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SPRING 2024

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THE MERCERIAN, SPRING 2024

# FEATURES

**18** Mercer Closes the Books on \$500 Million *ASPIRE* Campaign

**28** Mercerians Effecting Positive Change in the Georgia Legislature

**34** Moye Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center Opens on the Cecil B. Day Campus

## DEPARTMENTS

- 3** BEARINGS
- 40** BEAR BRIEFS
- 44** MERCER HEALTH SCIENCES
- 48** BEAR NOTES
- 54** 50-75-100 YEARS AGO
- 55** ADVANCEMENT UPDATES



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# In Our Lens

**New Name for Collaborative Journalism** — Mercer honored the achievements of alumnus **J. Reginald (Reg) Murphy** with the formal renaming of the Center for Collaborative Journalism as the Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism, also known as the Murphy Center, on Dec. 8. Participating in the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the renaming were, left to right: Provost **Dr. Scott Davis**, Murphy Center Director **Debbie Blankenship**, **Diana Murphy**, **Reg Murphy**, President **William D. Underwood**, and Board of Trustees Chair **Tom Bishop**.



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*Reg Murphy*

ALUMNUS PROFILE



IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES,  
MERCERIAN NEVER STOPPED SEEKING THE TRUTH

By JENNIFER FALK

**R**eg Murphy was a student at Mercer University in the 1950s when he started working as a reporter at the *Macon Telegraph* covering local news, sports and, later, state politics at the Georgia Capitol.

He went on to spend decades as a journalist at the *Atlanta Constitution*, *San Francisco Examiner* and *Baltimore Sun*, working to uncover the truth, report the facts, and hold those in power accountable. He served as president and CEO of the National Geographic Society from 1996-98.

On Dec. 8, Murphy, 90, returned to Macon as Mercer honored his achievements with the renaming of

PHOTO COURTESY REG MURPHY; OPPOSITE: MARIN GUTA PHOTO

**ALUMNUS PROFILE, ADMIN UPDATE**

the Center for Collaborative Journalism as the **Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism**, also known as the Murphy Center.

“He was a great journalist, he was a great editor who worked hard to preserve the journalistic integrity of the papers he represented, and he was a great business executive as well — all three essential functions for journalism to be successful,” Mercer President **William D. Underwood** said. “He’s been a great servant to this University. As a longtime member of our Board of Trustees, he’s helped chart the course for this institution.”

Murphy was part of the original group that envisioned the journalism center, which is training the next generation of journalists.

“The working order of the Murphy Center is this: Our students get real-world experience covering issues out in the community, and then our partners get access to a pipeline of talent that keeps journalism moving into the future,” said **Debbie Blankenship**, director of the Murphy Center. “At the time that the center was being discussed and planned, it was a really novel concept to take a university and pair it with local media partnerships.

“Now, 10-plus years later, there are universities all over the country that have replicated this model.”

**‘A great adventure’**

Murphy began his journalistic career during a turbulent time in Georgia. At the time, the South was pulling itself out of the throes of Jim Crow, and many racists occupied state offices, he said.

“Trying to figure out how to deal with all of that was an interesting time,” he said.

As editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, he was kidnapped and held ransom for \$700,000, which the paper paid and later recovered after Murphy’s release. The kidnapper, who was arrested, claimed to be part of a militia group wanting to stop “the lying of leftist newspapers,” Murphy recalled in a first-person account of the kidnapping in *Golf Digest*.

When Murphy left the *Atlanta Constitution*, he became editor of the *San Francisco Examiner*, which was owned by Randolph Hearst. Hearst’s daughter, Patty, had been kidnapped by a radical group trying to instigate a guerrilla war against the U.S. government. She was later implicated in a bank robbery with the group.

That put Murphy in a challenging position.

“I decided that, and I told [Hearst], I could either make it into a really quality newspaper, or I would leave if he wanted to change that attitude,” Murphy recalled at the renaming ceremony at Mercer. “And he said, no, that he would like for me to stay.”

Murphy stayed, and the newspaper covered Patty Hearst’s arrest and



**J. Reginald (Reg) Murphy speaks at the Center for Collaborative Journalism renaming ceremony.**

trial, often to the dismay of her parents. Murphy said he fielded many phone calls from Randolph Hearst and his wife, who “would explain to me what kind of person I was, and none of it was nice.”

After Patty Hearst’s conviction, her father made an unusual appearance in the newspaper’s office.

“He came in one day, and he held out his hand, and he dropped onto my desk a key, and it was for a new Porsche. And he said, ‘Thanks for doing a good job with the newspapers,’” Murphy recalled. “I have never been as amazed in my life. ... It takes integrity of a different kind for a father to come in and say, ‘You did a good job covering the trial of my daughter, and you spent some real time in a difficult situation. Thank you.’

“I figured that was pretty good pay for that.”

Murphy’s reporting career has taken him to countries across the globe including Russia, China, Japan and the Middle East. He recalled being questioned by authorities in Moscow and the kindness of a hotel kitchen staff who cooked up a chicken for his Thanksgiving dinner in Jerusalem.

“It’s been a great adventure, and it would not have been as good an adventure had I not come to Mercer,” Murphy said. “It was a place where I learned something about the who, what, where, why and how of journalism. The why got to be the really important part.”

Now, American journalism has entered a new era. Preserving it is important for the health of the country and local communities, he said.

“Journalism is, in my mind, sacred,” he said. “It is a sacred trust to tell the truth and to try to give people enough freedom to be able to find the truth and then to pursue it.”

# UNIVERSITY SETS **FALL** **ENROLLMENT RECORD**

**M**ercer's final fall 2023 enrollment figures show the largest headcount in the history of the University with a record overall enrollment of 9,164 students. That marks an increase of 238 students or a 2.7% percent increase over

the previous fall. The University's Macon residential undergraduate program welcomed a record-breaking 1,015 new first-time college students and 103 transfers. This is the largest incoming class in University history and a 13% increase in first-year students from fall 2022. The College of Education and School of Business had the largest overall increases at 22.7% and 12%, respectively, and Law School enrollment saw a 5% increase over fall 2022.



## **DR. PENNY ELKINS** NAMED EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**D**r. Penny Elkins was named executive vice president of Mercer University after achieving remarkable success as senior vice president for enrollment management since 2011. Under her leadership, the University has achieved record enrollment every year but one. This fall, the University enrolled its largest and most academically qualified class ever: a record-breaking University-wide enrollment of more than 9,150 students, with the largest freshman class in Mercer history. Dr. Elkins leads a number of cross-functional and interdisciplinary initiatives. She supports her colleagues under the umbrella of external relations and partnership development, including military and government relations, grant and foundation partnerships, and budget and funding management related to these initiatives.



