



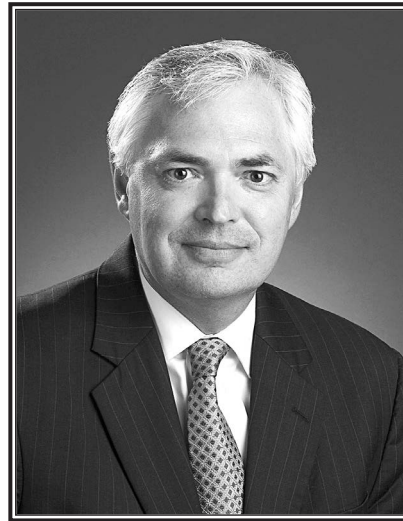
M E R C E R U N I V E R S I T Y

Est. 1833

C O M M E N C E M E N T

2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Mercer Graduate:

On behalf of the entire Mercer University community, I congratulate you on the occasion of your graduation. You have achieved one of the most significant goals of your life, and you have added immeasurably to the intellectual and spiritual foundation on which you will stand in the years ahead.

You may be receiving your first Mercer degree, or perhaps your accomplishment represents your second or even third degree from the University. Whichever it may be, you share a common bond with all of the graduates today of having made real what was once an aspiration. As a graduate, you are entitled to feel a strong sense of fulfillment as you reflect on your hard work and personal commitment.

With each passing year, you will find that memories of your Mercer experiences will grow to mean more to you. As you reflect on the friendships, the learning experiences, the joys and the frustrations of the time you have spent at Mercer, you increasingly will come to realize that the University is a part of your life forever.

Commencement is a rewarding time for the faculty and staff as students move beyond the University to continue along their life's path. The measure of a university is not the accolades accumulated from popular college guides and national rankings. The true measure is the transformation our students experience that prepares them to be intelligent, thoughtful and compassionate leaders who are committed to making a positive difference in their community and the world. We encourage you to stay in touch with the University in the years ahead.

We are grateful that you chose to pursue your educational goals here and that you always will be a part of Mercer University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature appears to read "William D. Underwood".

William D. Underwood
President

MERCER UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENTS

Approximately 2,332 students will participate in Mercer University's 2023 commencements. To make graduation a special day for these students and their families, Mercer University will conduct five ceremonies in May. Each ceremony will be unique and will reflect the schools and colleges represented.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Saturday, May 6, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.
Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

SCHOOL OF LAW

Saturday, May 13, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.
Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

ATLANTA

Sunday, May 14, 2023 | 12:00 p.m.
Gas South Arena, Duluth, Georgia
*School of Business | College of Education
College of Professional Advancement | School of Theology*

Sunday, May 14, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.
Gas South Arena, Duluth, Georgia
*College of Nursing | College of Pharmacy
College of Health Professions*

MACON

Monday, May 15, 2023 | 8:00 a.m.
Five Star Stadium, Macon Campus
*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
School of Business | School of Engineering
College of Education | College of Professional Advancement
School of Music | College of Health Professions*

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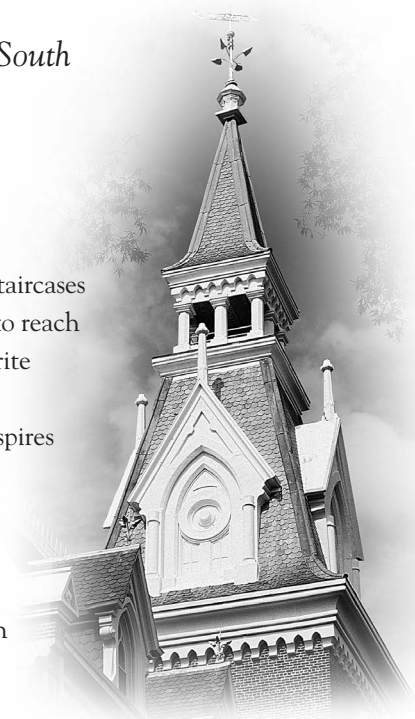
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MERCER TRADITIONS

Mercer University is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the South and over 190 years has developed a number of cherished traditions.

SPIRES AND TOWERS

Each fall, part of new student orientation includes a trek up a combination of ladders, spiral staircases and wooden stairs in the Godsey Administration Building, the Macon campus' oldest structure, to reach the tower overlooking campus. Students write their names, graduating years and sometimes favorite messages anywhere from the first stairwell to the actual tower. In addition to the majestic spires adorning the Godsey Administration Building, the Macon campus skyline is also known for the spires of Willingham Auditorium and Newton Chapel.

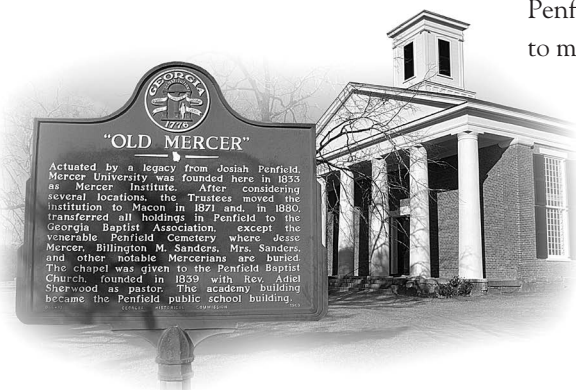


PILGRIMAGE TO PENFIELD

Since the early 1900s, Mercer undergraduates have been making the 90-mile trip from Macon to Penfield to celebrate the founding of Mercer University. The Pilgrimage to Penfield, as the tradition is now called, has evolved over the years from a celebration for graduating seniors to an integral part of the Mercer first-year experience.

Penfield, which is located in rural Greene County, was the home of Mercer from 1833-1871. It was named after Josiah Penfield, a Savannah merchant, who challenged the Georgia Baptist Convention to match his \$2,500 contribution and support an educational institution. The Convention, fueled primarily from Jesse Mercer's financial contribution and leadership, met the challenge and opened Mercer Institute in 1833. It was renamed Mercer University in 1838.

Today, at Penfield, students participating in the Pilgrimage find the original University chapel, the foundation of the first University academic building, and a cemetery that includes the gravesites of Jesse Mercer, as well as a number of former University presidents, trustees and leaders.



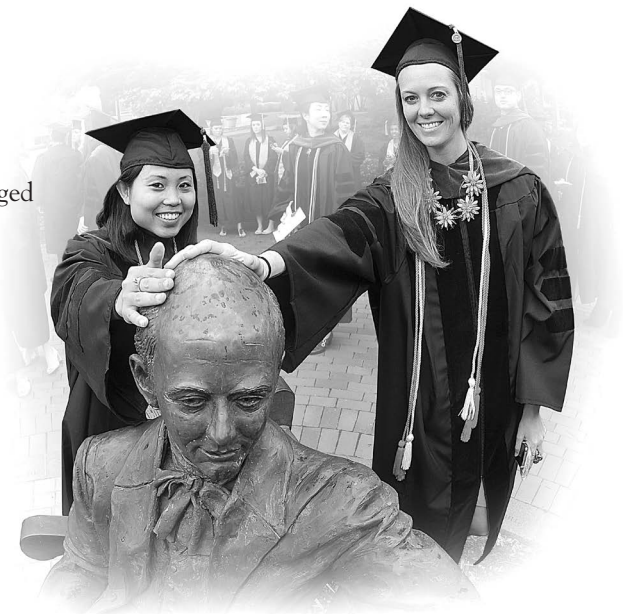
JESSE MERCER PLAZA

Statues of Jesse Mercer sit casually on benches in the middle of Mercer's Macon and Atlanta campuses. The youthful-looking founder of Mercer is staged at a sideways angle, looking ready for a conversation with a passing student.

Occasionally, the statue's head is rubbed by a frantic or uneasy student, hoping the tradition of good luck will work on an upcoming exam. During finals, traffic past Mercer's respected namesake increases drastically.

The statues in Macon and Atlanta are encircled by quotes from Jesse Mercer, personally selected by Mercer's 17th president, Dr. R. Kirby Godsey.

Since the statue was installed on the Macon campus in 1995, this area in the main Quadrangle has become one of the most visited sites on campus by students and alumni. The statue, sculpted by Don Haugen of



Marietta, was duplicated on the Atlanta campus in 2005. Beginning in 2009, first-year students, as part of Fall Convocation, and graduating seniors, as part of Baccalaureate, began processing past the Jesse Mercer statue on the Macon campus, rubbing his head at the beginning of their academic careers and at the conclusion of their Mercer tenures.

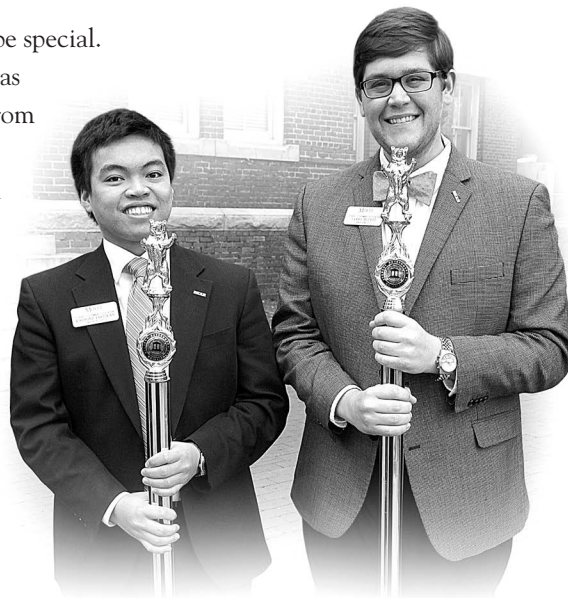
The statue was unveiled in 1995 in conjunction with the re-introduction of the tradition of Founders' Day. The statue was paid for by a Student Government Association fund established specifically for constructing the Jesse Mercer statue.

FOUNDERS' DAY

For a university that is almost two centuries old, Founders' Day is bound to be special. While the annual celebration has a checkered history, the tradition is as strong as ever today. Founders' Day began in 1891, 20 years after the University moved from Penfield to Macon. At that time, Founders' Day was a celebration centered on Jesse Mercer's birthday. Mercer's two competing literary societies, Phi Delta and Ciceronian, each brought in a speaker to honor the heritage of Mercer and its founder.

Founders' Day remained a significant annual event for Mercer for the next 40 or 50 years, according to Dr. Doug Pearson, vice president and dean of students. The occasion had different formats during this period, ranging from political events attended by state governors to all-day historic celebrations.

While this tradition remained strong during the early- to mid-1900s, interest began to wane in the 1950s and 1960s. By the end of the 1960s, the tradition had been completely removed from the University calendar. The absence of Founders' Day lasted until the mid-1990s. At that time, the Student Government Association brought the event back to the Macon campus.



RINGING THE TIFT BELL

When Tift College merged with Mercer in 1986, the alumnae of the Forsyth women's school were apprehensive about Mercer's commitment to honor the Tift heritage. Mercer had joined with the Tift College Alumnae Association to create a plan to honor the historic institution, but when Mercer closed the campus in 1987, that concern was heightened by many members of past classes.

Then-President Dr. R. Kirby Godsey acknowledged the challenges of merging Tift into Mercer, especially following the closing of the school. During that period of the late 1980s, he continued to stress Mercer's commitment to honoring the legacy and heritage of Tift.

That persistence paid off for Mercer and Tift alumnae, primarily through the partnership of past alumnae and current Mercer women participating in the Tift College Scholars Program. This program provides scholarships, leadership development and, most importantly, mentoring from Tift alumnae to 125 women attending Mercer, which also named its College of Education for Tift in 2001.

The preservation of the Tift legacy is a combination of the heritage of Tift and the momentum of Mercer. Part of this history and tradition is the ringing of the Tift Bell, which was relocated to the Macon campus after the merger. Tift graduates began ringing the bell in 1959 as part of commencement festivities.



