Hogeland, Corbin Jones, Kennia Kirksey, Kimberly Lopez, Marlo Mecredy, Savannah Richie, Kendall Ross, Jendai Sealey, Lawson Smith, Samantha Vaquero-Covarrubias and Tran Vo.**

Mercer — one of the top producers of Gilman Scholars in the country — had an unprecedented 21 students chosen during the fall selection cycle to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. The Gilman



EDUCATION STUDENT RECEIVES GATE DISTINGUISHED CLINICIAN IN TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD

College of Education Ph.D. student

Latoya Tolefree was awarded the Georgia Association for Teacher Educators (GATE) 2021 Distinguished Clinician in Teacher Education Award. Tolefree received the award at the 2021 GATE Annual Conference Oct. 14-15 at Jekyll Island, where she also presented her research. The Distinguished Clinician in Teacher Education is designed to honor teachers and teacher educators who work in a clinical environment.



Tolefree

COPA STUDENT AWARDED AAUW INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Nelson

Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling student **Danielle Nelson** was selected to receive an American Association of University Women (AAUW) 2021-22 International Fellowship. Nelson, from Kingston, Jamaica, plans to deliver and transition to scale effective group therapy interventions in under-resourced communities in Jamaica upon earning her degree and returning home. This work will include women impacted by general socioeconomic adversity and gender-based violence and inequities.

MERCER AWARDS 25 GLOBAL LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD

The Office of International Programs awarded its latest round of **Global Leader Scholarships (GLS)**, providing 25 students with a total of \$85,774 to participate in study abroad programs during the upcoming spring semester. Awardees include **Dylan Alarcon, Anaya Bhatti, Aundretha Casper, Kristen Clark, Morgan Copeland, Jackson Crowley, Lara Edgeman, Keeli Hennon, Justin Henry, Makenzie Hicks, Olivia Hundley, Alexandra Jones, Kennia Kirksey, Sophia McWhirter, Arsha Moorthy, Thomas Neely, Nicole Ngan, Krupa Patel, Christoph Postero, Shaan Prasad, Miguel Ruiz-Sanchez, Alexis Sharafi, Fatima Alarcon Tinoco, Caroline Ulsaker and Lelena Zewdu**. The GLS program was launched in 2019 to support students with financial need in pursuing long-term study abroad opportunities at the University. The scholarship initially offered up to \$8,000 per student for programs of eight weeks or longer, but the program was expanded this fall to include awards up to \$5,000 for programs of three to eight weeks and up to \$3,000 for programs shorter than three weeks.



- 1 Ali Dupree**, junior graphic design major from Lawrenceville, for “Napier Heights Food Co-op Brand Identity”
- 2 Isabel Newberry**, senior art major from Macon, for “Rainforest Alliance Poster Design”
- 3 Emma Rose Bailey**, junior marketing major and graphic design minor from Rome, for “Macon Beer Company Ready-to-Drink Packaging Design”
- 4 Cecelia Poehlman**, senior creative writing and English double-major and graphic design minor from Madison, Alabama, for “Disinformed Editorial Layout”
- 5 Landon Miller**, junior graphic design major from Macon, for “Kinetic Typography”
- 6 Liz Carter**, senior marketing major and graphic design minor from Tampa, Florida, for “Get Out the Vote Campaign Poster”

A series of four matchstick trees of increasing size, each constructed from a central vertical stem and multiple diagonal branches. The trees are made of light-colored matchsticks with red tips. To the right of the trees is a single matchstick lying horizontally, which is lit at one end, showing a bright yellow flame.



FACULTY & STAFF

HONORS & RECOGNITION

WETHERBEE DIRECTS AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY ABOUT WATER POLLUTION IN JULIETTE

Center for Collaborative Journalism (CCJ) Assistant Professor **Evey Wilson Wetherbee** directed a 40-minute investigative documentary called “Saving Juliette,” which was released by Georgia Public Broadcasting in March 2021 and is making the rounds among nationwide film festivals. The film won awards for Audience Choice Documentary at the 2021 Macon Film Festival and Best Short Documentary at the 2021 Full Bloom Film Festival in Statesville, North Carolina. It was also screened at the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival in

Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and the Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville. The documentary, co-produced and filmed by Wetherbee and Georgia Public Broadcasting Macon reporter **Grant Blankenship**, begins as Juliette residents learn their drinking water is contaminated and follows them over a yearlong period as they grapple with what it means for their health.



PHOTO FROM "SAVING JULIETTE" COURTESY OF EVEY WILSON WETHERBEE

PANTHER, CANNON RECEIVE SPENCER GRANTS



Dr. Panther



Dr. Cannon

Two College of Education faculty members were awarded grants from The Spencer Foundation, a leading funder of education research since 1971 and the only national foundation focused exclusively on supporting education research. **Dr. Leah Panther**, assistant professor of literacy education, along with collaborator **Dr. Eric Parker**, who serves as principal of Tucker High School in DeKalb County, were awarded a grant through the Research-Practice Partnerships Grants Program. **Dr. Susan Cannon**, assistant professor of elementary and middle grades education, was awarded a grant through the Small Research Grants Program.

VOKHIWA APPOINTED EEA BOARD PRESIDENT

Dr. Zipangani Vokhiwa, professor of science in the College of Professional Advancement, was appointed president of the board of directors of the Environmental Education Alliance (EEA). EEA is a coalition of educators and organizations that rally for the importance of educating individuals of all ages to be aware of the earth around them through environmental literacy and empowerment to protect the earth and its inhabitants.



Dr. Vokhiwa

BUEHRER NAMED VICE PROVOST

Dr. Danielle Buehrer has been appointed vice provost of institutional effectiveness, effective Jan. 1. Dr. Buehrer succeeds **Dr. Susan Malone**, who will remain with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness in a part-time role for the spring semester before transitioning into retirement. Dr. Buehrer comes to Mercer from Kennesaw State University, where she oversaw its Office of Accreditation and Policy as executive director of institutional quality and accreditation and was the institution's accreditation liaison for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



Dr. Buehrer

MOSS APPOINTED HOMILETICS PROFESSOR

Internationally renowned pastor the **Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III**, currently serving as visiting professor of preaching at Mercer's McAfee School of Theology, has been appointed professor of homiletics, effective fall 2022. Dr. Moss, who also serves as senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, was recently recognized as one of the "12 Most Effective Preachers in the English-Speaking World" by Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Moss is an honors graduate of Morehouse College. He earned his Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and Doctor of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary.



Dr. Moss

GRANT, CAMERON HONORED BY SOCON

Mercer is represented by **Dr. Chris Grant** and **Rick Cameron** on the All-Southern Conference Faculty and Staff Team, announced in January. Begun in 2016, the All-SoCon Faculty and Staff Team consists of two individuals from each of the 10 member institutions who share the common characteristics of demonstrated service to the institution and contributions to campus life and the local community. Faculty members have demonstrated strong contributions to teaching, research and/or service, while staff members are recognized for bringing out the best in others and creating conditions for success. Dr. Grant is professor political science in Mercer's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Cameron serves as senior assistant vice president for marketing communications and "Voice of the Bears" for Mercer athletics.



Dr. Grant

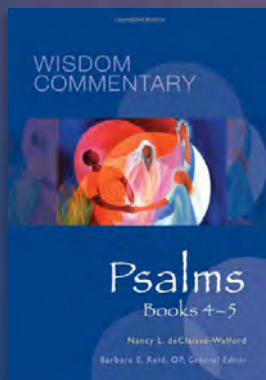


Cameron

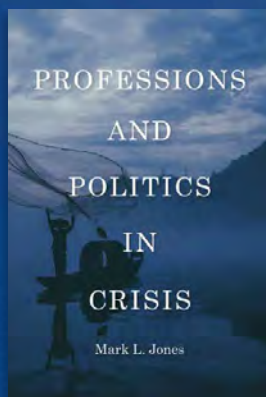
MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



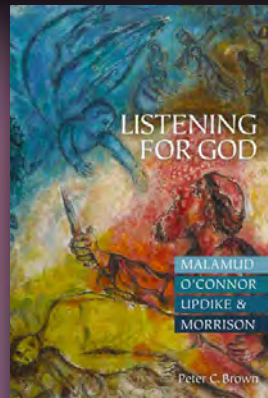
DR. JARED CHAMPION, assistant professor of writing and interdisciplinary studies in the College of Professional Advancement, co-edited *Taking a Stand: Contemporary US Stand-Up Comedians as Public Intellectuals* (University Press of Mississippi).



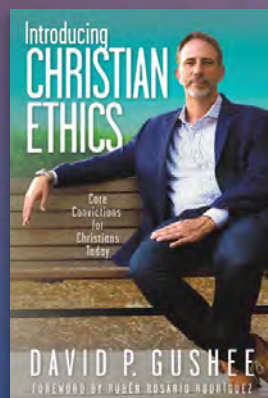
DR. NANCY L. DECLAISSE-WALFORD, Carolyn Ward Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Language in the School of Theology, authored *Wisdom Commentary: Psalms Books 4-5* (Liturgical Press).



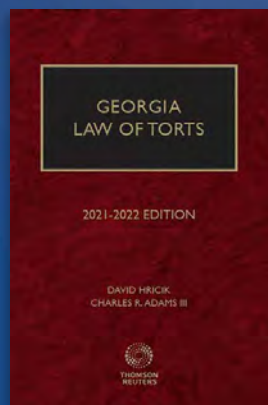
MARK L. JONES, professor in the School of Law, authored *Professions and Politics in Crisis* (Carolina Academic Press).



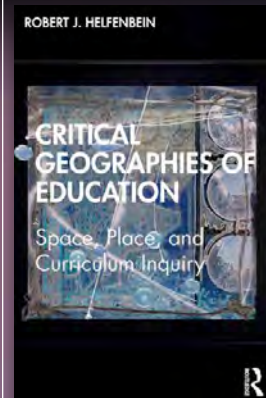
DR. PETER BROWN, professor emeritus of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *Listening for God: Malamud, O'Connor, Updike, & Morrison* (Mercer University Press).



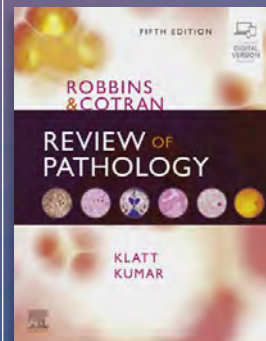
DR. DAVID GUSHEE, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics, authored *Introducing Christian Ethics: Core Convictions for Christians Today* (Read the Spirit Books).



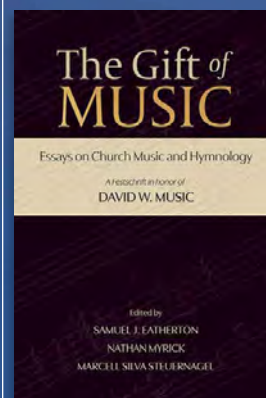
DAVID HRICIK, professor and associate dean for faculty research and development in the School of Law, co-authored *Georgia Law of Torts, 2021-22 ed.* (Thomson Reuters).



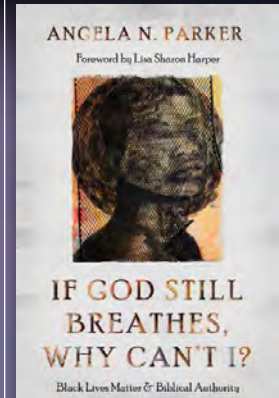
DR. ROBERT J. HELFENBEIN, professor of curriculum studies and associate dean for research and faculty affairs in the College of Education, authored *Critical Geographies of Education: Space, Place, and Curriculum Inquiry* (Routledge).



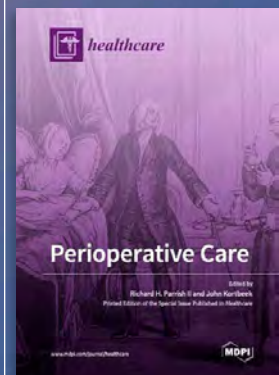
DR. EDWARD C. KLATT, professor of pathology in the School of Medicine, co-authored *Robbins and Cotran Review of Pathology, 5th ed.* (Saunders).



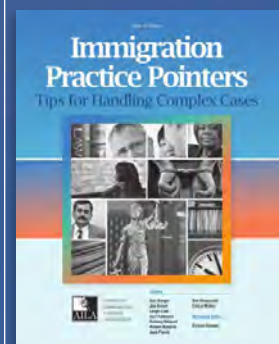
DR. NATHAN MYRICK, assistant professor of church music in the School of Music, co-edited *The Gift of Music: Essays on Church Music and Hymnology* (MorningStar Music Publishers).



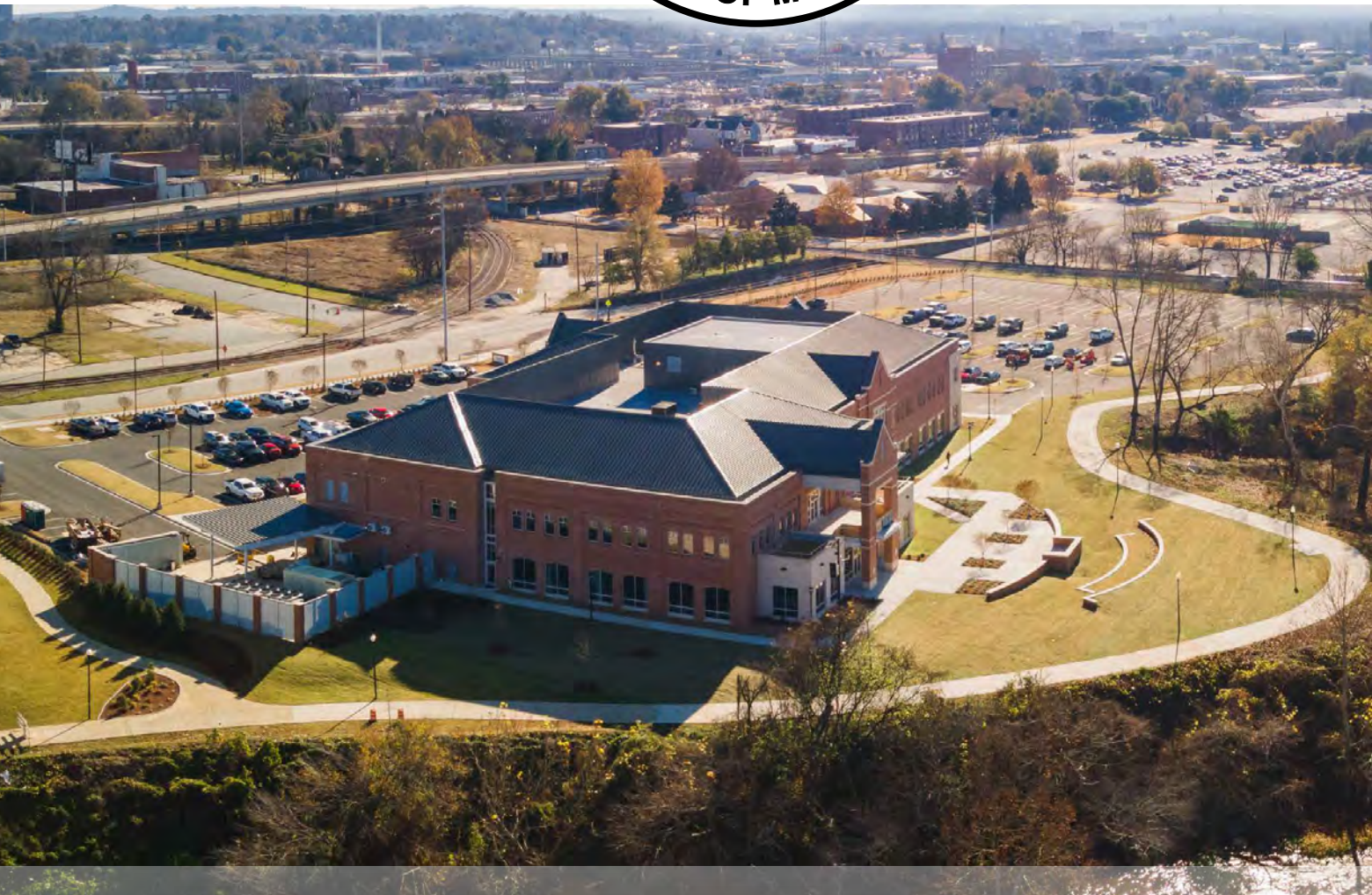
DR. ANGELA N. PARKER, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek in the School of Theology, authored *If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I?: Black Lives Matter and Biblical Authority* (Eerdmans).



