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In **Our** Lens

The 2022 Mercer Bears football team was ranked in the Top 25 all season, broke multiple school records and saw two of its players receive post-season All-America honors. Read more on page 32.



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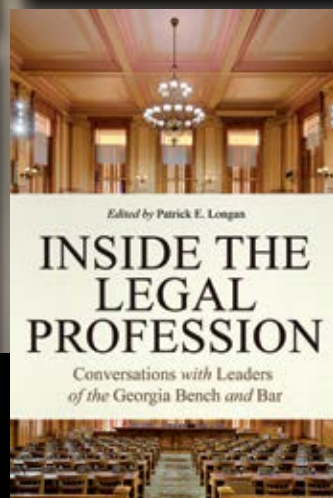
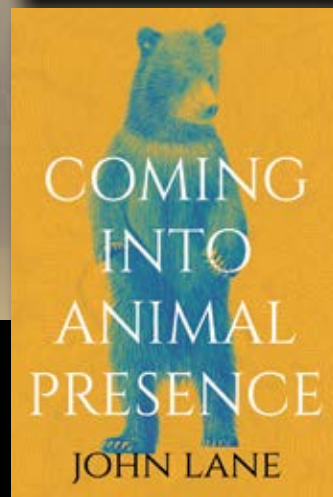
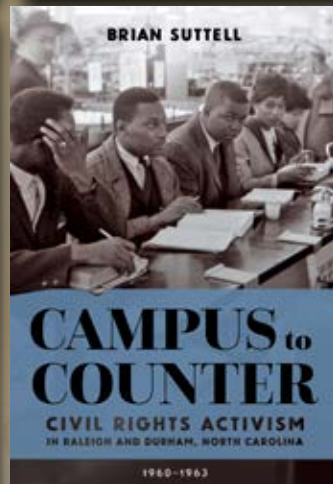
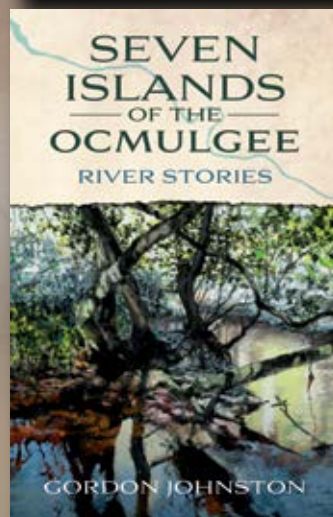
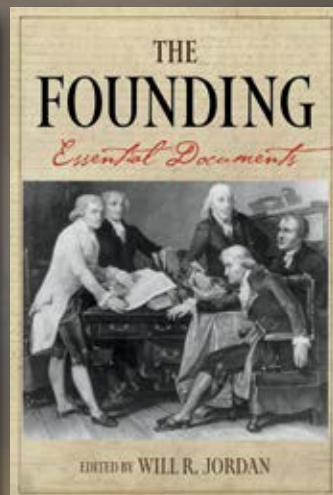
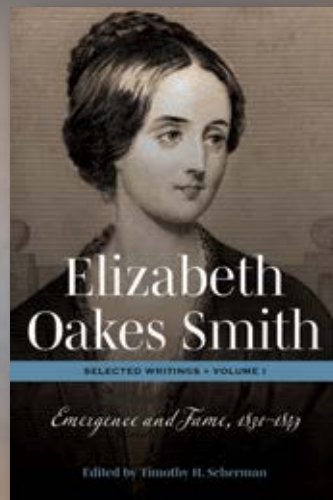
CELEBRATES
44TH YEAR OF
PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

Working to overcome supply chain and transportation issues that continue to plague the publishing industry, Mercer University Press proudly offers a new season filled with women's studies, essays, fiction, poetry, biography, history, and religion.

Spring/Summer 2023 season highlighted titles include:

Elizabeth Oakes Smith: Selected Writings, Volume I edited by Timothy H. Scherman, which encompasses the early writings of this prolific 19th-century poet, prosewriter, journalist, playwright, and lecturer; **Seven Islands of the Ocmulgee** by Mercer professor of English Gordon Johnston, river stories written after the author canoed the Ocmulgee and its tributaries. (This fiction collection is published in association with Georgia Humanities.); **Coming into Animal Presence** by John Lane, a collection of essays exploring the intersection of the human imagination with the world of other animals; **The Founding** edited by Mercer professor of political science Will R. Jordan, a collection of four essential documents that not only articulate the United States of America's highest political ideals, but provide a lasting framework for governance; **Campus to Counter: Civil Rights Activism in Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina, 1960-1963** by Brian Suttell, which analyzes the ways in which civil rights activism and academic freedom intertwined within HBCUs and Research Triangle colleges; and **Inside the Legal Profession** edited by Mercer Law professor Patrick E. Longan, a collection of conversations with leaders of the Georgia Bench and Bar.

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



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'Conservation Through Craftsmanship'

By Andrea Honaker

Mercer alumnus **Luke Kolbie** built and operated his business **Kingfisher Leatherworks** on that motto. Through a new venture as CEO of 124-year-old storied boot company **Russell Moccasin**, he hopes to spread that philosophy on a larger scale while carrying a family's legacy of long-lasting, quality products into the future.

Kolbie, who graduated from Mercer in 2021 with a finance degree, began working with leather when he was 12. By high school, he was filling custom orders, creating a line of products, and ironing out manufacturing and distribution logistics. He continued working his business, Kingfisher Leatherworks, while a Mercer student, and in 2018 it was named a Company in Residence in the Mercer Innovation Center.

The company's products include belts, wallets, weekend bags, cartridge bags and bottle totes, sold mainly online but also at some consumer trade shows and about 30 retailers nationwide.

Kolbie prototypes and creates templates for each new product, and then the items are manufactured by a family of Amish craftsmen — Merle, Raymond and Joseph Schlabach — in Illinois using leather from a U.S. supplier.

"We started with sporting bags, but the wine totes have opened up a much broader and larger customer base," he said. "Single and double barrel totes are half of our business. That's really exciting to me."

Right after graduation, Kolbie got married, moved with wife Wynne to Birmingham, Alabama — where she is pursuing a doctorate at Samford University — and took a job with a mortgage firm. A year later, Kingfisher Leatherworks took off, and Kolbie turned his focus to those efforts and a new opportunity with Russell Moccasin.



Mercer alumnus Luke Kolbie is pictured with his dog, Vela. Kolbie is wearing his great-grandfather's Russell Moccasin boots. He is the owner of Kingfisher Leatherworks and is now also CEO and co-owner of Russell Moccasin.



Based in Berlin, Wisconsin, Russell Moccasin is known for handcrafted boots that stand the test of time. World War II veteran Earl Shaffer became the first person to walk the entire Appalachian Trail in 1948, and he made the 2,000-mile trek in a single pair of Russell Moccasin boots. Shaffer's boots reside in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, in Washington, D.C. Four generations of Kolbie's family have worn boots made by the company, and his grandfather still wears the pair that belonged to his father.

Kolbie said Russell Moccasin is one of the companies he modeled Kingfisher Leatherworks after. The two businesses attended a lot of the same trade shows, and Kolbie was able to visit Russell's Minneapolis factory and meet the owners in 2018. In August 2022, Russell Moccasin's owner, the Fabricius family, shared that they were ready to pass the torch.

Joe Julian, owner of custom woodworking business Julian & Sons, and Kolbie are now the co-owners of Russell Moccasin, with Kolbie acting as CEO.

"Joe [Julian] and I both are very passionate about Russell and want to make sure Russell is around for the next generation," Kolbie said. "[The Fabricius family] has been fully supportive and excited about the future of Russell with us involved — to me that's the most rewarding part."

Current chief operating officer Joe Gonyo continues to oversee daily operations, while Kolbie focuses on the business model side. He's working on streamlining processes and products, training the next generation of craftsmen, and determining next steps. Julian adds his decades of experience managing teams of craftsmen to help set up the systems and infrastructure needed for Russell to organize its workflow.

"It's an opportunity to take a company that's been around for 125 years and make sure it's around for another 125," Kolbie said. "It's neat to be able to be a part of a company that's been around so long and means so much to so many people. I see it as a stewardship opportunity."

Kingfisher Leatherworks and Russell Moccasin will remain separate companies, but there are opportunities for partnerships. For instance, Kingfisher will make accessories for Russell, and the two companies already use some of the same leathers. Both make products that are meant to last a lifetime and be passed down through generations, which goes back to their shared philosophy.

Kolbie is working to spread that idea of "conservation through craftsmanship" through a new guild of businesses. Kingfisher Leatherworks, Julian & Sons and Russell Moccasin are the first members, and the goal is to partner with other companies with similar values and provide certification opportunities.

"Just because we can make things quickly and en masse, is that reason enough for us to do that?" Kolbie said. "This is a conscious choice of businesses that are choosing to steer their business in a way that prioritizes our impact and how our products perform in the long-term."

It's important for companies to think about conservation practices



Kingfisher Leatherworks wine totes.



Luke Kolbie carries a Kingfisher Leatherworks weekend bag and prototype gun case.

"It's an opportunity to take a company that's been around for 125 years and make sure it's around for another 125.... I see it as a stewardship opportunity."

from the beginning when making their products.

"When you are designing a product to last decades of abuse, there are always parts of that product that will need to be serviced to maintain functionality," Kolbie said. "It's inevitable, and even desirable. The difference between a wasteful, disposable product and a generational one is that the latter is designed to be maintained. No one would invest in a car that you

couldn't change the tires on, and when possible, you shouldn't buy a pair of shoes that is not re-soleable or a bag that is not re-craftable.

"We need to use methods that are forward-thinking enough to anticipate the weak points that will wear out first and design products to be repairable without affecting performance or aesthetics. That's how you make a product that lasts generations and eliminates waste."

For instance, the stitching of Kingfisher Leatherworks products is embossed into the leather, so the leather takes the brunt of the wear. The company also uses longer stitch lengths, so there are fewer holes and the leather remains strong. If the stitches ever break, the same holes can be used for repair. Similarly, Russell Moccasin shoes are designed to be re-soled over and over without damaging the shoe due to their unique moccasin construction.

These kinds of methods ensure products can last for decades, generations and even thousands of miles.



University Dedicates Sheridan Mercer On Mission Center Benefiting Prosthetics Program



Mercer On Mission Director Dr. Craig McMahan, right, visits with School of Engineering faculty Dr. Ha Van Vo and Dr. Natalia Cardelino at the Nov. 11 Sheridan Center dedication.

More than 100 students, faculty, staff and trustees gathered on Nov. 11 at the School of Engineering to dedicate the new **Sheridan Mercer On Mission Center**, funded in 2021 by a \$10 million endowment gift from the **Phil J. and Alice S. Sheridan Foundation**.

The Center was designed to support the Mercer On Mission prosthetics program, its longest-running initiative that since 2009 has fitted more than 18,000 amputees in Vietnam and Cambodia. The new Center features a gait lab where faculty and students work with patients; an expanded machine shop where prosthetic devices are fabricated; and common spaces and offices that will be shared by all Mercer On Mission programs.

The Sheridan Foundation gift was facilitated by Mercer trustee and foundation board member



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

In addition to funding the new facilities in the School of Engineering, the Sheridan endowment is allowing the Center to hire additional faculty with expertise in prosthetics design, manufacture and fitting and to expand administrative staff as needed. It also funds components, supplies and travel, an increase in participation by Mercer students, and collaboration with other universities and organizations doing similar work around the world.

“...to ‘help the poor, heal the sick and assist the lame to walk.’”

Board Elects New Trustees, Officers During Homecoming

Mercer’s Board of Trustees at its annual Homecoming meeting elected 10 new trustees and a new board chair, whose terms began at the conclusion of the meeting. They include **Cathy Callaway Adams**, a former board chair from Fernandina Beach, Florida; **Malcolm S. Burgess Jr.**, Macon; **Milton L. Cruz**, San Juan, Puerto Rico; **Terry England**, Auburn; **Robert G. Goddard III**, Atlanta; **Genelle Jennings**, Hawkinsville; **William “Bill” Pou Jr.**, Mulberry, Florida; **Joe Sam Robinson Jr.**, Macon; **Charles Watson Jr.**, Washington, D.C.; and **M. Troy Woods**, Columbus.

Trustees who rotated off the board and were recognized for their service include

Curtis G. “Curt” Anderson, Savannah; **James C. “Jimmy” Elder Jr.**, Columbus; **Benjamin W. “Benjy” Griffith III**, Macon; **J. Curtis Lewis III**, Savannah; **David E. Lynch**, Atlanta; **William A. “Tony” Moye**, McDonough; **J. Reg Murphy**, St. Simons Island; and **Richard A. “Doc” Schneider**, Atlanta.