Dr. Elkins

# UNIVERSITY AMONG TOP U.S. INSTITUTIONS WITH STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD AS GILMAN SCHOLARS



The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has recognized Mercer as one of the nation’s colleges and universities that sent the most scholars abroad through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program during the 2021-22 academic year. A total of 32 Mercer students earned recognition from the Gilman program during the award year of 2021-22. An additional 16 students received Gilman or Gilman-McCain scholarships in 2022-23. The Gilman Scholarship expands access and equity in study abroad and international internship opportunities among U.S. undergraduate students with high financial need.



2021-22 Gilman Scholars (l-r)  
Kennia Kirksey, Cynthia Osorio-Magana  
and Marlo Mecredy

## MERCER RANKS NO. 1 AS MILITARY SPOUSE FRIENDLY® SCHOOL



Mercer topped the 2023-24 Military Spouse Friendly® School designation list. The rankings, announced by Viqtory, rate higher education institutions based on their ability to provide quality post-secondary education experiences for spouses of service members. This year, 196 schools earned the prestigious designation. Earlier this year, Mercer also ranked No. 1 — its highest-ever placement — as a Military Friendly® School for the 2023-2024 award year.

## GRAPHIC DESIGN PROGRAM EARNS RECOGNITION AS TOP DESIGN SCHOOL

Graphic Design USA named Mercer a 2023 Top Design School in recognition of its graphic design program. In its 60th year of publishing, Graphic Design USA released its list of the top institutions and programs that prepare students to work in professional graphic design. Contributing to the recognition, Mercer graphic design students earned nine 2023 American Graphic Design Awards from GDUSA. Representing a sampling of coursework from the program, this year’s winning projects included typography, illustration, brand identity design, animation and poster design projects. Mercer’s 2023 winners were **Jessica Yuuki Ando, Carly Curran, Finn Curry, Ashley Curtis, Diana Dupuis, Carlee Schmelzer, William Starley, Abby Sugg** and **Sydney Walker**.



# MERCER MUSIC AT CAPRICORN LAUNCHES INTRO TO STUDIO RECORDING CERTIFICATE

**M**ercer Music at Capricorn offered the first certificate program in its Professional Development Series, which kicked off in February 2023 with the sold-out Capricorn Music Business Summit. Introduction to Studio Recording was offered over six Saturdays in the fall at Capricorn Sound Studios. **Rob Evans**, chief engineer at Capricorn, was the lead instructor, assisted by Capricorn house musicians **Leroy Wilson** (percussion) and **Charlie Gilbert** (guitar). This certificate course introduced participants to the theory and fundamentals of using software and hardware tools for producing music and stressed application and creative content, using a series of project-based learning activities that included student exposure to performing with electronic instruments and vocal recording, and multi-track recording live instruments.



**CAPRICORN**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES



# TRUSTEES APPROVE MACON NURSING PROGRAM

Mercer's Board of Trustees, meeting on the Macon campus during Homecoming, approved a new **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** pathway for the **Macon campus**. The longest-established nursing program in the state of Georgia, the College of Nursing with this expansion will help address the critical need for nurses in Central Georgia. By offering the BSN in Macon, residential undergraduate students will be able to complete all four years of their nursing degree in the same location, rather than splitting time between the Macon and Atlanta campuses.

The board also elected nine new trustees, whose terms began at the conclusion of the meeting. They include **Larry L. Braden**, **James C. (Jimmy) Elder Jr.**, **Nancy Grace**, **Benjy Griffith III**, **Erin Keller**, **William A. (Tony) Moyo**, **Richard A. (Doc) Schneider**, **Edward J. (Ed) Schutter Jr.**, and **Amy Miller Wall**. Trustees who rotated off the board and were recognized for their service include **Gustavous (Holmes) Bell IV**, **Charles L. (Charlie) Cantrell III**, **Claude M. (Mick) Kicklighter**, **Shaun King**, **Jackie Baugh Moore**, **M. Diane Owens**, **Chris R. Sheridan Jr.**, **Jerry S. Wilson**, and **Raymond McLeod (Thad) Warren III**, who completed a term as chair of the board.

**Thomas P. (Tom) Bishop**, CLAS '82, LAW '85, was elected as board chair for 2024.

# MERCER SELECTED AS ONE OF PRINCETON REVIEW'S 'BEST COLLEGES'

Mercer is once again one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates, according to The Princeton Review®. For the 21st year, Mercer is featured in the annual Best Colleges guide. The Best 389 Colleges: 2024 Edition only features about 15% of America's 2,600 four-year colleges. The Princeton Review chose the colleges based on data collected from surveys of students in categories including academics, amenities, campus services and extracurriculars. The company also uses data it collects from surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions' academic offerings. In the guide's detailed rankings, Mercer was 6th on the Most Engaged in Community Service list.



# MERCER HOUSES NEW LOCAL NEWS SOURCE AS PART OF GEORGIA TRUST FOR LOCAL NEWS

**M**ercer continues its support of community journalism with the launch of a new local news source in Macon. The recently established Georgia Trust for Local News, a nonprofit community newspaper company that serves Middle and South Georgia, started the media organization as part of its broader initiative to preserve and expand community news in the state. Supported by a commitment from the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**, the **Georgia Trust's** Macon effort will leverage a partnership with Mercer's **Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism**, where the newsroom is housed. The Georgia Trust began operations in January, after the successful acquisition of 18 newspapers that serve 900,000 Georgians in communities across Middle and South Georgia.



# FREEDOM PLAZA, KICKLIGHTER HALL DEDICATED DURING HOMECOMING

**In a dedication ceremony during Homecoming, Penfield Annex, home to Mercer's ROTC program, was renamed Kicklighter Hall in recognition of University alumnus and retired Lt. Gen. Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter.** Mercer also dedicated the new Freedom Plaza — the hardscape area in front of the newly named Kicklighter Hall. Kicklighter earned his bachelor's degree from Mercer in 1955. He went on to have a career spanning more than 50 years in public service, first as an Army officer, and since his retirement, in positions in the Department of State, Department of Defense and Veterans Administration. Kicklighter has served as director of the George Mason University School of Law's Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, as well as chairman of the board of directors of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial and chairman of the board for Habitat for Humanity International. He is a recipient of the Presidential Citizen Medal, the Eisenhower Liberation Medal, the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service,

and a two-time recipient of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. In 2011, Kicklighter received Mercer's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has served two terms on the Mercer Board of Trustees and serves as co-director of Mercer's Center for Leadership and Ethics. He is married to **Betty Exley Kicklighter**, a 1957 Mercer graduate.