DR. RICHARD PARRISH, professor of pharmacology and medical education in the School of Medicine, co-edited *Perioperative Care* (MDPI Books).



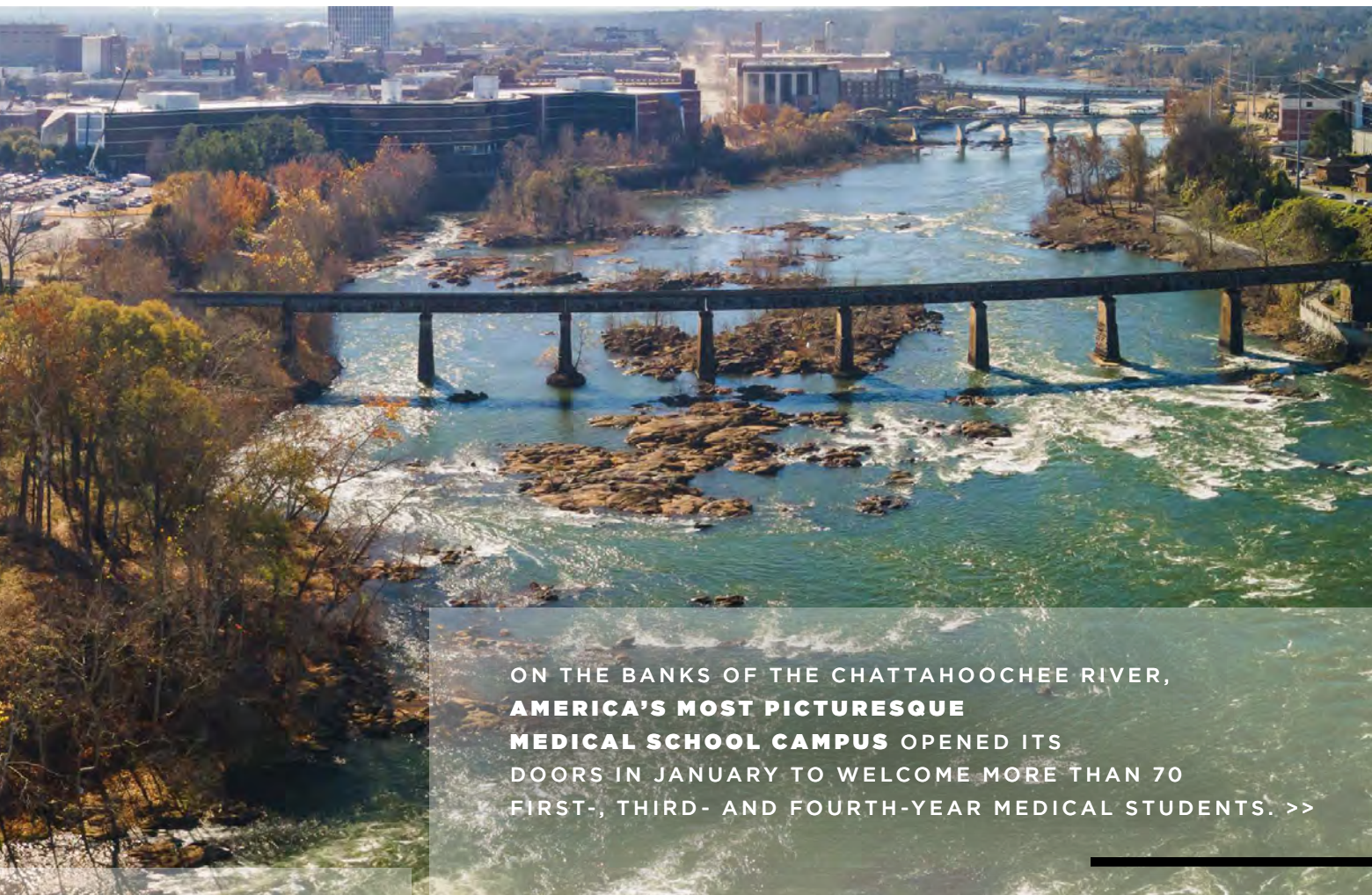
SCOTT TITSHAW, associate professor in the School of Law, co-edited *The American Immigration Law Association's (AILA) U.S. Citizenship & Naturalization Law Toolbox* (AILA).



MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPANSION IN
COLUMBUS TO BE
**'A TRANSFORMATIVE
FORCE'** IN WEST GEORGIA

BY KYLE SEARS

MBUS



ON THE BANKS OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER, **AMERICA'S MOST PICTURESQUE MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS** OPENED ITS DOORS IN JANUARY TO WELCOME MORE THAN 70 FIRST-, THIRD- AND FOURTH-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS. >>





no greater example of the School's successful pursuit of that mission than in Columbus.

The opening of the Columbus campus — more than a dozen years in the making — was the culmination of a community-driven effort to improve the health status of its citizens.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AT ITS BEST

In 2010, four Columbus community leaders — past and present Mercer Trustees **Tom Black**, **Jimmy Elder** and **Pete Robinson** and State Rep. **Richard Smith** — met with Mercer President **William D. Underwood** and other University administrators to propose the idea of locating a medical school campus in Georgia's second-largest city.

Smith, a long-time state representative serving District 134 and current chair of the House Rules Committee, said Underwood set forth three criteria needed to establish the new campus.

"No. 1, we need community support. No. 2, we need state support, and No. 3, we'll be there to help you," Smith recalled Underwood saying.

It wasn't long before those criteria were met. Two years later, in 2012, Mercer announced plans to partner with St. Francis Hospital and Midtown Medical Center (now Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital) to establish a third medical school location that would provide clinical rotations for third- and fourth-year M.D. students in Columbus.

Several years later, in 2019, Mercer announced it would expand the Columbus clinical site to a full four-year campus to increase enrollment to 240 M.D. students, equaling the size of campuses in Macon and Savannah.

Community support was the determining factor behind this decision. Not one, but two local companies — W.C. Bradley Co. and TSYS, a Global Payments company — offered up sites for the new campus, and local donors raised almost \$14 million, which was matched by the University and backed by operational funding from the state.

Mercer University School of Medicine was founded in 1982 as a public-private partnership between the state and the institution to provide physicians for rural and underserved areas of Georgia. There is perhaps

"If you want to see a community that takes pride in what it can accomplish through public-private partnership, you won't find one better than Columbus," Smith said.

The initial plan was to renovate an existing building on 11th Street in downtown Columbus that was to be given by the W.C. Bradley Co. But Mercer Trustee **Brad Turner**, a retired W.C. Bradley executive, became aware of the potential of a riverfront property in uptown Columbus owned by TSYS. Turner connected the University with Troy Woods, CEO of TSYS, and the company donated the property, allowing for construction of a free-built, 77,000-square-foot structure featuring classrooms, research facilities and office space, while also providing an iconic and highly attractive riverfront locale. The 11th Street facility served as temporary quarters for the medical school until the new riverfront campus was completed last December.

"We've found that Columbus has not been a difficult sell," said **Jean Sumner**, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine. "It's a respected community. It's a growing community. It's a community filled with young people and industry and opportunity. Faculty have been excited about coming to Columbus. We have in our facility



Representatives of Mercer, state legislators and Columbus community leaders participating in December's ribbon-cutting for the new medical school campus included (l-r) State Rep. Richard Smith, Dr. D. Scott Davis, Dr. Jim Netherton, Troy Woods, Dr. Maurice Solis, Amber Castelberry, Dr. Jean Sumner, William D. Underwood, Tony Moyer, Thad Warren, Jimmy Elder, Skip Henderson, Brad Turner, Jamal Shaikat and Chris Strong.



state-of-the-art research labs that any biomedical scientist will tell you there are none better.”

As the Columbus campus scales up operations over the next few years, it will ultimately graduate 60 new physicians each year to go along with 120 new physicians combined coming out of Macon and Savannah. That’s 180 new doctors per year — from the state’s western border through the heart of Georgia to the eastern coastline — who are going into Georgia’s most rural and underserved areas to practice medicine.

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

Southwest Georgia is the epicenter of the state’s health care crisis, containing more than half of the 40 counties identified as having the worst

health outcomes statewide. The root of the crisis may be as simple to explain as it is challenging to solve — lack of access to primary care — but under the leadership of Dr. Sumner, Mercer is facing that challenge head-on.

During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Sumner said, Georgia had six counties in the top 20 nationwide in percentage of deaths from coronavirus. “They were almost all counties with no primary care and very little access to care,” she said. “Primary care is desperately needed in our state to support local hospitals and local services. If you live in a county where you have to drive 30 or 40 miles for care, for many people that’s impossible. The pandemic really demonstrated the desperate state of west Georgia and southwest Georgia in terms of lack of access to care.”

In addition to the expansion of the Columbus campus, Mercer Medicine — the medical school’s multi-specialty physician practice — has opened five rural health clinics, three of which are in Clay, Harris and Sumter counties in southwest Georgia, with more on the way.

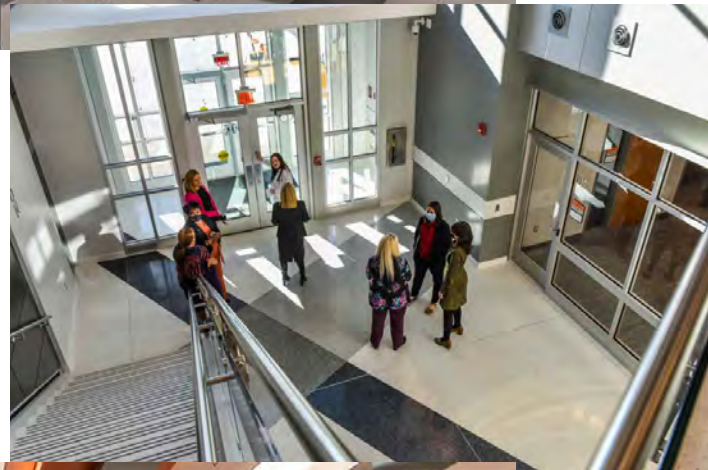
“PRIMARY CARE IS DESPERATELY NEEDED IN OUR STATE TO SUPPORT LOCAL HOSPITALS AND LOCAL SERVICES. IF YOU LIVE IN A COUNTY WHERE YOU HAVE TO DRIVE 30 OR 40 MILES FOR CARE, FOR MANY PEOPLE THAT’S IMPOSSIBLE.”



“We’re committed to being a partner with the community to bring outstanding quality care to those areas and help Columbus grow as a medical referral hub while bringing community-based services that are second-to-none to the small communities in west Georgia,” Dr. Sumner said.

Any improvement that Mercer can help to achieve in health outcomes will make an impact at every level of these communities, not just in hospitals and doctor’s offices.

“Chronic disease is devastating to an individual, but it also is very costly to communities as a whole in that it takes people out of productive life and work, and hinders the ability to



The School of Medicine’s new building in Columbus consists of 77,000 square feet of classrooms, research facilities and office space. Half of the square footage on the second floor is dedicated to state-of-the-art research labs equipped with microscopes, flow cytometers, genetic analysis and PCR machines, and more.

create a workforce for industry,” Dr. Sumner said. “All this centers around quality, available primary care.”

FILLING THE VOID

Family physician **Kristen Kettelhut, M.D.**, is a prime example of Mercer’s mission at work. She grew up in Peachtree City, a densely populated and affluent suburb in south metro Atlanta. She met her husband, OB-GYN **Matt Kahrmann, M.D.**, in medical school at Mercer. Dr. Kahrmann is originally from rural McRae, the county seat of Telfair County in south central Georgia.

As the two neared completion of their first two medical education years in Macon, Senior Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs **Alice House, M.D.**, who oversaw the Columbus campus at the time, convinced them to consider relocating for their last two clinical years.

Hesitant at first, Dr. Kettelhut said, they visited Columbus and fell in love with the community.

“Right off the bat, we were viewed not just as medical students but as members of the community,” said Dr. Kettelhut. “We were asked our opinion about how to make the community a better place. I’ve never been in a town where that was actually something anyone asked me, so it was really rewarding to feel like you’re a part of the town, not just part of the medical school.”

Now, she and her husband “have never been happier” in a town where they have established a home and are playing a vital role in addressing the area’s physician shortage.

The terms “rural and underserved” in the School of Medicine’s mission apply to more of Georgia than one might imagine. While Columbus is the state’s second-largest city, Dr. Kettelhut



JEAN SUMNER, M.D.

DEAN, MERCER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE — It is an exciting time for Mercer University School of Medicine. The school opened a new medical school campus in Columbus this year. Our rural clinic network continues to grow, and the school now houses a state-funded innovation center on the Macon campus that is dedicated to finding rural health solutions. As we get ready to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the school’s inaugural class, I’d like to take a moment to reflect on where we began.

I have always been interested in rural health. Because I was raised in a rural community in Georgia, it was evident to me how important health care is to keep a community and its residents healthy, growing and vibrant. When the medical school was established in 1982, Mercer’s vision was to address these medically underserved rural areas, and the state supported that vision. For me it was a privilege to be a member of the first class of medical students. I knew that if this university was committed to improving rural health care, it would help change our state for the better.

While Mercer School of Medicine has grown and changed over the past 40 years, the need for quality health care in rural Georgia has increased. In response to this, the school expanded its footprint from Macon to Savannah and now, Columbus. In addition to our medical school campuses, we operate Mercer Medicine rural clinics in Plains, Peach County, Clay County, Putnam County and Harris County.

Even with this incredible growth, MUSM has been able to maintain the commitment to our mission, the quality of education delivered, and a dedication to service and giving back to this state. I love the fact that in 2021 the school had 150 new students who were raised in Georgia and will go back and serve their communities.

As a Mercer School of Medicine graduate, I am honored and humbled to now be serving my alma mater as dean. I am delighted that the school continues to stay focused on our mission. Because my practice was in rural Georgia, I have tremendous respect for physicians who do the same. It is a very difficult job, but it’s also the best possible job you can have as a physician. It gives you an opportunity to make a difference in your community. As a rural physician, you can help to not only improve the lives of the patients you serve but also the town where you live and its economic development.

It is thrilling for me to see these young people who come to Mercer and really care about rural Georgia. They talk about their communities and how they want to go back and make this difference. MUSM wants to help them achieve that goal. I am proud that Mercer University continues to provide unwavering support for the important mission of our school.