GRIFFIN B. BELL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



In March 1999, Judge Griffin B. Bell was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in Trusteeship by the Association of Governing Boards and Universities. The longtime Mercer Trustee was one of two national honorees selected from the 50,000 board members who volunteer their time to higher education. The University, in Judge Bell's honor, was presented a \$10,000 unrestricted cash award. At its April 2000 meeting, the Mercer Board of Trustees voted to use the award to establish the Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service. This award is presented annually to deserving graduating students from among Mercer's 12 schools and colleges.

THE HONORABLE GRIFFIN B. BELL



Originally from Americus, Griffin B. Bell graduated *cum laude* from Mercer University's School of Law with an LL.B. degree in 1948. He practiced law in Savannah and Rome, before joining the law firm of King & Spalding in Atlanta as a partner in 1953.

In 1959, while a senior partner at King & Spalding, Judge Bell was appointed Chief of Staff by Georgia Gov. Ernest Vandiver. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed him as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. After 15 years of service on the Court of Appeals, Judge Bell returned to King & Spalding. He resigned from the firm to become the 72nd Attorney General of the United States on January 26, 1977, following his nomination by President Jimmy Carter.

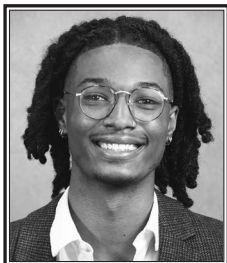
He served as U.S. Attorney General until August 16, 1979, when he returned to King & Spalding, serving as chair of its Policy Committee. An active counselor and adviser to leaders in Congress, the U.S.

Attorney General's office and U.S. presidents, Judge Bell's influence was wide reaching. He is recognized as one of the country's great Americans. Judge Bell died January 5, 2009, at the age of 90.

GRIFFIN B. BELL AWARD RECIPIENT

MATTHEW ENCARNACIÓN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



During his time at Mercer, Matthew Encarnación has exemplified the true meaning of service and dedication to others. He has been an integral part of the University community, involving himself in a multitude of campus opportunities that are individually impressive and altogether extraordinary.

A psychology major and sociology and statistics minor, he has served as a research assistant for the sociology and psychology departments and a volunteer tutor with America Reads and America Counts. Encarnación has demonstrated his natural leadership abilities through those roles and as a member of the Student Government Association (SGA) and a resident assistant for Housing and Residence Life. With his kind and easygoing nature and enthusiastic spirit, he has been a role model and constant source of support to his peers as well as a voice for their needs.

His genuine care for the well-being of others and desire to make a positive difference have been apparent through his thoughtful words and purposeful actions, which are always accompanied by a smile. Encarnación has promoted a culture of wellness on campus as a member of SGA and the Office of Student Affairs' Wellness Committee and through collaborations with Counseling and Psychological Services. He coordinated a wellness fair; identified and analyzed student wellness needs and gaps in outreach; investigated issues that affected the quality of student life; and worked to define campus legislation focusing on student mental, physical and emotional wellness.

Through academic research, Encarnación analyzed data on student wellness related to COVID-19 disruption and developed and distributed student resources on mindfulness and well-being. As outreach chairman for Mindful Mercer, he led biweekly meditation and yoga sessions and educated new students on mindfulness practices.

A bright and motivated student at the top of his class, he has maintained a clear vision for a future career in public policy work. He will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall to complete his master of science in social policy and continue his research career in its Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR). Encarnación is the true embodiment of a servant leader, and he wants to support and empower marginalized racial groups through sound policy analysis.

WALLACE ODELL DUVALL EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Wallace Odell DuVall Excellence in Leadership Award at Mercer University recognizes the outstanding leadership of a graduating senior from one of the University's undergraduate schools and colleges. For award consideration, students must be recommended by a faculty or staff member and nominated by their respective dean. Eligible candidates must demonstrate the abilities to motivate and inspire the confidence and trust of others, while possessing vision, intelligence, integrity and common sense, and having a good academic record. The selected recipient receives a financial award.

Wallace Odell DuVall (1901-1993) was an Atlanta attorney who spent most of his career in the banking industry. He served as secretary and attorney of the Atlanta Building and Loan Association, which later became Georgia Federal Savings and Loan Association, of which Mr. DuVall became chairman of the Board of Directors and chairman of the Executive Committee. A generous benefactor and longtime friend of Mercer University, he was a founding trustee of Atlanta Baptist College, which merged with Mercer in 1972 and became the University's Atlanta campus. He served three terms on Mercer's Board of Trustees, 1972-77, 1978-83 and 1985-90. The Dean's Suite at the Law School is named for him, as well as an academic building on the Atlanta Campus, where his portrait hangs.

KATHRYN HOERSTING

College of Nursing



Kathryn Hoersting has seized opportunities to learn, grow, serve and lead throughout her education at Mercer University. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged during her freshman year, she felt called to pursue a career in nursing and eagerly involved herself in opportunities to ensure her success in this educational path.

Hoersting is an enthusiastic and compassionate leader who inspires others with her vision, intelligence and integrity. On the Macon campus, she was the director of mentor program CLIQUE, packed lunches for local children as a Backpack Buddies volunteer, and worked with freshmen as a peer adviser.

As a nursing student on the Atlanta campus, she has served as lead admissions ambassador and a mentor to first-year nursing students. She has been actively involved in the National Student Nurses Association and Georgia Baptist Association of Nursing Students, for which she took on roles as treasurer and fundraising director. In her clinical rotations and as a nurse extern at Wellstar Kennestone, she has demonstrated exceptional clinical judgment and shown her strengths in communication and collaboration.

Outside of the College of Nursing, she has supported individuals in crisis as a volunteer for Crisis Text Line. Last summer, she helped care for children with Down syndrome during a trip to Nepal with International Volunteer HQ. Hoersting embodies the mission and vision of Mercer and is poised to continue impacting the community through her career as a nurse.

LOUIE D. NEWTON GENERAL EXCELLENCE MEDAL

The Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies scholastic achievement, personal integrity and character, service to the campus community and a commitment to spiritual values. The award is named in honor of Dr. Newton, Mercer alumnus, former Mercer professor, Christian journalist, distinguished pastor and renowned denominational leader.

SARAH MONTEIRO

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



With a thirst for knowledge and a genuine love of learning, Sarah Monteiro has excelled inside and outside of the classroom at Mercer. A neuroscience major and chemistry minor, she has been a leader and mentor to her peers and actively involved in both the University and Macon communities.

Monteiro will begin the Doctor of Medicine program at Mercer School of Medicine this fall, and she has spent her undergraduate career pursuing opportunities to fully prepare for that next chapter. She spent her summers participating in the Summer Health Professions Education Program, Pathway to Medical School program and Live Healthy Gwinnett Public Health Internship.

She served as a teaching assistant in Mercer's general chemistry laboratory for over a year and an emergency department medical scribe for nearly two years. Monteiro has conducted research in the lab of neuroscience program Director Dr. Katharine Northcutt for the past two years, demonstrating integrity and leadership in her work. During that time, she secured two research grants and presented research posters at multiple events.

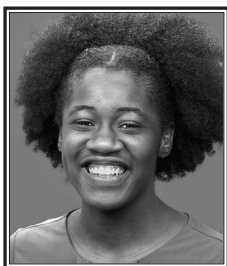
Monteiro has held leadership roles with the Mercer Neuroscience Organization, Alpha Epsilon Delta pre-medical honor society, Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and Mercer Pre-Medical Organization. Outside Mercer, she has volunteered with The 567 Center, Heartland Hospice Care Center, Brookdale Resource Center, Macon Volunteer Clinic, Warm Up America and Read2Succeed. Monteiro's skills, knowledge and dedication have positioned her to be a future leader and change-maker in her profession and community.

ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARD

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community and commitment to spiritual values. This award was established by The New York Southern Society in 1925, and at Mercer University in 1926, in memory of Mr. Sullivan, a great humanitarian and philanthropist.

LEA DULCIO

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



With a deep compassion for others and a heart for service, Lea Dulcio hopes to one day give back to underrepresented communities as a doctor. A global health studies and Spanish double-major with minors in biology and chemistry, she has excelled academically at Mercer while also dedicating herself to helping others succeed.

Dulcio has been extremely active on campus and in the community. She has led a campus language group called La Mesa, also known as Spanish Table Talk, since her freshman year. For the past three years, she has volunteered regularly with student-run service leadership board MerServe and mentored first-generation college students as an ambassador for the Opportunity Scholars Program. She is also president of campus outreach ministry All God's Anointed People Evangelizing (A.G.A.P.E).

She has combined her passion for helping others and her academic interests through research experiences at Mercer. Dulcio analyzed air and water quality during a Mercer On Mission trip to the Dominican Republic and conducted research with Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa, associate professor of global health studies and Africana studies, related to vacant housing in Macon and the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Equatorial Guinea.

Through academics and extracurriculars, Dulcio has proven herself to be an indispensable servant leader with a love for community and an unwavering desire to support others in their life journeys.

THE JAMES T. McAFEE, JR., ENDOWED VISION AND LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

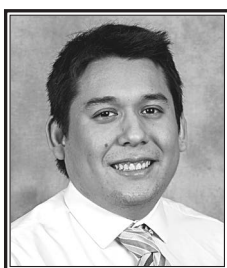
The James T. McAfee, Jr., Endowed Vision and Leadership Scholarship Fund recognizes outstanding leadership abilities of a junior, senior or graduate student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Business, College of Education, School of Engineering, School of Music, College of Pharmacy, College of Health Professions, College of Nursing, School of Medicine or School of Theology.

James T. McAfee, Jr., (1939-2004) provided strong leadership to Mercer University as chairman and a member of the Board of Trustees. He was a generous benefactor of the University, and Mercer's School of Theology in Atlanta is named for him and his wife, Carolyn, a member of the University's Board of Trustees. A nationally recognized leader in the health care industry, he served as chairman of Hallmark Systems, Inc., an Atlanta-based health care ownership and management firm. He also was chairman of the board of *Baptists Today*. He was a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, and Georgia State University in Atlanta. He received honorary doctorates from Union in 1990 and Mercer in 1999.

The James T. McAfee, Jr., Endowed Vision and Leadership Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 by his wife and his son, J. Thomas McAfee, III, a graduate of Mercer's School of Business and a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

ANDREW CASTANEDA

College of Nursing



As a rising senior in the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, Andrew Castaneda is earning his second degree at Mercer University. He is also the first nursing student selected to receive the James T. McAfee, Jr. Endowed Vision and Leadership Scholarship since the scholarship was created. Castaneda is a first-generation college student whose parents could not speak English when he was growing up. He taught himself English by watching children's television shows and then helped his mother learn to speak English, which ultimately led to her becoming a popular and respected preschool teacher. Since Castaneda's parents were unable to help him navigate the college environment, he learned to use the resources available to him and now helps other first-generation students.

While obtaining his first Mercer degree, a Bachelor of Science in chemistry in 2019 from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Castaneda worked with Dr. Adam Kiefer to develop a procedure to teach elementary-age students about acids and bases and the scientific method. Their work resulted in an article published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. Castaneda is a member of Phi Delta Theta and led the fraternity's scholarship program. By creating mentorship opportunities and holding the members accountable for their study habits, he helped the chapter win the "most improved" award for raising its average GPA. Under Castaneda's leadership, the chapter moved from last to first place in the scholarship ranking among all fraternities on the Macon campus.

Castaneda's chemistry degree proved useful in the nursing pharmacology course. When he recognized that his classmates were struggling to learn the material, he reached out to his peers and offered to lead a study group. For the remainder of the semester, Castaneda led the study group and also tutored several classmates one-on-one. He is passionate about increasing diversity in the nursing workforce and has accompanied a nursing professor to local high schools to speak with students about the nursing profession. As a Hispanic man, he recognizes the importance of showcasing nursing as a possible career for Hispanic and male students.

Hard work is a theme through Castaneda's life, and he has maintained extracurricular jobs in food service, working at Margarita's in Mercer Village while in Macon and at Buffalo Wild Wings in Alpharetta, where he now lives. Even with the rigors of the nursing curriculum and clinical responsibilities, he works 12-30 hours per week at the restaurant. Castaneda made his mark as a server during the pandemic when, on some nights, he was the only person who reported to work and ran the restaurant independently. No matter how busy or chaotic it became, he stayed calm. He is certified to train other wait staff and has achieved the rank of bartender and lead server.