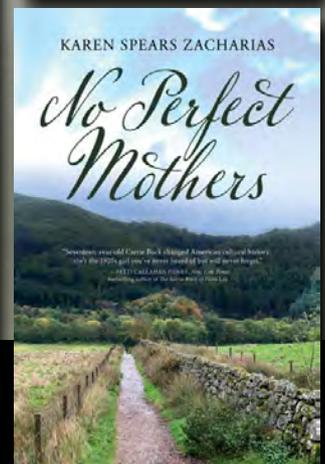
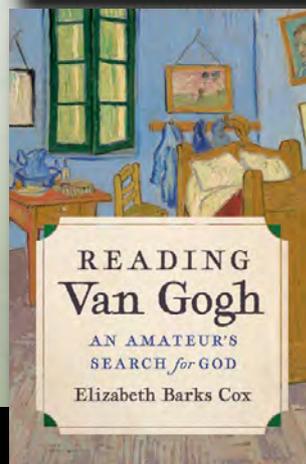
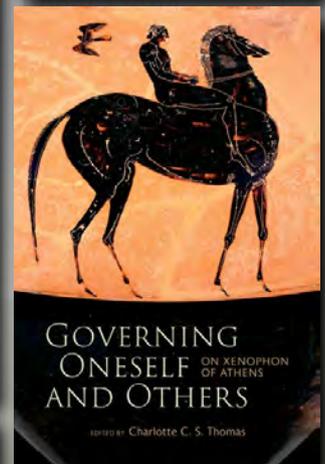
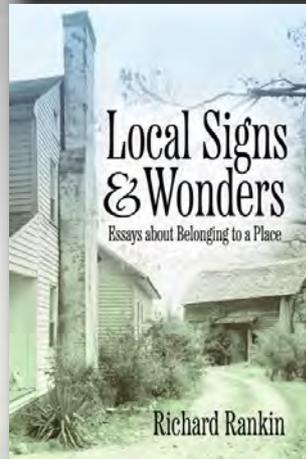
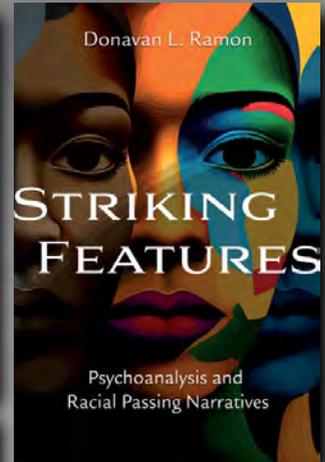
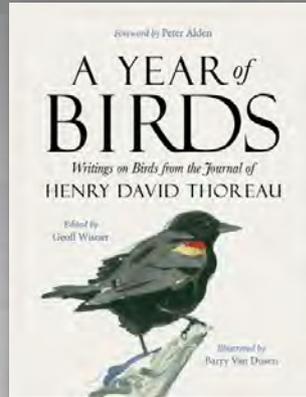
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celebrates **45<sup>th</sup>** year of publishing excellence

**P**ublishing authors from across the United States, **Mercer University Press** proudly offers a new season filled with essays, nature, historical fiction, poetry, memoir, women's studies, literary criticism, history, philosophy and religion.

Spring/Summer 2024 season highlighted titles include: **A Year of Birds** edited by Geoff Wisner, which includes daily entries of Henry David Thoreau's descriptions of birds along with 150 watercolors and field sketches by renowned bird artist Barry Van Dusen; **Local Signs and Wonders** by Richard Rankin, a collection of essays honoring the continuity of the family homestead and the importance of protecting the natural world and its creatures; **Reading Van Gogh** by retired Duke University professor Elizabeth Barks Cox, a memoir of learning to live inside one's own unfathomable longing — and how yearning for God can shape a willing life; **Striking Features** by Donovan L. Ramon, which explores the trauma and psychological consequences of racial passing in the 20th and 21st centuries; **Governing Oneself and Others**, a collection of essays on Xenophon of Athens from the 2022 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas at Mercer, edited by Dr. Charlotte C.S. Thomas, Mercer professor of philosophy; and **No Perfect Mothers** by Karen Spears Zacharias, a historical novel based on the tragic true-life story of Carrie Buck, who was party to the infamous *Buck v. Bell* U.S. Supreme Court case of 1927.

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# SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, RECOGNITION

## TWENTY STUDENTS SELECTED TO STUDY ABROAD AS GILMAN SCHOLARS

Twenty students were chosen during the fall 2023 selection cycle to receive a total of \$66,500 in funding to study abroad through the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program. The recipients are **Jayla Battle, Jasmine Briola, Luke Caldwell, Coy Eberhardt, Bre Swain-Garland, Zoë Hardnett, Alesa Hill, Cammie Hutchins, Emma Kicklighter, Callie Lowery, Alex Loyevskiy, Jorge Montoya, Thomas Neely, Abriana Nyante, Sita Patel, Anyssa Smith, Aly Tidwell, Emmett Tinsley, Erin Williams** and **Lantian You**. Scholars receive up to \$5,000 — or up to \$8,000 if they are also a recipient of the Gilman Critical Need Language Award — to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs.



## UNIVERSITY WELCOMES 12<sup>TH</sup> CLASS OF STAMPS SCHOLARS

Mercer welcomed eight incoming freshmen last fall as part of the University’s 12th class of Stamps Scholars and the 20th class overall for the scholarship program’s 36 partner institutions located in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Mercer’s newest Stamps Scholars include **Jacob Paul Allinson, Ellen Rose Jones, Riddhi Maheshwari, Kathryn Anna McLagan, Naya D. Patel, Aleem Damji Patni, Lila Evelyn Turbiville** and **Benjamin William Utt**. Three additional students – **Anna Hale, Niyati Patel** and **Zach Medlin** – joined the Stamps Scholars program in the spring, bringing the current number of scholars at Mercer to 32.



## OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AWARDS 24 GLOBAL LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS

The University's Office of Global Engagement awarded its latest round of Global Leader Scholarships, providing 24 students with a total of \$60,700 to participate in study abroad programs during the spring semester. Of the 24 students who received the most recent scholarships, nine will participate in exchange or affiliate programs and 15 will join faculty-led programs. They include **Zack Al-Husein, Ella Austin, Jasmine Briola, Tatiana Cobos, Hugh Coleman, Sara Daugherty, Haleigh Dearden, Sahithi Doddaka, Hannah Dong, Christina Hale, Zoë Hardnett, Reemah Hazama, Alesa Hill, Sasha Hoppie, Lauren Kraft, Thomas Neely, Hunter Ongaro, Colleen Reed, Jaime Stokes, Anna Strupp, William Tomlinson, Sebastian Turner, Cameron White and Ronald White III.**



## BINARY BEARS PLACE IN TOP 10 AT REGIONAL PROGRAMMING COMPETITION

The University's computer programming team, the Binary Bears, placed two teams in the top 10 at the regional programming competition. Mercer sent two teams of four students to the conference in South Carolina where one team of **Erin Cargin, Ethan Dorr, Chirayu Salgarkar and Joseph Jackson** brought home the third-place trophy. A second Mercer team of **Joshua Hynds, Gabriel Imlay, Stefan Mykityn and Ervin Pangilinan** placed eighth overall.



## DEBATERS HOST, PLACE WELL IN TOURNAMENT HONORING MERCER DEBATE LEGEND

Mercer's debate team hosted its first-ever National Parliamentary Debate Association tournament, and the team made it to the quarterfinal round of the tournament, which was named for **Dr. Frank Macke**, an emeritus professor at the University. Dr. Macke attended the tournament, judged one of the elimination rounds and was recognized for his lifetime commitment to debate and Mercer. Dr. Macke coached the Mercer debate team from the fall of 1988 to the spring of 1993 and went on to serve as a mentor for three successful Mercer debate coaches. Two Mercer debate teams made it to the quarterfinal round of the tournament: **Chirayu Salgarkar and Thomas Bartlett**, and **Jayla Owens and Niyati Patel**.





STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF



**TWO STUDENT FILMS SCREENED AT MACON FILM FESTIVAL**

Two films made by students were accepted as official selections for the 2023 Macon Film Festival. The films — *Ocmulgee: A Movement* and *Behind the Curtains of the Middle Georgia Nutcracker* — were screened during the festival’s Local Stories Showcase in August at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Students made the films as part of two classes taught by **Evey Wilson Wetherbee**, assistant professor of practice in journalism at Mercer’s Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism. *Ocmulgee: A Movement* grew out of Wetherbee’s storytelling for social change class, an advanced theory and production class focused on media storytelling as an agent for civic engagement and positive change. Students viewed and analyzed documentaries and then produced their own as a class. **Lux Corrona** made *Behind the Curtains of the Middle Georgia Nutcracker* as a sophomore in Wetherbee’s field production class.

**SENIOR CHOSEN FOR NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

Senior **Kendall Webb** was chosen for the Women’s Public Leadership Network Nonprofit Management Fellowship for the 2023-24 academic year. Webb, a journalism and history double-major and a Stamps Scholar, is one of only three young women chosen for the fellowship out of nearly 100 final applicants. The fellows help build the capacity of the organization and assist state partners who identify, engage and train women on the ground to seek public office.



**MCDUFFIE CENTER STUDENT RECOGNIZED AS RISING MUSIC STAR**

**River Sawchyn**, a violinist in the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings, was named to this year’s “30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30” list, which is published annually by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Sawchyn is majoring in violin performance and pursuing a certificate in composition at the School of Music.



# FACULTY & STAFF HONORS & RECOGNITION

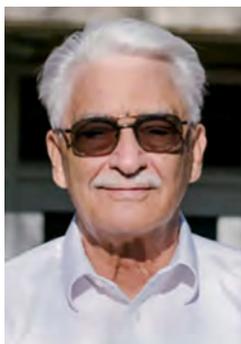
## JOURNALISM PROFESSOR EVEY WILSON WETHERBEE RECOGNIZED FOR MENTAL HEALTH JOURNALISM

**Evey Wilson Wetherbee**, assistant professor of practice in the Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism, was named a 2023-24 Rosalynn Carter Fellow for Mental Health Journalism from the Carter Center. Carter Center fellows pursue innovative mental health journalism projects of their choice during a nonresidential, year-long fellowship where they tackle some of society's biggest behavioral health challenges and seek to strengthen reporting, drive change in their communities, and help reduce stigma through storytelling. Wetherbee was also awarded the Benjamin von Sternenfels Rosenthal Grant for Mental Health Investigative Journalism in partnership with Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting. One of only nine U.S. journalists to receive the honor, Wetherbee was recognized for her investigative reporting exploring the criminal justice system in a South Georgia town, which led to the creation of the true-crime podcast *Prison Town*.



## RETIREMENTS MARK END OF AN ERA FOR MERCER POLICE

Two top officers with Mercer Police retired in January, marking the end of an era for MerPo. After serving four decades and generations of students, Chief **Gary Collins** retired from the Mercer Police Department in January. Collins came to Mercer as a lieutenant in 1983, and during his tenure, he transformed the department from campus safety to a full-fledged police force that certified officers through the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and gave them arrest powers. Mercer also became the first private college in the state to gain access to the Georgia Crime Information Center and National Crime



Collins



Woolfolk

Information Center, giving officers the ability to run background checks. Both Collins and his wife of 52 years, Bonnie, have taken classes at Mercer. Their three daughters graduated from the University, and a granddaughter is currently enrolled. Maj. **Willie Woolfolk**, Ph.D., forged lasting connections with the community during his career with the Mercer Police Department. He retired on Jan. 31 after 40 years of service, with the majority of his time spent on the Atlanta campus. Dr. Woolfolk, assistant chief of Mercer Police and a Triple Bear, started as a private on the Macon campus and worked his way up to the ranks of corporal and sergeant. He became lieutenant in 1987 when he accepted a position on the Atlanta campus. He was later promoted to major, associate director and finally assistant chief of Mercer Police.

FACULTY & STAFF

## PROFESSOR BRINGS LITERACY RESEARCH THROUGH PODCAST

**Dr. Matt Sroka**, clinical assistant professor of literacy education in the College of Education, is sharing the latest in literacy theory, research and practice with other educators and scholars through the *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* Podcast. During each episode, Dr. Sroka interviews the author of a recently published article in the *Journal* about the research and how it can be applied in the classroom. The podcast started in April and is available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and more.



Dr. Sroka

## PROFESSOR RECEIVES AAUW GRANT TO EXPLORE MUSLIM WOMEN'S MARRIAGE

**Dr. Shehnaz Haqqani**, assistant professor of religion in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has received an American Association of University Women short-term research publication grant for the 2023-24 academic year. The award is intended to fund a part of her book project exploring Muslim women's marriage to non-Muslims. Dr. Haqqani has been teaching at Mercer since 2018 and specializes in Islam, with a focus on gender and sexuality.