Looking ahead over the next 40 years, I believe MUSM will continue to select the best and the brightest students from rural communities to return to their hometown area and practice medicine. Mercer Medicine will expand its network of rural clinics in the most underserved rural areas of our state. The school will find sustainable solutions that overcome challenges facing rural health through research and service.

Our ultimate goal is a healthy Georgia where no Georgian, no matter where they live, or their station in life, goes without access to excellent health care. This alone will improve educational outcomes and bring economic development in our state. More importantly, it’s the right thing to do. Through the work of our students, faculty and staff, Mercer’s unwavering commitment, and state and community support, I believe we can accomplish this goal.



recalled a recent figure she had seen indicating that the city had a deficit of 80 physicians needed to serve the number of potential patients in the area.

Smith also experienced this shortage firsthand when his primary care doctor retired last year. “There are a lot of physicians who are ready to retire, and we’ve got to help fill that void,” he said.

Dr. House, Dr. Kettelhut and Dr. Kahrman are among around 30 Mercer-trained physicians who have practiced in Columbus in the four decades since the medical school’s founding. With the expansion of the campus, “that number will exponentially increase,” Dr. House said.



A TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE

Not only will the Columbus campus produce more new doctors to fill these vacancies, the process of expansion has relocated veteran doctors to the area, including Senior Associate Dean **Maurice Solis**, M.D., who succeeded Dr. House.

“Dr. House did a great job. Her heart was with student affairs, and she returned to that role,” said Dr. Sumner. “Dr. Solis came in as a nationally known vascular surgeon and has continued his work in vascular surgery in Columbus while also being a tremendous asset to

the University in developing physician relationships, relationships with hospitals, and also as a mentor and guide for students.”

Dr. Solis practiced vascular surgery in Springfield, Illinois, Macon and Valdosta and for more than 30 years before moving to Columbus in late 2020 to oversee the expansion. Coincidentally, he reconnected with one of his former partners who had also moved to the city, allowing Dr. Solis to practice one day per week in addition to his administrative duties.

As senior associate dean for the Columbus campus, he has spent the past year-and-a-half trying to integrate the expanded version of the School of Medicine into the community in order to maximize the

benefits of being a medical school town.

The obvious health care-related benefits include the increase in physicians, but there are more. The development of graduate medical education programs “attracts academic physicians, attracts specialists and elevates the level of education and care,” he said. Where previously Columbus only had a family medicine residency to go along with an orthopedic program at the Hughston Clinic, more specialties are on the horizon, including an internal medicine residency that will begin at St. Francis in July. Mercer can also help local hospitals recruit world-class physicians by offering academic appointments and opportunities for research and teaching. Dr. Solis is currently working with Piedmont Columbus Regional to assist in the expansion of its pediatric services line.

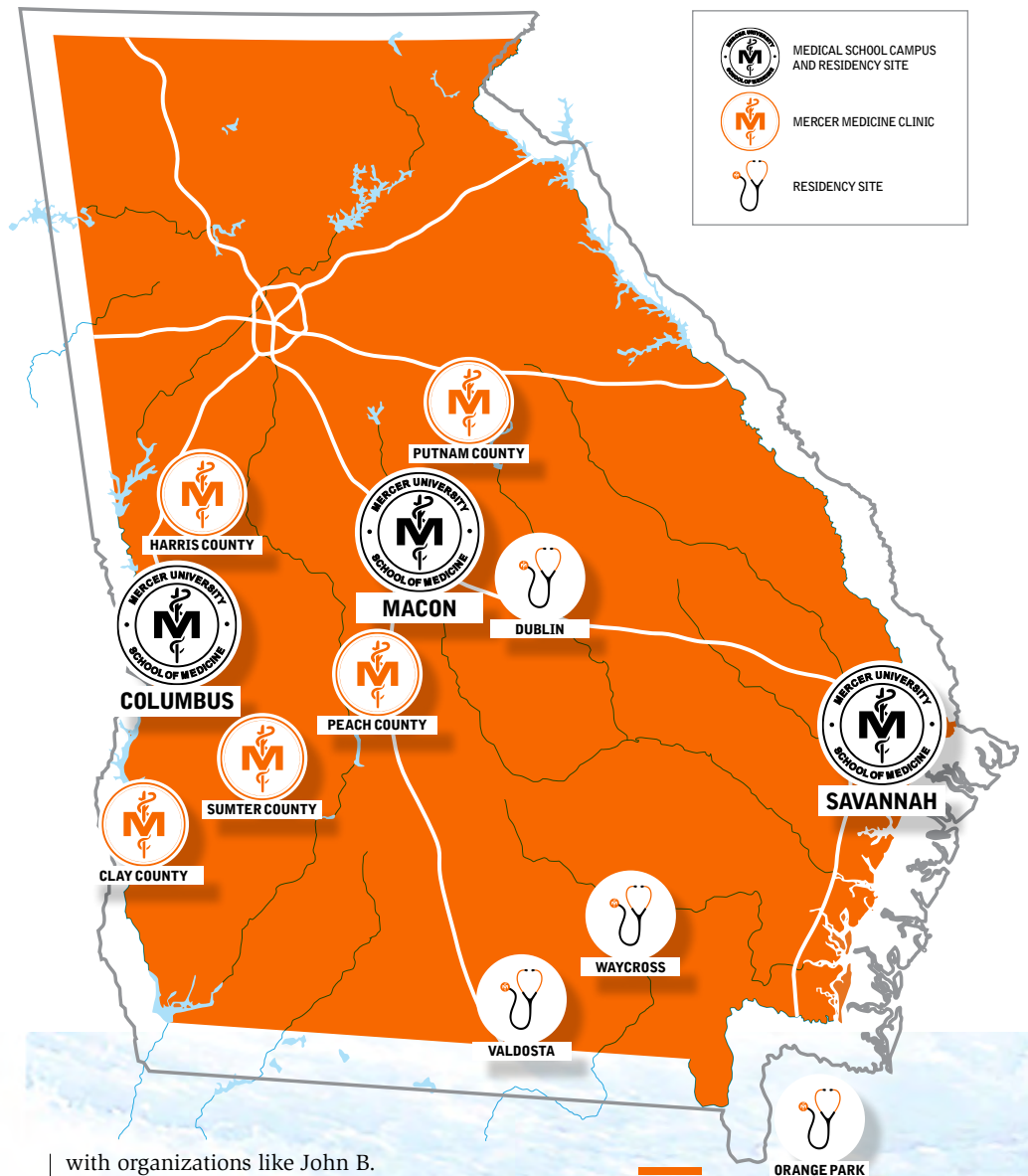
Then there are education-related benefits through partnerships with local institutions such as Columbus State University and Columbus Technical College to engage undergraduate students who may be interested in medical school in ways such as offering early admission programs and providing research opportunities for course credit.

Finally, there are research-related benefits that will come from the addition of several Ph.D.-level faculty whose primary role will be research, rather than teaching. They’ll make the most of the new facility’s second floor, where half of the space is dedicated to state-of-the-art research labs equipped with microscopes, flow cytometers, genetic analysis and PCR machines, and much more. Through partnerships

with organizations like John B. Amos Cancer Center and IACT Health clinical research trials, Mercer’s researchers will have greater chances for “translational opportunities” to take discoveries from the lab to the clinic and advance medical care locally and beyond.

“We are hoping to leverage all three of these pillars on which a medical school functions — health care, education and research — in Columbus to really make Mercer a transformative force for the community,” Dr. Solis said.

“WE’RE COMMITTED TO BEING A PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY TO BRING OUTSTANDING QUALITY CARE TO THOSE AREAS AND HELP COLUMBUS GROW AS A MEDICAL REFERRAL HUB WHILE BRINGING COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES THAT ARE SECOND-TO-NONE TO THE SMALL COMMUNITIES IN WEST GEORGIA.”



Combined with the School of Medicine’s four-year campuses in Macon, Columbus and Savannah and residency programs across the state where future medical doctors are being trained, the University has primary care clinics operating in Sumter County, Peach County, Clay County, Putnam County and Harris County, all medically underserved rural counties.

**Mercer Life Trustee a significant contributor
to the University and bankruptcy law**

Judge Drake

By Jennifer Falk

If you've enjoyed the past decade of Mercer football, you have in large part **Walter Homer Drake Jr.** to thank.

William D. Underwood had been president of Mercer University for only three years when Drake, an alumnus and influential U.S. bankruptcy judge, became chair of the Board of Trustees in 2009.

"And that's when the great conspiracy began," Underwood recalled. He smiled at the memory. "He thought we should play football, and I had become persuaded by some of our alums and friends that if we did it right, it would make sense."

That set off nearly two years of listening sessions and planning, and in 2010, the Board of Trustees took up the issue. Judge Drake thought the vote to restart intercollegiate football would be unanimous. Underwood wasn't so sure. They bet a steak dinner on it.

"It came time for the vote, so Judge Drake called the question," Underwood recalled. "And he said, 'All in favor say, 'aye.'" People said 'aye' around the room. He said, 'It's unanimous.' And then he turned to me, and he said, 'You owe me a steak dinner.'"

Underwood laughed. "He never gave anybody a chance to vote 'no.'"

With approval to resume football secured, Judge Drake and his wife, **Ruth Drake**, gave the lead gift to help construct the new stadium, and the field house was named in their honor.



In 2013, the Bears played their first football game in 72 years.

Judge Drake, now a Life Trustee, is pleased with the results of restarting the program.

“The return of football to the University was the major catalyst in reviving interest in the University among its alumni, leading, I think, directly to the improvement of many of the areas of the University,” he said recently from his home in Newnan.

Judge Drake’s legacy doesn’t end — or begin — with football.

A Double Bear who earned his undergraduate degree in 1954 and law degree in 1956, Judge Drake became a prominent figure in bankruptcy law and was influential in the passage of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, which revolutionized the field.

For over half a century, he served as a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Northern

District of Georgia, retiring in 2021. In addition, he founded the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, which is dedicated to continuing the legal education of attorneys in bankruptcy law.

Judge Drake is a fervent supporter of Mercer Law School, which established an endowed chair in bankruptcy law in his honor. Beyond the Law School, Judge Drake also supports the University’s Southern Studies program and Mercer On Mission, among other initiatives.

“Everything I’ve ever asked Judge Drake to do to help the University, he has jumped in with both feet and done,” Underwood said.

“I can’t imagine a more loyal or committed supporter of our work than Judge Drake.”



Judge and Mrs. Drake with their family at the dedication of the Homer and Ruth Drake Field House.

A PIONEER IN BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Judge Drake was born in Colquitt in 1932 and moved to Newnan when he was 8 years old. He graduated as valedictorian from Newnan High School in 1950. A Georgia football fan, Judge Drake initially enrolled at the University of Georgia but soon transferred to Mercer.

"The big university didn't suit me at the time," he said. "I liked the smaller school better."

He initially planned to study to be a doctor but started hanging out with pre-law students and decided to pursue law instead. He was active in the ROTC program at Mercer and upon graduation served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps.

Three years later, Judge Drake left the JAG Corps to work at a law firm in Atlanta, writing charters and leases for corporate clients. The work didn't appeal to him, though, and he left to open a law practice in Macon.

In 1961, he became law clerk to U.S. District Judge Lewis R. Morgan, who in 1964 appointed Judge Drake as a U.S. bankruptcy judge in the Northern District of Georgia. The position was called a bankruptcy referee at the time and fell under the district courts.

"At that time, the bankruptcy laws were totally inadequate to be the tribunal in which major commercial and individual debtor-creditor matters were decided," said Judge Drake, who as a new referee was surprised at the informality of the bankruptcy proceedings. Referees didn't wear a judge's robe and did not have assigned courtrooms to meet in.

In a symbolic move,
**Judge Drake
began wearing a
robe and secured
courtroom space
for his proceedings.**

At the same time, he started working with other referees to improve not only the status of the bankruptcy courts but also the bankruptcy system.

"There were several of us who decided to do what we could to make the bankruptcy court a separate court within the federal court system and for the next several years worked diligently toward that end in cooperation with leading commercial insolvency lawyers throughout the country," he said.

His leadership, which included testifying in front



Above, ROTC, Mercer University.

Right, U.S. Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps, 1st Lieutenant, Third Infantry Division, Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Far right, Judge Drake in his Atlanta office, 1969.

Below, Judge Drake, sons Walter and Taylor, wife Ruth, and Judge Charles Moyer at his swearing-in ceremony as U.S. bankruptcy judge on Aug. 30, 1979.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUDGE DRAKE



A KIND MAN

Amid his work reforming the bankruptcy system, in 1969 Judge Drake married Ruth Bridges, who earned her bachelor's degree in education from Mercer in 1959. Although they had met at Mercer, they didn't really get to know each other until Judge Drake's dad, who was superintendent of Coweta County schools, offered Ruth a job in Newnan.

They had two sons, **Walter Homer Drake III** and **Taylor Bridges Drake**, who also graduated from Mercer Law, and six grandchildren. Grandson **Harrison Drake** plays on the men's basketball team at Mercer. Ruth Drake died in 2015.

Despite his standing as a decorated bankruptcy judge who has won numerous service and leadership awards, Judge Drake remains humble, said Sabbath, who studied under him when he served as an adjunct law professor at Emory University.

"He goes out of his way to make those around him feel good," Sabbath said. "And he never uses his stature in bankruptcy law to belittle, to make anybody feel less."

He just has that way about him."

And although he had "no patience for fools," if lawyers were prepared when they walked in his courtroom, he was a gentleman, he said.

Judge Drake "treated everybody respectfully, and lawyers just loved appearing in front of him," Sabbath said. "He might not always rule in their favor, but he treated people with dignity."

Sabbath recalled a time when he was attending a Mercer football game with Judge Drake. The pair was headed to the president's box in the Homer and Ruth Drake Field House when they were stopped by a new security guard.

"Excuse me. Where are your passes?," Sabbath recalled her saying.

"Well, this is Judge Drake," Sabbath replied.

The woman stood firm.

"I don't really care who he is; you need to have a pass," she told him.

When Sabbath explained this was the Drake for whom the field house was named, the woman became embarrassed.

But then "the judge put his hand on her shoulder and said, 'Young lady, you're doing your job. You did exactly what you're supposed to do.' And he complimented her for the work she was doing," Sabbath recalled.

"Judge Drake actually made her feel good about herself, and I'm thinking, 'What a nice man.'"

of a congressional bankruptcy commission and lobbying Congress, led to the passage of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, which was signed by then-President **Jimmy Carter**, whose attorney general was Judge Drake's friend and Mercer Law alumnus, the late **Griffin B. Bell**. Carter is now a Mercer Life Trustee.

"The Bankruptcy Reform Act really is the most important bankruptcy law enacted. It really modernized the whole bankruptcy system," said Mercer Law professor **Mike Sabbath**, who held the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute/W. Homer Drake Jr. Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy Law.

Not only did the act bring more respectability and dignity to the bankruptcy courts, but it improved the system for the debtors and creditors who had to go through it.

"The improvement was important to the United States, because bankruptcy is an important part of our legal system and at the extent you upgrade it, it benefits our society to have a modern, up-to-date bankruptcy system with lawyers who are well trained," Sabbath said.

GOING DANCING AGAIN!