Thad Warren, a 1986 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from Atlanta, was elected as board chair for 2023. He has served as chair of the board’s Executive Committee the past two years. **Tom Bishop**, a double graduate from Atlanta, was elected chair of the Executive Committee for 2023.

Trustees Approve Aspire Campaign Goal Increase

Mercer’s Board of Trustees at its annual Homecoming meeting authorized **increasing the Aspire capital campaign goal from \$400 million to \$500 million.**



A S P I R E

THE CAMPAIGN

for

MERCER UNIVERSITY

Launched during Homecoming in 2014, *Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University*, seeks to provide financial resources that will empower Mercer, already emerging among the Southeast’s elite private research universities, to become an international leader in applying its intellectual capital to better serve the needs of humankind. **For more, see pages 28-31.**



MERCER MARKS 20 YEARS AS ONE OF PRINCETON REVIEW'S 'BEST COLLEGES'

Mercer for the 20th consecutive year is among the nation's best institutions for undergraduates according to The Princeton Review®. The education services company featured Mercer in the 31st edition of its annual college guide, *The Best 388 Colleges*, released in August 2022. Only about 14% of America's 2,700 four-year colleges and universities are profiled in the book.

BEST COLLEGES

U.S. News

BEST VALUE SCHOOLS
2022-2023

BEST COLLEGES

U.S. News

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING
2022-2023

MERCER EXCELS IN BEST VALUE, BEST UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING IN LATEST U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

Mercer remained the No. 34 **Best Value** among top-tier national universities and climbed more than 20 spots to No. 36 in **Best Undergraduate Teaching**, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual America's Best Colleges issue, released in September 2022.

LAUREN KRAFT PHOTO

Global Engagement Awards 20 Global Leader Scholarships for Study Abroad

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ercer's **Office of Global Engagement** recently awarded its latest round of **Global Leader Scholarships**, providing 20 students with a total of \$64,945 to participate in study abroad programs during the upcoming spring semester. They include **Ekiko Aiken, Cierra Crawford, Donnell Cudjoe, Sophia Denisar, Lauren Dichiera, Lea Dulcio, Toni Fedrowiz, Garrett Golubeff, Caden Hamrick, Sydel Idehen, McKenna Kaufman, Angel Monje Casas, Thomas Patrick, Hina Qureshi, Sabrina Raju, Ladji Ruffin, Tanvi Sarma, Elizabeth Stinson, Diana Tejera-Berrios**

and **Matthew Thompson**. Of the 20 students who received the most recent scholarships, seven will participate in semester-long exchange or affiliate programs and 13 will join spring break faculty-led programs.





Mercer among top institutions with students studying abroad as Gilman Scholars

The U.S. Department of State recognized Mercer as one of the nation's colleges and universities that sent **the most scholars abroad through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program** during the 2020-2021 academic year. Mercer had a total of 14 students selected as Benjamin A. Gilman or Gilman-McCain Scholars, ranking first among institutions with fewer than 5,000 undergraduate students and first

among Georgia colleges and universities. The Gilman Scholarship expands access and equity in study abroad and international internship opportunities among U.S. undergraduate students with high financial need.





Mercer Law Wins Mock Trial National Championship

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ercer Law School took home its third national championship of 2022 when students **Isiah Chavis**, **John Flowers**, **Tessa Sizemore**, **Ariana Laboy Mena** and **Riya Patel** won the Allstar National Mock Trial Bracket Challenge on Nov. 13. Mercer Law competed against 65 other teams for the bracket challenge, which is the largest invitational law school mock trial tournament in the country. The team advanced to nationals after winning the regional competition in October, prevailing over several nationally ranked programs. Mercer faced Harvard in the semifinals of the national competition and conquered UCLA in the finals. In



Front row,
Mena, Sizemore;
Back row,
Flowers, Patel,
Chavis

addition to Mercer Law winning the competition, Flowers received the best advocate award. Following the season, Mercer was ranked third nationally and was the highest-ranked Georgia law school in the 2022-2023 Gavel Rankings for Mock Trial Programs.

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR AWARDED MILLION-DOLLAR NASA GRANT TO INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION

School of Engineering faculty member **Dr. Anthony Choi** developed one of four projects nationwide awarded a total of \$4 million by NASA through its new Space Grant K-12 Inclusiveness and Diversity in STEM (SG KIDS) program. The project, titled "Inspiring NASA's Next Generation through Building, Coding, and Machine Learning Missions (NASA ML-Bots)," received one of the program's four inaugural million-dollar grants aimed at bringing the excitement of authentic NASA experiences to groups of middle and high school students who are traditionally underserved and underrepresented in STEM. Dr. Choi, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of Mercer's Machine Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory, and Dr. Steven Ruffin, director of the Georgia Space Grant Consortium housed at Georgia Institute of Technology, serve as co-principal investigators on the project.

Dr. Choi, left





Graduates Exceed National Average for Career Outcomes for Second Consecutive Year

In a key indicator of the value of a college education, **Mercer undergraduates for the second consecutive year outperformed their peers across every category of four-year institutions in the U.S.** According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers' annual

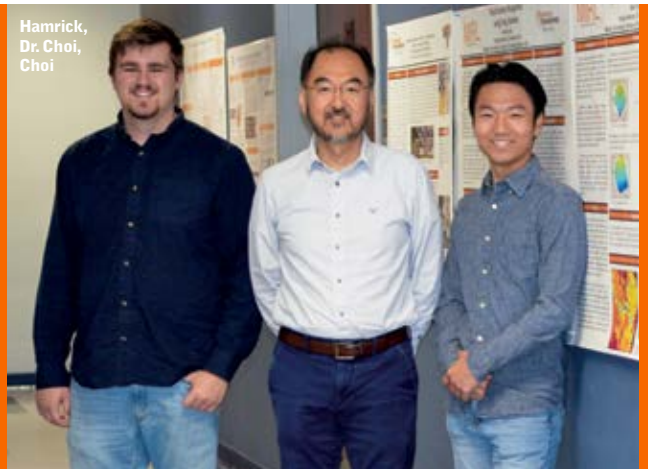
First Destinations report for the Class of 2021, Mercer undergraduates' positive career outcome rate of 95% exceeds the overall national average of 84%, as well as the averages among private institutions (92%), Southeast institutions (82%), institutions with undergraduate enrollment between 2,000-4,999 (90%) and Carnegie Classification Doctoral Universities with High Research Activity (88%). Additionally, alumni of Mercer's professional and graduate programs also outperformed the national average for all institutions, with a 94% positive career outcome rate compared to 88% overall.



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TEAM SELECTED FOR CUR'S SCHOLARS TRANSFORMING THROUGH RESEARCH PROGRAM

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering **Dr. Anthony Choi** and undergraduate students **William Caden Hamrick** and **Ethan Choi** were selected to participate in the Council on Undergraduate Research's (CUR) Scholars Transforming Through Research program. The six-month professional development program, which runs October-April, offers undergraduate students and faculty mentors the opportunity to develop communication and advocacy skills to leverage the impact of their research by conveying their story to stakeholder groups such as funding agencies, association partners, elected officials, future employers, community and beyond. A total of 75 teams were selected this year representing 62 institutions in 28 U.S. states.

Hamrick,
Dr. Choi,
Choi





A Night of GEORGIA MUSIC

anightofgeorgiamusic.com

Full-Length Concert Available to Watch Online

If you missed "A Night of Georgia Music" when it aired on Georgia Public Broadcasting last summer, you can now watch the one-hour broadcast version of the show, as well as the full-length concert, at www.gpb.org/television/show/night-of-georgia-music.

"A Night of Georgia Music" dynamically showcases some of the Peach State's most iconic songs, headlined by three of Georgia's most well-known musicians and featuring students from Mercer's **Robert McDuffie Center for Strings**. The concert was recorded for public television at Macon's historic **Grand Opera House** and **Capricorn Sound Studios** in March 2022.

In addition to the McDuffie Center students, the program features R.E.M. founding member and Macon native **Mike Mills**; internationally renowned violin soloist and Macon native **Robert McDuffie**; and former Allman Brothers Band member and current Rolling Stones keyboardist **Chuck Leavell**.

Beginning in February, the program will be distributed by American Public Television to PBS stations across the country. Check your local station's listings for air dates and times. For more information, visit www.anightofgeorgiamusic.com.





Frank Wood

Named Executive Director of The Grand Opera House

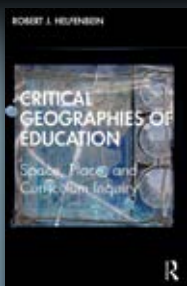


Dr. Wood

Veteran arts administrator and Mercer alumnus **Dr. Frank E. Wood** was named executive director of Macon's historic Grand Opera House, effective Oct. 17. Dr. Wood, who was director of arts marketing and communications at Mercer from 1995-2001, most recently served as vice president for advancement at The College of the Florida Keys, and for the past 17 years also served as executive director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre in Key West, Florida. He previously served as executive director of the Key West Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Wood earned his B.B.A. and M.B.A. in marketing from Mercer's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business, and has a Doctor of Business Administration from the Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University.

MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR

NEW BOOKS



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



DR. DAVID LANE, professor of counseling in the College of Professional Advancement, authored *I Have Questions, Lots and Lots of Questions: A True Story of Christmas* (Bear's Place Publishing).



DR. JAMES DAVIS MAY, assistant professor of English and director of creative writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, authored *Unusually Grand Ideas* (Louisiana State University Press).



KAREN J. SNEDDON, interim dean and professor in the School of Law, co-authored *Developing Professional Skills: Trusts and Estates* (West Academic Publishing 2022).



TENNILLE SHUSTER, associate professor of graphic design in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, published an artist's book *3 Summer Days*.



BEING A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

MERCER PRIORITIZING INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION EXPERIENCES FOR ALL

BY KYLE SEARS

Twentieth-century anthropologists coined the term “liminality” to describe transitional moments when people become separated from their previously held identity, beliefs and habits and have the opportunity to become someone completely new.



U

niversity Minister and Dean of Chapel

Dr. Craig McMahan believes the concept of liminality encapsulates why the University has prioritized international experiences to push students beyond their literal and metaphorical borders.

“It’s like driving to the grocery store that you’ve done 1,000 times. You stop paying attention, because it’s just down the street,” said Dr. McMahan. “But if you’re having to drive to the grocery store in Vietnam, you have to pay attention to every meter that your car or scooter is driving because you don’t know where you’re going. Everything is in front of you to be understood as a blank slate, brand new, and so that creates a much richer learning



Dr. McMahan

LEAH YETTER PHOTO

environment for students.”

“Being a Global University” is among the seven imperatives of Mercer’s current 10-year strategic plan, launched in 2018, which calls for developing new and additional study abroad opportunities for students, as well as increasing the number of students participating in Mercer On Mission, the University’s distinctive service-learning and study abroad initiative launched in 2007 by Dr. McMahan.

“Mercer has the opportunity, if not the obligation, to help our students expand their horizons, both metaphorically in the sense of personal growth and literally in the sense of moving beyond their comfort zone into new environments and encounters with new cultures and different people,” said **Dr. David A. Davis**, director of fellowships and scholarships and professor of English. “In that process, our students transform from being focused primarily on themselves to thinking about others, and this is how Mercer helps students find their way to change the world.”

Mercer On Mission, Peace Corps Prep, the Fulbright Program, the Gilman Scholarship and various international faculty-led and exchange programs through the Office of Global Engagement provide accessible, meaningful opportunities for global learning to all students.

“Global education is really at the forefront of our recruiting process,” said **Felix Jelen**, assistant vice president for global engagement.



Dr. Davis

“I think this is one of the reasons why we saw an uptick in overall enrollment through the pandemic, which speaks to how our values really resonate with students.”

On the verge of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mercer saw all-time highs in the number of students enrolled in faculty-led study abroad, traditional exchange and Mercer On Mission experiences. Approximately 500 students participated in these programs during the 2019-2020 academic

year, up 40% from just four years earlier and exponentially from previous decades.

“Over the past 15 years, I’ve seen international programs go from being occasional experiences, primarily as individual students taking advantage of abroad programs, to becoming large cohort programs where now hundreds of students are going abroad each year through Mercer On Mission, faculty-led summer programs and semester-long exchange programs with our partners from around the world,” said Dr. Davis.