Dr. Haqqani

## CO-CHAIRS, COMMITTEE NAMED FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

**Dr. Charlotte Thomas**, professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of the Great Books program, and **Felix Jelen**, assistant vice president of global education, have been named co-chairs for Mercer's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). A Quality Enhancement Plan is a five-year plan dedicated to improving an aspect of student learning. The QEP is a vital part of Mercer's reaffirmation of accreditation process with its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Mercer is due for reaffirmation every 10 years, with the next scheduled site visit in Spring 2026.



Dr. Thomas



Jelen

## PROFESSORS RECEIVE \$150,000 NEH GRANT TO DEVELOP CURRICULUM

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' **Dr. Katherine Roseau**, assistant professor of French, and **Libertad Aranza**, lecturer of Spanish, received a \$150,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Initiatives grant to develop curriculum on French- and Spanish-speaking migrants in the U.S. Dr. Roseau and Aranza will work on the project, titled "Integrating Voices of Refugees and Immigrants: Faculty and Curriculum Development," from February 2024 to January 2026. Other project personnel include the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' **Dr. Alana Alvarez**, assistant professor of Spanish, and **Dr. Kathy Kloepper**, professor of chemistry and vice provost of engaged learning, as well as external collaborators. The project is part of a larger initiative to create engaged learning curriculum that helps students learn about experiences of French and Spanish speakers in their own country.



Dr. Roseau



Aranza



Dr. Alvarez



Dr. Kloepper

## TWO MERCERIANs SELECTED AS FULBRIGHT SPECIALISTS

**Dr. Amy Nichols-Belo**, associate professor of anthropology and global health studies and chair of the International and Global Studies Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was selected to serve in Kenya from January 2024 to July 2024. She is teaching at the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies at the University of Nairobi and conducting anthropological research on the lived experience of COVID-19 in Kenya. **Dr. Jacqueline Stephen**, assistant professor of instructional design in the College of Professional Advancement and director of the Office of Distance Learning, was selected for a six-week assignment in Timor-Leste in Southeast Asia for the Fulbright Specialist Program. She worked with the Office of Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice at its primary location in the capital city of Dili.



Dr. Nichols-Belo

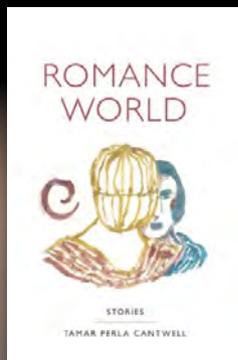


Dr. Stephen

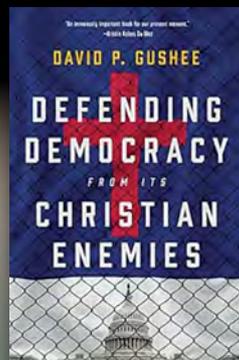
# MERCER FACULTY AUTHOR NEW BOOKS



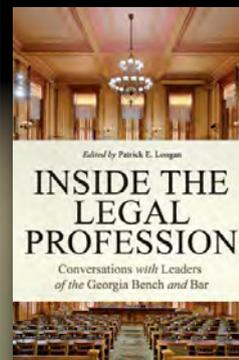
**DR. DUSTIN PEONE**, liberal studies adjunct instructor, had his book *Making Philosophy Laugh: Humor, Irony, and Folly in Philosophical Thought* published. In the book, Dr. Peone makes an apology for the comic side of existence and its use in philosophy and demonstrates the social and moral uses of humor and analyzes its significance for speculative thinking.



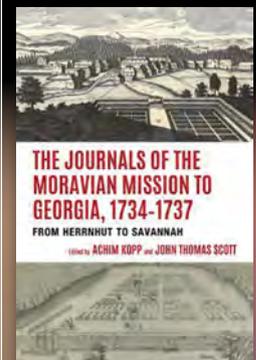
**TAMAR CANTWELL**, assistant director of the Academic Resource Center, published her first book of short stories, *Romance World* (What Books Press). It is available on Amazon and bookshop.org.



**REV. DR. DAVID GUSHEE**, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics, published his 28th book *Defending Democracy from Its Christian Enemies* (Eerdmans). The book analyzes current threats to democracy that arise from an authoritarian and reactionary form of Christianity and calls on Christians to retrieve pro-democratic resources from scripture and tradition.



**PATRICK LONGAN**, professor and W.A. Bootle Chair in Ethics and Professionalism, is editor of the recently published *Inside the Legal Profession: Conversations with Leaders of the Georgia Bench and Bar* by Mercer University Press. Carolina Academic Press has also published the fifth edition of his book *Questions & Answers: Professional Responsibility*.



**DR. TOM SCOTT**, interim dean and professor of history, and **DR. ACHIM KOPP**, associate dean and professor of foreign languages and literatures, published *The Journals of the Moravian Mission to Georgia, 1734-1737: From Herrnhut to Savannah* with Lehigh University Press/Rowman & Littlefield.

# ALUMNI HONORS & RECOGNITION

## ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING MERCERIAN

Eleven Mercerians were recognized for their contributions to the University during the eighth annual Alumni and Friends Awards Reception and Dinner held during Homecoming. The Mercer Alumni Association honored **Lynn Dillard Doss**, of Blue Ridge, and **Dr. Fred Schnell** and **Kim Taylor Schnell**, of Macon, as recipients of the Alumni by Choice Awards. **Robert F. Engeman III**, of Greensboro, received the Thomas Sewell Plunkett Young Alumnus Award; **Dr. Drayton Sanders III** and **Mary Etta Clark Sanders**, of Dalton, received the Meritorious Service Award; and **Jerry S. Wilson**, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award.



The Mercer Athletic Foundation also recognized the newest class of inductees into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame: **Ian Cameron**, men's soccer; **Wesley Duke**, men's basketball; **Cory Gearrin**, baseball; and **Tony Moye**.

## FOUR ALUMNI MAKE GEORGIA TREND'S 40 UNDER 40 LIST

Four Mercerians with a deep commitment to community were recently named to *Georgia Trend's* 40 Under 40 list for 2023. Columbus attorneys **Alston Auten**, a 2016 Mercer Law School graduate, and **R. Walker Garrett**, a 2010 Mercer Law School graduate; Wesleyan College Director of Strategic Initiatives **Ken Blair**, a 2013 graduate of Mercer's organizational leadership bachelor's degree program; and 2012 and 2014 Mercer graduate **Stephen Bradshaw**, vice president and commercial lender for Queensborough National Bank & Trust in Augusta, were included in the magazine's annual list that was released in the fall.