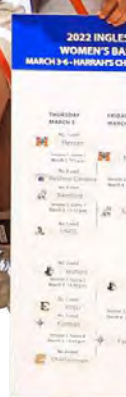
Women's Basketball Punches Ticket for Fourth Time in Five Years Thumps Furman 73-54 in Southern Conference Championship Game

By 'Voice of the Bears' Rick Cameron

In a recent interview, Mercer President William D. Underwood said, "We just call her SoCon Susie."

Following her women's basketball team's fourth Southern Conference Tournament championship in five seasons and the team's fifth regular season championship in seven seasons, the title seems to fit. Coach **Susie Gardner's** squad traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, on March 3 as the No. 1 seed headed into the SoCon Basketball Championships with a 13-1 regular season record in conference play.

Three days later, they brought back to Macon another conference championship trophy after three dominating performances. The team's



average margin of victory in the tournament was 29 points a game.

In the championship game, Mercer faced Furman, the same team that earlier in the year handed the Bears their only regular season loss in conference play, and came away with the 73-54 win. After Furman guard Tate Walters drained a desperate three-point shot to give Furman a one-point halftime lead at 25-24, whatever coach Gardner told her team at halftime should be bottled and sold over the counter.

Furman scored the first basket of the third quarter but then the Bears scored 24 uncontested points. When the third quarter carnage had ended, the Bears had outscored the Paladins 30-4 and everyone in Harrah's Cherokee Center knew where the championship trophy would be headed 10 playing minutes later. During that third quarter, **Erin Houtp** — who was celebrating her 19th birthday — nailed Mercer's first trey after the Bears could not muster a single successful three-point shot in the first half. She would add two quick additional two-point shots and score 12 points in the third quarter alone. **Jaron Dougherty** dropped three long range jump shots in the quarter from downtown Asheville and the rout was on.

A key play of the game came at the 8:35 mark of the quarter when Mercer's **Shannon Titus**, the SoCon Defensive Player of the Year for the third consecutive season, drew a charge against Furman's Tierra Hodges, the SoCon Player of the Year, to record



Among those players leading the Mercer women to the 2022 Southern Conference Tournament championship were: top left, conference Freshman of the Year Erin Houtp; top right, tournament Most Outstanding Player Amoria Neal-Tysor; bottom left, Defensive Player of the Year Shannon Titus; and bottom right, senior Jaron Dougherty.



her third foul of the game. Hodges would garner her fourth foul a few minutes later while defending an **Amoria Neal-Tysor** drive and would be limited in her aggressiveness the remainder of the game.

Tacking on 26 points in the championship game easily allowed Neal-Tysor to be named the Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament. Titus was also named to the Conference All-Tournament first team, and Dougherty was named second team. **Eliza Snyder** was awarded the Pinnacle Award for the SoCon women's basketball player on the championship team with the highest grade-point average.

In the first round of the NCAA Tournament, Mercer traveled to Storrs, Connecticut, to meet the University of Connecticut. Previous visits to The Big Dance were to Athens, Georgia, in 2018; Iowa City, Iowa, in 2019; and to San Antonio, Texas, last season.

MERCER 85 WESTERN CAROLINA 46

In first round action, those in attendance watched in amazement as Neal-Tysor scored 28 points in the first half and finished with 34 as the No. 1 seed Bears easily defeated the No. 8 seed Catamounts. Mercer had a commanding 46-25 lead at intermission. Houtp, with 14 points, and Dougherty with 10 would also finish in double figures.

MERCER 65 SAMFORD 35

The Bears turned to their defense to nail down their semifinal victory the next day over Samford by 30 points. After leading by only one point, 15-14, following the first quarter, Mercer held the Bulldogs to four points in the second quarter, six in the third and 11 in the fourth. The Bears only allowed the Bulldogs nine baskets (in 44 attempts) from the floor the entire game. Neal-Tysor recorded a double-double with 20 points and 12 rebounds. Titus added 18 points, and Dougherty was also in double figures with 12.

7 Bears

Named to SoCon 100th Anniversary Teams

The Southern Conference wrapped up its 100th anniversary celebration in 2021 with seven Bears recognized among the sports that the league has sponsored for at least 25 years.

Baseball Kyle Lewis

The most decorated athlete in Mercer athletic history, outfielder **Kyle Lewis** was named Baseball America College Player of the Year and won the Golden Spikes Award in 2016. He also received the ABCA Gold Bat Award and College Home Run Derby Player of the Year in 2016. Lewis was named SoCon Player of the Year and an All-American in both 2015 and 2016. Lewis was the highest draft pick in Mercer and Southern Conference history, selected 11th overall by the Seattle Mariners in the Major League Baseball draft. He would go on to be named the 2020 American League Rookie of the Year.

Women's Basketball Kahlia Lawrence

Kahlia Lawrence helped propel Mercer women's basketball to the championship-level program it is today. She was a three-time SoCon Player of the Year and First Team selection, and SoCon's Female Athlete of the Year in her senior season, as well as Georgia Women's College Player of the Year, SoCon All-Academic, Player of the Month, Player of the Week and Preseason Player of the Year. She played a vital role in the Bears' first SoCon tournament title and NCAA Tournament appearance in the 2017-18 season.

Women's Basketball Shannon Titus

Shannon Titus is in the program's top 13 in points, steals and blocked shots, and she is the all-time leader in steals in Mercer history.

Women's Basketball Amanda Thompson

Amanda Thompson epitomized balance as a student-athlete. On-court awards included SoCon Player of the Year, SoCon All-First Team, SoCon Preseason All-Conference, SoCon Tournament All-Second Team and Player of the Month. In the classroom, she was awarded First Team CoSIDA Academic All-America, CoSIDA Academic All-District, SoCon All-Academic and SoCon Student-Athlete of the Week.

Women's Golf Payton Schanen

In her first year as a Bear, **Payton Schanen** won the FGCU Eagle Invitational. She was named to the Southern Conference All-Freshman and Conference team. In 2017, Schanen earned the Georgia State Golf Association Women's Player of the Year award. In the same year, she qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

Men's Soccer Will Bagrou

The first Mercer student-athlete to be drafted to Major League Soccer, **Will Bagrou** tallied 73 points in 67 matches played in his career. He was a part of two consecutive NCAA Tournament teams and scored 12 times in his senior season.

Men's Soccer Jordan Duru

A two-year captain, **Jordan Duru** during his senior season led the Bears to their first-ever SoCon Tournament championship in 2016. He was named to the NSCAA's Third Team All-South Region, First Team All-SoCon and Preseason All-SoCon in 2016.



Lewis



Lawrence



Titus



Thompson



Schanen



Bagrou



Duru

4th Men's Soccer Notches SoCon Title

Two goals in two-plus minutes turned the tide for the Mercer men's soccer team in the Southern Conference Tournament championship on the way to a fourth title since joining the league in 2014.

Earning the right to represent the SoCon in the NCAA Tournament, the host Bears defeated Belmont, 4-3, in front of a boisterous Betts Stadium crowd on Nov. 14. **Trevor Martineau's** 88th-minute goal clinched the back-and-forth match.

Dylan Gaither, a junior midfielder, was named the SoCon Tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Three other Bears — **Ousman Jabang**, **Bryant Jackson** and **Martineau** — were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Mercer's run in the NCAA Tournament ended in a 2-1 loss to Wake Forest, an eventual Sweet 16 participant, in the first round in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Bears were led by Gaither, who tallied 14 goals on the season and was selected as National Player of the Week by College Soccer News. Gaither netted a hat trick in a 4-0 SoCon semifinal win over Furman at Betts Stadium.

The Bears won five of their final six matches to conclude the regular season, including a double-overtime upset of then-SoCon-leading Belmont, 3-2, to take the second seed in the tournament.



Mercer Leads SoCon in Honor Roll Selections

The Mercer Bears led the Southern Conference with 336 of the league's 2,740 Honor Roll selections during the 2020-2021 academic year.

In addition to Mercer leading the conference, which has happened each year since it joined the SoCon, the University placed more than 300 student-athletes on the honor roll for the fifth consecutive academic year. Ninety-one of Mercer's selections received the Commissioner's Medal for having a GPA of 3.8 or higher, and the University boasted 39 selections with a 4.0. Both numbers were second only to The Citadel's 93 and 41, respectively.

Women's soccer led the way with six student-athletes achieving a perfect grade point average, followed closely by men's soccer with five. Both baseball and women's lacrosse had four athletes end the year with a 4.0 grade-point average.

Student Athletes Attain Highest-Ever GSR

Mercer earned its highest student-athlete Graduation Success Rate (GSR) ever during the 2020-2021 academic year.

The University's 93% GSR is also the highest among Division I schools in the state of Georgia.

A record seven Mercer programs registered a 100% GSR for the reporting period: volleyball, women's cross country and track, women's golf, women's basketball, men's tennis, men's soccer and men's golf.

Mercer athletic programs with multi-year streaks of a 100% GSR are women's cross country (five years), volleyball (three years), women's golf (12 years), men's soccer (four years) and men's golf (five years).

PHARMACY

PHARMACY RESEARCHER RECEIVES **NIH GRANT** TO STUDY NOVEL BLOOD VESSEL TARGETS

Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences **Raquibul Hasan**, Ph.D., received funding from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to study two novel targets in blood vessels that may lead to improved understanding of how statins work in the body.

The grant of \$424,500, over three years, will allow Dr. Hasan

and his research team to look more closely at two novel targets of statins they have identified in blood vessels that mediate both rapid constriction and dilation within minutes.

Statins are commonly prescribed to reduce cholesterol, and this cholesterol-lowering action is believed also to dilate, or open, blood vessels, which helps reduce blood pressure. Dr. Hasan and his team have found that in male animal models, statins act on a distinct molecular target to rapidly open gut vessels, which may lower blood pressure. They also found statins act on a second molecular target to constrict brain vessels and the aorta.



PHARMACY JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO TRANSFORM DELIVERY OF MEDICATIONS TO CURB HEALTH CARE SPENDING

Mercer's College of Pharmacy is joining the RAPID Alliance Medications 360 Study to help transform the delivery and use of medications and vaccinations in the United States over the next decade.

The College of Pharmacy will help lead an effort to co-create the RAPID Alliance Medications 360 Framework 2022-2031, a set of strategies and a national research agenda for optimizing the use of medications, vaccinations and emerging therapies in the United States. The RAPID Alliance, founded by the University of Louisville Center for Health Organization Transformation, is a research consortium of national pharmacy organizations, pharmaceutical companies and academic pharmacy researchers.

Mercer will contribute to this effort by supporting research and study sections, including those on vaccine hesitancy, substance abuse, health access and equity, and immigrant health and medication services. More than 30 colleges and universities across the country are participating.



Pharmacy Professor Dr. Martin D'Souza

TWO PHARMACY RESEARCHERS IN TOP 2% OF CITED SCIENTISTS

Two Mercer pharmaceutical science researchers, **Ajay Banga**, Ph.D., and **Rita Nahta**, Ph.D., are in the top 2% of the most-cited scientists across all scientific fields, according to a study by Stanford University. Stanford researchers recently compiled a massive database of more than 100,000 of the world's most cited scientists, assigning each author a composite score based on various citation metrics. Dr. Banga is chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and co-director of the Center for Drug Delivery Research. His research

interests include traditional and non-traditional approaches for topical and transdermal delivery of pharmaceuticals and cosmeceuticals, especially for water soluble small conventional molecules and macromolecules. Dr. Nahta is assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and investigates the molecular mechanisms underlying cancer progression and the response to targeted cancer therapies.



Dr. Nahta



Dr. Banga

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES PROFESSOR WORKING TO INCREASE STABILITY OF COVID mRNA VACCINES DURING STORAGE



Dr. Uddin

M

hammad Uddin, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the College of Pharmacy, is investigating strategies to make vaccines for COVID-19 and other diseases more stable for storage and transportation purposes and, therefore, more accessible on a global level.

A study, titled “Challenges of Storage and Stability of mRNA-Based COVID-19 Vaccines,” that he co-authored with Dr. Monzurul Roni, clinical assistant professor of health sciences education and pathology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, was published in the September edition of the journal *Vaccines*.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are effective against COVID-19 and can be easily adapted to fight different variants; however, very specific storage and transportation criteria must be followed to ensure the stability and viability of these vaccines, Dr. Uddin said.

“Ultra cold” storage is required to keep the Pfizer vaccine frozen at minus 112 degrees Fahrenheit, and Moderna’s vaccine must be stored at minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit. Both last six months when frozen and one month when thawed and refrigerated. The problem is that many countries don’t have the capabilities to maintain these temperatures during storage and transportation.

“Globally, about 50 percent of the vaccine is wasted for storage problems. Sometimes the temperature gets high, and they are all destroyed,” Dr. Uddin said. “This is a really good vaccine that can be used quickly and cover different variants of COVID-19. But due to this stability problem, it cannot be global yet.”

The purpose of Dr. Uddin and Dr. Roni’s research was to address these limitations in order to improve COVID-19 vaccines as well as other mRNA vaccines in development. Dr. Uddin was assisted in his research by Mercer Ph.D. student Sarthak Shah and master’s/Pharm.D. student Hayley Harrold.

COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM BRINGS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES TO RURAL GEORGIA

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, in partnership with the Ben Hill County Board of Education, Mercer’s College of Professional Advancement and Global Partnership for Telehealth, on Oct. 27 provided the first virtual counseling session for Ben Hill Elementary School students through the pilot program of the new Pediatric Mental Health Initiative.

The initiative delivers virtual counseling services to students and their families and provides mental health screening tools and suicide prevention training to educators, community members and students. The collaborative efforts of these organizations designed the Pediatric Mental Health Initiative to address a key issue in Ben Hill County

where there are currently no licensed mental health providers.

The Ben Hill County School System, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, recognized a significant gap in community resources and the strain on students’ mental health. When approached by the Georgia Rural Health

Innovation Center to explore a partnership offering virtual counseling to alleviate these issues, system leaders felt this would be an invaluable resource to their students.

The counseling sessions are conducted by graduate students under the direct

supervision of licensed clinical professionals in the College of Professional Advancement with technical support from Global Partnership for Telehealth. The sessions greatly benefit the graduate students as well, as the initiative provides meaningful practicum and internship experiences for these clinicians by allowing faculty and students to work with underserved populations in rural Georgia and gain experience in telehealth.

GEORGIA
Rural Health
INNOVATION CENTER
AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MUSM RECEIVES ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FUNDING TO TRACK COVID-19 VARIANTS IN GEORGIA

The School of Medicine's Department of Biomedical Sciences, in partnership with Mercer Medicine and Louisiana State University Health Shreveport (LSUHS), received a Rockefeller Foundation grant to begin viral genome sequencing of COVID-19 positive samples. MUSM received a \$25,000 subaward as an accelerator site for the larger LSUHS grant project and will use the funding to monitor, track and report on the occurrence of COVID-19 variants throughout the state of Georgia. MUSM researchers will sequence Mercer Medicine samples in Macon and Atlanta and are exploring partnerships to expand this work to rural and underserved areas through the University's clinical sites in Columbus, Savannah and other locations around the state.



COMMUNITY MEDICINE PROFESSOR RECEIVES FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Bonzo Reddick, M.D., MPH, FAAFP, professor and chair of community medicine, received the 2021 Family Medicine Physician of the Year Award from the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians (GAFP) on Nov. 12. The highest award bestowed on a GAFP member recognizes excellence in peer leadership in professional affairs and outstanding contributions to family medicine and to the community.