With strict travel limitations during the 2021-22 year, the University’s commitment to providing its distinctive educational experience through in-person learning informed by carefully developed health and safety protocols resulted in Mercer resuming international programs earlier than most in higher education. A total of 363 students participated in international programs in 2021-22 at a time when study abroad opportunities were still very limited.

“Running study abroad was a very, very edgy move in 2021-22, but it really showed the commitment of the University to the Mercer experience,” said Jelen. “Now we’re in a position where we’re ready to go, when a lot of other universities in the country are just putting their toes back in the water this year.”

Jelen anticipates participation in 2022-23 to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels — and likely beyond.

“We expect this to be a record-breaking year,” he said. “I think that there is a strong desire that has been stoked during the pandemic when people weren’t able to move as much. Part of the Mercer experience that our students were looking for when we recruited them was this international piece.”

Mercer’s recent success is reflected in a record five Mercerians who were selected in 2021-22 to participate in the Fulbright Program,

“**M**ERCER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY, IF NOT THE OBLIGATION, TO HELP OUR STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS, *both metaphorically in the sense of personal growth and literally in the sense of moving beyond their comfort zone into new environments and encounters with new cultures and different people.*” — **Dr. David Davis**

Jelen



the nation's flagship international education program. They are among a total of 30 students and alumni who have received Fulbright Awards since 2010.

The University ranked fourth nationally among Peace Corps Prep certificate-issuing programs in 2021, just three years after Mercer was selected to participate in the program to enhance students' undergraduate experience by preparing them for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service.

Perhaps most importantly, Mercer was recognized this fall as the top producer of Benjamin A. Gilman Scholars among U.S. institutions with fewer than 5,000

undergraduate students. Gilman Scholarships expand access and equity in study abroad and international internship opportunities among students with high financial need.

The University prides itself on providing access to international experiences to all students through emphasis on the Gilman Scholarship, as well as subsidizing Mercer On Mission and other international experiences through programs like the Office of Global Engagement's Global Leader Scholarships.

"Mercer's approach to internationalization is consistent with our overall values," said Jelen. "Institutions tend to view international students as sources of revenue, while Mercer has looked at them as how can they contribute to the overall community of learning and engagement. And I'd say the same about how we think about sending students abroad. The number of Gilman Scholars, Global Leader Scholars and institutional scholarships is atypical because usually study abroad and global education is something that's available to people who have the means to pay for it. With our programs, there's been a commitment to keeping access open regardless of socioeconomic status."

STUDY ABROAD

A TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE
FOR MERCER STUDENTS

BY JENNIFER FALK

As a public health major, **Abigail Yemisrach** knew the general concepts and theories behind health care systems, but navigating the health care system in France as a study abroad student gave her a new perspective and deeper understanding of the topic.

"I had a lot of experiences immersing myself in a culture, in a completely different environment, for one, but also doing it in a different language," she said. "It



Yemisrach

abroad offerings, while others discovered opportunities they didn't know existed. In some cases, students said their study abroad experiences changed the course of their college education.

As a minority student who came from a low-income family, Yemisrach said she never thought studying abroad was possible for her. With help from the Office of Global Engagement, she applied for and won a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad.

"Study abroad really changed the trajectory of my life," said Yemisrach, who, before studying abroad, planned to pursue a Master of Public Health and apply her skills at home. "I just feel a calling to foreign work or service work down the line after going to France this past summer."

Fellow Gilman Scholars **Savannah Granito**, a senior majoring in art history, and **Nyiah Kelley**, a junior double-majoring in biology and women's and gender studies, said they were deeply impacted by their study abroad experiences.

Granito said she experienced immense personal growth during her study abroad trip to London, where she worked as an intern in the marketing department of the Museum of Architecture. During the eight-week program, she worked on three exhibitions: Gingerbread City in Toronto, Nature's Architects trail in London and an international treehouse design competition.

made me experience firsthand some of the concepts and terminologies that I'm studying in my public health courses."

Yemisrach, a senior who added a French major after studying abroad in summer 2022, said the experience especially helped her understand the complexities and challenges immigrants face in figuring out health care systems abroad.

"I don't think I would have been able to empathize with that experience had I not been in France this past summer," she said.

Many Mercer students who participate in study abroad say the experience enhances their knowledge of course material and gives them greater understanding of people from other cultures.

Some came to the University specifically for its study



Granito, second from left

“Putting yourself into a culture and experience where you can’t just drive home, or you can’t just call your parents immediately because you’re an eight-plus-hour flight away and you’re a five-hour time difference, forces you in the best way to become just a little bit more of an adult and feel a little bit more ready for the real world,” Granito said.

Study abroad has allowed her to chase after her bigger dreams, which include having a career in the marketing department of an international museum in the United States or abroad, she said.

Kelley said her study abroad experience in Morocco impacted her educational career by making her more aware of different opinions, cultures and ideas.

“I was able to see how very similar people in that area are to us. We have many differences but so many similarities, and oftentimes we portray other societies as inferior to ours,” Kelley said.

She also noticed some harmful effects of imposing Western ideas on other cultures. Moroccan women often struggled with living up to the standards of Western culture as well as their own, she said.

“It’s interesting to explore how they have to act more Western or try to do all these things to prove their freedom to Western women, to prove they’re not oppressed in their culture,” she said.

Ally Brooks, a senior English major, said one of the reasons she chose Mercer was because of its study abroad opportunities. In spring 2022, she studied film at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England.

As part of her classes, she made her own short film, which included filming, sound recording and editing. Outside of her coursework, Brooks

traveled Europe, including trips to Italy, Malta and Wales.

Before studying abroad, she planned on moving to New York or another big U.S. city. Now she plans to move to the United Kingdom.

“I learned that being in the U.K. feels like home to me. I am planning on moving there as soon as possible after I graduate,” said Brooks, who wants to work in publishing or film. “I would never have learned that if I stayed in Macon.”

Ben Stewart, a junior majoring in neuroscience, also chose Mercer for its study abroad opportunities, particularly Mercer On Mission.

“The idea that I would have the opportunity to serve in that kind of a capacity as an undergrad was absolutely a testament to the importance of service in Mercer’s undergraduate culture,” he said.

In summer 2022, Stewart went on a Mercer On Mission trip to Guyana, where he worked with a team to help make artisanal and small-scale gold



Kelley, center

mining safer. There, he learned how to work collaboratively and solve problems in an unpredictable environment.

"It's so much different than anything in the lab," he said. "If you made a mistake, it was a lot bigger deal because you could get somebody hurt. You could offend somebody and mess up the whole project.

"There's a lot more at stake, and there's a lot more responsibility when you're in Guyana versus in the lab in Macon."

Stewart said the experience made him realize the importance of service. As a pre-med student, he's considering going into internal medicine or primary care because of the capacity to help in those fields. And while he always wanted



"PUTTING YOURSELF INTO A CULTURE AND EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU CAN'T JUST DRIVE

HOME, or you can't just call your parents immediately because you're an eight-plus-hour flight away and you're a five-hour time difference, forces you in the best way to become just a little bit more of an adult and feel a little bit more ready for the real world." — **Savannah Granito**



to serve locally, he now has a greater desire to serve abroad as well.

Mercer On Mission also helped shape the career plans of **Mattie McKinzie**, a senior majoring in biomedical engineering. In summer 2022, she went on a trip to Cambodia, where she was part of a team that helped fit amputees with prosthetics.

"It solidified that I really want to go into rehab engineering and focus on prosthetics because I got to see what huge impact giving somebody the ability to walk again or feed themselves again had," she said. "I just want to keep doing that for the rest of my life."



McKinzie, right

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

ALUMNI DISCOVER CAREERS IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, EDUCATION

BY ANDREA HONAKER

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ercer encourages students and new graduates to see the world and provides a host of opportunities for them to do so. While traveling abroad, they have their horizons expanded and their eyes opened to once unimaginable possibilities for their futures.

For some Mercerians, that exposure ignites an interest in careers related to international

affairs and education. This global view has led alumni to jobs as U.S. diplomats, university study abroad coordinators, White House staff and more.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Many alumni traveled outside the United States for the first time as Mercer students.

Alumna **Johna Wright**, who has a visual disability, said she never saw herself as someone who could study or volunteer abroad. So, she was anxious and hesitant when she embarked on a Mercer On Mission trip to South Africa in 2018.

“Once I got there and was able to start doing my service work, it started to all fade away, and it felt like I belonged in the group,” said Wright, a 2020 psychology graduate who became the global education programs coordinator for Mercer’s Office of Global Engagement in fall 2022. “That got the ball rolling and started my love and passion for study abroad and international education in general.”

She spent the next summer in Sweden through the Gilman Scholarship and a semester in England as a Global Leader Scholar. Following graduation, she earned her master’s degree in comparative social policy and welfare in Finland through a Fulbright Award.

Wright’s experiences abroad combined her passions for disability rights and advocacy with her interests in global politics and international education. She now advises Mercer students on study abroad opportunities.

“Every experience I had pointed me in the direction of

international education,” she said. “I’m very excited to contribute to the university that gave me so many opportunities and built me into the person I am today.”

Hoor Qureshi, a 2019 graduate who double-majored in global health studies and global development studies, moved to the United States from Pakistan at age 3, but she didn’t travel abroad



Wright



Qureshi

again until she was a Mercer student. A trip to Pakistan as a sophomore sparked her desire for more travel, and with her first global development course, she was hooked on learning more about the world through academic study.

"It all just spiraled from there," she said. "I wanted to keep traveling and doing it from the perspective of cultural immersion and experiential learning, not just tourism."

Qureshi participated in the eight-day Kakehashi exchange program in Japan, a Mercer On Mission trip to South Africa and a spring break trip to

Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She was also a finalist for a Fulbright Award to South Africa.

"It's really incredible to put yourself in a different place than you're used to," Qureshi said. "It forces you to learn things like resiliency."

Following graduation, she served as a life skills educator for the Peace Corps in Botswana until March 2020, when her assignment was cut short by the pandemic.

Back in the United States, she took a position on the online communications team for the Joe Biden presidential campaign and then Jon Ossoff's U.S. Senate runoff campaign in Georgia. In January 2021, Qureshi became chief of staff for the White House's Office of Digital Strategy, which oversees presidential and White House social



Harden, top right

media accounts and [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

“The ability to go with whatever is thrown at me is something I learned from all the trips I took. I like to be busy and have hands in different projects,” Qureshi said.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Bryant Harden was solely interested in American politics when he began his studies at Mercer, but his focus changed to international relations after a Mercer On Mission trip to South Africa.

“That program was literally a 180 in my life focus,” said the 2010 political science graduate. “The day I landed [back in the U.S.], I started my application for the Peace Corps.”

Harden taught English in Mongolia for two-and-a-half years with the Peace Corps and then earned a master’s degree in international relations in England. He returned to Mercer for three years as the study abroad coordinator and an instructor for INT 301: Engaging the World and Introduction to International Relations.

Inspired by his experience as a student, he developed a Mercer On Mission program to Mongolia. The first trip occurred in 2019, and the second is planned for 2023.

“Exposing our students to other people, histories, culture, focus and locations is the point of our education,” said Harden, who is now

“**E**VERY EXPERIENCE
I HAD POINTED ME
IN THE DIRECTION
OF INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION.

I’m very excited to contribute to the university that gave me so many opportunities and built me into the person I am today.” — Johna Wright

a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida and became a visiting instructor of political science at Mercer in fall 2022.

Will Darragh also helped to create a new Mercer On Mission program. The 2020 computer science graduate said study abroad opportunities helped solidify his decision to go to Mercer. He went on spring break trips to Puerto Rico and Sicily, Italy, and a Mercer On Mission trip to South Africa.

Seeing a need for computer science education for children during the South Africa trip, Darragh collaborated with computer science professor and chair **Dr. Bob Allen** to start a new Mercer On Mission program in Cape Town. Darragh served in a leadership role for the inaugural trip in 2019, and the second trip was hosted this past summer.

"That is so amazing to me, that something that I did at Mercer is still going on and will potentially keep going on," Darragh said.

In summer 2020, Darragh was selected for a Fulbright Award to serve as an English teaching assistant in South Africa. The program was postponed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and canceled in 2022, so Darragh was instead deployed to Botswana in January. After his 10-month assignment, he plans to enroll in a Ph.D. program and become a professor and

international researcher, a career focus that his Mercer On Mission experiences helped him define.

"I wanted to find something that meshed well with my desire to do something impactful in the world and work the soft skill side of computer science," he said. "I realized that what I really want to do is study computer science education from the perspective of underserved communities."

COMBINING INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

Travel experiences while at Mercer helped pave the way for the diplomatic work that alumni like **Donald Williams Jr.** and **Aaron Scherf** are now doing.