Auten, LAW '16



Garrett, LAW '10



Blair, COPA '13



Bradshaw, CLAS '12, BUS '14

## THREE MERCERIAN RECOGNIZED AMONG STATE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL ASIAN AMERICANS

Three Mercerians were named to *Georgia Asian Times'* 2023 list of the 25 most influential Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the state. The Mercerians who made the list are Double Bear **Sharon Lim Harle**, assistant vice president in Mercer's Office of Alumni Engagement and University Special Events; Mercer School of Law alumna **Soo Hong**, a Georgia House representative for District 103; and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences alumnus **Farooq Mughal**, a Georgia House representative for District 105.



Harle, BUS '86, '90



Hong, LAW '08



Mughal, CLAS '00

## JOURNALISM ALUMNA HONORED FOR REPORTING ON FAILURES OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Journalism alumna **Rylee Kirk** has been recognized for her work investigating failures of child protective services leading up to multiple deaths. Her reporting found that child protective services in Oswego County, New York, ignored or did not properly investigate complaints of child abuse in cases that ended in the starvation of a teen with cerebral palsy, the smothering of a baby, and the death of a mother and her 13-year-old son in a house fire, among others. Kirk's story about the fire deaths, "Did Angela and Lance have to die? How caseworkers missed the red flags of child neglect," co-written with Michelle Breidenbach, won Best Multimedia Story from the Syracuse Press Club and a Distinguished Investigative Reporting award from the New York State Publisher's Association. Kirk also won the Syracuse Press Club's A. Brohmann Roth Newcomer Award, which "recognizes hard work, promising potential and raw talent."



Kirk, CLAS '20

## ALUMNA'S INTEREST IN CLEAN AUTOMOTIVE TECH LEADS TO ENERGY DEPARTMENT FELLOWSHIP

**Iran Hernandez Imbert**, a 2021 mechanical engineering graduate and current mechanical engineering Ph.D. student at Duke University, was recently awarded the prestigious Department of Energy (DOE) Computational Science Graduate Fellowship. She was one of 39 students from across the United States to be awarded the fellowship, which is funded by the DOE Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration. The program "trains top leaders in computational science," according to its website. The fellowship will cover Hernandez Imbert's tuition for four years and provide her with a stipend, a grant for research, and opportunities for internships at national labs. Hernandez Imbert hopes to devote her career to developing clean and sustainable forms of technology for the automotive industry.



Hernandez Imbert, EGR '21

## KONANS NAMED TO FORBES 30 UNDER 30 LIST

**Katie (Atkinson) Konans**, who graduated from Mercer in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism, was named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 in Media list for her innovative work crafting NASA's audio storytelling strategy. As the audio storytelling lead at NASA, she has in less than five years built an audio storytelling strategy that brings educational and inspirational stories from the space agency to millions of podcast listeners. Konans began working at NASA as an intern in summer 2018 and continued to freelance for the space agency during her senior year. She joined NASA full time in 2019 at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.



Konans, CLAS '19

## MERCERIAN'S JOURNALISTIC WORK REVEALS PORTLAND, OREGON POLITICAL SCANDAL

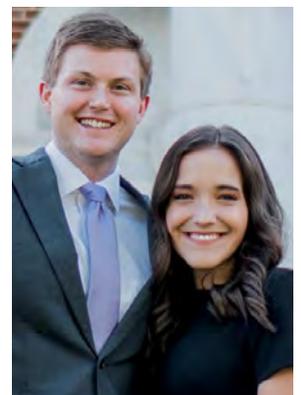
In-depth reporting by alumna **Sophie Peel**, who graduated in 2018 with a journalism degree and played on the beach volleyball team, recently uncovered conflicts of interest by a secretary of state that led to the politician's resignation and the launch of state and federal investigations. Peel is the city hall reporter for *Willamette Week* in Portland, Oregon, where she writes quick-hitting pieces as well as in-depth cover stories.



Peel, CLAS '18

## DOUBLE BEAR COUPLE CHOSEN FOR YEARLONG GEORGIA SUPREME COURT CLERKSHIP

A pair of Double Bears are among eight young lawyers serving as Georgia Supreme Court law clerks for the 2023-24 year. **Jordan Lipp** and **Samantha Thompson Lipp**, who married in fall 2022, earned Bachelor of Business Administration degrees at Mercer prior to completing their Juris Doctor degrees at the School of Law in 2023. Jordan is clerking for Chief Justice **Michael P. Boggs**, a 1990 Mercer Law graduate and current trustee, and Samantha is working with Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson.



Jordan Lipp, BUS '20, LAW '23, Samantha Lipp, BUS '19, LAW '23

The Malcolm and Candy Burgess Endowed Scholarship of Distinction •  
Wilsons Fund Support for Physical Therapy Programs • Dr. Howard P.  
Helen Wall Rich Endowed Professorship in Keyboard Performance  
ntrell Family Baseball Performance Center • Copelan Tennis  
earman C. Godsey Science Center • Hawkins Arena •  
mith Field (Baseball) • Overstreet Tennis Center •  
acon (Knight Foundation Investment) • School



Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Partnership with Mercer University School  
Giddens Chair of Old Testament • Dr. Rufus C. Harris Distinguished Chair  
• Carolyn Ward Endowed Chair in Theology • Amos-Copelan Balco  
Complex • Marshall and Jane Butler Family Plaza • Cruz Pla  
Kicklighter Hall • McEachern Art Center • Mercer Innova  
Roberts Academy • Rural Health Clinics (Clay Cour  
of Medicine — Savannah • Sikes Field at the Sk

# A S P I R E

THE CAMPAIGN

for

MERCER UNIVERSITY

Thousands of Mercer alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students  
*have personally invested in the lives of current and future Bears through*  
**Aspire, The Campaign for Mercer University.**