Dr. Reddick

ALUMNUS HONORED WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION'S SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

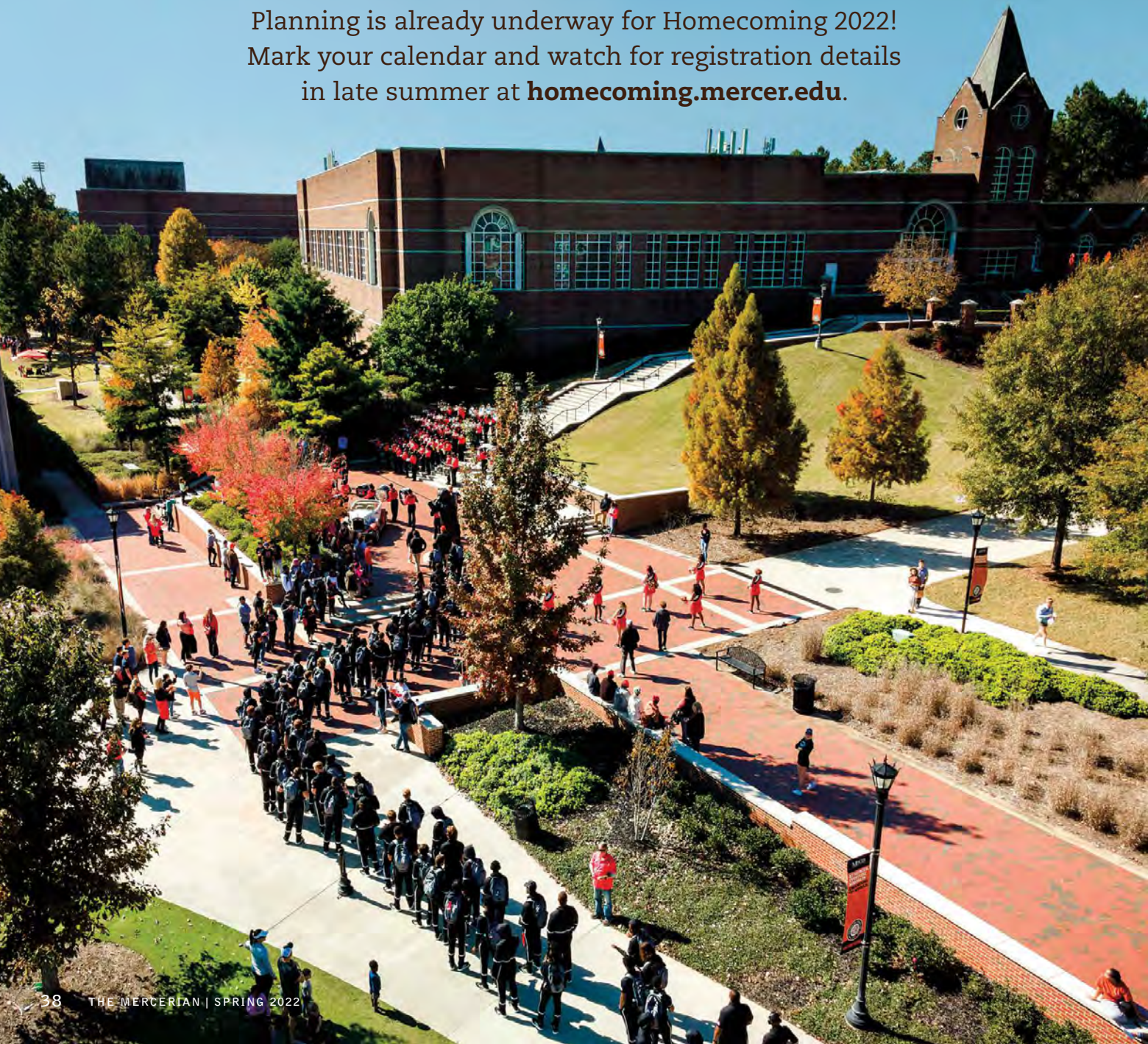
Sean Chitwood, Pharm.D., MBA, director of workers' compensation at Tempe, Arizona-based OnePoint Patient Care, was awarded the 2021 Spirit of Volunteerism Award from the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP). The honor recognizes AMCP committee members who have demonstrated outstanding service to support AMCP programs. Dr. Chitwood earned his combined Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration degrees in 2013 through Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Stetson-Hatcher School of Business. He first got involved with AMCP as a pharmacy student at Mercer and for more than 10 years has held regional and national leadership roles with the organization. He was chosen for the Spirit of Volunteerism Award because of his involvement in the creation of a roundtable for preceptors who teach pharmacy students the principles of managed care.



Dr. Chitwood

Mercer Homecoming NOVEMBER 11-12 • 2022

Planning is already underway for Homecoming 2022!
Mark your calendar and watch for registration details
in late summer at homecoming.mercer.edu.





Save the Date

Plan a tailgate, meet up with old friends and see how Mercer has grown and changed since you graduated. Homecoming is great for all ages, so bring your family.

Featured events will include:

- 10th Annual Alumni Career Speakers Series
- Recognition of the Classes of 1972, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2012
- 50th Class Reunion Dinner
- Half Century Club Luncheon
- 7th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner
- Campus-Wide Tailgating
- Saturday Football Game
- ... and so much more!

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ACHIEVEMENTS

1950s

Frances Kenyon Heatherly, TIFT '58, retired from Huntsville City Schools.
Harville Hendrix, CLAS '57, HON '91, and Helen LaKelly Hunt co-authored a book titled *Doing Imago Relationship Therapy: In the Space Between*, New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2021.
Charles Lee Holland Jr., CLAS '55, HON '72, published a book titled *Devotional Reflections on the Teachings of Jesus from the Four Gospels*, Bloomington, Indiana: WestBow Press, 2021.
William Young, CLAS '56, was named to the 2021 list of Who's Who in America.

1960s

Toni Vissage Sweeney, CLAS '65, recently signed three writing contracts. Two are with DS Publishing, a leading publisher of Western novels, for her Romance and Horror imprints. The third is with Aethon Books, for a space opera series, written under the pseudonym TS Snow.

1970s

Tom Bates, CLAS '76, was recently appointed president of independent Stokes-Farnham Insurance Agency. Bates began his career as an adjuster with Atlanta-based Crawford and Company, then moved to the agency side of the business three years later in Greenville, South Carolina. Bates has built a 46-year career in the independent insurance market. He spent 18 years as the vice president of sales for one of the oldest insurance agencies in Greenville, the C. Douglas Wilson Company, then spent another 17 years as VP and COO of Herlong Bates Burnett Insurance. In 2017, Herlong Bates Burnett was sold to Assured Partners, and Bates continued on as a senior sales executive through 2021.
Mary Evelyn Brown, CLAS '72, coauthored a book, *The Magical Heart of T Dog*, with Judith Gilliam. The purpose of the book is to educate children about bullying and how to respond to it. The book also encourages children to talk about their feelings.
Waldo Johnson, CLAS '77, was appointed vice provost at the University of Chicago and will oversee Diversity and Inclusion and Faculty Development. Johnson currently serves as deputy dean for curriculum at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice. Following completion of his undergraduate studies at Mercer, Johnson earned the MSW degree at the University of Michigan and the Ph.D. in social policy at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice of the University of Chicago. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Program for Research on Black Americans at

the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Randall A. Jordan, LAW '76, was honored in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* as leading lawyer in railroad law.
David F. Sipple, LAW '72, was honored in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* as leading lawyer in admiralty and maritime law.
Carroll Smith Taylor, TIFT '71, had scenes from her first children's book, *Feannag the Crow*, included in a mural along with scenes from three other children's books by local Appalachian authors. The books' illustrator, Doreyl Ammons Cain, installed the mural on the outside wall of the library in Young Harris to encourage children to read. Taylor's poem, "Final Wishes," appears in the anthology *Poems to Lift You Up and Make You Smile* (Parson's Porch). Her poem "Christmas Trees" appears in the anthology *Holiday Cheer* (Old Mountain Press). Taylor is the author of two young adult novels, *Chinaberry Summer* and *Chinaberry Summer on the Other Side* (New Plains Press). Two of her poems, "Calligraphy" and "Wayfarers," were published by Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's 2021 Spring and Fall virtual art galleries.
Kay Watkins, CLAS '73, published her first novel, *Family of the Heart*, in October 2021.

1980s

Luanne Clarke, LAW '83, was the 2021 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Workers' Compensation Section of the State Bar of Georgia for professionalism, service and commitment throughout her career. Clarke is a partner at Moore, Clarke, Duvall & Rodgers.
Charles E. Cox Jr., LAW '86, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers at their annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois.
John Lovelady, CLAS '81, graduated from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla in May 2021 with a Doctor of Theology degree in pastoral preaching.
Rissa H. Pryse, PHA '80, continues to work both Terry's Pharmacy stores on a regular basis, doing more of the business work than filling prescriptions. She has served on the State of Tennessee Board of Pharmacy since 2016 and is finishing her term this year.
Anton F. Mertens, CLAS '84, LAW '87, joined the Immigration & Global Mobility Practice Group at Arnall Golden Gregory in Atlanta.
Lamonte E. Scott, CLAS '80, LAW '83, was recognized as Trusted Attorney by *Continental Who's Who* for his dedication to clients and his excellence in the field of law.
The Hon. Ben W. Studdard III, CLAS '82, LAW '84, retired from the Henry County State Court after more than two decades. Judge Studdard was the court's chief judge.

REMEMBERING...

Alumni and Generous Supporters

Mary Alice Buckner

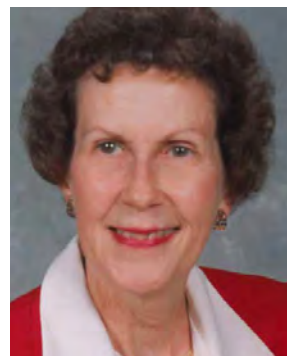
The Hon. Mary Alice Buckner, CLAS '70, LAW '73, died on Sept. 10, 2021. Buckner was the first African American female to graduate from Mercer University's School of Law. In 1975, she began practicing at the law firm of Bishop and Hudlin. In 1978, the firm changed to Bishop and Buckner. In February 1984, Buckner became the first African American woman to be appointed Judge Pro Tem of the Columbus Recorder's Court. In 1991, she was appointed by the City Council to serve full time. Buckner formed her own private practice after her partner was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992. Buckner made significant contributions to the community through her involvement and volunteer work in various local organizations. She also received numerous honors and awards

for her contributions to the community and the legal profession. In 2020, she was presented the Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award by the Black Law Students Association Alumni Council of Mercer University.



Caroline Voyles

Caroline Ethel Knight Voyles, CLAS '61, died on Nov. 21, 2021. After graduating from Mercer, she taught in the public school system in DeKalb County for two years. In 1961, she married **Bobby Lee Voyles**, whom she met at Mercer. For 54 years, she was a member of First Baptist Church of Greensboro, where she was a Sunday school teacher and director of Vacation Bible School. She was also a member of Chi Omega Sorority at Mercer. In 2019, the Voyleses established the Bobby and Caroline Voyles Endowed Scholarship to provide financial assistance for undergraduate students enrolled on the Macon campus who are from Greene County.



Robert "Rob" F. Sumowski Jr., MUS '89, received the Charles Dunn Award from the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges for years of service to students that goes "beyond the traditional role of the college professor." A member of the faculty at Georgia College and State University's (GCSU) Lounsbury College of Education since 2011,

Sumowski was granted tenure and promotion to associate professor of special education in 2020. In August, he delivered the keynote address to 2,000 incoming students at GCSU's 2021 Fall Convocation. In addition to being a professor, Sumoski is also the percussionist and a tutoring musician with the Athens-born band Allgood Music Company and Macon-based

Parts & Labor, both of whom recently released new albums.
Sandra H. Taylor, LAW '86, was reelected as chair of the Board of Juvenile Justice for a second two-year term in that role. The board establishes the general policies of the Department of Juvenile Justice.
Tom Willingham, CLAS '84, was recently named one of seven new



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

Alumnus and Former Trustee

Gene Tyre



Eugene "Gene" Tyre Jr., CLAS '62, alumnus and former University trustee, died on Sept. 26, 2021. After graduating from Mercer, Tyre obtained his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from the



Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1972, he was called to be the senior pastor of Rainbow Park Baptist Church in Decatur, where he faithfully served for 10 years. In 1982, Tyre was called to be the senior pastor at the First Baptist Church of Newnan. In 2005, at the age of 65, he retired from First Baptist Newnan after 23 years of dedicated, faithful service. After retiring, Tyre continued his ministry by working for Georgia Bone and Joint counseling with their patients. He also volunteered with the YMCA, serving as chairman of the board and was recognized for his service by having a meeting room at the YMCA named in his honor. Tyre was not only committed to service in his community but also to the Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC), serving as vice president of the GBC, chairman of the Georgia Baptist Hospital Commission and chairman of the executive committee of the GBC. His work in the GBC was recognized when he received the James Westberry Award for service to the GBC and Mercer University. Tyre served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1998-2003.



principals of Beasley Allen Law Firm. Willingham was the founding partner of the Law Offices of Thomas P. Willingham PC based in Birmingham, Alabama, before returning to his hometown of Atlanta to join Beasley Allen's Personal Injury and Product Liability Section.

1990s

Jamie Marie Smith Arkins, CLAS '98, accepted a new position as director of human resources for Hospice Savannah in December.

Cecil H. Cordle, PHA '92, was reappointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve as a member of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy.

The Hon. Victoria F. Darrisaw, LAW '93, was named by the Georgia Supreme Court as a member

of the state's Judicial Qualifications Commission, which is tasked with weighing ethics complaints from the public against judges.

Darcy Johnson Davis, BUS '91, was accepted into the 2021-22 Leadership Engage Program, Leadership Palm Beach County's flagship program. Leadership Engage is a highly selective 10-month program which unites community leaders and offers participants a transformative learning experience and a powerful network, with the intent to build a better Palm Beach County. Davis is one of 48 professionals selected for the esteemed program. She is CEO of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and its subsidiary operations and has served in the role since February 2016. Davis joined the Health Care District in 2011 and has served in several roles of increasing responsibility, including chief financial officer/chief operating officer, prior to her promotion as the top executive role.

J. Jeffrey Deery, LAW '90, was selected as 2021 Florida Super Lawyers for business litigation. Deery is a shareholder with the law firm

of Winderwee, Haines, Ward and Woodman in Winter Park, Florida.

James M. Freeman, CLAS '96, LAW '99, was elected to the Bibb County Board of Education representing District 6. Freeman began serving on Jan. 1, 2021, and was appointed chairman of the Personnel Services Committee.

Dethra Locke Giles, CLAS '99, is an international consultant, best-selling author and highly sought-after keynote speaker. She recently founded ExecuPrep, a global brand that provides coaching, leadership development and performance improvement in the workplace. Giles hosts The Happily Ever Employed podcast.

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

Paula K. Hendrix, LAW '98, was appointed as an associate judge for the Liberty County Magistrate Court effective July 1, 2021. Hendrix served as a staff attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit's superior court judges as well as the law librarian for the Liberty County Law Library for 15

years. Hendrix also helped establish the circuit's first Alternative Dispute Resolution Program in 2008 and recently served as a staff attorney for the Liberty County Probate Court.