AUBREY WYNN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Aubrey Wynn, from Carrollton, is graduating from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a double-major in chemistry and Spanish. She has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and was given the Outstanding Senior in Chemistry Award. For the past two years, Wynn has participated in lab research with Dr. Adam Kiefer that was applied in Guyana on a Mercer On Mission (MOM) trip where artisanal small-scale gold mining exists. She participated in her first MOM to Guyana in May 2022 and will return this summer before she enrolls in the Mercer University School of Medicine in Columbus. Wynn hopes to use her Spanish major as a practicing physician and possibly for medical missions in Spanish-speaking countries in the future.

While an undergraduate, she was elected to the Student Government Association, holding leadership positions such as secretary and chief of staff that allowed her to equip and assist others. As a Mercer Ambassador for the Alumni Office, Wynn welcomed alumni and friends to campus at University special events. She has served incoming students by working as a peer adviser for Academic Advising Services, where she acted as a role model, mentor, guide and supporter for a group of freshmen. Wynn is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and assisted other women going through sorority recruitment by serving as a Pi Chi group leader for the Mercer Panhellenic Council.

Wynn demonstrated vision and creativity to enact positive change in her community and in the lives of others by planning and executing an initiative to uplift nurses during COVID-19 through Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). Working with a supervisor at Atrium Health Navicent, she collected the names of the frontline workers and organized fellow BCM members to write and deliver personalized notes of appreciation and encouragement to more than 100 nurses.

For the past three years, Wynn has been a student worker in the Student Affairs Office. Her boss and nominator, Dr. Doug Pearson, described her as “a student who has sought out positions on campus that have allowed her to serve others without being in ‘high profile’ positions” and someone who “treats everyone with respect and patience, with a calm demeanor, a great sense of humor and with a sincerity that allows her to connect with a wide range of people.” Wynn is graduating with a 4.0 GPA in a rigorous course of study, all while balancing a high level of student organizational involvement and service activities.

GEORGE WALDO WOODRUFF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence is Mercer Law School's most prestigious award. Given to the graduating student who has the highest GPA at the end of five semesters, the award honors George Waldo Woodruff, distinguished businessman, proponent of education and friend of Mercer University School of Law.

JORDAN SHANE LIPP

School of Law



The husband of Samantha T. Lipp and the son of Shane and Renee Lipp, Jordan Lipp knew since the age of 13 that God's call on his life was to become a lawyer. As a Presidential Scholar, Lipp attended Mercer University's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business, where he earned a 4.0 GPA and graduated *summa cum laude* in three years with a bachelor's degree in business administration in human resource management. During his studies, he performed undergraduate research as part of the University Honors Program and served as chief editor of *The Bear Market*, a quarterly academic journal published by the School of Business. At graduation, the faculty honored Lipp with the Outstanding Graduate in Human Resource Management Major award.

As a Woodruff Scholar, Lipp attended Mercer School of Law to earn his juris doctor. He served as a member of the *Mercer Law Review* and as president of the Christian Legal Society. While on *Law Review*, and with the help of his adviser Professor Patrick Longan, both Lipp's Casenote and his Comment were selected for publication.

Following graduation, Lipp will serve as a term clerk for Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs of the Supreme Court of Georgia. After his clerkship, he plans to join King & Spalding LLP, an international law firm founded in Atlanta.

JOE AND JEAN HENDRICKS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award is a University-wide award given at Commencement to an outstanding teacher at Mercer. Personal attention to students and a focus on superior teaching are distinguishing characteristics of a Mercer education, and this award elevates and honors these values. The award is named for two of Mercer's greatest teachers. Joe Hendricks and his older sister, Jean Hendricks, are both legendary at Mercer for their dedication to students and for their ability to engage students in transformative learning and discovery.

Dr. Jean Hendricks, a 1942 graduate of Tift College, earned her Ph.D. from Florida State University, served as chair of the Department of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and was the beloved dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta. Dr. Joseph Hendricks, a 1955 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, earned his Ph.D. from Emory University, taught in the First-Year Seminar program for 32 years (both Jean and Joe were instrumental in creating this long-running program), founded the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and taught for years in the Department of Christianity in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes a full-time teacher in one of Mercer's 12 schools and colleges who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguished Joe and Jean Hendricks as teachers and mentors to generations of Mercer students:

- Challenging and inspiring teaching in and out of the classroom;
- Active engagement of students in the process of learning, discovery, and leadership; and
- Caring mentoring to motivate students and junior faculty to achieve their highest aspirations.

The award carries with it a \$5,000 stipend.

WILL JORDAN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Dr. Will Jordan joined the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2002 after receiving his Ph.D. from Loyola University in Chicago. He earned his bachelor's degree from Washington and Lee University and has been a strong advocate for the transformational value of a liberal arts education throughout his career.

Since coming to Mercer University, Dr. Jordan has won the Spencer B. King, Jr. Distinguished Professor Award (2017), the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Mercer Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (2015), and was named Mercer University Professor of the Month by the Student Government Association (2005). He is co-director of the McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
COMMENCEMENT

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 6, 2023 | 2:00 p.m. | Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Call to Order	Paul C. McCommon <i>Trumpeter</i>
Academic Procession*	Mercer University Pipes and Drums
Invocation	Craig McMahan <i>Minister of the University and Dean of Chapel</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings from the School	Jean Rawlings Sumner <i>Dean, School of Medicine</i>
Greetings from the Board of Governors	Lorraine Sumner <i>School of Medicine Board of Governors</i>
Introduction of Speaker	D. Scott Davis <i>Provost</i>
Commencement Address	James Charles Elder, Jr. <i>Pastor, First Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia</i> <i>Former Trustee, Mercer University</i>
Special Awards	Jean Rawlings Sumner
Conferring of the Degrees	The President of the University <i>Master of Family Therapy Master of Science in Preclinical Sciences</i> <i>Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Health Sciences Doctor of Medicine</i>
Awarding of Diplomas	Jean Rawlings Sumner
Hippocratic Oath	Don K. Nakayama <i>Senior Associate Dean, Columbus</i>
Special Programs Recognition	Edwin Walker Grimsley <i>Senior Associate Dean, Macon</i>
Military Recognition	J. David Baxter <i>Senior Associate Dean, Savannah</i>
Alumni Welcome	Stanley D. Jones <i>Owner, The Pediatric Center</i> <i>Trustee, Mercer University</i>
Special Music, <i>Here I Am Lord</i>	Melanie Buckner <i>Composed by Dan Schutte</i>
Benediction*	Craig McMahan
Academic Recession**	Jonathan Poe <i>Director of Music and Liturgy, Christ Episcopal Church, Macon</i> Paul C. McCommon

**The audience is requested to rise. **The audience is requested to remain in place until the completion of the academic recession.
Military Promotion Ceremony will be held in Hawkins Arena immediately following – Invitation Only.*

JAMES CHARLES ELDER, JR.

Commencement Speaker



Dr. Jimmy Elder has lived in Georgia all of his life. Born in the Atlanta area, he was an honor graduate at Rockdale County High School and *magna cum laude* graduate of Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He completed post-graduate work earning a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary.

For over 19 years, Dr. Elder has served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbus. He previously pastored churches in Gwinnett County, Moultrie and Thomson. He recently completed his 20th year on the Mercer University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Elder served as chair of the Board of Trustees of St. Francis/Emory Healthcare. He is currently vice chair of the St. Francis/Emory Healthcare Board, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pastoral Institute, the YMCA Board of Directors, and the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley.

Dr. Elder is past president of the Rotary Club of Columbus and is a member of the Columbus Community Leadership group.

He was closely involved with the founding of the Mercer School of Medicine, Columbus Campus.

Dr. Elder has been married for 45 years to Roxann Nobles Elder. The Elders are parents to two grown sons — J.C., an architect in Nashville, Tennessee, and John Christopher, a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley in Columbus/Atlanta. They have four grandchildren.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS

FACULTY MARSHAL

Bonny L. Dickinson, PhD, MS-HPed

Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

Director of Medical Education Research

Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences

READERS

Ben Beitin, PhD, LMFT

Program Director, Master of Family Therapy Program

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

James E. Drummond, PhD

Director, Master of Science in Preclinical Sciences Program

Assistant Professor of Microbiology

Christy C. Bridges, PhD

Director, Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program

Professor of Histology

Anne Montgomery, PhD

Program Co-Director, Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Health Sciences

Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine

Don K. Nakayama, MD, FACS

Senior Associate Dean, Columbus Campus

J. David Baxter, MD, FACP

Senior Associate Dean, Savannah Campus

Edwin Walker Grimsley, MD, MACP

Senior Associate Dean, Macon Campus

ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARDS

A key component of medical education is the compassionate and humanistic care of patients. In support of that premise, the NBI Healthcare Foundation initiated the Humanism in Medicine Awards to recognize and honor graduating students and faculty members who have demonstrated the highest standard of compassion and sensitivity in their interactions with patients. Mercer University School of Medicine graduating students and the faculty have, respectively, chosen a faculty member and a student who embody empathic, sensitive and respectful behavior in providing patient care.

2023 FACULTY HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

Chad Martins, MD

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

2023 STUDENT HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

Audrey Elizabeth Dugan

DR. ANNA N. WALKER AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The Dr. Anna N. Walker Award for Teaching Excellence was developed in 2018 upon Dr. Walker's retirement and is deemed the highest award bestowed on a School of Medicine faculty member. The award acknowledges Dr. Walker's exceptional contributions to the School of Medicine and will annually recognize a faculty member who is an outstanding teacher and mentor dedicated to Mercer's mission.

2023 AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Jeffrey Ignatoff, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences Education

SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL RURAL SERVICE FELLOW AWARD

The Sandra Dunagan Deal Rural Service Fellow Award was established in September 2022 to honor former first lady Sandra Deal and her commitment to education, volunteerism, and community involvement. This award recognizes a faculty member, community, or volunteer partner who has made significant contributions mentoring, inspiring and encouraging Mercer Medical students to care for Georgians in rural, underserved areas in Georgia, furthering the School of Medicine's mission. Mercer University School of Medicine Nathan Deal Scholars each year select the recipient who best exemplifies Mrs. Deal's selfless devotion, love for education, and promotion of excellence.