Williams, a 2020 graduate who double-majored in international business and economics, did a month-long trip to Spain, supported by Gilman and Fund for Education Abroad scholarships, and participated in the Kakehashi exchange program in Japan. He said those



Dr. Allen, left; Darragh, right

“**T**HAT IS SO
AMAZING TO ME, *that*
something that I did at Mercer is still
going on and will potentially keep
going on.” — Will Darragh

experiences introduced him to the role of a U.S. Foreign Service Officer.

“You have to challenge yourself in order to grow, and study abroad is a surefire way to do that,” he said.

Williams was selected to participate in the six-week Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program in Washington, D.C. Then through the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, he earned a master’s degree in international economic policy before beginning his work as an economics officer for the U.S. Foreign Service.

He wrapped up his first overseas assignment in Panama in September and will go to Mexico this summer.



Scherf, left



Williams

“The three things I enjoyed — business, international affairs and economics — this job allows me to mix it all and use all the skills I learned,” Williams said. “I love it. I’m able to work on topics that really matter.”

Scherf, a 2017 graduate who triple-majored in international business, finance and economics, became interested in travel and international issues as a child growing up in a multicultural household.

Scherf’s first trips overseas happened at Mercer and were made possible through support from the Stamps Scholarship. Scherf spent a semester studying abroad in Sweden and participated in a Mercer On Mission trip and internship in South Africa. Following a month-long Humanity in Action Fellowship in Amsterdam after graduation, they conducted research in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar.

“I didn’t see myself as an academic at the time, but that year really helped me understand the importance of research in shaping policy and public administration,” Scherf said.

It was Scherf’s experiences at Mercer that ultimately led them to apply for the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship, which helped fund graduate study and placed Scherf in a position as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) upon graduation in summer 2020.

Scherf has been stationed in Colombia since January 2022, their first overseas assignment. The main focus of their work is helping to integrate gender equality, anti-racism and participatory methods into USAID’s development activities.

“All the volunteering, community engagement and applied research I did at Mercer were what made me a potential candidate for the Foreign Service,” Scherf said.

ASPIRE CAMPAIGN GOAL INCREASED TO HALF-BILLION DOLLARS

Launched during Homecoming in 2014, *Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University*, seeks to provide financial resources that will empower Mercer, already emerging among the Southeast's elite private research universities, to become an international leader in applying its intellectual capital to better serve the needs of humankind.

In anticipation of meeting the initial campaign goal of \$400 million by the end of 2022, the University's Board of Trustees voted in November to maintain the positive momentum by extending the goal to \$500 million. To date, the money raised through the campaign has helped the University complete or get underway more than **\$150 million in construction projects**, as well as fund more than **400 endowed scholarships**, **15 endowed centers or institutes**, nearly **100 endowed program enhancement funds** and **30 endowed faculty chairs and professorships**.

"Mercer alumni, friends, faculty, staff, foundations and other organizations have been exceedingly generous in their support of *Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University*," said President **William D. Underwood**. "We still see great enthusiasm among our constituents for the kind of impact Mercer and its people are having on our communities and our world, so we believe there is even more support in the pipeline for the work we are doing."



A S P I R E
THE CAMPAIGN
for
MERCER UNIVERSITY





Godsey Science Center



Mercer Music at
Capricorn



Tattnall Square Center for the Arts



C onstruction and/or Major Renovation

Projects Completed or Underway:

- Bell House and Jennings Salon for the McDuffie Center for Strings
- Betts Stadium
- Cruz Plaza
- Five Star Stadium
- Spearman C. Godsey Science Center
- Hawkins Arena
- McEachern Art Center
- Mercer Innovation Center (Hugh F. Smisson III Complex)
- Mercer Music at Capricorn
- Moyer Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center
- OrthoGeorgia Park
- Roberts Academy
- Savannah Medical Education and Research Building Addition
- School of Medicine Columbus Campus
- Sikes Field at the Skelton Complex
- Stenbridge Center for Student Success
- Swilley Library Renovations
- Jack Tarver Library Renovations
- Tattnell Square Center for the Arts

Other Projects/Centers/Institutes/Endowments/ Operational Funds:

- Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership
- The Center for Collaborative Journalism
- Cecil Day Family Center for International Groundwater Innovation
- The Nathan Deal Scholars Program
- Fabian Center for Musical Excellence
- Griffith Scholars Program
- Haggard Scholars Program
- Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies
- Thomas C. and Ramona E. McDonald Center for the Advancement of Global Education
- The Thomas C. and Ramona E. McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles
- Phil and Alice Sheridan Center at Mercer for Mercer On Mission
- Stamps Scholars Program
- Dr. Glen Stassen Center

All gifts received during the campaign timeframe are used to calculate the totals. All unrestricted gifts (Mercer Athletic Foundation, school/college annual funds), restricted gifts (endowed funds, scholarships, etc.) and in-kind contributions are counted in a comprehensive campaign. In addition, certain planned gifts/pledges such as charitable trusts/annuities/life estates/wills are counted using formulas based upon a donor's age. These and other campaign guidelines are consistent with best practice policies employed at member institutions of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. The figures listed do not include state support for the School of Medicine or state or federal research funding.

Visit aspire.mercer.edu to learn more about Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University.



A S P I R E

THE CAMPAIGN
for
MERCER UNIVERSITY



McEachern Art Center



Center for Collaborative Journalism



Deal Scholars Program



Bell House and Jennings Salon
for the McDuffie Center for Strings



OrthoGeorgia Park



Cruz Plaza



MERCER UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2023

Save the Date for November 10-11, 2023!

Homecoming 2023 will feature dozens of events designed to help you reconnect with friends and rekindle your fondness for the Mercer you remember. Featured events for the weekend include our traditional Half Century Club Celebration; recognition of the Anniversary Classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2013; alumni career speaker series; alumni and friends awards dinner; pep rally; fireworks; campus-wide tailgating; Saturday football game; and much more. Mark your calendars now to cheer on the Bears. We can't wait to see you there!

For more information and to view photos from last year, visit homecoming.mercer.edu.





BEARS ROUNDUP



BEARS 'RAISE THE BAR' AGAIN

**2022 SEASON CAST
MERCER FOOTBALL INTO THE
EYES OF THE FCS NATIONWIDE**

W

hen Head Coach **DREW CRONIC** arrived on the Mercer campus in the spring of 2020 — even amid the breakout of a pandemic — he encouraged his football team to “Love, Compete and Believe.”

The result of that repeated catch phrase was for the Bears to “Raise the Bar.” The phrase is ingrained in practically everything the squad does, including etched on the apparel they wear.

Cronic, in his third season at the helm, again led the Bears to “Raise the Bar” in 2022. The season may well be remembered as the year when Mercer football was among the hot topics of the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). **The Bears were nationally ranked every week of the season** and finished at No. 21, **multiple players were among the leaders in national statistical categories** and **several were recognized with post-season accolades.**

The receiving corps of **TY JAMES** and **DEVRON HARPER** could arguably be labeled as **the best 1-2 receiver duo in all of the FCS.**

AMONG THE 2022 SEASON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Bears finished the season **7-4 and 5-3** in the SoCon.
- The team achieved the highest ranking in school history at **No. 11 in the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll**.
- The Bears had the **best scoring offense in the SoCon**, averaging 38.2 points per game.
- The offensive line was excellent all season, giving up a **conference low 10 sacks** on the year.
- The Bears had **12 players named All-SoCon** by the coaches or media.
- Mercer led the SoCon in home game attendance with an average **10,605 fans per home game**.
- Mercer's **defense led the nation in interceptions** with 17 on the season.
- The defense gave up a **conference low 28 total touchdowns** on the season.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES WERE ALSO IMPRESSIVE:

- **QUARTERBACK FRED PAYTON** had the most prolific passing season of any quarterback in Mercer history, setting the **school record for single-season passing yards (3,019), passing yards in a game (514), single season passing touchdowns (32), and passing touchdowns in a game (5)**. He **led the conference and finished fifth in the FCS in passing efficiency** with a 172.1 rating, and his **32 passing touchdowns were fourth most in the nation**.
- **DEVRON HARPER** was named to the **Athlon Sports All-America First Team** as an all-purpose player, was a unanimous **First Team All-SoCon** selection by the coaches and media and was named **AP Third Team All-American** as an all-purpose player. Harper was a **Walter Payton Award Finalist (FCS Offensive Player of the Year)** and finished the season with a **conference-leading 16 total touchdowns**, including 10 receiving, four rushing touchdowns, one kickoff return for a touchdown and a punt return for a touchdown. He finished with a **school record 78 receptions to go with 987 receiving yards**, and his **1,878 all-purpose yards set a school record and ranked fourth in the country**.
- **TY JAMES**, who transferred from Georgia, was named **First Team All-Conference** by the coaches, finished the season with 52 receptions for 1,105 yards and 13 touchdowns and **led the SoCon in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and yards per catch**. His **1,105 receiving yards set a Mercer school record**. In the last game of the season against Samford, James had a record-breaking day, recording **13 receptions for 351 receiving yards and two touchdowns**. His **351 receiving yards were the most by any FCS player during the 2022 regular season** and **set the SoCon record for single game receiving yards**.

Bears Lead SoCon in Honor Roll Selections

Mercer Athletics placed a **league-best 294 student-athletes on the Southern Conference's 2021-22 Academic Honor Roll**, as announced by the league in July.

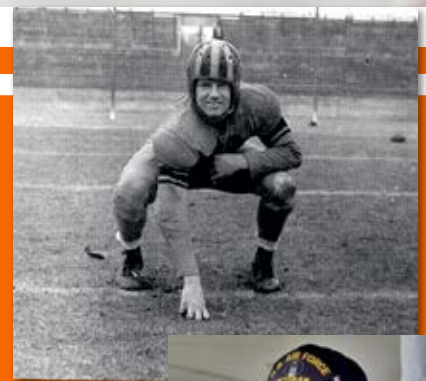
A total of **25 Bears achieved a 4.0 GPA** for the school year.

The academic honor roll originated in 1988-89, when SoCon athletic directors established the award as a way to recognize the league's outstanding student-athletes. It consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports and posted a 3.0 GPA or higher for the academic year, were eligible the entire academic year and were members of the final squad lists. The award is different from the academic all-conference award, which is determined by cumulative GPA and involves a participation requirement.

Remembering... 'PAPPY' BOYNTON

Clarence "Pappy" Boynton, a member of Mercer's 1941 football team, died at age 102 on Dec. 24. The Peachtree City resident served in the Army Air Corps and had a long career with FAA Air Traffic Control at the Atlanta Regional Center. In 2011, he attended the groundbreaking event for Five Star Stadium, and in 2013, he participated in the coin toss and delivered a pep talk to the team before the first game after the football program was reinstated.

Scan with your mobile device to view the complete obituary.



JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY APPROVES LEASE TO ESTABLISH MERCER MEDICINE CLINIC

The Jekyll Island Authority in September approved a lease agreement to establish a Mercer Medicine rural health clinic in the island's Beach Village commercial center.

Mercer Medicine Jekyll Island will operate in a 4,534-square-foot, second-floor space that was originally constructed with intention to house a medical clinic but has mostly remained vacant. The Jekyll Island Authority will fund renovation of the facility to house the clinic, which will offer primary and emergency care seven days per

week, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., during peak summer travel season from May-August and no less than five days per week,

9 a.m.-5 p.m., from September-April. The clinic is expected to open in June 2023.

"We have waited over seven years for the right partner to fill this need on Jekyll Island," said Jones Hooks, executive director of the Jekyll Island Authority. "We are looking forward to this partnership to bring Mercer's medical expertise to serve and support the island's needs."

As an outcome of a successful decade of revitalization, the island has experienced significant residential growth and leisure visitation, resulting in an increased demand for this type of service.

"We are honored to partner with the Jekyll Island Authority," said **Jean Sumner**, M.D., FACP, dean of Mercer School of Medicine. "We look forward to bringing high-quality primary health care to the residents of and visitors to this treasured rural area of Georgia."

Mercer Medicine, the faculty practice of Mercer School of Medicine, operates a multi-specialty medical practice in downtown Macon.

In July 2018, Mercer Medicine expanded outside of Macon by opening a rural clinic in Plains at the request of former U.S. President and Mercer Life Trustee **Jimmy Carter**. At the dedication ceremony for the clinic, Mercer President **William D. Underwood** said Mercer Medicine Plains "represents part of a broad-ranging initiative by the University to transform access to health care in

this state" and would serve as a model for additional rural health clinics around the state.