Renee M. L'Eplattenier, LAW '98, joined the Atlanta office of Fisher Phillips LLP, one of the country's preeminent labor and employment law firms. As a handbook compliance professional, she works with Fisher Phillips attorneys to track case law, bills, statutes and regulations throughout the U.S. in order to revise client handbooks and policies to ensure compliance and manage risk. L'Eplattenier previously worked at two large Atlanta firms before opening her own business, where she led a team of 17 employees and earned her SHRM-CP human resources certificate.

Richard G. Marcum, CLAS '94, is currently serving as archivist for the Mercer University School of Medicine and curator of the Will C. Sealy History of Medicine Library in the Skelton Medical Library on the Macon campus.

The Hon. Shondeana Crews Morris, LAW '97, was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission by Gov. Brian Kemp. The commission recommends judicial candidates for the governor's consideration.

Bryan Ramos, LAW '99, was nominated for selection to The Outstanding Filipinos in America Awards for 2021 which was held during Filipino American History Month in October at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Ramos serves as the executive secretary of the National Filipino American Lawyers Association, an executive board member of the Filipino Young Leaders Program, the Southeastern regional director for the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project, a board member of Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Atlanta and Georgia's Council on Substance Abuse, and the general counsel to the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. He was also instrumental in establishing and coordinating a Filipino Legal Defense Fund which may be accessed through the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Angela Henderson Redding, BUS '94, was appointed the new city manager of Cordele in January. Redding was previously the city manager of Monticello.

Jennifer L. Scollard, LAW '97, was named senior vice president, deputy general counsel — litigation for Cenlar FSB. Scollard handles significant and complex litigation matters, manages the in-house litigation team, oversees management of Cenlar's corporate litigation nationwide and advises the company on litigation and compliance with U.S. bankruptcy law.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, LAW '98, was honored in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* as leading lawyer in family law.

2000s

Joseph W. "Joel" Brown II, LAW '04, recently joined the Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society as its executive director.

The Hon. Kristina Goodwin Connell, BUS '17, LAW '00, was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission by Gov. Kemp. The commission recommends judicial candidates for the governor's consideration.

Tomieka R. Daniel, LAW '02, was promoted to deputy director of the Georgia Legal Services Program. She was most recently the managing attorney of their Macon office.

Jason E. Downey, LAW '03, was appointed chair of the State Board of Education by Gov. Kemp. Downey was appointed by Gov. Kemp as the 8th Congressional District's member of the State Board of Education in April 2019, and previously served on the Macon-Bibb County Board of Education from 2013 to 2017 where he held the positions of vice chairman, treasurer and legislative liaison. Downey practices law with Morgan & Morgan Law Firm in Macon.

The Hon. Charles E. Evans, LAW '00, was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission by Gov. Kemp. The commission recommends judicial candidates for the governor's consideration.

Spence Glotzbach, BUS '07, was recently promoted to head of procurement at CSX Transportation, a Fortune 250 transportation provider based in Jacksonville, Florida.

Bradley M. Harmon, LAW '02, was honored in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* as leading lawyer in litigation - construction.

Lisa M. Harris, LAW '05, was named Responsible Conduct of Research Officer for the Southwest Division of CommonSpirit Health, the largest non-profit hospital system in the U.S. She oversees conflicts of interest, export control, research credentialing, regulatory research compliance education, and research policy and procedure for Arizona and Nevada.

The Hon. Soo J. Hong, LAW '08, was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission by Gov. Kemp. The commission recommends judicial candidates for the governor's consideration.

Nicholas J. Laybourn, LAW '05, was honored in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* as leading lawyer in litigation - construction.

Jake Lunday, EGR '09, accepted the role of vice president-engineering and automation at Ingram Content Group in La Vergne, Tennessee. He, his wife, **Jennifer Flowers Lunday**, CLAS '09, and their five children have relocated to the Nashville, Tennessee, area.

Michael E. Mayo, CLAS '06, LAW '09, was listed as a 2021 On the Rise Attorney by *Daily Report*, which recognizes the top 20 attorneys under the age of 40.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MARRIAGE/BIRTHS/ ANNIVERSARY or IN MEMORY announcements for *The Mercerian* may be sent to **ERIN LONES**, director of advancement communications, at lones_ep@mercer.edu.

Kyle Mixon, EGR '01, was named vice president, eastern region aviation principal for WSP USA, a leading engineering and professional services consultancy, in August. In this role, he will be responsible for new business development and support the successful execution of work for current and potential aviation projects within the Eastern U.S., specifically for large hub airports within a 17-state region. Mixon will also lead the long-term growth of aviation at WSP as well as support the production of all aspects of the work for multiple projects in the region, including the planning, design, strategic consulting, and program/construction management for these aviation projects.

Amanda C. Morton, LAW '06, was named a partner of Ice Miller LLP in the firm's Real Estate Group.

Rebecca Anne Oakley, EDU '04, was named principal of Centerville Elementary School in Houston County. Oakley has served as assistant principal for instruction at Northside Elementary School since 2016. She will finish the current school year at Northside Elementary and begin her new role at Centerville Elementary on June 1.

Tara Lisa Perry, BUS '00, joined MultiCare Health System's board of directors in Washington state. Perry is currently the CEO of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Association for Children, where she began working in 2013 as chief strategy officer, then deputy CEO, chief operating officer and interim CEO before officially stepping into the CEO role in 2016. Prior to joining National CASA/GAL, Perry was the vice president of strategy and operations for the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, the nation's third largest arts center.

Jeremy Sale, CLAS '02, was recently promoted to senior recruiter with McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm that serves leading businesses, governments, non governmental organizations and not-for-profits.

Thomas Smoll, LAW '03, was named chief executive officer for Educational Health Center of Wyoming, a federally qualified health center system in Cheyenne and Casper and the Albany Community Health Clinic in Laramie.

Vernon M. Strickland, LAW '06, is one of The Georgia Institute of Technology's Black Alumni Organization's 60 for 60 honorees, recognizing former Georgia Tech student athletes as part of its 60-year celebration. Strickland is a current member of the Mercer University School of Law's Board of Visitors.

The Hon. Haynesworth Maier Studstill, LAW '07, was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission by Gov. Kemp. The commission recommends judicial candidates for the governor's consideration.

Bonnie S. Timms, EDU '01, LAW '04, joined Cook & James LLP in Roswell.

Bradbury D. Wildes, BUS '05, was named chief executive officer of Performance Design Products LLC, a leading developer of video game accessories and peripherals. Wildes is a global brands executive with specialty in consumer hardware, interactive entertainment, and toy industries.

Shannie Harris Williams, EGR '02, was promoted to Chief, Environmental Management Branch, at Robins Air Force Base on Feb. 16, 2020.

2010s

Kenoris L. Blair, COPA '14, was presented a proclamation from Warren County when Oct. 10, 2021, was named Kenoris Blair Appreciation Day in recognition of Blair's service, exceptional talent and dedication to the county. He was also presented a proclamation from the city of Warrenton on Oct. 15. Blair is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in higher education leadership and administration.

Morgan Boulware, CHP '14, is the clinic director of the new BenchMark Physical Therapy outpatient clinic in Hixson, Tennessee, which opened in November.

Rebecca E. Cassady, CLAS '13, earned her Ph.D. in English literature from Baylor University in August and is now a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Honors College.

Dr. Clinton M. Cawley, MED '16, recently joined the Georgia Sports Medicine Practice of Southwell in Tifton.

William E. Collins Jr., LAW '17, joined the law firm Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak and Stewart PC in February 2020.

Elizabeth Lambert Cox, LAW '15, joined the law firm of Gregory, Doyle, Calhoun and Rogers LLC in Marietta, as part of its trust and estates, taxation, business transactions and corporate groups.

Leesa M. Guarnotta, LAW '19, joined the commercial litigation practice of Burr Forman LLP in its Atlanta office.

Zandra Hall, LAW '15, was named associate general counsel, labor and employment, of Americold Logistics LLC in January.

Caitlin Wise Harris, LAW '19, joined Tisinger Vance PC as associate attorney practicing commercial litigation, residential/commercial real estate, estate planning, probate and general regulatory compliance.

John W. Harris, LAW '13, joined Campbell & Brannon LLC as a closing attorney.

The Hon. Amanda N. Heath, LAW '10, was named judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit Superior Court. Judge Heath was most recently a juvenile court judge in the same circuit.

Tammy R. Hotchkiss, COPA '13, works as an online course developer for Georgia Military College. She is also a web design and development instructor and web applications instructor for Southern Crescent Technical College.

Meagan R. Hurley, LAW '19, joined Georgia Innocence Project's Georgia

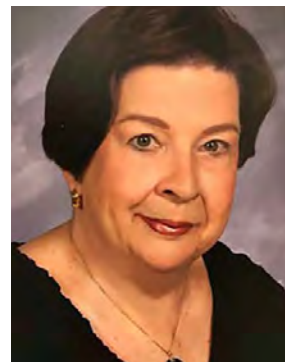
REMEMBERING...

Loyal Alumna and Former Staff Member

Lillian Rice

Lillian Elaine Turner Rice, BUS '90, '93, died on Dec. 9, 2021. Rice was born in East Point, but Macon was her home for more than 60 years. Higher education

was a priority for Rice, and after raising her two daughters, she proudly earned an associate's degree in psychology from Macon State College, and both a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in service management from Mercer. Rice volunteered as a Pink Lady at Macon Hospital (now Atrium Health Navicent) in the 1960s and later served as executive director of the Mental Health Association of Central Georgia from 1969-1984 where she founded and directed The Friendship House, an outpatient mental health center providing psychiatric patients with resources to reintegrate into life post-hospitalization. Ever civic-minded, Rice ran for public office and became the first woman to be elected at large to the Bibb County Board of Education where she served from 1979-1982. In 1988, she began serving as an administrative coordinator and project administrator for the Departments of Surgery and Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine and also served as the coordinator of the Senior Medical Student Clerkship Program until her retirement in 2002.



Former University Administrator

Bill Haywood

William "Bill" Thomas Haywood, former University administrator, died Nov. 16, 2021, in his hometown of Columbia, Tennessee.

Haywood served as business manager, vice president for finance and administration, executive vice president and secretary to the Board of Trustees from 1960 to 1979. During his tenure, he played an integral role in the development of Mercer's Atlanta campus and School of Medicine. Haywood received his Honorary Doctorate from Emory University in recognition of his significant contributions to private-sector higher education and nonprofit university medical schools. Born in 1928, he served in World War II in the U.S. Navy. Following active duty, he earned business and accounting degrees from Millsaps College and spent his career as a university administrator and chief financial and executive officer at Tulane University, Mercer, Skidmore College and Vanderbilt University. After retirement, he co-founded the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society and Maury County Archives. He received the Padgett-Haywood Award posthumously from Maury County Historical Society in recognition of his significant contributions.



Generous Supporters

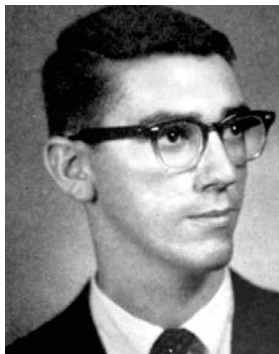
Candy Burgess

Candy Chanin Burgess died on Jan. 20. A Macon native, Burgess graduated from Miller High School with honors in 1963 and from the University of Georgia in 1967. That same year, she and **Malcolm Burgess** were married. Burgess worked for C&S National Bank for several years before becoming a community volunteer. She devoted her time to her family and community, serving in many leadership roles with various local organizations, including Mercer's McDuffie Center for Strings. Burgess was a Life Member of the University's President's Club and received the University's Alumni by Choice Award in 2016 for her loyalty, dedication and service. In 2021, her children, **Rebecca "Becky" Burgess**, LAW '01, and **Sandy Burgess**, established the Malcolm and Candy Burgess Endowed Scholarship of Distinction to celebrate the birthdays of their parents. Memorial contributions may be made to the scholarship fund.



Morgan Varner

Kinch "**Morgan**" **Varner III**, died on Oct. 20, 2021. Varner graduated from Princeton University in 1963 with an A.B. in economics and Duke Law School with a J.D. with honors in 1966. After graduating from law school, Morgan entered active service in the U.S. Army Artillery. He was part of the NATO peacekeeping forces in Germany, where he earned the rank of captain in less than two years. He was in charge of the tactical nuclear weapons in the 4th Armored Division's area of operations and was awarded an Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service for his work. Varner's first job as an attorney was with the Atlanta firm of Kilpatrick, Cody, Rogers, McClatchey & Regenstein. After three years, he started a new firm, Varner & Stephens, (later Varner, Stephens, Humphries and White), which grew to nearly 20 lawyers before merging with the Kentucky firm of Stites & Harbison in 1999. Varner and his wife of 56 years, **Chilton Davis Varner**, have been loyal supporters of Mercer University's School of Law and Mercer University Press.



Litigation Team in September as its Accountability Counsel. In her new role, Meagan represents Georgians convicted of crimes they did not commit, specializing in cases involving official misconduct

Norbert "Bert" D. Hummel IV, LAW '12, was recently elected to the State Bar of Georgia's Advisory Committee on Legislation, liaison to the newly established Business Court Committee, and the Disciplinary

Review Board for the 2021-22. Hummel continues to serve on the Bar's Finance Committee and on the Executive Committee. He is the immediate past president of the state bar's Young Lawyer's Division

and recently joined Williams-Ellerby practicing personal injury law.

J. Ross Hutchison, LAW '12, joined Stites & Harbison PLLC as partner in the firm's Nashville, Tennessee, office, focusing on litigation and transactional matters within the construction industry.

Sara L. Jones, LAW '18, joined the Office of Prosecuting Attorney for Pulaski County in Waynesville, Missouri. Jones was a judicial clerk for the superior court in Anchorage, Alaska.

Steven L. Jones, LAW '16, joined Taylor English Duma LLP as an of counsel focusing on planning, zoning and other real estate-related law.

B. Patrick Kane, LAW '16, left his job in government contract bids to pursue music. He released a self-titled debut EP under his stage name, "Rambler Kane," on Oct. 1.

Patrick G. McKenzie, LAW '13, was named partner at Morris Manning & Martin LLP working in the firm's corporate technology practice focusing on mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, venture capital financing, emerging companies, commercial finance and corporate governance.

Michele A. Milkey, LAW '19, joined Mabry & McClelland LLP in Atlanta as associate attorney practicing civil defense focused on construction law, personal injury defense, insurance coverage and premises liability.

Adam M. Miller, LAW '14, was promoted to senior associate at GrayRobinson PA in Orlando, Florida. Miller focuses on property insurance defense, personal injury defense and litigation.

Hallee C. Moore, LAW '13, was named partner at Morris, Manning & Martin LLP in the firm's corporate technology practice, where she focuses on mergers and acquisitions, finance transactions, private equity, venture capital, strategic investments and general corporate matters.

B. Patrick O'Grady, LAW '13, joined the newly-established Richmond, Virginia, branch office of the law firm Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, headquartered in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. O'Grady, who practices general liability law, was most recently with Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman.

C. Adam Owenby, LAW '11, joined Zoom Video Communications in August 2021 as government contractor compliance counsel.

Ann M. Palmer, HON '14, retired as president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation in January, having served in the role since 2013. Palmer has over four decades of nonprofit leadership experience. Prior to joining the Arthritis Foundation, she held leadership roles with the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Ashley Brooke Pitts, LAW '16, joined the Atlanta office of Witherite Law Group in July. Pitts was recently with Kenneth S Nugent PC in Macon.