INAUGURAL RURAL SERVICE FELLOW AWARD

Keisha R. Callins, MD, MPH

Professor of Community Medicine

Joy McCann Endowed Professor

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

♦ Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society | ♦ Gold Humanism Honor Society | † Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MASTER OF FAMILY THERAPY

Mary Alice Quinn Allen
Atlanta, Georgia

Emanuel Malik Anderson
Albany, Georgia

Allie Michele Argue †
Villa Rica, Georgia

Sierra Logan Berkner †
Gray, Georgia

Ellen Claire Booz †
Athens, Georgia

Grace Katherine Brown †
Palmetto, Georgia

Nallah Akilah Brown
Tallahassee, Florida

Lakyah Marie Bullock †
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Michael Scott Clanton
High Falls, Georgia

Engle Niancé Marguerite Clay †
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Kate Aba Coker-Daisie †
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Cayce Anne Collins †
Clayton, Georgia

Javhan Sterling Cosby
Fremont, California

Randi LeAnn Darby
Roberta, Georgia

Ohara Day Darmetko
Acworth, Georgia

Weldon Elizabeth Delmer †
Atlanta, Georgia

Lashonza Shanese Dozier
Macon, Georgia

Lauren Elizabeth Evans
Macon, Georgia

Emoni Rashawn Evins
Richmond, Virginia

Alexis Shawnte Flannagan
East Point, Georgia

Melissa Skettlyne Frederic
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Amanda Leigh Gollehon †
Athens, Georgia

Emma Marie Green
Roswell, Georgia

Caroline Dillon Hamner †
Atlanta, Georgia

Lindsay Elizabeth Heard
Chicago, Illinois

Tasheena Delana Hinds †
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Chloe Alicia Holton
Camilla, Georgia

Talareah MoNay Howard
Macon, Georgia

Gloria Dermei Huang †
Peachtree Corners, Georgia

Lacadia Zinnia Jones †
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Addie Courington Langstaff †
Decatur, Georgia

Madeleine Ann Lawson †
Forsyth, Georgia

Sonya Claire Milam
Perry, Georgia

MuskanZehra Sohail Momin
Fayetteville, Georgia

Aleeah Malika Muhammad
Long Beach, California

Sophia Margaret Newman †
Atlanta, Georgia

Timothy Hoang-Tuan Nguyen
Liburn, Georgia

Morgan Leigh Prillaman
Peachtree City, Georgia

Kaylee Robinson
Lincoln, Nebraska

Casey Leigh Sheppard
Waycross, Georgia

Tanay Siwngwa †
Liburn, Georgia

Alexcia Keona Nija Taylor
Hampton, Georgia

Darby Lynette Thorne
Albany, Georgia

Courtney Austin Turner
Savannah, Georgia

Crystal Shanea Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Carrington Marshall Boyd Woods †
Savannah, Georgia

Ashley Elizabeth Woolman †
Clovis, California

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PRECLINICAL SCIENCES

Chisom Chidi Anachebe
Jonesboro, Georgia

Anthonia Ginikachi Aralu
Douglasville, Georgia

Yohana Hints Araya
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Sahaj Krishan Bhimani
Atlanta, Georgia

Rachel Ann Hope Bielling
Tallahassee, Florida

Christopher Luke Bradley
Byron, Georgia

Zoe J. Bradley
Byron, Georgia

Collin Busbee
Jacksonville, Florida

Kiera Simone Carey
Dothan, Alabama

Courtney Josette Dubose
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Michael Gama Hassan
Dallas, Georgia

Davis Brett Kidd
Kennesaw, Georgia

Nicolas Magee Martini
Alpharetta, Georgia

Mark Estes Murray, Jr.
Athens, Georgia

Christopher John Peterson
Johns Creek, Georgia

Savannah Leigh Poole
Rome, Georgia

Priscila Rex
Augusta, Georgia

Janiah Nicole Ryans
Augusta, Georgia

Trang Ngoc Vo
Liburn, Georgia

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Faith Nicole Burnett
Ellabell, Georgia

Anasalea Julius Violet Caroland
Byron, Georgia

Ronnie Clay Chastain †
Canton, Georgia

Elmira Lomashvili †
Cumming, Georgia

Purva Lotwala
Suwanee, Georgia

Crystal C. Uwazie
Loganville, Georgia

Katharine Drayton Warner
Savannah, Georgia

Timothy James Weehunt †
Dallas, Georgia

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN RURAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Dahlia Jalondra Tatiana Al-Haleem †
Jacksonville, Florida

Stephanie Michelle Basey †
Woodbine, Georgia

Joy Eula-Estelle Joseph
Kathleen, Georgia

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

John Mark Adent
Johns Creek, Georgia

Maya Ahmadiéh
Grovetown, Georgia

Sumeja Aljic
Grayson, Georgia

Neil Rajesh Andharia
Douglas, Georgia

Juan Carlos Armstrong, Jr. † ♦
Waynesville, Georgia

Amelia Nguyet Chu Austin
Dawsonville, Georgia

Jennifer Susanne Babjak
Valdosta, Georgia

Arjun Sanjay Bakshi
Suwanee, Georgia

Caitlin Balno
Savannah, Georgia

James Samuel Barefield
Augusta, Georgia

Mary Catherine Barnes
Waycross, Georgia

Alexis Chamberlin Bateman
Woodstock, Georgia

Daniel Luke Bauknight † ♦
Hartwell, Georgia

Claire Marie Belay
Mableton, Georgia

Eric Spires Belcher
Nahunta, Georgia

Belinda Carrie Bell ♦
Donalsonville, Georgia

Alexis Lott Bialousz
West Green, Georgia

Quinton Elijah Blount ♦
Atlanta, Georgia

Benjamin Henry Taylor Bridges
Brinson, Georgia

Harrison Kennedy Brock
Atlanta, Georgia

Taylor Rose Brooks
Milledgeville, Georgia

Kaylee Susanne Brown
St. Marys, Georgia

Austin Hall Browning
Adrian, Georgia

Scot Alan Brunner
Mineral Bluff, Georgia

Baylee Wynn Bruton ♦ ♦
Dublin, Georgia

Jana Leigh Byrd
Dawsonville, Georgia

Derek Sokkeakto Chan
Gainesville, Georgia

Katherine Alexis Chandler
Ila, Georgia

Alexa Ann Chapman
Tyrone, Georgia

Thomas Ryan Chatman
Doerun, Georgia

Madison Kathleen Cook † ♦
Alpharetta, Georgia

Christina Cortes ♦
Savannah, Georgia

Dorianna Cathrine Dobson ♦
Rome, Georgia

Audrey Elizabeth Dugan ♦
Greensboro, Georgia

Mary Elizabeth Dye
Ball Ground, Georgia

Kalyn Morgan Dyer ♦ ♦
Gainesville, Georgia

Ben Tyler Evanson ♦
Carnesville, Georgia

Jonathon Curtis Edgy ♦
Waynesville, Georgia

Jacob Glenn Elliott
Guyton, Georgia

Pedro Escobar Diaz
Hazlehurst, Georgia

Skylar Breanne Faul
Ringgold, Georgia

John Matthew Franco ♦
Warner Robins, Georgia

Shannon Leigh Freeland
Monroe, Georgia

Joshua Gustave Fricker
Hahira, Georgia

Nicholas Jesse Fuerstenau
Brooks, Georgia

Zachary Tyler-Lee Gallatin † ♦
Fortson, Georgia

Garrett L. Garner ♦
Richmond Hill, Georgia

Robert Blain Gibbons
Macon, Georgia

Daniel Nathan Glodener
Alpharetta, Georgia

Samuel Pretam Goberdhan
Adel, Georgia

Evan Nicole Graham
Decatur, Georgia

Alana Jude Hagley ♦
Marietta, Georgia

Clark Hall
Liburn, Georgia

Jessica Sherease Hall
Macon, Georgia

Neal McGuire Hall ♦
Cumming, Georgia

Ellen Marie Hardin
Woodstock, Georgia

Callie Walraven Hearn
Calhoun, Georgia

Oriana Lee Hollingsworth Boyles
Midway, Georgia

Hunter Lee Honeycutt
Tifton, Georgia

Sarah Michele Hopper
Armuchee, Georgia

James Scully Jackson ♦
Kennesaw, Georgia

Whitney Elizabeth Jackson † ♦
Savannah, Georgia

Mevelyn Kaalla
Snelville, Georgia

Maggie Bridges Kearney
Brinson, Georgia

Darian Robert Keller
Fayetteville, Georgia

Taylor Paige Kennedy † ♦ ♦
Homer, Georgia

Connor Donald Kilch
Marietta, Georgia

Lucas Jin-ho Kim
Carnesville, Georgia

Candler Lorann Kimsey ♦
Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia

Russell Edwin King † ♦
Waynesville, Georgia

Weston Cody King
Leesburg, Georgia

Heather Grace Krome
Thomson, Georgia

Meryssah Lorraine Krueger
Macon, Georgia

Michael Ranjan Kshatri ♦
Austell, Georgia

Sara Lafayette
Albany, Georgia

Chloe Marie LaGuardia
Newman, Georgia

Britney Nicole Lane
Perry, Georgia

Roxana Yamileht Lazo Gonzalez ♦
Acworth, Georgia

Dillon Michael LiVecche
Stockbridge, Georgia

Cassandra Afrah Maafoh
Lilburn, Georgia

Julia Elizabeth Mattingly
Suwanee, Georgia

Trevor Andrew McClure † ♦
Greenville, Georgia

Charles Freeman McCluskey
Columbus, Georgia

Merritt Daniels McGowan
Camilla, Georgia

Benjamin Foy Minor ♦
Dalton, Georgia

Cliff Chandler Moore
Alpharetta, Georgia

Jackson Boone Moss † ♦
Hiawassee, Georgia

Sai Varun Nagula ♦
Alpharetta, Georgia

Aaron Chase Nettles
Nahunta, Georgia

Angela Nguyen
Baldwin, Georgia

Mary Wallace Noe
Madison, Georgia

Daniel Ospina
Millwood, Georgia

Jeremy R. Paradise
Moultrie, Georgia

Aakash Piyush Patel
Marietta, Georgia

Neal Atul Patel † ♦
Covington, Georgia

Riya Dinesh Patel
Camilla, Georgia

Vishal Bhupendra Patel
Tifton, Georgia

Vraj Manoj Patel ♦
Columbus, Georgia

Qamaruddin Paykargar
Alpharetta, Georgia

Jessica Meenakshi Prasad
Swaitsboro, Georgia

Georgia Wilson Pridgen
Columbus, Georgia

Russell Prentice Puckett
Gainesville, Georgia

Anna Marie Raley
Gibson, Georgia

Christopher David Rogers ♦ ♦
Dawson, Georgia

Hannah Leigh-Anne Rowland
Ball Ground, Georgia

Michael David Sandak
Upatoi, Georgia

Bharath Sharma
Cuthbert, Georgia

Asif Kalam Sheikh
Tifton, Georgia

Chase Avery Shook
Hiawassee, Georgia

Caroline Elizabeth Smith
Augusta, Georgia

Triston Ezekiel Smith
Dalton, Georgia

Wokie Smith
Savannah, Georgia

Madeleine Gabrielle Spitzler
Sandy Springs, Georgia

Matthew Jared Staples
Decatur, Georgia

Kristen Prather Stovall
Augusta, Georgia

Loy Daniel Strawn, Jr. † ♦
Camilla, Georgia

Daniel Ryan Streetman ♦ ♦
Commerce, Georgia

Jacob Aaron Sudduth
Bremen, Georgia

Aaron Bradford Sumner
Rome, Georgia

Amy Elizabeth Varghese ♦
Alpharetta, Georgia

William Tyler Vaughan
Ringgold, Georgia

Allison Grace Walls
Buford, Georgia

William McAfee Warren
Cartersville, Georgia

Adam Lane Webb
Moultrie, Georgia

William Andrew Wheeler
Newnan, Georgia

Joshua Andrew Wilkes
Fitzgerald, Georgia

Michele Irene Wilkins
Buena Vista, Georgia

Jordan Alexandra Pringle Williams ♦
Crawford, Georgia

Marshall Douglas Williams
Dacula, Georgia

Payton Frances Williams
Hazlehurst, Georgia

Carley Ann Wilson
Jefferson, Georgia

Todd Martin Wood, Jr.
Columbus, Georgia

William Matthew Wright
Macon, Georgia

Nellienna Simone Young
Albany, Georgia

Danté Zanders ♦
McRae, Georgia

Halie Maddison Zastre † ♦
Hartwell, Georgia

HIPPOCRATIC OATH

(MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE VERSION)

I do solemnly swear and affirm in front of my faculty and colleagues as witnesses that throughout my life I will adhere, at all times, to the Mercer University School of Medicine Student Code of Honor and Professional Conduct and that I will keep that code and this oath:

I pledge to uphold and honor the principles of honesty, integrity, and professionalism which are required for the practice of medicine and will accept my responsibility to keep these principles along with the consequences should I fail to do so.

I will hold those who taught me this art dear, and will freely teach this art to those who wish to learn it. I will impart knowledge of the art to my own students.

I will use scientific foundations, which will benefit my patients according to my greatest ability and judgment, and I will knowingly do no harm or injustice to them. I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity. The health of my patient will be my first consideration. I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan. I will not knowingly prescribe any drug that would do harm.

Into whatever homes or institutions I go, I will enter them for the benefit of the sick, avoiding any voluntary act of impropriety or corruption.

Whatever I see or hear in the lives of my patients, whether in connection with my professional practice or not, which ought not to be spoken of outside, I will keep in absolute confidence, as considering all such things to be private. I will respect the secrets, which are confided in me, even after the patient has died.