Building off that successful launch, and in order to continue delivering on its commitment to meet the health care needs of rural Georgians, Mercer opened rural health clinics in Peach County in October 2019, Clay County in November 2020, Putnam County in March 2021 and Harris County in April 2022. Mercer Medicine Jekyll Island, within Glynn County, will be the University's sixth such clinic.



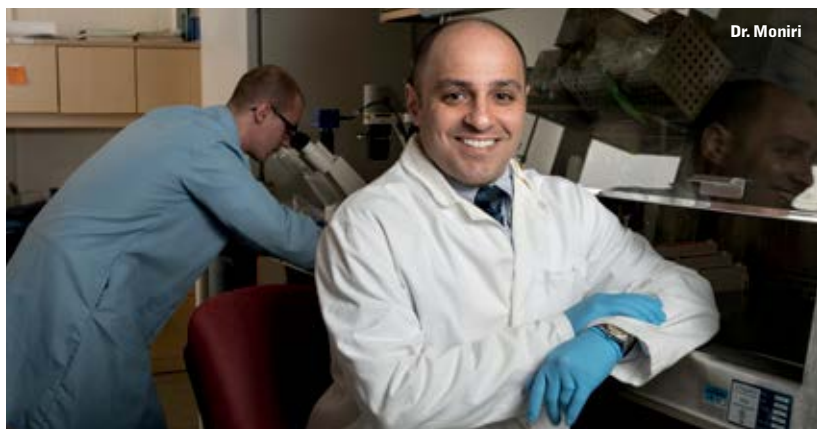
PHARMACY RESEARCHER RECEIVES NIH GRANT TO STUDY HOW INHALED ASTHMA MEDICATIONS FAIL OVER TIME

Nader Moniri, Ph.D., associate dean of research in the College of Pharmacy, received renewed funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue studying a key reason as to why common inhalation medications to treat asthma often become ineffective. The grant renewal

of \$424,500, over three years, from the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute will allow Dr. Moniri and his research team to continue examining how beta-2 receptor agonists, when inhaled for the fast rescue of asthma, stop working over time. His team believes tolerance to these drugs occurs due to oxidative stress in the lungs.

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease of the lungs characterized by airway obstruction and spasms of the muscles that line the airway. The gold standard treatment for asthma since the 1970s is an inhaler, containing a beta-2 adrenergic receptor agonist drug, like albuterol or formoterol, that relaxes the airways and reduces bronchospasms. Over time these inhaled drugs often become ineffective for patients. The lungs contain reactive oxygen species, or ROS, which are natural byproducts of oxygen metabolism. While a certain level of ROS is normal, in asthma there is an overabundance of ROS, which contributes to constricting the

muscles and exacerbating inflammation. The beta-2 agonists in inhalation medications relax the muscles in the airway by activating beta-2 receptors, however, over time — sometimes in just weeks or months — the medications stop working for patients. ROS oxidizes the drug's beta-2 receptors, and the Moniri research team previously determined that while the beta-2 receptors need some levels of ROS oxidation to function, it now believes that over-oxidation of the beta-2 receptors by ROS in asthma continues to such a point that the agonist drugs become ineffective.



CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY RECEIVES \$1.2 MILLION GRANT TO ADDRESS OPIOID USE IN RURAL AND URBAN GEORGIA

The College of Health Professions has been awarded more than \$1.2 million by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to train health service clinical psychologists to address opioid use and other unmet behavioral health needs across rural and urban Georgia. HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce provided the grant, in the amount of \$1,267,867, to the College's Department of Clinical Psychology to fund nine Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) students each year from 2022-2025.

Fellows will be trained to provide interdisciplinary, integrated behavioral health for Opioid Use Disorder and

pain management in community-based primary care settings and will be encouraged to pursue careers and service opportunities in rural and other underserved areas. **Gail Kemp**, Ph.D., MPH, assistant professor of clinical psychology, and **Craig Marker**, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Psychology, will serve as co-principal investigators for the grant. **Davielle Lakind**, Ph.D., assistant professor of clinical psychology, will also be involved in the fellowship training process.



Dr. Kemp



Dr. Marker

GEORGIA RURAL HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER RESEARCHERS UNCOVER 'CRISIS LEVEL' STRESS FACED BY STATE'S FARMERS

A new study conducted by the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, housed in Mercer School of Medicine, and the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture sheds light on the overwhelming stress faced by those who work in Georgia's largest industry. Agriculture contributes nearly \$70 billion annually to Georgia's economy, according

to the University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development. Georgia Farm Bureau indicates that one in seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry or related fields. Despite the massive impact of farming across the state, researchers **Stephanie Basey, Dr. Anne Montgomery, Ben West, Chris Scoggins and Lily Baucom** found very few studies on the overall mental health of farmers. One previous study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that of 130 occupations across the U.S.,

farming had the highest rate of death caused by stress-related conditions and psychiatric disorders, as well as the third-highest suicide rate.

"I don't think anybody would argue that farming is stressful," said Basey, a doctoral candidate in MUSM's Ph.D. in Rural Health Sciences program. "We had heard about mental health trainings for specific professions, but we couldn't find a baseline for farmer mental health or well-being to inform what that training should look like for farmers. What are their stressors? What are their coping mechanisms?"

The research team conducted its pilot study from May-June 2021. An online survey, completed by 500 farmers, confirmed that farming is a stressful occupation and that farmers' stressors are varied and many. Based on these findings, the researchers launched a more detailed survey in January 2022 that was completed by 1,651 farmers through the end of April.

Within these studies, the term "farmer" refers to farm owners, farm managers, farmworkers, spouses and other farm-related roles such as accountants. The larger study included representative samples by role, race, gender, age and region of the state. Across all farmers surveyed, 82% reported a moderate level of stress according to the Perceived Stress Scale, a widely used assessment instrument that places respondents in one of three categories: low, moderate or high perceived stress. Additionally, 49% reported being sad or depressed, 47% reported experiencing loneliness, 39% reported feeling hopeless and 29% reported thinking of dying by suicide at least once per month.

Breaking down the responses based on specific criteria provided further insights, such as farm managers and farmworkers are most stressed while farm owners are least stressed. Most shocking is the mental health toll faced by first-generation farmers. Some 61% of first-generation farmers thought about dying by suicide in the past 12 months, compared to 10% of generational farmers. This disparity also exists



DR. DON NAKAYAMA APPOINTED SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN OF MUSM'S COLUMBUS CAMPUS

Renowned pediatric surgeon, researcher and medical educator **Don Nakayama, M.D., MBA**, was appointed senior associate dean of Mercer School of Medicine's Columbus campus and medical director of pediatric surgery at Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital, effective Dec. 1. Dr. Nakayama comes to Columbus from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he most recently served as a clinical professor in the Department of Surgery. He will provide leadership for Mercer's medical campus, which opened its new facility in January 2022 and is in the process of increasing enrollment to match the school's other campuses in Macon and Savannah.



in thinking about suicide at least once per month (46% of first-generation vs. 12% of generational) and thinking about suicide daily (9% of first-generation vs. 1% of generational).

“If people only take one thing from this study, it needs to be the level of stress that first-generation farmers are facing,” added Basey. “We’re at a crisis level.”

The next steps will be to use the resources of the Georgia

Rural Health Innovation Center and Georgia Foundation for Agriculture to hold interviews and focus groups with farmers and ultimately design specific interventions supported by the results of the survey. The researchers have begun to develop academic journal articles and present their findings to local, regional and national organizations focused on agriculture, public health and other related fields.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RECEIVES NIH GRANT TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD IN RURAL GEORGIA



Dr. Rotschafer
and Curry

School of Medicine faculty members **Sarah Rotschafer**, Ph.D., and **Carolann Curry**, MLIS, have received a six-figure grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop education and resources that will lead to early diagnosis and intervention therapies for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in rural Georgia. The grant, in the amount of \$142,500 per year for up to three years, was awarded by the NIH’s National Library of Medicine for the project titled “Autism Spectrum Disorder in Rural Georgia: Education and Resources.”

Dr. Rotschafer and Curry will create an interactive website, called the Autism Toolkit, to help parents with children on the spectrum, adults with ASD and health care providers learn more about ASD and find resources within their communities. Additionally, the researchers will develop strategies to increase awareness and resources among rural Georgia health care providers, who often lack capabilities for ASD treatment and testing.

CLASSNotes

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

1950s

Lt. Gen. Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter, CLAS '55, was inducted into the 2022 Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame. Commissioned as a Regular Army officer in 1995 at Mercer, he has been a longtime public servant who was recognized for devoting more than 50 years of combined military and public service to his country.

The Hon. Richard H. Mills, LAW '57, retired from the bench as United States District Judge in September after 56 years of service. Mills received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Illinois College, where he was a varsity debater and orator. He was on the law review and graduated fourth in his class from Mercer University School of Law, and he received an LL.M. degree from the University of Virginia. He was admitted to the bar in 1957. Mills was Cass County state's attorney from 1960 to 1964, circuit judge of the Illinois Eighth Circuit Court from 1966-1976, and justice of the Illinois Appellate Court Fourth District from 1976-1985, when President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the federal bench. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 19, 1985, his birthday. He assumed senior status on Oct. 7, 1997.

1970s

Cynthia Johnson Connor, TIFT '78, was promoted to full professor of special education at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama.

1980s

Dwight Davis, LAW '82, was elected chairman of the board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Davis has served on the board since 2014. He previously served on both

the Federal and State Judicial Nomination Committees. Davis is a retired senior partner at King & Spalding and was an adjunct professor at Mercer Law from 2013 until 2017. He is currently co-managing partner at King Springs Pecans in Hawkinsville.

Fredrick Gates, BUS '88, professor of history, was appointed chair of the Department of Social Sciences for Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford, Oklahoma, on May 10. Previously, he served as coordinator of SWOSU's national accredited History Education program.

Zachery Seth Mitcham, BUS '80, was named one of "The 10 Most Influential CISOs of the Year 2022" by *CIO Views* and was featured as "An Expert in Solving Technological Issues and Challenges." Mitcham has more than 30 years of experience with the internet, including e-commerce, and has provided top management with strategic advice on a variety of technology issues. After finishing his military duty, he was heavily sought after as an IT specialist. Since then, he has held a variety of jobs with increasing degrees of responsibility in the information technology sector. Mitcham is chief information security officer for North Carolina Central University.

Charles E. Reynolds II, LAW '88, was appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to serve on the state's Judicial Nominating Commission. This body vets and recommends the judicial candidates to the governor for appointment to the bench.

1990s

April Page Aldridge, EDU '96, was named deputy superintendent of teaching and learning for the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). Aldridge previously served as the director of curriculum and instruction for the GaDOE and instructional specialist with the Office of Rural Education. She has more than 25 years of experience in public education, including various roles with the Decatur County School System, including assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, director of assessment, federal programs director, assistant principal, lead

REMEMBERING...

Generous University Supporter

Beverlyn Bond

Beverlyn Bond, of Reynolds, died on Dec. 8. Bond was office manager and executive secretary for 47 years with the Bond family's business, Public Service Telephone Company. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Butler and the Reynolds chapter of General Federation of Women's Clubs. She taught Sunday school, served as church pianist, and sang in the choir. Bond also enjoyed painting, fishing, gardening and loved her grandchildren. Bond's son, Jim, is a 1993 graduate of Mercer's School of Engineering. For more than 45 years, the family has generously supported the University.



Loyal Alumna and Former Law Faculty Member

Deryl Dantzler

Deryl Daugherty Dantzler, CLAS '64, LAW '70, retired law professor and Macon native, died on Dec. 28. Dantzler joined the Mercer faculty in 1978 after eight years of private practice. She taught Trial Practice, Advanced Trial Practice and Problems in Trial Evidence and was active in the Moot Court and Mock Trial programs. Before bringing her interest in skills training to the Law School, Dantzler regularly taught on the faculty for programs sponsored by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA, Southeast Region) and the National College for Criminal Defense (NCCD, Houston). In 1985, after NCCD was discontinued in Houston, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers selected Mercer as the host for its successor, the National Criminal Defense College (NCDC), and appointed Dantzler as dean.



Send your ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MARRIAGES & BIRTHS and IN MEMORY announcements for THE MERCERIAN to ERIN LONES, director of advancement communications, at lones_ep@mercer.edu.

teacher, and classroom teacher. Aldridge has a master's and specialist degree in educational leadership from Georgia College and State University and an Ed.D. degree in educational leadership with a curriculum focus from

the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Aldridge currently serves as president of the Tift College Alumnae Association Board of Directors and is a member of the Tift College of Education Board of Visitors.