Kaitie Ruhl-Pirone, LAW '19, began practicing family law with The Manley Firm PC in August.

Abhinav Saxena, MED '11, BUS '17, was named medical director of the Sylvia Barr Center, a 12-bed psychiatric facility located within Southwell Medical in Adel. Previously, Saxena served as the medical director of hospital services for Vanderbilt Behavioral Health.

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

Conley J. Scott III, LAW '19, joined the Atlanta Office of Ogletree Deakins as an ERISA Compliance Associate working on all things employee benefits related. Scott also started his own business, Scott's Right Way Solutions, handling personal real estate closings and tax matters.

Tiffany Stanford, COPA '17, recently obtained full licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor. She accepted a position with Northside Hospital where she will serve as a behavioral health clinician.

Georgios K. Tarasidis, LAW '19, joined the Law Offices of Pat Brown as an associate attorney practicing criminal defense in Avon, Connecticut.

R. Dustin White, CLAS '18, joined Benedictine Military School staff as director of alumni engagement. White is a 2014 graduate of Benedictine and coaches the school's lacrosse program.

2020s

Angel Colquitt, CLAS '21, joined the WSAV NOW team as a digital reporter in November.

Lyra G. Foster, LAW '20, recently joined national litigation firm Hawkins Parnell & Young. Foster is one of the first openly transgender lawyers at a major law firm. With a passion for justice and equality, Foster provides pro bono legal services focused on criminal justice, LGBTQ and human rights. Foster also helped found a legal nonprofit while still in law school.

Daniel I. Higgins, LAW '21, joined the law firm of Capovilla & Williams Law Firm in Atlanta, defending the rights of men in uniform.

Brittney A. Sizemore, LAW '20, joined the coverage and commercial litigation team of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP as an associate. Sizemore was recently with Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele LLP.

Tobi E. Woghiren, CLAS '20, started a new nonprofit with his mom, called Global Blessing Inc. to help the elderly impoverished population afford quality care and assistance. The nonprofit launched in November and began its first calendar year in January.

MARRIAGES BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

2000s

Andy Carter, CLAS '07, director of annual giving in Mercer's Office of University Advancement, and his wife, **Aimee Carter**, BUS '20, welcomed their son, James Wesley Carter, on Sept. 14, 2021.

2010s

Lauren Wilmer Atkinson, LAW '18, married Evan Atkinson at Ashton Gardens in Atlanta on Oct. 18. Atkinson is a staff attorney at the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

Pardis Bakheshi, LAW '16, married Nima Fathi on Oct. 17, 2021, at Lombardi House in Los Angeles. Bakheshi and Fathi's families are from the same small town in Iran, although they only met in Los Angeles in 2020. Bakheshi serves as a staff attorney at the Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers Inc.

Adelyn Barger Boleman, LAW '17, and Brock Boleman welcomed their son, Henry Clay, on Aug. 4, 2021, in Roswell. Henry weighed 10 pounds 4 ounces and measured 21.75 inches long.

Rachel Christina Callender, COPA '15, and her husband, **James Callender**, EGR '14, announced the birth of their son, Ezekiel I.J. Callender, in November 2019.

Da'Neya Weng Cheeley, NUR '17, was married on Nov. 30, 2021.

William E. Collins Jr., LAW '17, and his wife, Ginger, announced the birth of their daughter, Ellis Jane, in June 2021, weighing 6 lbs., 3.8 oz.

E. Kayla Chiang Chen, LAW '17, and her husband, Fernando, welcomed their daughter, Flora Piper, on Oct. 22, 2021. Chen is an associate at Drew Eckl & Farnham in Atlanta.

Diana Harrington Faircloth, EDU '16, and her husband, Jacob, welcomed their second child, Luca, on Jan. 20. Faircloth serves as assistant vice president for data systems and analytics on Mercer's Office of Enrollment Management.

Kirsten Nelson Menosky, CLAS '10, and her husband welcomed their third child in October 2021.

Anna Grace Mills, LAW '18, married Brent Vandergriff on July 18, 2021, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mills is an associate attorney with Bowers and Gibson in LaFayette.

C. Adam Owenby, LAW '11, announced the birth of his son Jasper in July 2021.

Courtney Bodie Patrick, LAW '12, and her husband, Matt Patrick, welcomed their son, Matthew David Patrick Jr., on May 4, 2021.

Caroline G. Powell, LAW '21, married Carl Thomas Craven in Macon on Sept. 3, 2021. Powell recently joined the Houston County Public Defenders Office.

2020s

Alicia Wyatt, EDU '20, and her husband welcomed their second child in July 2020. They are now expecting their third child in May. After graduation, Wyatt began her career as a special education teacher.

REMEMBERING...

Mercer Professor

Dr. Michael MacCarthy

Michael MacCarthy, associate professor of environmental and civil engineering and director of the engineering for development program since 2014, died on Oct. 22,

2021. In addition to teaching in the School of Engineering, Dr. MacCarthy led the Cecil Day Family Center for International Groundwater Innovation, which was established in 2020 to accelerate efforts through Mercer On Mission and the School of Engineering to provide access to clean water to the world's most water-poor communities. He led Mercer On Mission programs in the Dominican Republic and Madagascar that focused on water, sanitation and hygiene for developing communities. Confidence in MacCarthy's extraordinary abilities led the Day Family Foundation to give \$1 million toward his development of new technologies that would extend the reach of his efforts to tens of millions of people. Dr. MacCarthy had 25 years of experience in engineering and international development. He was an associate editor and member of the editorial board for *Hydrogeology Journal*, a past recipient of Mercer's Innovations in Teaching Award and an adviser for the School of Engineering's Peace Corps Prep Program. In 2019, he received the American Society for Engineering Education Southeastern Section Outstanding New Faculty Research Award.



IN MEMORY

1940s

Charlie Cason Farr, PHA '46, of Gainesville, Jan. 7.

Dot Harris, NUR '47, of Washington, D.C., Mar. 25, 2021.

Barbara Bedingfield McCutcheon, TIFT '41, of Augusta, Nov. 13, 2021.

Thomas H. Morton, LAW '49, of Molena, Dec. 9, 2021.

Ernestine K. King Rawlins, CLAS '48, of Worthington, Ohio, Dec. 1, 2021.

Silas H. Turner, CLAS '49, of Milledgeville, Nov. 13, 2021.

1950s

Charles C. Andrew, CLAS '50, of Conway, Arkansas, Sept. 7, 2021.

Russell T. Barker, CLAS '53, of Columbus, Oct. 11, 2021.

Fred D. Barnes, CLAS '53, of Lenoir, North Carolina, Oct. 8, 2021.

Dilmus G. Barnett, EDU '50, of Carrollton, Dec. 16, 2021.

Bonnie Carl Buice, LAW '57, of Milledgeville, Sept. 3, 2021.

David Melson Butler, CLAS '50, of Macon, Nov. 17, 2021.

Anne Risell Carter, CLAS '54, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Dec. 10, 2021.

Maynard D. Chambers, EDU '59, of Milledgeville, Oct. 17, 2021.

Evelyn Butler Clifton, CLAS '54, of Albany, Dec. 2, 2021.

Thomas F. Collins, CLAS '56, of Central, South Carolina, Nov. 14, 2021.

Barbara Baxley Davis, CLAS '54, of Ashburn, Virginia, Sept. 24, 2021.

Robert D. Ellington, PHA '56, of Albany, Aug. 25, 2021.

Johnnie J. Foreman Jr., CLAS '54, of Warner Robins, Oct. 3, 2021.

Dollie Blake Hammack, CLAS '56, of Edison, Dec. 16, 2021.

Monroe T. Hill, CLAS '59, of Macon, Aug. 16, 2021.

James B. Hutchins, PHA '52, of Covington, Sept. 14, 2021.

John A. Lane, CLAS '52, of Macon, Oct. 19, 2021.

Homer L. Lassiter, CLAS '55, of Perry, Aug. 2, 2021.

Coralee Driggers Long, NUR '58, of Stone Mountain, Nov. 22, 2021.

George W. Lumpkin, CLAS '54, of Atlanta, Oct. 24, 2021.

William B. Middlebrooks Jr., CLAS '55, of Alexander City, Alabama, Dec. 16, 2021.

Bobbie Biles Norwood, NUR '54, of Stone Mountain, Aug. 1, 2021.

Carlton Harry Peters, CLAS '57, of Commerce, Oct. 17, 2021.

John H. Randle, PHA '57, of Fayetteville, Sept. 17, 2021.

Francis Riviere, CLAS '56, of Saint Simons Island, Oct. 28, 2021.

Kenneth A. Roberts, PHA '51, of Villa Rica, Dec. 9, 2021.

Jeannie Brice Sears, CLAS '50, of Douglas, Aug. 29, 2021.

Joel P. Smith Jr., CLAS '57, of Atlanta, Sept. 9, 2021.

Durwood R. Souther, CLAS '55, of Woodbridge, Virginia, Oct. 3, 2021.

Marjorie Simmons Tanner, CLAS '59, of Macon, Jan. 14.

James A. "Jim" Thompson Jr., CLAS '54, of Vero Beach, Florida, on Feb. 12.

Richard V. Tieken, CLAS '56, of Columbus, Nov. 22, 2021.

Mary Gay Amoss Tucker, TIFT '51, of Griffin, Aug. 18, 2021.

Judith Scott Watkins, NUR '57, of Palm Coast, Florida, Oct. 28, 2021.

1960s

William Lucian Asbell Jr., CLAS '62, of Northfield, Vermont, Aug. 8, 2021.

John Thomas Bowden, LAW '64, of Maitland, Florida, July 31, 2021.

Alonzo Douglas Calhoun, CLAS '69, of Albany, Nov. 14, 2021.

John Cash Jr., CLAS '63, of East Point, Jan. 4.

James Perry Champion III, CLAS '67, of Sylvester, Oct. 30, 2021.

Elaine Posey Cochran, TIFT '64, of Reynolds, Sept. 12, 2021.

Glenda Griffin Espana, TIFT '64, of Marietta, Aug. 8, 2021.

Julian Dunaway Gordy Jr., CLAS '61, of Fayetteville, Sept. 17, 2021.

Herman L. Harley, EDU '68, of Savannah, Sept. 30, 2021.

Jean Hothem, NUR '69, of Gainesville, July 31, 2021.

John Jeter Hurt III, CLAS '60, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, Jan. 12.

Ronald Durant Jones, CLAS '68, of Atlanta, Sept. 13, 2021.

Phyllis Lane Lucas, CLAS '62, of Bainbridge, Nov. 12, 2021.

Philip Kenyon Mullinax, CLAS '65, of Spring, Texas, Nov. 24, 2021.

Wendell B. Nix, PHA '61, of Bainbridge, Sept. 4, 2021.

Leonie D. Davis Pinnell, EDU '68, of Saint Marys, Aug. 16, 2021.

Christopher Rankine Jr., CLAS '67, of Arlington, Texas, Sept. 24, 2021.

Ronald A. Richardson, CLAS '61, of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, Nov. 19, 2021.

Laurence A. Schenck Jr., LAW '66, of Dublin, Dec. 29, 2021.

Janet Shirley Sexton, CLAS '66, of Snellville, Aug. 17, 2021.

Patricia Ann Kent Smith, TIFT '65, of Haddock, Nov. 12, 2021.

James Ken Williams, CLAS '60, of Jacksonville, Florida, Sept. 21, 2021.

Marion Williams Wynn, CLAS '64, of Clarkston, Jan. 13.

1970s

Joseph L. Allen, CLAS '76, of Thomaston, Oct. 26, 2021.

William M. Ashby, PHA '78, of Cadiz, Kentucky, Dec. 20, 2021.

James Edward Boyers Jr., LAW '75, of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Nov. 28, 2021.

William Gary Harrison, CLAS '77, of Geismar, Louisiana, Dec. 16, 2021.

Edwin M. Hart, LAW '75, of Huntsville, Alabama, Dec. 26, 2021.

Marvyn Robyn Johnson, TIFT '79, of Forsyth, Aug. 9, 2021.

Jeffrey P. Kenaston, PHA '70, of Topton, North Carolina, Aug. 5, 2021.

Joseph M. Kitchens, CLAS '72, of Macon, Sept. 13, 2021.

Phyllis Collins Marshall, EDU '76, of Port Orange, Florida, Sept. 29, 2021.

Willis Newton Moore, LAW '75, of Dawsonville, Aug. 26, 2021.

Harold Wright Muecke Jr., CLAS '70, of Macon, Nov. 25, 2021.

Alumnus and Generous Supporter

Gene Hatcher

Eugene “Gene” Stetson Hatcher, LAW '81, died on Feb. 3. Born in Kewanee, Illinois, Hatcher graduated from Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut, Georgia Institute of Technology and Mercer University School of Law. He worked with the John Harland Company before joining the law practice of Anderson, Walker and Reichert, where he practiced for 40 years. The grandson of **Eugene W. Stetson**, namesake of the University’s Stetson-Hatcher School of Business, Hatcher was an ardent supporter of the School of Business and Mercer Athletics. He served on the President’s Council, the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business Board of Visitors and was a President’s Club Life Member. Hatcher’s oldest son, **Eugene Stetson Hatcher Jr.**, is a 1997 graduate of Mercer University School of Law, and his youngest son, **Mark R. Hatcher**, is a 2000 graduate of the School of Business.



Generous Supporter

Russ Carreker

Russ Carreker died on Jan. 25. Born in Warner Robins, Carreker graduated from Southland Academy in Americus and went on to attend Auburn University where he played football as a linebacker for coach Pat Dye from 1983 to 1986. Carreker was the president of C3 Property Investments LLC. In 1998, he joined Starrett-Bytewise Measurement Systems. He also worked as a vice president at Columbus Bank & Trust Co. At the time of his passing, he served on the Georgia Department of Transportation Board, a position to which he was elected by the members of the General Assembly last year. Carreker was very involved in his local community and played vital roles in making Columbus a better city. He served as chairman of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and also served a number of years on the Development Authority of Columbus. He was instrumental in raising support for the Mercer University School of Medicine Columbus campus.



Mason Orr Jr., CLAS '72, of Conyers, Sept. 11, 2021.
Victor E. Payton, CLAS '71, of Bogart, Sept. 25, 2021.
Barbara Vanette McCoy Raines, CLAS '78, of Warner Robins, Sept. 16, 2021.
Wilhelm M. Sambdman Jr., BUS '77, of Newnan, Sept. 11, 2021.
Tina Ballek Singleton, EDU '77, of Macon, Aug. 11, 2021.

Lila Snipes Slappey, NUR '77, of Vestavia, Alabama, Jan. 9.
Randay Walker Stowers, PHA '75, of Columbia, Missouri, Oct. 12, 2021.
Larry J. Sulka, PHA '70, of Alpharetta, Sept. 10, 2021.
Louette Vaughn, NUR '74, of Atlanta, Oct. 26, 2021.

Charles Howard Webb, EDU '77, of Madison, Alabama, Dec. 26, 2021.
James Franklin West Jr., CLAS '71, of Augusta, Nov. 16, 2021.
Linda Layson White, CAS '76, of Decatur, Nov. 10, 2021.
Carolyn Elaine Bell Wright, NUR '79, of Mill Creek, Washington, Jan. 1.

1980s

Jonathan Munson Becker, CLAS '89, of Tampa, Florida, Aug. 20, 2021.
Mable Vivian Booker, LAW '82, of Washington, Oct. 22, 2021.
Jack E. Bowen, LAW '84, of Longwood, Florida, Oct. 6, 2021.
Sandra Taylor Ethridge, TIFT '83, of Bainbridge, Aug. 14, 2021.