I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient.

So long as I maintain this Oath faithfully and without corruption, may it be granted to me to partake of life fully and the practice of my art, gaining the respect of all people for all time. However, should I transgress this Oath and violate it, may the opposite be my fate.

May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT

SCHOOL OF LAW COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 13, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. | Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Prelude	Jonathan Poe <i>Director of Music and Liturgy, Christ Episcopal Church, Macon</i>
Academic Procession*	Jonathan Poe
Invocation*	Sarah Gerwig <i>Professor of Law</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings from the Law School	Karen Sneddon <i>Interim Dean and Professor of Law</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Karen Sneddon
Commencement Address	Tomieka R. Daniel <i>Deputy Director, Georgia Legal Services Program</i>
Student Awards	Jeannie Zipperer <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i>
Special Recognitions	
George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence	D. Scott Davis <i>Provost</i>
Reynold J. Kosek, Jr., Excellence in Teaching Award	Travis Daniel Lynes <i>Editor in Chief, Mercer Law Review</i>
Conferring of the Juris Doctor	Karen Sneddon
Presentation of the Class of 2023	Katherine Louise Twomey <i>President, Student Bar Association</i>
Hooding Ceremony	The President of the University Karen Sneddon
Benediction*	Sarah Gerwig
Academic Recession**	Jonathan Poe

* *The audience is requested to rise.*

** *The audience is requested to remain in place until the completion of the academic recession.*

TOMIEKA R. DANIEL

Commencement Speaker



Tomieka R. Daniel earned her degree from Mercer Law School in 2002 after graduating with honors from Clark Atlanta University in 1997. She has been practicing law with Georgia Legal Services since 2002, first as the managing attorney for the Macon Regional Office and currently as deputy director. In her position, Daniel primarily handles family law, housing, elder law, and family violence cases for low-income Georgians. She has conducted numerous trainings on domestic violence issues throughout the state, training legal advocates, attorneys, law enforcement officials, and judges on the issues of domestic violence.

Daniel is the recipient of many prestigious awards. In 2008, she was recognized as the first recipient of the Law and Public Service Program Award for Outstanding Public Service by a Recent Graduate.

The award recognizes recent Mercer graduates whose professional contributions reflect an ethic of public service. Other honors include the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service, presented by the State Bar of Georgia, 2009; the Domestic Violence Task Force Member of the Year Award from the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, 2014; the Woman of Achievement Award from the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. of Georgia, 2015; the Bensonetta Tipton Lane Award for Commitment to the Family from the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, 2015; and the Chain of Service Award for National Trends and Services from the Macon Chapter of The Links, Inc., 2017. In 2019, the State Bar of Georgia's Access to Justice Committee awarded Daniel the Dan Bradley Award and in 2020, the *Daily Report* named her as a Best Mentor.

In 2020, Daniel was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp to serve on the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. In addition to her legal work, she is a member of the Sigma Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is a past chief volunteer officer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia. She is a member of the Macon Bar Association and serves on the Access to Justice Committee for the State Bar of Georgia. She is past president for the Houston County Bar Association, a member of the Georgia Association for Black Women Attorneys, president of the Bootle Inn of Court, and a member of the Georgia Association for Women Attorneys. An active member of the Macon Chapter of The Links, Inc., Daniel is also a former member of the Alumni Board of Directors for Mercer School of Law. She serves as a board member for the Middle Georgia Access to Justice program and is an active member of Fellowship Bible Baptist Church. Daniel is married to Willie L. Daniel, Jr., and they have a 14-year-old daughter named Carrington.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS

MARSHALS

Bonnie Carlson
Assistant Professor of Law

Suzianne D. Painter-Thorne
*Professor of Law and Associate Dean
for Strategic Initiatives*

Katie Powers
Director of Advocacy

HOODERS

James P. Fleissner
Professor of Law

Michael D. Sabbath
Professor of Law

Timothy W. Floyd
*Professor of Law and Tommy Malone
Distinguished Chair in Trial Advocacy
and Director of Experiential Education*

Pamela A. Wilkins
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Associate Professor of Law*

USHERS

Mercer Law Students

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

* Cum Laude | ** Magna Cum Laude | *** Summa Cum Laude | ~ Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

SCHOOL OF LAW

Chris M. Alviz <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Peter Becknell Drogmans <i>St. Simons Island, Georgia</i>	Henry R. Hibbert ** <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Jessica Luna **~ <i>Kennesaw, Georgia</i>	Baxter Dewey Ray <i>Jesup, Georgia</i>	William L. Wheeler <i>Athens, Georgia</i>
Bailey Elyse Armstrong <i>Flowery Branch, Georgia</i>	Emma Faircloth Duke *** <i>Rome, Georgia</i>	Chance Cain Hingson <i>Hahira, Georgia</i>	Travis Daniel Lynes * <i>Moncks Corner, South Carolina</i>	Ryan H. Read * <i>Conyers, Georgia</i>	Sara Ann White ***~ <i>Metter, Georgia</i>
Jessica Frances Ashton <i>Merced, California</i>	Sarah Annabella Ensley <i>Chatsworth, Georgia</i>	Sadelia Lynn Hobbs <i>Cleveland, Georgia</i>	Rebekah Gretchen Mabe <i>Johnson City, Tennessee</i>	Taylor Marie Rinberger <i>Nashville, Georgia</i>	Amirah Tyesha-Marie Williams <i>Powder Springs, Georgia</i>
Lily A. Barlow * <i>Griffin, Georgia</i>	Christopher Ryan Ferguson * <i>Griffin, Georgia</i>	Alexandra Hofstetter <i>Canton, Georgia</i>	Julia A. Maxwell * <i>Statesboro, Georgia</i>	Nathan Alexander Rodes <i>Madison, Alabama</i>	LaShane Delores Wilson <i>Covington, Georgia</i>
Brian Curtis Barrett <i>Canton, Georgia</i>	Brandon Michael Fitz <i>Smiths Station, Alabama</i>	Joseph Rudy Holguin * <i>Savannah, Georgia</i>	Catherine Kennedy McKnight <i>Augusta, Georgia</i>	John Hunter Rodriguez * <i>Columbus, Georgia</i>	Marilyn D. Yingling * <i>Panama City, Florida</i>
Jessica Lindsey Batten * <i>Woodstock, Georgia</i>	John David Flowers * <i>Columbus, Georgia</i>	Sydney L. Gibson-Horn <i>Goshen, Kentucky</i>	Paige Chanin Medinger <i>Peachtree Corners, Georgia</i>	Bridges Murray Roland <i>Americus, Georgia</i>	Grace Cooper Young <i>Macon, Georgia</i>
Haryson Faith Blair <i>LaGrange, Georgia</i>	Cierra Dawn Fountain <i>Douglas, Georgia</i>	John Kerry Howell <i>Macon, Georgia</i>	Deena Maria Mentonis <i>Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey</i>	Megan Romeo <i>Braselton, Georgia</i>	SPECIAL HOODING
Alexandra Heather Bradley <i>Eatonton, Georgia</i>	Natasha K. Frank <i>Champaign, Illinois</i>	Kimberly T. Jergenson <i>Lexington, South Carolina</i>	Madison Leigh Mermelstein <i>Savannah, Georgia</i>	Rhett G. Rycroft * <i>Fitzgerald, Georgia</i>	Peter Thomas Alford, Jr. <i>LaGrange, Georgia</i>
Jasmyn E. Brown <i>Haines City, Florida</i>	Winston Williams Gammon <i>Cedartown, Georgia</i>	Kiana Tymira Johnson <i>Macon, Georgia</i>	Austin Moyer <i>Tampa, Florida</i>	Samuel Richard Shaw <i>LaGrange, Georgia</i>	Moritz Devon Holloway, II * <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>
Morgan Leigh Bryant-Cook <i>Dillon, South Carolina</i>	John J. Gascho <i>Savannah, Georgia</i>	Tyler Jonathan Kahale <i>Milton, Georgia</i>	Zachary Aaron Mullinax *** <i>Kennesaw, Georgia</i>	Stone L. Sirmans <i>Nashville, Georgia</i>	Clay MacEwan Passante <i>Macon, Georgia</i>
Benjamin Patrick Cain <i>Marietta, Georgia</i>	Riley Glover <i>Warner Robins, Georgia</i>	Jasmine M. A. Keiler <i>Kathleen, Georgia</i>	Kaitlyn Camille Myles * <i>Douglasville, Georgia</i>	Lindsey Amanda Smallwood <i>Waycross, Georgia</i>	Catherine Elizabeth Priebe <i>Wadsworth, Illinois</i>
Kayla Shay Callaway <i>Pike County, Georgia</i>	Maritza Fabiola Tonatzin Gonzalez Cid <i>Hampton, Georgia</i>	Andrew C. Kendall ** <i>Grayson, Georgia</i>	Olivia Marie Nation <i>Orlando, Florida</i>	Lily Nicole Smith <i>Panama City, Florida</i>	Anna Elizabeth Woodard Roeder <i>Rome, Georgia</i>
Kathrine Paige Carrasquillo <i>Brunswick, Georgia</i>	William Smith Graddick <i>Buford, Georgia</i>	Ransom Jackson Klinger <i>Dunwoody, Georgia</i>	Lilly B. Nickels * <i>Williamson, Georgia</i>	Nathaniel Stinson, Jr. <i>Jonesboro, Georgia</i>	Jeremy Connor Simpson <i>Kennesaw, Georgia</i>
Bianca Shantal Carthern <i>Peachtree City, Georgia</i>	DeJuawn L. Griffin * <i>Macon, Georgia</i>	Sandra Elizabeth Kuhlmann <i>Acworth, Georgia</i>	W. Chandler Norville <i>Kershaw, South Carolina</i>	Jordan Wendell Stone * <i>Douglas, Georgia</i>	Kate McRae Tunison <i>Valdosta, Georgia</i>
Isiah L. Chavis <i>Church Point, Louisiana</i>	Molly D. Guillory <i>Cumming, Georgia</i>	Zariya May-Miracle Lagroon * <i>McCormick, South Carolina</i>	Kevin Brendan Ofchus <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Andrew Keith Swann <i>Ranger, Georgia</i>	Abigail Lark Wheeler <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>
Amanda L. Claxton * <i>Kite, Georgia</i>	Jonathon M. Hall <i>Blackshear, Georgia</i>	Rebecca Shay Lawrence **~ <i>Vidalia, Georgia</i>	Brooks Parker <i>Jesup, Georgia</i>	Brandon Timani <i>Evans, Georgia</i>	<i>Final grades for graduates are not due until June. Degrees and honors will not be determined or become final until all GPAs of students are computed in June. The program reflects those graduating students who, based on grades earned in the first five semesters, are likely to receive honors when final grades are calculated.</i>
Thomas Powell Cobb <i>Athens, Georgia</i>	Bailey Thomas Hankins * <i>Trion, Georgia</i>	Julianna Ledden <i>Lizella, Georgia</i>	Hannah Trece Parker * <i>Phenix City, Alabama</i>	Kenneth A. Tougaw <i>Ringgold, Georgia</i>	
Bryce Patrick Colvin <i>Augusta, Georgia</i>	Rebekah Jean Hardin <i>Kansas City, Missouri</i>	Alyssa R. LeDoux * <i>Cedar Hills, Utah</i>	Douglas Neil Parks <i>Grass Valley, California</i>	Katherine Louise Twomey <i>Adel, Georgia</i>	
Alasia Dalton <i>Bowling Green, Virginia</i>	Nicholas Edward Harof <i>Alpharetta, Georgia</i>	Jordan Shane Lipp ***~ <i>Pine Mountain Valley, Georgia</i>	T. Seth Phillips <i>Lancaster, South Carolina</i>	Madison Brooke Voyles * <i>Hahira, Georgia</i>	
Kate Leona Daly <i>Savannah, Georgia</i>	Hannah Nicole Harris <i>Woodstock, Georgia</i>	Samantha O'Brien Thompson Lipp**~ <i>Vidalia, Georgia</i>	Hannah Gracyn Pressley * <i>Boiling Springs, South Carolina</i>	Benjamin Douglas Walker * <i>Kingston, Georgia</i>	
Logan Wallace Daniels <i>Fitzgerald, Georgia</i>	Warren Hedgepeth * <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Porcia Keyonna Lockett <i>Tifton, Georgia</i>	Stella Larice Preston * <i>Safety Harbor, Florida</i>	Matthew Brannan Waters <i>Hazlehurst, Georgia</i>	
Tatiana Dobretsova *** <i>Sandy Springs, Georgia</i>			Emily Ann Ramos <i>Chattanooga, Tennessee</i>	Nicholas Anthony Welch <i>Orlando, Florida</i>	

CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING, RESEARCH AND DRAFTING

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Bailey Elyse Armstrong	Bailey Thomas Hankins	Jordan Shane Lipp	Kevin Brendan Ofchus	Katherine Louise Twomey
Jessica Lindsey Batten	Sadelia Lynn Hobbs	Samantha O'Brien Thompson Lipp	Hannah Gracyn Pressley	Madison Brooke Voyles
Bianca Shantal Carthern	Joseph Rudy Holguin	Travis Daniel Lynes	Baxter Dewey Ray	Nicholas Anthony Welch
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CEREMONY I

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

ATLANTA COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 14, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. | Gas South Arena, Duluth, Georgia

Presiding William David Underwood
The President of the University

Prelude Tom Crawford
Bagpiper

Invocation* James Sidney Netherton
Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance

Welcome The President of the University

Greetings and Words of Encouragement Raymond McLeod (Thad) Warren, III
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Message from the President The President of the University

Conferring of the Degrees

School of Business Dean Julie Ann Petherbridge
*Bachelor of Business Administration | Master of Accountancy
Master of Business Administration | Master of Science*

College of Education Dean Thomas Raymond Koballa, Jr.
*Bachelor of Science in Education | Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Education | Specialist in Education | Doctor of Philosophy*

College of Professional Advancement Dean Priscilla Ruth Danheiser
Bachelor of Arts | Bachelor of Science | Master of Science | Doctor of Philosophy

School of Theology Dean Clark Gregory DeLoach, III
*Master of Theological Studies | Master of Arts
Master of Divinity | Doctor of Ministry*

University Marshal Jody M. Blanke
*Chair, Ernest L. Baskin, Jr. Distinguished Professor of
Computer Science and Law, School of Business*

Presentation of Graduates Sharon Lim Harle
*Assistant Vice President, Office of Alumni Services
and University Special Events; Reader*

Alumni Welcome Penny Loraine Elkins
Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management

Benediction* Kellie Raiford Appel
Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

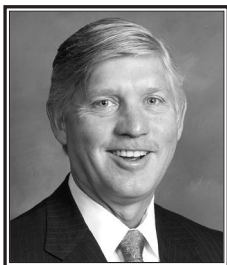
Academic Recession**

** The audience is requested to rise.*

*** The audience is requested to remain in place until the completion of the academic recession.*

RAYMOND MCLEOD (THAD) WARREN, III

Greetings from the Mercer Board of Trustees



Thad Warren serves as chair of the Mercer University Board of Trustees and is currently in his third five-year term on the board. He is chairman and CEO of Warren Environment Inc. in Atlanta, North America's largest supplier of industrial stack and duct systems. He currently serves, or has served, on numerous other boards, including the Atlanta Youth Project and Lake Rabun Association. An Eagle Scout, Warren has served as a Boy Scouts of America Scoutmaster and is a lifetime member, former Sunday school teacher, former deacon and former chairman of the Board of Deacons at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. A 1986 graduate of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Warren met his wife, Darlene, B.S. '86, at Mercer and was married by Monroe Swilley, for whom the Atlanta campus library is named. The Warrens have two adult children.

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Presiding William David Underwood
The President of the University

Prelude Tom Crawford
Bagpiper

Invocation* James Sidney Netherton
Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance

Welcome The President of the University

Greetings and Words of Encouragement Raymond McLeod (Thad) Warren, III
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Message from the President The President of the University

Conferring of the Degrees

College of Nursing Interim Dean Tammy Diane Barbé
*Bachelor of Science in Nursing | Master of Science in Nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice | Doctor of Philosophy*

College of Pharmacy Dean Brian Louis Crabtree
*Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Master of Science in Health Outcomes | Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Doctor of Pharmacy | Doctor of Philosophy*

College of Health Professions Dean Lisa Murphey Lundquist
*Master of Public Health | Master of Medical Science
Doctor of Physical Therapy | Doctor of Psychology*

University Marshal Susan Whitley Miller
Professor of Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy

Presentation of Graduates Sharon Lim Harle
*Assistant Vice President, Office of Alumni Services
and University Special Events; Reader*

Alumni Welcome Penny Loraine Elkins
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Benediction* Kellie Raiford Appel
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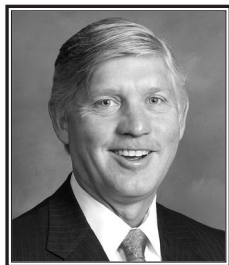
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** The audience is requested to rise.*

*** The audience is requested to remain in place until the completion of the academic recession.*

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Greetings from the Mercer Board of Trustees



Thad Warren serves as chair of the Mercer University Board of Trustees and is currently in his third five-year term on the board. He is chairman and CEO of Warren Environment Inc. in Atlanta, North America's largest supplier of industrial stack and duct systems. He currently serves, or has served, on numerous other boards, including the Atlanta Youth Project and Lake Rabun Association. An Eagle Scout, Warren has served as a Boy Scouts of America Scoutmaster and is a lifetime member, former Sunday school teacher, former deacon and former chairman of the Board of Deacons at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. A 1986 graduate of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Warren met his wife, Darlene, B.S. '86, at Mercer and was married by Monroe Swilley, for whom the Atlanta campus library is named. The Warrens have two adult children.

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Participation in the graduation ceremony does not necessarily represent conferral of the degree. Degrees are awarded at the end of the term in which all requirements are met. Honors printed in the program and announced at the commencement ceremony are based on grades earned at the time of program publication, and may not reflect final honors.



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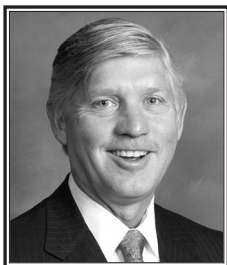
Monday, May 15, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. | Five Star Stadium, Macon Campus

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Academic Procession*	Walton's Crown Imperial
Invocation*	Craig Thomas McMahan <i>Minister of the University and Dean of Chapel</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings and Words of Encouragement	Raymond McLeod (Thad) Warren, III <i>Chair of the Board of Trustees</i>
Special Music, <i>Por Una Cabeza</i> by Carlos Gardel	Caitlyn Dillard, violin <i>Bachelor of Music, Class of 2023</i>
Arranged by Augustin Hadelich for Two Violins	Naomi Fan, violin <i>Bachelor of Music, Class of 2023</i>
Introduction of the Speaker	D. Scott Davis <i>Provost</i>
Message to the Graduates	Abdulraheem Kaimari <i>Bachelor of Science, Major in Neuroscience, Class of 2023</i>
Student Awards	Douglas R. Pearson <i>Vice President and Dean of Students</i>
Conferring of the Degrees	The President of the University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Dean Anita Olson Gustafson <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Fine Arts Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Science in Health Science</i>
School of Business	Dean Julie Ann Petherbridge <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Business Administration Master of Business Administration</i>
School of Engineering	Dean Laura W. Lackey <i>Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Science in Engineering Master of Science Master of Science in Engineering</i>
College of Education	Dean Thomas Raymond Koballa, Jr. <i>Bachelor of Science in Education Master of Education</i>
College of Professional Advancement	Dean Priscilla Ruth Danheiser <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science</i>
School of Music	Dean Gary Gerber <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Music Bachelor of Music Education Master of Music</i>
College of Health Professions	Dean Lisa Murphey Lundquist <i>Bachelor of Science Master of Athletic Training</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Edward J. Weintraut <i>Professor Emeritus of Foreign Languages and Literatures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</i>
Alumni Welcome	John Andrew Patterson <i>Senior Vice President for University Advancement</i>
Alma Mater*	Stanley Roberts <i>Arthur Lowndes Rich Professor of Choral Conducting and Associate Dean, School of Music</i>
Benediction*	Craig Thomas McMahan
Academic Recession*	Verdi's <i>Aida: Grand March</i>

* Please stand. The platform party, faculty and students will process and recess.

RAYMOND McLEOD (THAD) WARREN, III

Greetings from the Mercer Board of Trustees



Thad Warren serves as chair of the Mercer University Board of Trustees and is currently in his third five-year term on the board. He is chairman and CEO of Warren Environment Inc. in Atlanta, North America's largest supplier of industrial stack and duct systems. He currently serves, or has served, on numerous other boards, including the Atlanta Youth Project and Lake Rabun Association. An Eagle Scout, Warren has served as a Boy Scouts of America Scoutmaster and is a lifetime member, former Sunday school teacher, former deacon and former chairman of the Board of Deacons at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. A 1986 graduate of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Warren met his wife, Darlene, B.S. '86, at Mercer and was married by Monroe Swilley, for whom the Atlanta campus library is named. The Warrens have two adult children.

ABDULRAHEEM KAIMARI

Student Commencement Speaker



Abdulraheem Kaimari is an exemplary Bear who used his undergraduate experience to support several Mercer organizations and peers, as well as Mercer international initiatives, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA in his neuroscience major and chemistry minor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. International experiences at an early age shaped his passion for service to others.

Although he currently calls Atlanta home, Kaimari spent seven years living abroad in the Middle East with his family from 2009 to 2016 and received advice from his grandmother that he believes shaped his future academic and cocurricular experiences: "You should always make an effort to make the world a better place." Although he says he was too young to really understand its meaning then, Kaimari's ongoing dedication to Mercer's Prosthetics and Orthotics Club (MPOC) and Mercer On Mission are indeed testaments to his grandmother's wisdom.

As MPOC's fabrication director and vice president, Kaimari has supported School of Engineering faculty member Dr. Ha Van Vo's original vision of prosthetic work through creation of a prosthetic-fitting handbook, collaborating in research to improve cost-efficient prosthetics, and training volunteers for the Mercer On Mission Vietnam program. He completed his microbiology-focused Honors research project with Dr. Linda Hensel and additional guidance and feedback from Dr. Garland Crawford.

Kaimari is a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa, Nhu Rho Psi, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. He has held officer positions in the Mercer Pre-Medical Organization, Beta Beta Beta Honor Society, and the Muslim Student Association, and has served as a Mercer Ambassador with Alumni Services.

Kaimari has earned a full-tuition scholarship with stipend for eight years to the University of Alabama at Birmingham beginning in the fall for its Medical Scientist Training Program where he will obtain both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Furthering his vocation and the incredible work he started at Mercer, he hopes to bridge neuro-engineering and biomedical engineering, and work with paraplegic and amputee patients.