The Hon. Michael Boggs, LAW '90, Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice, received the J.W. Fanning Award from Leadership Georgia at its Alumni Awards Gala. The Fanning Award is presented annually to a Georgian



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

WWII Veteran, Physician and Generous Supporter

Dr. Floyd Davis

Dr. **Floyd Lawrence Davis**, of Alpharetta, died on Sept. 10. A veteran of the United States Army Medical Corps during World War II, Floyd's wartime experience inspired him to become an eye surgeon. Floyd earned his Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine – Geneva, Switzerland. During his internship at Crawford Long in Atlanta, Floyd met his wife, Mary Gailmard Davis, BUS '91, while she was an orthopedic nurse. In 1962, the couple returned to Georgia and established their ophthalmology practice of 53 years in East Point and Fayetteville. In 2008, the Davises established the Mary Gailmard Davis Endowed Scholarship to provide scholarships for students enrolled in the College of Nursing or School of Business.



Former First Lady and Generous Supporter

Sandra Deal

Sandra **D. Deal**, former Georgia First Lady, died on Aug. 23. As first lady, Deal promoted community service, volunteerism and literacy initiatives alongside her husband of 56 years, former **Gov. Nathan Deal**

(CLAS '64, LAW '66, HON '03). She launched a statewide campaign called "With a Servant's Heart" in 2011. In 2015, she co-authored a book, *Memories of the Mansion*. Deal's crowning achievement as first lady was reading to more than 250,000 students across every Georgia county in over 1,000 classrooms. Prior to Mrs. Deal's marriage to John Nathan Deal on June 12, 1966, she graduated from Georgia Women's College (Georgia College and State University), where she later returned to earn her master's degree in education. In 2014, the Nathan and Sandra Deal Leadership Development Scholarship was established at Mercer to honor the contributions the former governor and first lady made to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Georgia through their public service.



whose statewide contributions through progressive leadership and service have been broad in

scope and rich in achievement. **Walter Engle III**, LAW '94, was appointed by Florida Gov. Ron

DeSantis to the 10th Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. Engle, of Lakeland,

Florida, is a senior attorney at Publix Super Markets Inc. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and his law degree from Mercer. Engle was appointed for a term ending July 1, 2026.

Jonathan Johnson, BUS '93, began working at Augusta University Medical Center as the director of planning, design, construction and real estate in October.

Richard E. Klein, BUS '97, was recently appointed to the advisory board for The Salvation Army of Omaha, which supports the work of The Salvation Army in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area by providing mission-based leadership and strategic guidance. Klein in the vice chancellor for institutional effectiveness and student success at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Anthony J. Snipes, CLAS '92, was appointed chair of the Missouri City Parks Foundation in July. Snipes previously served as Texas regional director with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), a global nonprofit organization providing cutting-edge medicine and advocacy to more than 1.6 million people in 45 countries and 17 states. A veteran municipal administrator, Snipes retired from public service in 2020 with more than 24 years of service but felt that he still had much to offer not only to the Fort Bend County community but to other areas throughout Texas. His career spans more than 20 years and includes achievements in strategic initiatives that involved budgeting and performance management, public/private partnerships and organizational development. He served as a municipal executive and manager in different capacities for Missouri City, Texas; Austin, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio. In all cities, he implemented proactive programs and led innovative initiatives that set a standard of excellence. In 2020, Snipes was awarded the 2020 Public Official of the Year by the University of Houston.

Mark A. Walter, BUS '92, was recently named director of investments, private client group and private financial adviser

for Truist Investments (formerly SunTrust Investments). He is based in Atlanta and Palm Beach, Florida. Walter has more than 30 years of experience in the investment and advisory services field.

2000s

Ruth J. Beerman, CLAS '04, earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor of communication studies at Randolph-Macon College. Beerman was also named director of the Franklin Debating Society.

Charles P. "Chuck" Efstoration III, LAW '08, was selected as the Majority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives. Efstoration represents House District 104, which includes the Dacula, Lawrenceville, Auburn, Braselton, and Bethlehem areas of Gwinnett County.

Patrick Henry, EDU '05, accepted a position as the associate athletic director for women's basketball at the University of Mississippi. Recognized as one of the best strategic minds in basketball and sports consulting industry, Henry has more than two decades of experience in athletics. He has worked at the high school, junior college, Division III, Division II and Division I levels as an assistant coach, at the professional level as an advanced scout and a sports industry and executive coaching consultant since 2015.

James Michael Lavender Jr., LAW '02, was named associate dean of the Mike Cottrell College of Business at the University of North Georgia.

Christopher Lockwood, CLAS '05, was named a partner on the government contracts team of Womble Bond Dickinson in Huntsville, Alabama. Lockwood focuses his practice on government contracts and business litigation.

Donna Olivia Seals Maye, EDU '07, a teaching consultant with Teaching and Learning Concepts LLC, authored two books: *Grateful for Grace: Reflections on Caring for Mom* (Donna Olivia, 2021) and *I Can Do My Ballet* (Olivia D'Josef, 2008).

Crystal Wright Ricks, EDU '07, '08, was selected as a Department of Defense (DoD) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Ambassador for the 2022-23 school year. As an educator recognized with the DoD STEM Ambassador award, Ricks will partner with the Defense STEM Education Consortium to advance STEM outreach. This prestigious cohort of DoD STEM Ambassadors will collaborate, create, and curate resources to support STEM educators across the nation in implementing high-quality STEM learning for all students. Ricks is coordinator of advanced learning for Calvert County Public Schools.

Dr. Alexander Sapp, MED '05, joined Cookeville Regional Medical Center in Cookeville, Tennessee, as its newest vascular surgeon.

Christopher M. "Chris" Thomas, CLAS '00, was named vice president — Georgia for the American Cancer Society (ACS). In his role as the state's senior-most executive, Thomas leads a team focused on development and mission impact. Prior to joining ACS, Thomas was a teacher, school administrator, and he has held a variety of sales, operations and instructor positions within the fitness industry. He is a member of the CLAS Alumni Advisory Board and holds a Master of Education from Emory University.

Frank E. Wood, BUS '00, '01, was named executive director of Macon's historic Grand Opera House in October. Wood was director of arts marketing and communications at Mercer from 1995-2001. Before returning to Macon, he was vice president for advancement at The College of the Florida Keys, and for the past 17 years has also served as executive director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre in Key West, Florida. He previously served as executive director of the Key West Symphony Orchestra.

Rebecca Young, LAW '08, was named deputy administrative officer for Baltimore County in Maryland. Most recently, Young served for more than seven years as executive director of

the Baltimore City Environmental Control Board. She has also served as a prosecutor with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office.

Matthew W. Younce, CLAS '00, graduated with a Master of Science in data science and analytics (geospatial analytics emphasis) from the University of Missouri in December 2021.

2010s

Tiffani Elise Alexander, CLAS '19, a documentary film director, had her documentary "The Tale of 2 Music Cities" selected for two film festivals. The film was featured in the Bentonville Film Festival in Arkansas in June and the Macon Film Festival in August. Alexander was the director and co-producer for the film, which involved a team of about 15 others, mostly fellow film students.

Ken Blair, COPA '14, was named director of strategic initiatives at Wesleyan College. In this new position for the College, Blair will work closely with the college president to develop new projects and strategies for growth. Blair has spent the last eight years as an innovative, energetic, student success-focused professional leader in higher education. Since 2020, Blair has served as the director of the first-year experience (FYE) program at Wesleyan College. Blair began his career at Mercer in 2014, where he served as an associate director in the office of student financial planning. He joined Mercer's student affairs department in 2017, serving as an educational specialist, academic coordinator and adviser for the University's TRIO programs. Blair currently serves as one of the co-chairs for the Mercer University African American Alumni Association. Blair received the 2022 MaconIt Award at the 7th Annual MaconIt Success Ceremony in July. MaconIt is a nonprofit organization that works to provide social and financial support services for college students in Macon.

Janene D. Browder, BUS '09, LAW '12, joined Primerica Inc. as an assistant general counsel.

REMEMBERING...

Loyal Alumnus and Generous Supporter

Bob Dickey

Robert Lee "Bob" Dickey II, CLAS '50, of Macon, died on Nov. 16. Dickey and his wife of 74 years, Jane Rembert Mobley, moved to Musella where he joined his family's farming operation. Dickey was very proud of continuing Dickey Farms' tradition of growing the sweetest peaches in the south for 125 years. Dickey was elected as a Crawford County Commissioner and served as chairman. He was a member of Macon Rotary Club for 45 years, where he was a past president and a Will Watt Fellow. He and other friends started Macon Bank and Trust, which was later purchased by Wachovia Bank, where he served as a board member.



Dickey was a longtime member and past president of Idle Hour Country Club. He was a board member and past president of the South Central Farm Credit.



Loyal Alumnus, Former Trustee and Generous Supporter

Homer Drake

He Hon. Walter Homer Drake Jr., CLAS '54, LAW '56, loyal alumnus and U.S. bankruptcy judge, died on Dec. 9. Drake served as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1959. He practiced law for several years before being appointed as United States Bankruptcy Judge in 1964 for the Northern District of Georgia. He served as Chief Judge from 1968 to 1976 and stepped down to become a partner in the law firm of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers. In 1979, he resumed his career as a bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Georgia until his retirement in 2021. He was the longest serving bankruptcy judge in United States history and one of the longest serving federal judges. His love for Mercer was evident in his commitment of service to the University. He served on the Mercer University Board of Trustees from 2009-2011 and was named a Life Trustee in 2013. Drake received the Mercer Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Mercer Law School in 2003 and the University Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2017. In 2012, Mercer recognized his commitment to the University by naming the Athletic Field House for Homer and Ruth Drake.



Dr. Andrew Carlone, MED '16, recently joined the surgical team at Associates in Orthopedics

and Sports Medicine, located in Dalton and Calhoun. Dr. Carlone specializes in hip and

knee replacement surgery, including primary and revision joint replacement.

Distinguished Nursing Alumna

Colleen Karanovich

Colleen Rand Karanovich, NUR '80, of Lithia Springs, died on Dec. 7. While a student at Georgia Baptist Hospital's School of Nursing and throughout her career, Karanovich developed a love for continuing education of her fellow nurses and quality patient care. She became a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) in 1997 and went on to serve more than 40 years across Atlanta's most prominent healthcare systems and physician practices. In recognition of her distinguished career, she was recently inducted into the Hall of Honor for Excellence in Clinical Nursing Practice at Mercer. Her family established the Colleen Rand Karanovich Endowed Scholarship at Mercer's College of Nursing in memory of Karanovich and to inspire the next generation of nurses.



Loyal Alumna and Generous Supporter

Ramona McDonald

Ramona Ellington McDonald, TIFT '52, of Vancouver, Washington, died on Nov. 4. McDonald was an elementary school teacher in Lithonia, where she met her husband, Thomas C. McDonald. The couple married in 1954, and McDonald became a full-time homemaker and community volunteer. During their 68 years of marriage, they lived in 10 states across the country. In 2012, the McDonalds established the Ramona E. and Thomas C. McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles and the Ramona E. and Thomas C. McDonald Center for Advancement of Global Education at Mercer.



Jake Carroll, LAW '14, was promoted to partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in its Atlanta office. **Meredith Williams Chilauskay**, LAW '10, joined Campbell Law in Raleigh, North Carolina, as assistant director of academic support in September. Chilauskay will work to support the assistant dean

of academic support and bar success to provide individual counseling and academic guidance for students as well as administer group programs and seminars designed for academic enhancement. She will also help launch a Bar Success program for all Campbell Law graduates and alumni.

R. Michael Green, BUS '14, was recognized as a "Top 35 Under 35" Award Winner for 2022 by Gwinnett Young Professionals (GYP). Gwinnett is a Georgia county of almost 1 million residents, with a thriving business community. Green is a financial adviser with Green Financial and a 2017 graduate of the GYP Leadership Institute.

Jake Hall, DIV '13, was hired by the United Way of Central Georgia as executive director of the United to End Homelessness program. Hall will lead the effort to develop, coordinate and implement a comprehensive strategy to end housing vulnerability in Central Georgia by working with service providers, community members, funding agencies and people who experience homelessness or housing vulnerability.

Meagan Hurley, LAW '19, was appointed to the Innocence Network's Amicus Curiae Committee in May 2022. Hurley was admitted to practice in her third jurisdiction, South Carolina, in October 2022 (following Alabama in 2019 and Georgia in 2020). Hurley serves as accountability counsel for Georgia Innocence Project.