*Now, the completed fundraising effort will go down as*

**the most successful  
comprehensive  
campaign in  
University history.**

enter for the Arts • The Peyton Anderson Foundation Support for A Night of Georgia Music at The Grand Opera House and Macon-Mercer Symphony Or  
conomics and Liberty • College of Professional Advancement Gullah-Geechee Project • The Executive Forum, presented by Truist • Fabian Center for  
support for Go Baby Go — School of Engineering • Spencer B. King Center for Southern Studies • Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra • McAfee Center for  
Center for Collaborative Journalism • Risk Management Insurance Program • Phil and Alice Sheridan Mercer On Mission Center • Dr. Glen Stassen Center • Stetson-Hatch

of Medicine • The Nathan Deal Scholars Program • Haggard Scholars Program • Macon Impact Scholars • Stamps Scholars Program • Lettie Pate Whitehead School of Rural Health and Health Disparities • Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Distinguished University Endowed Chair • Tommy Malone Distinguished Chair in Courtroom Advocacy at Drake Field House • Anderson Field at Five Star Stadium • Bell House Renovations & Jennings Salon for the McDuffie Center for Strings • Betts Stadium (Soccer) • Homer and Ruth Drake Field House at Five Star Stadium • A.V. Elliott Science and Innovation Quad and A.V. Elliott Bell Tower • Five Star Stadium • Freedom Plaza • Education Center (Hugh F. Smisson III Complex) • Mercer Village • Moyer Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center • Emily Parker Myers Welcome Center • OrthoGeorgia Park at Five Star Stadium • Harris County, Putnam County, Sumter County, Wilcox County and Beaufort Island • Sealeck Golf Performance Center • School of Medicine — Columbus • School of Medicine — Macon • Melton Complex (Softball) • Southern Trust End Zone • Stembridge Center for Student Success • Swilley Library Renovations • Jack Tarver Library Renovations • Tattnell

er for Baptist Leadership • The Harbor Foundation support for Mercer on Mission • Cecil Day Family Center for International Graduate Undergraduate Center for the School of Business • Joan Stockstill Godwin Center for the School of Business • Google Data Center Community Grant for the Douglas County Regional Academic Center • Hudson Automotive Educational Formation • Thomas • Ramona McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles • Mercer Inn at Sapricorn • Mercer University Press • The Reginald • Eleanor Harries Toney Auditorium in Willingham Hall • Trane Technologies Support for the School of Engineering

*Launched in 2014 with the ambitious goal of raising* **\$400 million,**  
*the campaign's purpose was to provide financial resources that would empower Mercer to become an international leader in applying its intellectual capital to better serve the needs of humankind. Since then, donors across the world have shown their support for Mercer's mission by providing a total of* **\$506 million**  
*in gifts and pledges, exceeding the University's original goal by more than* **\$100 million.**

“When we launched the Aspire Campaign several years ago, it was the most ambitious campaign in the University’s history,” said President **William D. Underwood.**

“We knew that Mercer provided our students with special learning experiences — experiences that were inspirational and that empowered their lives — and we wanted more students to have access to these experiences. We knew that if we explained our aspirations for the campaign, we could count on our alumni and friends. We are grateful to every member of the Mercer family and beyond who helped us reach our ambitious goals.”



The campaign focused on three key imperatives: achieve a stronger endowment, enhance University facilities, and expand Mercer’s capacity to teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower and to serve. Beyond these immediate impacts to the student experience, the Aspire Campaign also positioned the University for long-term operational excellence.

“The past decade has been absolutely transformative for Mercer on nearly every front. We appreciate so many of our alumni and friends sharing our vision over the last decade and providing support with their time and resources. Our unified sense of purpose has been a motivational force for success throughout the campaign and will help us continue the momentum for generations to come. It was an honor to help inform the strategy of the Aspire Campaign and its potential impact on the future of the University.”

— **Ashley Amos Copelan**,  
 CLAS '91, EDU '96,  
 University trustee and  
 chair of the Board's  
 development committee



Burgess Endowed Scholarship of Distinction



Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-MUSM Partnership



Deal Scholars Program



Griffith Scholars Program



Knight Foundation Investment for MUSM



Schutter Funds for the College of Pharmacy



Haggard Scholars Program



Stamps Scholars Program



Jennings Distinguished University Endowed Chair



Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholars



Amos-Copelan Balcony at Drake Field House



3 Wilsons Support for Physical Therapy



Malone Distinguished Chair in Courtroom Advocacy

# A Stronger Endowment

The University raised more than **\$153 million** for scholarships that continue to provide vast opportunities for Mercer students and advance programs across the University.

**More than 400 endowed or expendable scholarships and funds** were created

that will support generations of students, and **a total of 12 endowed professorships and chairs**

were created during the campaign to attract and retain top faculty. Planned gifts have also provided additional support for endowed funds that will make education more affordable and accessible for students now and in years to come.

## *Selected Endowed and Expendable Funds*

- The Malcolm and Candy Burgess Endowed Scholarship of Distinction
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Partnership with Mercer University School of Medicine
- The Nathan Deal Scholars Program
- Haggard Scholars Program
- Macon Impact Scholars
- Stamps Scholars Program
- Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholars
- 3 Wilsons Fund Support for Physical Therapy Programs

## *Selected Endowed Professorships and Chairs*

- Dr. Howard P. Giddens Chair of Old Testament
- Dr. Rufus C. Harris Distinguished Chair of Rural Health and Health Disparities
- Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Distinguished University Endowed Chair
- Tommy Malone Distinguished Chair in Courtroom Advocacy
- Helen Wall Rich Endowed Professorship in Keyboard Performance
- Carolyn Ward Endowed Chair in Theology

“Loans required for medical school can be daunting, especially for students who intend to practice in rural and underserved areas of Georgia. As a recipient of the Nathan Deal Scholarship, I am able to focus my energy on my medical education without worrying about the burden of student debt. I am tremendously grateful for the support provided by alumni and friends that has allowed me to pursue my dreams of becoming a rural physician. I am eager to pay the generosity forward as I serve my community, provide access to quality care and form intentional relationships with my future patients.”

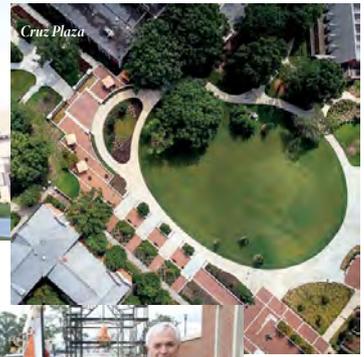
— **Hannah Cabe**, School of Medicine, Nathan Deal Scholar



Betts Stadium (Soccer)



Bell House



Cruz Plaza



Freedom Plaza



Elliott Bell Tower



Hawkins Arena



Five Star Stadium



OrthoGeorgia Park



Moye Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center



Myers Welcome Center



Godsey Science Center



Kicklighter Hall



McEachern Art Center



Butler Family Plaza



Deal Scholars Program



Roberts Academy



Rural Health Clinics

# Enhanced University Facilities

The campaign also prioritized capital projects to support construction or renovation of more than 30 facilities on the Atlanta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah campuses. Nearly one-third of the funds raised, more than \$158 million, were designated to Mercer's School of Medicine

and have helped build new campuses and clinical sites for rural and medically underserved communities.

With the addition to the medical education building in Savannah, construction of the medical complex in Columbus and new rural health clinics, the School of Medicine is well positioned to lead the state in educating physicians and health professionals who will meet the critical health care needs of rural Georgia.