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Powder Springs, Georgia

Rachel Chelsey Bramlett
Powder Springs, Georgia

Adé N. Campbell *
Warner Robins, Georgia

Makenna Casebolt ***~
Aurora, Colorado

Bennett Lane Cate ***
Peachtree City, Georgia

Mary Weston Courville **
Columbus, Georgia

Erin Marie Degnan **
Milton, Georgia

Jaron Kelisa Dougherty
Buford, Georgia

Elicia Ebony Edwards
Sugar Hill, Georgia

Ashiana Furtado ***
Douglas, Georgia

Joseph Scott Garcia-Carreras *
Greensboro, Georgia

Jariel Yuki Gurvir Hannor
Misawa, Japan

Maggie Grace Harden *
Carrollton, Georgia

Elise Nichole Hartley *
Calhoun, Georgia

Kylie Marie Helm
Pineville, Missouri

Madison Alexis Helmbold **
Fayetteville, Georgia

Justin Kristofer Henry ****°
Lilburn, Georgia

Lyndsey Nicole Lewis *
Dacula, Georgia

Kenedi Arin Maddox
Duluth, Georgia

Madelyn Ann Majewski **
Braselton, Georgia

Rose R. Marsan *
Richmond Hill, Georgia

Sang Thanh Nguyen **
Warner Robins, Georgia

Matthew J. O'Connor
Tampa, Florida

Jheel Kiritbhai Patel *
Warner Robins, Georgia

Anna Nong Peters
Roswell, Georgia

Emma McDaniel Plack **
Dallas, Georgia

Shay Elle Quinn
Dallas, Georgia

Hina Qureshi
Macon, Georgia

Olivia N. Rooney **
Charlottesville, Virginia

Chloe Ann Schaeffer **
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

Jendai India Sealey **
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Ana Serna **
Roswell, Georgia

Kentavian Gerard Standley
Waycross, Georgia

Ephratta Belay Woldearegaye
Lilburn, Georgia

Taylor Cordelia Yahn *
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Abigail Faith Yemisrach
McDonough, Georgia

MASTER OF ATHLETIC TRAINING

Alexis Baylee Bennett
Bluffton, South Carolina

Marcus Antonio Gonzalez
Winder, Georgia

Tanner Dalton Hamby
Jefferson, Georgia

Titania Nicole Lester
Macon, Georgia

Taylor A. Rain
Cartersville, Georgia

Madison Elaine Turner
Bethlehem, Georgia

Participation in the graduation ceremony does not necessarily represent conferral of the degree. Degrees are awarded at the end of the term in which all requirements are met. Honors printed in the program and announced at the commencement ceremony are based on grades earned at the time of program publication, and may not reflect final honors.

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I congratulate you on reaching this important milestone in your life! While you may leave today to embark on future careers, further studies, and all the other journeys of a long, interesting life, Mercer will never leave you. You are — and always will be — a Bear. And as such, you have a place with the Mercer University Alumni Association.



It is my honor to welcome you to the Alumni Association, a network of more than 87,000 Mercerians. There is no need to join; you are already a member. The Alumni Association is for all Mercer alumni and provides opportunities for you to connect with your classmates and all who came before you — and those who will come after. We hope you will stay in touch by keeping your contact information current, participating in reunions and events, and supporting the University with your time, talent and resources.

We look forward to celebrating the milestones of your life with you and to being a resource for your lifelong learning. Together we roar!

Go Bears!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Todd Smith". The signature is stylized and cursive.

B. Todd Smith
Associate Vice President & Executive Director

MERCER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, Georgia 31207-1517
(478) 301-2715 | (800) 637-2378 | Alumni@Mercer.edu



PHI BETA KAPPA ZETA OF GEORGIA

THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY — THE NATION’S MOST PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY — CHARTERED MERCER UNIVERSITY TO SHELTER THE ZETA CHAPTER OF GEORGIA IN 2015. In recommending Mercer for membership, the Society’s Committee on Qualifications described Mercer as a “quintessentially Phi Beta Kappa institution” in its values and mission, in its curriculum and general education requirements, in the variety of opportunities it provides its students, in the quality of its best undergraduates, and in the dedicated engagement of the faculty in all aspects of undergraduate education.

Phi Beta Kappa was founded Dec. 5, 1776, at the College of William and Mary by five undergraduates who sought to create a student society that would be more serious-minded than others that had previously existed at the Williamsburg, Virginia, institution.

The first college society with a Greek-letter name, Phi Beta Kappa is derived from the initials for the society’s motto, “love of learning is the guide of life.” ΦΒΚ introduced the essential characteristics of the numerous Greek societies that would follow. These included a badge, mottoes in Greek and Latin, a code of laws, an elaborate form of initiation and a seal.

Phi Beta Kappa is not awarded simply on the basis of high grade point average or class rank, but on a student’s breadth of knowledge and coursework, including foreign language, math and sciences, and humanities and fine arts. An inductee into Phi Beta Kappa has taken a wide range of courses beyond a major. In addition to seeking out a broad range of academic interests, the ideal Phi Beta Kappa member has demonstrated intellectual inquiry and integrity as well as tolerance for freedom of thought and varied points of views. These are the distinctive elements of Phi Beta Kappa that distinguish it from Latin honors such as *summa cum laude* or department honors in a discipline.

Only 10 percent of the nation’s institutions of higher education have been awarded chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, and only 10 percent of an institution’s seniors may be inducted, making Phi Beta Kappa one of the most competitive and distinguished honors a student may achieve. Since ΦΒΚ’s founding, 17 U.S. presidents, 42 U.S. Supreme Court justices and more than 150 Nobel laureates have been inducted as members, along with countless authors, diplomats, athletes, researchers, actors and business leaders.

2023 PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES

Aleshia Allen
Senior | Thomaston, Georgia

Emily Bacallao
Senior | Fayetteville, Georgia

Keely Beltran
Senior | Kennesaw, Georgia

McCurdy Browne
Senior | Gray, Georgia

Sydney Burke
Senior | Bainbridge, Georgia

Cierra Crawford
Senior | Alpharetta, Georgia

Sara Davila Severiano
Senior | Atlanta, Georgia

Ashlyn Donner
Senior | New Ulm, Minnesota

Nicholas Fox
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Ryanne Franklin
Senior | Savannah, Georgia

Komal Gandhi
Junior | Sugar Hill, Georgia

Kellie Harmon
Junior | Peachtree City, Georgia

Keeli Hennon
Senior | Statesboro, Georgia

Justin Henry
Senior | Lilburn, Georgia

Makenzie Hicks
Senior | Senoia, Georgia

Erika Houser
Senior | Woodway, Texas

Lindsay Hunt
Senior | Savannah, Georgia

McKenna Kaufman
Senior | Spring Hill, Tennessee

Grace Kelley
Junior | Snellville, Georgia

Zaina Khutliwala
Senior | Duluth, Georgia

Alexander Lutz
Senior | Peachtree Corners, Georgia

Madison Martin
Senior | Peachtree City, Georgia

Sophia McWhirter
Senior | Columbus, Georgia

Sarah Monteiro
Senior | Lawrenceville, Georgia

Arsha Moorthy
Junior | Flowery Branch, Georgia

Akash Patel
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Param Patel
Senior | Rincon, Georgia

Michelly Pereira
Senior | Marietta, Georgia

Stevon Porchá
Senior | Lawrenceville, Georgia

Annalise Porreca
Senior | West Chester, Pennsylvania

Taylor Porterfield
Senior | Covington, Georgia

Whitney Ray
Senior | Forsyth, Georgia

Jesus Rijo
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Ivia Rollins
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Matthew Shatto
Senior | Peachtree City, Georgia

Madeline Smith
Senior | Mount Juliet, Tennessee

Matthew Thompson
Junior | Canton, Georgia

Parker Vidmar
Senior | Alpharetta, Georgia

MERCER UNIVERSITY PROFILE

Mercer University is one of America's oldest and most distinctive institutions of higher learning, offering rigorous programs that span the undergraduate liberal arts and sciences to doctoral-level degrees. Founded by early 19th century Baptists, Mercer — while no longer formally denominationally affiliated — remains committed to an educational environment that embraces the historic Baptist principles of intellectual and religious freedom.

With approximately 9,000 students enrolled in 12 schools and colleges, on major campuses in Macon and Atlanta; medical school sites in Macon, Savannah and Columbus; and at regional academic centers in Henry and Douglas counties, Mercer is ranked among the top tier of national research universities by *U.S. News & World Report*. More than 87,000 alumni are making important contributions to their professions and communities throughout Georgia, the Southeast and the world.

While offering a breadth of programs found at much larger universities, Mercer maintains an intimate, student-focused culture more characteristic of smaller liberal arts colleges. Mercer's uniqueness is found in the way the University integrates five defining components of its mission: Liberal Learning, Professional Knowledge, Discovery, Service to Humankind and Community.

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Macon — The oldest and largest of the University's academic units, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is Mercer's academic cornerstone. The College offers baccalaureate programs in the humanities, fine arts, natural sciences, social sciences, mathematics and computer science, along with a variety of interdisciplinary options. Offering a multitude of pre-professional programs in health, law and theology, the College also provides students a strong liberal arts foundation. The core curriculum blends practical skills, such as critical thinking, clear writing and effective communication, along with a deep engagement with the diversity and richness of the peoples, faiths, cultures and natural processes in the world. The College's Great Books Program, which provides students the opportunity for focused study of classic writers and thinkers of the Western world, is recognized among the 25 Best Great Books Programs by Best College Reviews. The Integrative Program combines traditional disciplinary course requirements with three multidisciplinary integrative courses, which require students to wrestle with challenging questions from multiple perspectives and prepare them to make meaningful contributions in a complicated and deeply interconnected world. Students in the College take advantage of a variety of study-abroad opportunities, both through faculty-led programs and those organized through the Mercer On Mission program. Mercer has been frequently recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for "Best Undergraduate Teaching" and is listed among the "Best Undergraduate Computer Science Programs." In 2015, Mercer was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious academic honor society.

School of Law

Macon — Celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2023, Mercer University School of Law is one of the oldest law schools in the United States and the first in the state of Georgia accredited by the American Bar Association. Mercer Law School is committed to preparing students for high-quality, general practice in a supportive and professional learning environment. Mercer Law School is a two-time recipient of the prestigious ABA Gambrell Professionalism Award for excellence and innovation in ethics and professionalism throughout the curriculum. With an enrollment of 380 students, Mercer Law continues to be recognized for preparing students for practice through its award-winning programs in legal writing, advocacy, experiential education and emphasis on ethics and professionalism.

School of Business

Macon, Atlanta, Henry County and Online — Established in 1984, Mercer's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business is named for Eugene W. Stetson, a 1901 Mercer graduate and business pioneer who leveraged the first major buyout in corporate history, and his grandson Robert F. (Bob) Hatcher, a Macon businessman, longtime supporter, Life Trustee and former board chair for the University. Over the past 80 years, Mercer has granted more than 12,000 business degrees, and many of its graduates hold senior leadership positions in companies around the world. Mercer's business school delivers career-focused

business education in order to develop innovative leaders who are responsible global citizens.

Stetson-Hatcher School of Business is an accredited member of AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business — which places it among the top five percent of business schools worldwide. Mercer's business school has been recognized as one of the "Best Business Schools" in the United States by both The Princeton Review and *U.S. News & World Report*. Mercer is listed as one of the "Best Undergraduate Business Programs" by *U.S. News & World Report*, and it has been recognized among MBA Programs Where Grads Make More Money Than They Owe.

The Evening MBA is included among the top 200 MBA programs in the country, and the Online MBA has been ranked among the top 100 Online MBA programs nationwide by *U.S. News & World Report*.

School of Engineering

Macon and Online — Mercer's innovative and academically challenging engineering and engineering-related programs provide students with a comprehensive education, featuring a solid foundation in mathematics and sciences, a core engineering curriculum, a range of courses in engineering specialties and a strong emphasis on communication methodologies and technologies. The School of Engineering marked its 35th anniversary in 2020, and its undergraduate program is consistently ranked among the top programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Known for its breadth of instruction in its undergraduate program and its 4+1 integrated bachelor's and master's degree program, Mercer combines technical education with hands-on laboratory experience, research and real-world problem-solving. The School has produced 12 Goldwater Scholars in the last seven years — including an unprecedented three recipients in three consecutive years for 2019, 2020 and 2021 — and 11 Department of Defense SMART Scholars in the last eight years.

College of Education

Macon, Atlanta, Douglas County, Henry County and Online — Mercer's Tift College of Education prepares more professional educators than any other private institution in Georgia. It offers baccalaureate and graduate degrees for teacher education, including initial certification and teacher advancement, and educational leadership. Tift College of Education offers programs approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Guided by the conceptual framework of "The Transforming Educator," the College supports those who aspire to grow professionally throughout their careers, while also seeking to transform the lives of students. In addition, the College offers some blended baccalaureate programs and fully online and blended graduate-level programs.