Dr. Charles Frederick Land, MED '14, was recently certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons and became a partner at Pinnacle Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine.

Dr. Patrick Ryan Lingo, MED '12, joined the staff of Memorial Health Meadows Hospital as its first neurosurgeon. Lingo practices with the Neurological Institute of Savannah and is affiliated with Memorial Health University Medical Center. He visits Vidalia on a biweekly basis to see patients and to perform surgery. Memorial Health and Meadows are regional health care partners through their parent company, HCA Healthcare.

Charles Henry "Chas" Mann IV, CLAS '16, LAW '19, was named to the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40. After graduating from Mercer, he worked as a staff attorney for Judge Howard McClain of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit and joined Ben F. Windham PC in 2020. Mann focuses his practice on real estate and personal injury litigation.

Leah C. Mayo, LAW '18, was named Outstanding Young Alumna for her undergraduate institution, Presbyterian College. Mayo is the assistant district attorney in Rome and is admitted to practice in all

superior courts in the state of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Dr. Gregory Paul Morgan, MED '15, '19, returned home to Dawson County and joined Anderson Family Medicine in July. Morgan holds a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in psychology from the University of North Georgia, a master's degree in science in preclinical sciences from Mercer and a medical doctor degree as a primary care accelerated track scholar from Mercer University School of Medicine. In his role with Anderson Family Medicine, Morgan works as a primary care doctor, performs annual wellness checks, does procedures like joint injections and most recently has started a weight loss clinic.

Ashley Whittle Odom, MUS '18, recently won a full-time professional position as associate principal second violin of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. Odom graduated from the Townsend School of Music/Robert McDuffie Center for Strings in 2018 and was also a participant in the Great Books program.

The Hon. Andrew Thomas "Andy" Smith III, LAW '11, was sworn in as a magistrate court judge in Cherokee County in November. **Georgios K. Tarasidis**, LAW '19, joined Gerace and Associates, located in Hartford, Connecticut, as the firm's new associate attorney in criminal defense. Tarasidis was also admitted to practice law in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Michael "Mike" Anthony Terrell, BUS '12, was named one of *Diversity Plus Magazine's* 2022 Top 25 Diversity Change Leaders. Terrell is group director of supply chain — procurement for Coca-Cola.

Donald R. Towne, COPA '15, '17, was selected as department head for fire science of Savannah Technical College. He is responsible for oversight of all instruction, curriculum development, administrative and budgetary aspects for the College's Fire Science program. Towne is a former fire chief,

training officer and decorated public safety leader with more than three decades of experience managing, developing and delivering training and safety programs for employees and public partners.

Hussene Youssouf, BUS '10, joined Serta Simmons Bedding as a senior finance manager.

2020s

Samuel M. Lyon, LAW '20, joined the law firm of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP, practicing first and third-party defense for national insurers. Lyon was also recently named to serve the Georgia Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division as a co-chair of the Community Service Projects Committee.

Reagan E. Sanders, MUS '21, was named band director of Mary Persons High School in Forsyth for the 2022-23 school year.

Brandon J. Wright, EDU '22, was appointed interim assistant dean of student success at the University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie, in January 2022.

MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

2000s

Mitch Miller, ENG '09, and **Kate Miller**, BUS '06, welcomed their third child, Hannah, on Aug. 26, 2022.

2010s

Caroline Wright Grounds, CLAS '12, and her husband, Steven, announced the birth of their second child, Mary Davis, born on May 18, 2022.

Molly Elizabeth Lustig, LAW '19, married Brent Troy on Aug. 6, 2022, at First Presbyterian of Atlanta. Lustig is an attorney at Kneupper and Covey in Atlanta.

Joanne Nguyen, PHA '14, and her husband, Ben Walker, welcomed their first child, a daughter named Ava Skye Walker, on Sept. 22, 2022.

Chazidy Jones Register, EDU '18, and **Arielle Register** were married on Dec. 22, 2021, in Atlanta.

Brittany Pullen Smith, LAW '13, and **Andrew Thomas "Andy" Smith**, LAW '11, welcomed their second child, Madeline Kay Smith, in December 2022.

REMEMBERING...

Distinguished Law Alumnus

Clyde Reese

he Hon. Clyde Lowaine Reese III, LAW '96, a Georgia Court of Appeals judge, died on Dec. 17. A former commissioner of the Department of Community Health, Reese was appointed to the 15-judge court in 2016 by Gov. Nathan Deal, winning election to a six-year term in 2019. Reese and two cousins were among the first Black students to attend Pace Academy, an Atlanta private school, in 1969. The three became the first Black students to graduate from the school in 1976. After graduating from Georgia State University, Reese worked with his family's real estate firm. He then enrolled in Mercer University's law school, going to work for state government in 1996 after receiving his law degree. He held positions with the Department of Insurance, the Subsequent Injury Trust Fund, and the State Health Planning Agency. Reese practiced privately from 2003 to 2007, returning to state government in 2007 as general counsel of the Department of Community Health. Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed him commissioner of the department in 2010. In 2011, Deal named him commissioner of the Department of Human Services, returning him to community health commissioner in 2013.



Generous Supporter of Mercer University Press

Connie Tooze

Constance Louise "Connie" Tooze, of Atlanta, died on Aug. 14. Tooze earned a B.S. in Education from Gordon College in 1961 and an M.Ed. from State College at Salem (MA) in 1964. She taught elementary school in Manchester, Beverly and Malden, Massachusetts, and Indianapolis. She was married to George H. Tooze Jr. from 1962 until his death in 2013. Prior to her husband's death, the couple established the George H. and Constance T. Tooze Endowed Fund to support the operations of Mercer University Press.



IN MEMORY

1940s

Betty Jo "Becky" Watson Bowdre, CLAS '49, of Macon, on Oct. 19.

Betty Moore Durr, CLAS '47, of Tallahassee, Florida, on Sept. 5.

Leonard D. Fordham, PHA '49, of Stockbridge, on Aug. 15.

Alice Goodloe Herndon, CLAS '47, of Warner Robins, on Aug. 2.

Clarice Evelyn Mitchell, TIFT '42, of Thomaston, on Sept. 24.

Hilda Harris Rooney, CLAS '49, of Rockville, Maryland, on July 28.

John Calvin Stanfield, CLAS '48, of Peachtree City, on Sept. 3.

1950s

Catherine Ann Brown Barnette, TIFT '54, of Sharpsburg, on Oct. 16.

Ida Faye Bell, NUR '54, of Valley, Alabama, on Oct. 12.

Douglas F. Birch, CLAS '52, of Asheville, North Carolina, on Oct. 31.

Clarence L. Cannon, CLAS '57, of Gainesville, on Sept. 27.

Polly O'Kelley Epps, TIFT '51, of Social Circle, on July 25.

Osteen "Teena" Bland Everhart, CLAS '58, of Atlanta, on Nov. 6.

Myra Callaway Folsom, CLAS '58, of Villa Rica, on Nov. 30.

Richard A. Forrester, CLAS '55, of Clemmons, North Carolina, on Dec. 2.

Ruth Emerson Harris, TIFT '53, of Birmingham, Alabama, on Sept. 25.

Sara Jennings Held, CLAS '50, of Raleigh, North Carolina, on Sept. 12.

Juanita W. Huddleston, NUR '52, of Atlanta, on Aug. 2.

William L. Jameson, CLAS '51, of Orange Park, Florida, on Sept. 13.

Carolyn B. Johns, CLAS '53, of Macon, on July 30.

Barbara Anne Carowan Klepsig, CLAS '53, of Macon, on Oct. 27.

Helen Langford Lenkerd, EDU '55, of Atlanta, on Oct. 1.

Dianne Morris Leslie, TIFT '58, of Decatur, on Oct. 3.

Betty Henderson Miller, CLAS '52, of Jacksonville, Florida, on Nov. 4.

Jane Morris, NUR '51, of Fresno, California, on July 31.

Robert A. Parrish Jr., CLAS '51, of Augusta, on Sept. 27.

Frances Campbell Shockley, CLAS '51, of Powhatan, Virginia, on Nov. 6.

Carol Cobb Siegmman, CLAS '58, of Decatur, on July 24.

Joseph E. Slappey, CLAS '56, of Marietta, on Oct. 10.

James H. Smith, CLAS '55, of Greenwood, South Carolina, on Sept. 16.

Loyal Alumna and Generous Supporter

Leta Wimpey

Leta Shelby Wimpey, TIFT '48, of Hapeville, died on Oct. 3. Wimpey graduated from Tift College with a degree in education and taught for 38 years, retiring from the Fulton County School System. She was married to John Andrew Wimpey until his death in 2010. In 2008, the Wimpseys established the LeAnn Wimpey Hulsey Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Tift

College of Education to honor the memory of their daughter, LeAnn Wimpey Hulsey, CLAS '77, EDU '80, who was killed in an automobile accident on April 12, 1982.



William A. Smith, CLAS '58, of Jacksonville, North Carolina, on Oct. 12.

Frances Willingham Torrance, TIFT '53, of Milledgeville, on Oct. 18.

Elizabeth Polk Varnadoe, NUR '58, of East Palatka, Florida, on Nov. 15.

Jack M. Wood, CLAS '59, of Dalton, on Sept. 8.

William "Bill" Edgar Young, CLAS '56, of Spring, Texas, on Oct. 11.

George Callaway Zachry, CLAS '50, of Valley, Alabama, on July 21.

1960s

Alford C. Bridges, CLAS '64, of Gray, on Aug. 4.

John W. Broadfoot, LAW '65, of Amarillo, Texas, on Oct. 28.

Sandra Christian, NUR '61, of Alpharetta, on Oct. 3.

Gloria E. Clavijo, PHA '65, of Cumming, on Nov. 25.

Leonard "Pete" O. Fletcher Jr., LAW '69, of Augusta, on Sept. 13.

James Albert Gamble, CLAS '66, of Hallandale, Florida, on Aug. 25.

Karen Etheredge Giannattasio, CLAS '63, of Atlanta, on Nov. 4.

Allen Byron Gilbert, LAW '65, of Augusta, on Sept. 27.

Charles Roy Glass, CLAS '66, of Albany, on Aug. 2.

Josephine "Jo-Bess" Smith Grenga, CLAS '60, of Macon, on Aug. 19.

Martin Thurman Grizzard, PHA '64, of Thomaston, on Sept. 12.

Betty Jane Pratt Huff, NUR '64, of Grayson, on Sept. 4.

Wardlow A. Johnson, CLAS '60, of Macon, on Aug. 28.

Nancy Spell King, CLAS '64, of Kennesaw, on Sept. 28.

Thomas H. Mason, CLAS '69, of Macon, on Oct. 6.

Mary F. McGaughey Nash, NUR '68, of Grayson, on Oct. 24.

William Michael Oxford, CLAS '61, of Thomaston, on Oct. 15.

David P. Page, CLAS '63, of Yulee, Florida, on Aug. 30.

Gregory Samuel Paulette, CLAS '69, of Lakemont, on Dec. 1.

Sharon Pirkle Price, CLAS '68, of Atlanta, on Dec. 7.

Kelly Pritchett Jr., CLAS '66, of Hawkinsville, on July 22.

Mildred Wall Tuck, NUR '60, of Mount Vernon, on Oct. 17.

James Romney Tucker, LAW '67, of Macon, on July 25.

Thomas "Tommy" L. Turner, PHA '63, of Acworth, on Sept. 24.

John W. Winkle III, CLAS '69, of Taylor, Mississippi, on Oct. 23.

1970s

James R. Albritton, CLAS '79, of Chula, on Nov. 11.

Margaret Larsen Bloodworth, EDU '79, of Macon, on Nov. 14.

Susan Ramsey Bragg, TIFT '71, of Savannah, on Nov. 21.

Joan Chappell Branyon, CLAS '78, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, on Nov. 12.

Lorin Daniel "Dan" Butler, LAW '73, of Evans, on July 20.

Philip D. Cawthon, CLAS '71, of Forsyth, on July 21.

Jean Brinson Finch, EDU '72, of Oxford, North Carolina, on Dec. 12.

Richard "Skip" Thomas Fulton, CLAS '79, of Atlanta, on July 28.

J. Johnson Hall, LAW '70, of Hawkinsville, on Aug. 8.

Jeanne Duncan Harrison, LAW '70, of Augusta, on Aug. 3.

Arthur H. McMahon, EDU '73, of Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 10.

Martha Lynn Sheppard Neal, EDU '78, of Atlanta, on Nov. 9.

Walter Hunter New, CLAS '70, of Quitman, on July 30.

William Julius Penn III, CLAS '77, of Juliette, on Aug. 27.