Laura Green Ferguson, BUS '85, of Lizella, Jan. 6.
Arthur N. French, BUS '88, of Zebulon, Aug. 10, 2021.
James A. Goff, CLAS '83, of Woodbury, Sept. 25, 2021.
Emily Hull Hamby, BUS '81, of Newberry, Florida, Sept. 7, 2021.
Allison Lee Hayes, LAW '88, of Albany, Aug. 25, 2021.
Joseph Blaine Hosmer, BUS '87, of Chamblee, Aug. 6, 2021.
Harvi Anne Lipshultz, PHA '83, of Panama City, Florida, Oct. 7, 2021.
Mary A. Long, CAS '81, of Gainesville, Aug. 29, 2021.
Gregory David Mason, BUS '88, of Chesnee, South Carolina, Sept. 26, 2021.
Phillip Augustus Millerd, BUS '85, of Leesburg, Aug. 25, 2021.
Sherrod Gates Patterson, LAW '82, of Decatur, Aug. 8, 2021.
Marsha Crawford Powell, CAS '88, of Atlanta, Oct. 24, 2021.
David Keith Pruett, BUS '88, of Eatonton, Nov. 22, 2021.
Richard A. Remus, BUS '85, of Canton, Sept. 3, 2021.
Medwin T. Roach, CAS '80, of Dahlgonega, Aug. 31, 2021.
Scott Lisle Sekulow, BUS '88, of Lilburn, Aug. 12, 2021.
David Allen Self, CLAS '81, of Milledgeville, Sept. 4, 2021.
Julian M. Whatley, CLAS '84, of Carrollton, Aug. 6, 2021.

1990s

Robert Frisch, EGR '93, of Warner Robins, Oct. 13, 2021.
Jolee Pearson Gardner, BUS '94, of Jacksonville, Florida, Oct. 8, 2021.
Stephanie Curtis Gastin, EDU '95, of Macon, Sept. 15, 2021.
Kevin L. Hillman, CLAS '91, of Grovetown, Nov. 6, 2021.
Irene Hart Palmer, COPA '94, of Hawthorne, Florida, Sept. 24, 2021.
Lillian Turner Rice, BUS '90, of Macon, Dec. 9, 2021.
Judith P. Terry, BUS '92, of Huntsville, Alabama, Dec. 6, 2021.
John Arnold Wackerman, BUS '96, of Alpharetta, Sept. 13, 2021.
Daniel P. Webb, BUS '98, of Warner Robins, Aug. 25, 2021.
William H. Weeks Jr., BUS '93, of Cumming, Sept. 2, 2021.

2000s

Kimberly Trisha Bell, CLAS '06, of Sylvania, on Jan. 31.
Lawrence Haslem III, EGR '07, of Warner Robins, Sept. 5, 2021.
Gerald Duane Kissel, COPA '04, of Rockledge, Florida, Sept. 6, 2021.
Leslie Ann Knight, PHA '02, of Cumming, Aug. 3, 2021.
Charlotte D. McKenzie, COPA '05, of Locust Grove, Aug. 3, 2021.
Elizabeth Pamela Moran, COPA '04, of Griffin, Nov. 13, 2021.

Larry E. Robinson, MED '05, of Macon, Nov. 7, 2021.
Michael David Sayegh, LAW '07, of Simpsonville, South Carolina, Nov. 20, 2021.

2010s

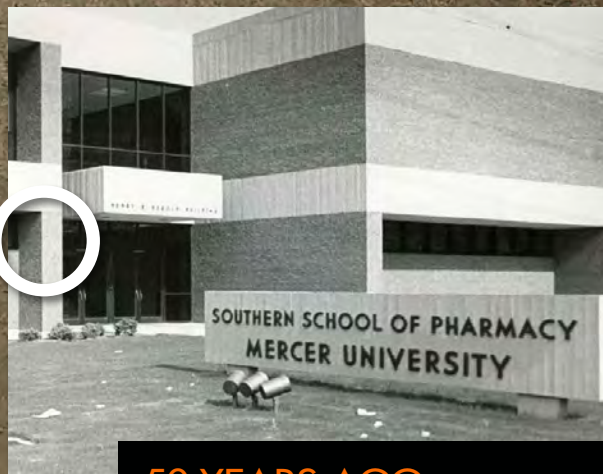
Hope Erlenborn Meushaw, NUR '12, of Nashville, Tennessee, Nov. 23, 2021.
David Tyler Plaxico, DIV '19, of Macon, Sept. 9, 2021.
Michael Kenny Stone, LAW '17, of Atlanta, Sept. 17, 2021.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

Natalie Adams, of Cumming, Oct. 10, 2020.
Paula M. Corley, of Macon, Nov. 5, 2021.
Bradley Currey Jr., of Atlanta, Jan. 6, 2022.
Robert V. Dumke, of Duluth, Nov. 26, 2021.
Peter E. Duran, of Alma, Dec. 24, 2021.
William Reid Elliott, of Macon, Dec. 29, 2021.
M. Glenn Fox, of Tucker, Nov. 2, 2021.
Ruth B. Fuller, of Carrollton, Sept. 25, 2021.
Annie Faye Gardner, of Suwanee, Dec. 15, 2021.
Julia E. Gould, of Tucker, Sept. 6, 2021.
Paul E. Greene, of Marietta, Nov. 21, 2021.
Hannah M. Greene, of Macon, Nov. 16, 2021.
Barbara A. Keene, of Macon, Sept. 8, 2021.
Bernard Maki, of Franklin, North Carolina, Aug. 1, 2021.
Robert Bruce Millam, of Warner Robins, Sept. 29, 2021.
Ben S. Moore, of Cleveland, Tennessee, Oct. 4, 2021.
Spero C. Peppas, of Atlanta, Aug. 25, 2021.
Ed S. Sell III, of Macon, Dec. 30, 2021.
David L. Shineflew, of Macon, July 6, 2021.
James J. Thomasson Jr., of Newnan, Nov. 23, 2021.
Angel M. Vazquez, of Macon, July 31, 2021.
Linda M. Walker, of Eastman, Aug. 28, 2021.
Marianna Patton Walker, of Macon, Dec. 14, 2021.
Donald Edward Young, of Macon, Nov. 4, 2021.

50-75-100 YEARS AGO

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



50 YEARS AGO

On May 21, 1972, the Southern School of Pharmacy dedicated its \$2.2 million classroom and laboratory building, naming it after Henry Robert Herold, president of the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation. Dr. Louis Christian Zopf, dean of the College of Pharmacy of the State University of Iowa, was the keynote speaker for the celebration. The two-story building totaled 42,559 square feet and was constructed to allow for further additions.

75 YEARS AGO

The April 1947 *Mercerian* celebrated the addition of fluorescent lights in the Hardman and Law libraries, hailing the update as providing "much relief from the inadequacy of the former system." The Blue Key Society, a national honorary service fraternity, paid for the installation of the new lighting as a service project.

100 YEARS AGO

The 1922 *Cauldron* showcased the vision for the Mercer campus' future: a complex of interconnected buildings with a grand tower at the northeast entrance.



DOMICO ESTABLISHES NURSING GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

**WHEN DR. VIRGINIA DARE DOMICO
GRADUATED FROM THE GEORGIA HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING IN 1968,**

she immediately began working as a nurse in the orthopedic department at Georgia Baptist Hospital. Until completion of her BSN at the Medical College of Georgia in 1976, she held various positions at the hospital, including weekend hospital supervisor, head nurse and coordinator of the stroke unit program.

Domico attended Emory University to earn her master's degree. The day after she graduated, she moved to Mississippi in pursuit of a position in clinical nursing, but with no positions for a clinical nurse specialist in neurology, she accepted a faculty position at the University of Mississippi. It was in this position, in which she served for eight years, that she discovered her love for teaching. Realizing she needed to continue her education, she enrolled in the University of Alabama at Birmingham Ph.D. program and then returned to Georgia to work at the Medical College of Georgia.

When the Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing began its baccalaureate program, she applied and was the first person interviewed for a faculty position by **Susan Gunby**, undergraduate classmate and then dean of the College of Nursing. She encouraged other classmates and colleagues whom she felt were excellent educators to join her, including **Linda Streit**, current dean of the College of Nursing. Domico retired from the College of Nursing in 2018 after a 47-year career.

Domico believes education is the key to providing excellent nursing care. "The way we continue to advance the profession is through higher and continuing education," said Domico. "It never stops. We need to continue to increase our knowledge base, so we can share it with others. However, education can be expensive, and it is difficult to work and focus on education."

Throughout her education, Domico benefited from funds that were available to help nursing students. The support she received as a nursing student motivated her to establish **The Dare and Frank Domico Endowed Scholarship for Graduate Nursing Students**. The scholarship will support graduate students enrolled in Mercer's College of Nursing who have demonstrated financial need.

Domico originally made arrangements for the scholarship in her will but decided last year that she did not want to wait. While a portion of her estate will provide funds for the scholarship, she wants students to begin benefiting from the financial assistance a scholarship can provide and to have the opportunity to witness the impact of her support.

Domico has always supported her alma mater, and believes it is important to give back to the University. "Regardless of when you

graduated, you are where you have arrived in life because of a basic foundational education that has spurred you on in your career," said Domico. "When you support the College of Nursing, you are helping provide a superior education to a student who will provide superior care, and that is what we want and need in the profession. Nursing was a very rewarding profession for me; I always loved everything I did. All of my ties to Georgia Baptist have always advanced me in my profession, and I want to give back to help others have the opportunities I have experienced in my life."

For more information on establishing a scholarship or endowed fund, visit giving.mercer.edu or contact Shawna Dooley, associate vice president for advancement, at dooley_sr@mercer.edu or (478) 301-2720.



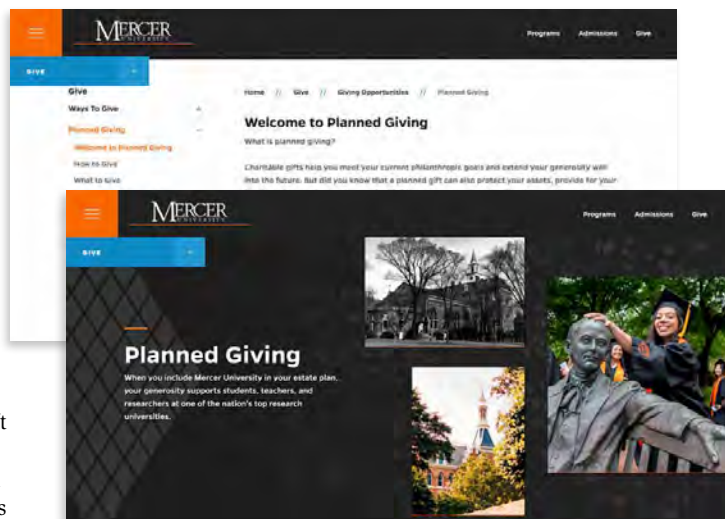
DR.
VIRGINIA
DARE
DOMICO

ADVANCEMENT LAUNCHES PLANNED GIVING WEBSITE

Charitable gifts help you meet your current philanthropic goals and extend your generosity well into the future, but a **planned gift can also protect your assets, provide for your family, and guarantee you income for life.** With estate planning, you can even make a significant impact through a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime.

Last November, the Office of University Advancement launched a new and improved website to provide alumni and friends with valuable planned giving resources and information. The new site includes details on what to give and how to make a planned gift. Visitors to the site can also compare gift options, request a calculation, and use the life stage gift planner to learn about financial strategies and possible charitable solutions to the challenges and opportunities one may be facing at a particular life stage. Other resources on the site include donor stories and a monthly blog post.

Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support and appreciation for Mercer University and its mission while accommodating your own personal, financial, estate-planning and philanthropic goals. With smart planning, you may actually increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs. Just as important, you will know that you have made a meaningful contribution to Mercer. When you include Mercer in your estate plan, your generosity supports students, teachers and researchers at one of the nation's top research universities.



Visit mercer.giftplans.org to learn more about making a planned gift to Mercer or contact **Claude Smith**, director of planned giving, at smith_cd@mercer.edu or (478) 301-5451.

A WEEK OF GIVING MAY 2-6, 2022

In 2017, the University held its first **Day of Giving**, an online-based fundraising event to increase awareness, support and donor participation. The inaugural event raised over \$87,000 from more than 700 donors. After two successful campaigns, the event grew in 2019 to become **"Orange & Black Give Back: A Week of Giving."**

Thanks to generous supporters, the annual event continues to be a huge success with the total dollars raised and number of donors contributing more than doubling since the first event in 2017. **Last year, the 2021 Week of Giving raised over \$196,000 from nearly 1,500 donors.**

"The Week of Giving is all about participation and shows just how special — how willing to pay it forward — our Mercer family is. Watching alumni and friends of all ages and degree programs show their support and loyalty for the University is an inspiring experience I look forward to each year," said Andy Carter, CLAS '07, director of annual giving. "The Week of Giving has become an annual tradition that generates enthusiasm and support throughout all areas of the Mercer community and demonstrates how small actions made by many people can have a huge impact."

This year, "Orange & Black Give Back: A Week of Giving" will take place May 2-6. The event will begin at 8 a.m. Monday, May 2, and end at 8 p.m. Friday, May 6. Save the date, and keep an eye on social media for a week full of Mercer memories, videos, challenges and more as we join together to increase support and make a difference in the lives of our students.

ORANGE & BLACK GIVEBACK

Visit mugiveback.com to learn more about the Week of Giving. If you are willing to serve as a **Week of Giving Ambassador**, contact **Andy Carter** at carter_aw@mercer.edu or (478) 301-2924.

Giving Made Easy— Recurring Gifts

Dalton Turner, CLAS '14, BUS '19, and **Rebecca Barber Turner**, EDU '17, met as undergrads in 2014, a special year in their lives and the life of the University that they refer to as “The Year of the Bear” since it is the year they met and the year Mercer beat Duke in the NCAA tournament. In 2018, the couple married in Newton Chapel on Mercer’s Macon campus.

The Turners became involved with the Mercer Alumni Association and began giving back to the University immediately after graduation. Dalton has served on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Board of Directors since 2017. Through their involvement as students and alumni, they have experienced firsthand the way alumni support impacts the University and the lives of its students.

Realizing that monthly giving is a convenient and easy way to include gifts to Mercer in their budget, the Turners set up a recurring gift that is automatically debited from their checking account each month. “A monthly recurring gift allows us to stay connected and involved without having to remember to make a gift,” said Dalton. “We believe in the mission of Mercer, and we are passionate about giving so that others can also enjoy the life-changing experience of a Mercer education.”



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

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UNIVERSITY

2022 MERCER FOOTBALL



HEAD COACH
DREW CRONIG

2022 SCHEDULE

AUG. 27 VS. MOREHEAD STATE
SEPT. 3 @ Auburn
SEPT. 17 VS. THE CITADEL*
SEPT. 24 @ Gardner Webb
OCT. 1 @ Wofford*
OCT. 8 VS. WESTERN CAROLINA*
OCT. 15 VS. EAST TENNESSEE STATE*
OCT. 22 @ UT Chattanooga*
OCT. 29 @ VMI*
NOV. 12 VS. FURMAN* HOMECOMING
NOV. 19 @ Samford*

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