School of Theology

Atlanta and Online — Established in 1996, Mercer's James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology brings Jesse Mercer's founding vision of providing students with a classical and theological education full circle as it prepares students for ministry in the church and beyond. McAfee shares Jesse Mercer's concern that churches have pastor-leaders who understand Scripture and can clearly articulate their Christian beliefs. The mission is to prepare ministers who will inspire the Church and the world to imagine, discover and create God's future. The School offers master's and doctoral degrees, along with several ministry concentrations. The innovative, fully-integrated curriculum is taught by nationally recognized scholars who are committed Christians. Along with a network of partner churches, McAfee is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

College of Professional Advancement

Macon, Atlanta, Douglas County, Henry County and Online — Mercer University's College of Professional Advancement is committed to offering undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, along with lifelong learning opportunities, for adults who seek leadership roles in their community and beyond, professional transition and advancement, and lives that have meaning and purpose. Educational programs support the needs of statistical high-growth and high-demand employment sectors and provide students with a distinctive, multidisciplinary curriculum that integrates theory and practice. Areas of study include counseling, communication, health care, human services, humanities, leadership and administration, public safety, psychology, science and technology and informatics, along with a variety of interdisciplinary and self-designed options. The College also offers pre-professional coursework that prepares students for nursing and pharmacy schools.

School of Music

Macon — Mercer's Townsend School of Music is nationally recognized for its artist faculty, award-winning students, wide range of performance ensembles and state-of-the-art facilities. Townsend offers a thorough and rigorous curriculum, providing a conservatory-quality music education within a university environment. Students benefit from small class sizes and individual instruction from faculty who regularly perform on campus and at major national and international venues. Specialized music programs include the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings and the Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Church Music Studies.

MERCER HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The Mercer Health Sciences Center, a multi-campus academic health center, encompasses the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and College of Health Professions. The Health Sciences Center enrolls more than 2,000 students, employs 450 full-time faculty and staff and annually graduates more than 750 physicians, nurses and nurse educators, as well as family nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, physician assistants, pharmacists, physical therapists, family therapists, athletic trainers, clinical psychologists, public health professionals and biomedical scientists.

School of Medicine

Macon, Savannah and Columbus — Mercer's School of Medicine was established in 1982 to educate physicians and health professionals to meet the primary care and health care needs of rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia through education, service, research and collaboration. Today, a majority of graduates practice in the state of Georgia, and Mercer is a leader in the nation for those who are practicing in rural or medically underserved areas. The School's educational environment is founded on a patient-based learning philosophy that is case-driven and provides early patient care experiences. This innovative, hands-on approach results in better long-term retention of content and prepares students for a variety of clinical challenges. With multiple locations throughout Georgia, Mercer University School of Medicine offers a campus environment for every type of student. Macon is the School's administrative campus. The Savannah campus was established in 2008 and is located adjacent to Memorial University Medical Center. Columbus began as a clinical campus in 2012 and welcomed its first four-year M.D. class in the fall of 2021. All three campuses are closely integrated and function as one unit.

College of Pharmacy

Atlanta — The College of Pharmacy advances health through innovations in teaching, research, patient-centered care and service. Mercer is ranked the No. 1 private pharmacy school in the Southeast by *U.S. News & World Report*. The College has an enrollment of more than 400 students and, with a distinguished faculty of scientists and clinicians, houses several research centers. The College's motto, "A Tradition of Excellence, a Legacy of Caring," frames its philosophy of providing excellent academic programs in an environment where every student matters and every person counts.

College of Nursing

Atlanta — Mercer's nationally recognized College of Nursing is the longest established nursing program in Georgia. With a rich history dating back to 1902 and more than 9,000 alumni, the College is grounded in the heritage of excellence in nursing education. The College strives to advance the nursing workforce through multiple degree options, and faculty are dedicated to the development of professional nurses committed to scholarship, leadership, practice, research and service within a culture of academic excellence.

College of Health Professions

Macon and Atlanta — The College of Health Professions is composed of six disciplines: physical therapy, physician assistant studies, public health, clinical psychology, athletic training and kinesiology. In addition to its degree offerings, the College offers post-professional residencies and fellowships and operates an onsite physical therapy clinic. With an overall enrollment of more than 750 students, the College seeks to improve the health and quality of life of individuals and society through excellence in teaching, research and service.

MERCER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Mercer University Libraries seek to embody a patron-driven philosophy by practicing excellent customer service, making available learning-centered gateways of information resources, by offering robust collections in support of the academic mission of the Mercer University community, and by utilizing patron-

driven materials acquisition models. The libraries provide a wide range of print materials and cloud-based resources such as eBooks, eJournals, streaming media, research guides and how-to videos.

In addition, the libraries participate in the campus academic enterprise through virtual reference services, group information literacy sessions, one-on-one reference tutorials, and the availability of cloud-based reference tools designed for 24/7 access to online tutorials and electronic resources.

The various library facilities contain multiple learning environments designed for mixed study scenarios, including comfortable spaces for group gatherings, quiet areas for individual work and private group study rooms for collaborative projects. The Swilley and Tarver libraries offer Bear card-accessible 24/7 spaces.

The Mercer University Libraries Include:

- Jack Tarver Library, Macon
- Monroe F. Swilley, Jr., Library, Atlanta
- Regional Academic Center Library Services supporting programs in Henry County and Douglas County

Specialized Libraries at Mercer:

- Skelton Medical Library serving students on the Macon and Columbus campuses
- Skelton Library in Savannah serving the School of Medicine on the Savannah campus and the Memorial University Medical Center
- Furman Smith Law Library in the School of Law, Macon

MERCER MEDICINE

Mercer Medicine is a multi-specialty group of more than 30 primary care providers and specialists who work to guide patients through their health journey and create strong, long-term relationships. A wide variety of outpatient services are offered in multiple locations throughout middle and south Georgia including Macon, Clay County, Peach County, Plains, Putnam County and Harris County. As a subsidiary of Mercer University School of Medicine, Mercer Medicine is staffed by experienced health care providers who are leading the way in medical education, technology and research.

MERCER ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTER

Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) is the nonprofit applied research operating unit of Mercer University. Located in Warner Robins, MERC was established in 1987 to provide engineering and scientific services, research and specialized technical expertise to Robins Air Force Base, other Department of Defense entities and commercial customers. MERC's core competencies include electrical engineering, electronic warfare, test and evaluation, embedded software, custom software development, cybersecurity, computational fluid dynamics, human factors and biomechanics, finite element analysis, structural integrity, mechanical testing, non-destructive inspection, reverse engineering and prototyping. MERC employs interns who work closely with MERC engineers and scientists in a broad range of areas supporting the execution of contracts. This opportunity allows students to obtain hands-on experience, adding depth to their education while gaining a better understanding of expertise provided to customers in solving real-world problems.

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

Mercer University Press has published more than 1,700 books since its establishment in 1979. It publishes approximately 30 to 35 new books each year in the areas of religion, philosophy, literary criticism, Southern history, regional studies, and creative writing. The Press holds membership in the Association of University Presses.

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Mercer University is the only NCAA Division I private institution in Georgia and competes in the historic Southern Conference (SoCon). In the 2021-2022 academic year, 78.5% of Mercer student-athletes achieved a GPA of 3.0 or better. The average GPA for all student-athletes for the year was 3.32. Mercer athletes led the SoCon with 343 named to the Academic Honor Roll, including 25 who earned a 4.0 GPA. Mercer's 18 intercollegiate teams include men's baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer and tennis; and women's basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, beach volleyball, track and volleyball. Other members of the Southern Conference include: the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, East Tennessee State University, Furman University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Samford University, The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, Western Carolina University and Wofford College.

EMBLEMS

THE MACE

The mace is carried by the Marshal as a symbol of the authority of the University to confer degrees. Originally a weapon of war, the mace came to be used as an emblem of military power and civil authority. Its use as a symbol of university authority dates from medieval times.

The Mercer mace was designed in 1960 by Marshall Daugherty, professor of art in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and was first used for the inauguration of President Rufus C. Harris. It depicts a cross atop a globe, symbolizing the spiritual commitment of the University as it seeks to understand the world. Circumscribing the globe are the words, "Mercer University, 1833," symbolizing the influence of Mercer throughout the world. Beneath the larger globe is a smaller one, which represents the microcosm of the University. This, in turn, rests atop a form suggestive of a spire. The mace is made of bronze.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL

The seal is worn by the President as a sign of authority. The seal was designed by Professor Otis D. Knight and Professor Marshall Daugherty and was first used for the inauguration of President Rufus C. Harris in 1960.

The seal, which was carved directly in fine silver and bronze, is a mandola-shaped pendant that depicts the form of the Godsey Administration Building, a riband and a stylized stained-glass window of Willingham Auditorium. The background is in bronze and the window is in blue and red cloisonné enamel. On the riband are the Latin words for science, law, religion and the arts. On the border are inscribed the name of the University in Latin and the date of its founding. The shape of the seal is traditional for early university seals.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The practice of wearing academic attire extends back to medieval times and the Renaissance, when it was the custom for teachers and students in European universities to wear gowns, caps and hoods. Although the wearing of the garb is now limited to formal occasions, the garb itself may be called the uniform of the professional scholar and teacher. The style and color serve as symbols of collegiate attainment.

The long sleeves of the gowns and the deep hoods were, on occasion, used to carry books and refreshments. Each European university developed its own style of garb with strict rules for its design. In the United States, however, most American colleges have agreed on a uniform design and color code.

Holders of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees wear black gowns; the pattern and trimming differ for each degree. Originally, the bachelor's gown was made of serge or worsted and the master's of serge, worsted or silk; but now synthetic fibers are also used. The bachelor's gown is distinguished by its long pointed sleeves. The master's gown has long sleeves with a slit for the arm at either the elbow or the wrist. Doctor's gowns are adorned with velvet panels and bars that may be black or of a color distinctive to the wearer's discipline.

Holders of all degrees wear caps, popularly known as mortarboards, to which a long tassel is fastened that hangs over the left side of the cap. Doctors may wear tassels of gold thread. Holders of bachelor's and master's degrees may wear colors indicating the faculty by which their degrees were granted.

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The length and shape of the hood vary with the level of the degree. Hoods are generally lined with the colors of the university which granted the degree and trimmed with the color representing the faculty by which the degree is granted.

The following colors are associated with the various faculties:

Arts, Letters, Humanities	White
Athletic Training	Sage Green
Commerce, Accountancy, Business	Drab
Education	Light Blue
Engineering	Orange
Journalism	Crimson
Law	Purple
Library Science	Lemon
Medicine	Green
Music	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
Speech	Silver Gray
Pharmacy	Olive Green
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Physical Therapy	Teal
Physician Assistant	Kelly Green
Psychology	Gold
Public Health	Salmon Pink
Science	Golden Yellow
Theology	Scarlet

THE MEDALLION OF PHI KAPPA PHI

The medallion is worn by faculty, administrators and students who are members of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, an organization that initiates members from all disciplines. The cloisonné enamel medallion is decorated with the badge of the Society and is suspended from a blue, grosgrain ribbon.

ALMA MATER

MACON CAMPUS

On the city's western border
Reared against the sky,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater,
As the years roll by.

Chorus

Forward ever be thy watchword,
Conquer and prevail.
Hail to thee, O Alma Mater!
Mercer, Hail all Hail!

Cherished by thy sons and daughters,
Mem'ries sweet shall throng
Round our hearts, O Alma Mater,
As we sing our song.

ATLANTA CAMPUS

On the city's eastern border
Reared against the sky,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater,
As the years roll by.

Chorus

Forward ever be thy watchword
Conquer and prevail.
Hail to thee, O Alma Mater!
Mercer, Hail all Hail!

Cherished by thy sons and daughters
Mem'ries sweet shall throng
Round our hearts, O Alma Mater,
As we sing our song.

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Laura W. Lackey
Dean of School of Engineering

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Dean of College of Health Professions

Douglas R. Pearson
*Vice President and Dean of
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Tammy Barbé
Interim Dean of College of Nursing

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