William R. Seay, CLAS '75, of Moultrie, on Nov. 11.

Robert "Bob" Emmett Snipes, PHA '75, of Preston, on Aug. 22.

Frank L. Watt III, CLAS '76, of Atlanta, on Oct. 26.

Sharon L. Williamson, CLAS '77, of Jacksonville, Florida, on July 29.

1980s

Lisa Caves Adams, TIFT '85, of Vidalia, on Nov. 1.

Michael Norville Annis Sr., LAW '80, of Grovetown, on Nov. 28.

Omaira Amelia Arango, BUS '86, of Tucker, on Sept. 2.

Jean Bucher Are, CLAS '84, of Stone Mountain, on Nov. 4.

Patricia A. Beall, CLAS '84, of Marietta, on Oct. 24.

Sue Mangham Buffington, TIFT '83, of Thomaston, on Sept. 2.

John Leonard Cone Jr., CLAS '83, of Perry, on Sept. 17.

David Lee Evatt, EDU '87, of Byron, on Aug. 26.

Walter "Chuck" Hill, CLAS '83, of Macon, on Aug. 4.

Martha Jones, TIFT '83, of Monticello, on Dec. 1.

David T. McNeal, TIFT '82, of Alamo, on Oct. 31.

Charles R. Pauldo, CLAS '84, of Riviera Beach, Florida, on Nov. 25.

Nonnie Marett Peets, CLAS '80, of Gainesville, on Aug. 5.

Rose Marie Howard Pierce, TIFT '80, of Cordele, on Sept. 22.

Angela Karen Ross, BUS '88, of Stone Mountain, on Nov. 6.

Maureen Elizabeth Savitsky, PHA '83, of Tarpon Springs, Florida, on Oct. 17.

Betty Jenkins Seabolt, TIFT '84, of Alamo, on Dec. 3.

Michael D. Stewart, CLAS '85, of Daphne, Alabama, on Oct. 12.

1990s

Gloria S. Bunch, EDU '93, of McDonough, on Aug. 27.

David Lee Croswell, LAW '96, of Reedville, Virginia, on Oct. 18.

Carol Lynn Hill Gillespie, EDU '91, of Hayesville, North Carolina, on Nov. 25.

Eleanor Adams Lane, MED '92, of Macon, on July 31.

Bret Lloyd Manner, CLAS '97, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Nov. 4, 2021.

Brian J. Mullis, BUS '90, of Eastman, on Sept. 18.

Thomas Samuel Roddy Jr., CLAS '90, of Corpus Christi, Texas, on August 30.

Ronald Stone, BUS '94, of Newnan, on Sept. 13.

Anne Elizabeth Sheer Weiner, LAW '94, of Tampa, Florida, on Aug. 15.

2000s

Thomas M. Arpin, BUS '03, of Savannah, on Nov. 17.

Susan Ware Belson, LAW '04, of Valdosta, on Nov. 4.

Gaynor Leigh Gray, EDU '00, of Warner Robins, on Nov. 14.

Phyllis Lynn Lincoln, COPA '06, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on Sept. 27.

Bret Lloyd Manner, CLAS '00, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Nov. 4.

Stephanie Lauren Whatley, EDU '06, of Senoia, on Aug. 9.

Timothy Wayne Zellner, EDU '03, of Zebulon, on Nov. 20.

2010s

Danyelle Demetrise Goss, COPA '11, of Jonesboro, on Aug. 15.

Stuart Preston LaMance, MED '16, of Newnan, on Sept. 25.

Mary Katherine Nichols, CLAS '12, of Macon, on Nov. 25.

2020s

Beverly Gail Kelley, COPA '21, of Stockbridge, on Oct. 1.

Joanna Kaye Smith, LAW '21, of Juliette, on Aug. 9.

FRIENDS, FORMER FACULTY & FORMER STAFF

Robert Ackerman, of Macon, on Oct. 3.

Peter Antonacci, of Tallahassee, Florida, on Sept. 23.

Roger Bloodworth, of Macon, on Aug. 21.

Georgann Blum, of Macon, on Sept. 26.

Jacqueline J. Brende, of Kansas City, Missouri, on Aug. 9.

Nancy S. Daniel, of Macon, on Sept. 22.

Pamela M. Daniel, of Macon, on Oct. 4.

Daniel P. Elliott, of Atlanta, on Nov. 7.

Steven Fulbright, of Macon, on Sept. 6.

Bruce Herrington, of Macon, on Nov. 16.

Ferdinand V. Kay, of Macon, on Sept. 14.

Ray Harold McCard, of Macon, on Oct. 2.

David M. McClellan, of Macon, on Aug. 5.

Katherine K. Olivier, of Wixom, Michigan, on Sept. 11.

David Ralston, of Blue Ridge, on Nov. 16.

Forrest D. Smith, of Cumming, on Nov. 14.

Rex P. Stevens, of Columbia, Missouri, on Oct. 30.

50-75-100 YEARS AGO

Photos and archival information assembled by
Gaby Hale and Daniel Williams of the Tarver Library
Special Collections staff.



50 YEARS AGO

1973 — Mercerians young and old got to enjoy a rare snow for Macon in February 1973. Canceled classes, snowball fights and snowmen were the immediate result of the nearly 20 inches that fell over a two-day period.



75 YEARS AGO

1948 — A ceremony was held on Oct. 31, 1948, to rededicate the Mercer cemetery in Penfield, Georgia. Many important Mercerians are buried in the cemetery, including first President Billington Sanders and his wife, Cynthia, as well as Jesse Mercer. Coverage of the ceremony described the festivities as having speeches from prominent Mercerians and Georgia Baptists, as well as performances by the Mercer Choir.



Senior Class

CAROLINE PATTERSON

MACON, GEORGIA

A.B. Theology.

*"A perfect woman, nobly planned,
To warn, to comfort, and command."*

First Honor Lucy Cobb Institute; Winner of History Medal at Lucy Cobb Institute; President of Georgia Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage; Historian U. D. C. Macon, Georgia.

Nickname: Karrie.

Major: Fording.

Minor: Theology.

100 YEARS AGO

1923 — Caroline Patterson of Macon became the first woman to receive an A.B. degree from Mercer at its June commencement. Under her photo in the 1923 *Cauldron* was the slogan, "A perfect woman, nobly planned, to warn, to comfort, and command."

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS THE MEMORY OF MERCER ALUMNA'S GRANDMOTHER

AND MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

Scholarships are a time-honored tradition at Mercer. Establishing a scholarship is a visionary and generous act that makes both an immediate and permanent impact at Mercer and in the lives of our students. Donors often choose to establish a scholarship fund in honor or memory of someone who has made a difference in their lives, giving every scholarship a story.

IN 2005, MARY BETH LAPENNA, A 1975 GRADUATE OF MERCER'S COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, ESTABLISHED THE DOROTHY WEFEL MATTHEWS EXPENDABLE SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF HER BELOVED GRANDMOTHER, DOROTHY LOUISE WEFEL MATTHEWS.

Dot Matthews, as she was affectionately known, was born on Aug. 7, 1899, in Seneca Falls, New York, the birthplace of women's rights and home of the first women's rights convention in 1848. Although Dot and her family moved to Mobile, Alabama, in the winter of 1900, the influence of her birthplace shaped Dot's beliefs in regard to the social, civil and religious condition and rights of women.

Believing in the importance of education for women, Dot and her younger sister, Betty, attended Ward-Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee, in the fall of 1917. The sisters also attended Sullins College in Bristol, Virginia, and, in 1919, Dot earned a diploma from Sullins College School of Art.

Dot met her future husband, Hooper Weakley Matthews, while a student at Ward-Belmont, and the couple married in 1920. A 1917 graduate of Vanderbilt



Dot Matthews

University, Hooper also believed in the importance of education, a belief he and Dot impressed upon their three children, Betty, Wefel and Hooper.

The proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren and the greatly revered matriarch of the family, Dot was a strong presence with both her lively personality and her generosity. Forward-thinking and independent, in 1968 Dot made provisions for her grandchildren's college educations by creating a trust. This same trust also provided for the college educations of her nine great-grandchildren.

In establishing the educational trust for her descendants, Dot included handwritten instructions for each of her adult children. She wrote, "Once an education is received, it can never be borrowed or taken away." Following her grandmother's instructions and believing in the intrinsic value of education for women led Mary Beth LaPenna to establish the Dorothy Wefel Matthews Expendable Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies at Mercer.

Since the fund was established in 2005, 23 awards totaling more than \$119,000 have been given to 20 students with financial need who are majoring in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS). In 2012, three of Dot's other grandchildren, Dale Matthews Ash, Cindy Matthews Colville and Hooper Matthews III, also began contributing to the scholarship as a tribute to their grandmother.

As the scholarship has grown, the reach of the fund has also increased. Now in its 18th year, the scholarship, which was originally created to assist students majoring in WGS, has been expanded to also provide summer scholarships for Mercer On Mission trips with a WGS focus, creating a global impact that honors the memory of Dot Matthews and the value she placed on education for women.

**"ONCE AN
EDUCATION IS
RECEIVED, IT
CAN NEVER BE
BORROWED OR
TAKEN AWAY."**



Mary Beth LaPenna shares a hug with her grandmother, Dot Matthews.

Establishing a scholarship fund creates a lasting legacy and is an ideal way to permanently link your name, or the name of someone you wish to honor, with the traditions and future of Mercer and its students. For more information on establishing a scholarship, contact **Shawna Dooley**, associate vice president for advancement, at dooley_sr@mercer.edu or (478) 301-2720.

ADVANCEMENT STAFF UPDATES



Kinsella

■ **Jill Kinsella**, CLAS '85, previous associate vice president for alumni services and executive director of the Mercer Alumni Association, was named associate vice president for university advancement in February. In this new role, she will oversee fundraising efforts for the School of Law.

■ **Paul McClendon**, director of development for the College of Health Professions and College of Nursing, transitioned into the role of director of development for the College of Professional Advancement (COPA). McClendon will continue his role with the College of Nursing.



McClendon



Stuart

■ **Thomas "TJ" Stuart** was named assistant director of the Mercer Athletic Foundation (MAF) in September. Stuart comes to Mercer after serving at Yale as athletics community engagement coordinator.



Welch

■ **Chloe Welch** joined the Mercer Athletic Foundation as coordinator of special events and operations in November. Welch comes to Mercer after serving at Atlanta Fire United as a head and assistant coach for their women's youth soccer programs.

The Impact of Parent Support

The Parents Fund

April Aldridge, EDU '96, and **Aric Aldridge**, CLAS '96, MED '00, met as students at Mercer and were married shortly after graduating in 1996. The couple moved to Birmingham in 2000 for Aric to complete his ophthalmology residency while April earned her doctorate in education. They decided to settle in Bainbridge, where they built their careers and raised their two sons.

April and Aric were thrilled when their oldest son, Austin, chose to attend Mercer. "As Mercer alumni, Aric and I know firsthand the difference a Mercer education makes in the lives of its students and graduates. As Mercer parents, we are grateful for the difference Mercer has already made in our son's life," April said.

Mercer parents and families play a crucial role as their sons and daughters discover their talents, enrich their minds, and take crucial steps toward realizing their aspirations. Parents can greatly enhance student experiences through their personal philanthropic support. Supporting The Parents Fund is a way for parents and families to make a more meaningful impact for their children.

"When we left **Austin** at Mercer, we knew we were leaving him with family," said Aric. "Mercer gave us a lot, spiritually, academically, and financially. Supporting The Parents Fund is a way for us to be good stewards of the resources that Mercer gave to us while setting an example of philanthropy for our son."



The Parents Fund supports Mercer's top priority: our students. Through gifts like the Aldridges' and those of many other parents, families, alumni and friends, Mercer is able to create unique opportunities in education, while also preparing its students for their lives after college. Visit giving.mercer.edu for more information on The Parents Fund.

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MERCER FOOTBALL AT FIVE STAR STADIUM



2 0 2 3 S C H E D U L E

AUG. 26*
@ NORTH ALABAMA

SEPT. 2
@ OLE MISS

SEPT. 9
MOREHEAD

SEPT. 23
@ FURMAN

SEPT. 30
VMI

OCT. 7
@ ETSU

OCT. 14
CHATTANOOGA

OCT. 21
WOFFORD

OCT. 28
@ WESTERN CAROLINA

NOV. 4
@ CITADEL

NOV. 11
SAMFORD
HOMECOMING

* Ninth Annual FCS Kickoff in Montgomery, Alabama, televised nationally on ESPN. **MERCERBEARS.COM**