For decades, Mercer has been a pioneer in undergraduate science teaching and research. The construction of the Spearman C. Godsey Science Center in Macon addressed the demand for additional science courses and research facilities created by increased enrollment and growth in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines, while the newly constructed Moye Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center in Atlanta addressed the need for additional learning, teaching and research space for the College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and College of Health Professions as well as the School of Medicine. These state-of-the-art facilities provide dedicated space for cutting-edge research and serve as a powerful reminder of the University's commitment to provide an innovative learning environment for our students.

The consistent success of Mercer's sports teams is one important result of the increased investment the University has made in intercollegiate athletics. Gifts to the University's athletics programs that support our student-athletes and contribute to athletics facilities have enabled the University to offer its students the opportunity to be part of a supportive and close-knit community while developing habits of character that will serve them well beyond their student experience.

## *New Construction & Renovations*

- Amos-Copelan Balcony at Drake Field House
- Anderson Field at Five Star Stadium
- Bell House Renovations & Jennings Salon for the McDuffie Center for Strings
- Betts Stadium (Soccer)
- Cantrell Family Baseball Performance Center
- Copelan Tennis Complex
- Marshall and Jane Butler Family Plaza
- Cruz Plaza
- Homer and Ruth Drake Field House at Five Star Stadium
- A.V. Elliott Science and Innovation Quad and A.V. Elliott Bell Tower
- Five Star Stadium
- Freedom Plaza
- Spearman C. Godsey Science Center
- Hawkins Arena
- Kicklighter Hall
- McEachern Art Center
- Mercer Innovation Center (Hugh F. Smisson III Complex)
- Mercer Village
- Moye Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center
- Emily Parker Myers Welcome Center
- OrthoGeorgia Park at Claude Smith Field (Baseball)
- Overstreet Tennis Center
- Roberts Academy
- Rural Health Clinics (Clay County, Harris County, Putnam County, Sumter County, Taylor County and Jekyll Island)
- Scheck Golf Performance Center
- School of Medicine — Columbus
- School of Medicine — Macon (Knight Foundation Investment)
- School of Medicine — Savannah
- Sikes Field at the Skelton Complex (Softball)
- Southern Trust End Zone
- Stembridge Center for Student Success
- Swilley Library Renovations
- Jack Tarver Library Renovations
- Tattnall Square Center for the Arts

“As an out-of-state student-athlete, I didn’t know anyone when I arrived at Mercer. I knew I would find friendship with my teammates and peers, but I never thought this would happen with our donors as well. The support that athletic donors have provided over the past four years is truly unmatched! Mercer softball donors truly care about the difference they are making in the lives of students, and I have felt the impact of their support both on and off the field!”

— **Alyssa Woods**,  
Senior Softball Player,  
Houston, Texas



School of Medicine Columbus



Tattnell Square Center for the Arts



Sikes Field at Skelton Complex (Softball)



Stembridge Center for Student Success



Swilley Library Renovations



School of Medicine Savannah



Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra



Peyton Anderson Support for A Night of Georgia Music at The Grand Opera House



Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership



King Center for Southern Studies



Jack Tarver Library Renovations



Sikes Field at Skelton Complex (Softball)



Day Center for International Groundwater Innovation

# Expanded Capacity to Achieve the University's Mission

The driving force of Mercer is its mission.

Driven by our mission, our students see and touch the world they are trying to impact through programs and experiences that take them beyond their comfort zones and beyond our borders. In the process, they learn to understand everything more deeply and have a greater impact.

Nine University research institutes and centers — and many additional programs and centers throughout Mercer's schools, colleges and units — were established as part of the campaign. From the School of Law's Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism to the Tattnell Square Center for the Arts; from the Thomas C. and Ramona E. McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles to the Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism; from the Spencer B. King Center for Southern Studies to the Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership, and many other programs and centers, our students are able to learn from different perspectives and are offered unique experiences that give them a competitive edge, set them up for success and help them approach the world with a deeper understanding.

Mercer On Mission is in many ways the beating heart of the University's mission. It is the experience that intensely brings each and every aspect of Mercer's mission to life. It is through this program that students and faculty can connect all the dots from their intellect and heart and turn these into action. The University's international engagement expanded during the campaign with the establishment of the Sheridan Center, as well as new endowed and expendable scholarships for Mercer On Mission, that will allow even more students the opportunity to participate in Mercer On Mission and provide the necessary training for the experiences.

The University's boldest fundraising campaign yet led to wide-ranging transformations across the University and new opportunities and experiences for generations of students, faculty, alumni and staff.

"Throughout Mercer University's history, it has been the generous support of individuals, corporations, organizations, churches, foundations and others that has enabled the University to become a leader in higher education," President Underwood said. "Today, Mercer University stands on the most solid financial foundation in its 191-year history. We are grateful for the steadfast commitment of our alumni and friends throughout the Aspire Campaign. Thank you for aspiring with us."

## *Other Projects/Centers/Institutes/Operational Funds*

- The Peyton Anderson Foundation Support for *A Night of Georgia Music* at The Grand Opera House and Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra
- Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership
- The Baugh Foundation Support for Mercer On Mission
- Cecil Day Family Center for International Groundwater Innovation
- Center for the Study of Economics and Liberty
- College of Professional Advancement Gullah-Geechee Project
- The Executive Forum, presented by Truist
- Fabian Center for Musical Excellence
- Joan Stockstill Godsey Center for Keyboard Studies
- Google Data Center Community Grant for the Douglas County Regional Academic Center
- Hutchinson Automotive Group Support for Go Baby Go — School of Engineering
- Spencer B. King Center for Southern Studies
- Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra
- McAfee Center for Calling and Vocational Formation
- Thomas C. and Ramona E. McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles
- Mercer Music at Capricorn
- Mercer University Press
- The Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism
- Risk Management Insurance Program
- Phil and Alice Sheridan Mercer On Mission Center
- Dr. Glen Stassen Center
- Stetson-Hatcher School of Business
- Eleanor Haynes Toney Auditorium in Willingham Hall
- Trane Technologies Support for the School of Engineering

“Mercer On Mission allowed me to explore chemistry and the medical sciences in innovative and engaging ways. Working alongside the devoted professors and students has only excited me more about pursuing medicine and working in a similarly captivating environment. I am so grateful for the donor support that has allowed me to participate in Mercer On Mission trips to Guyana and Cambodia.”

— **Rafael Garcia Chirino,**  
Junior, Canton, Georgia



For more details and to view a comprehensive list of projects completed during the Aspire Campaign, visit [aspire.mercer.edu](http://aspire.mercer.edu).

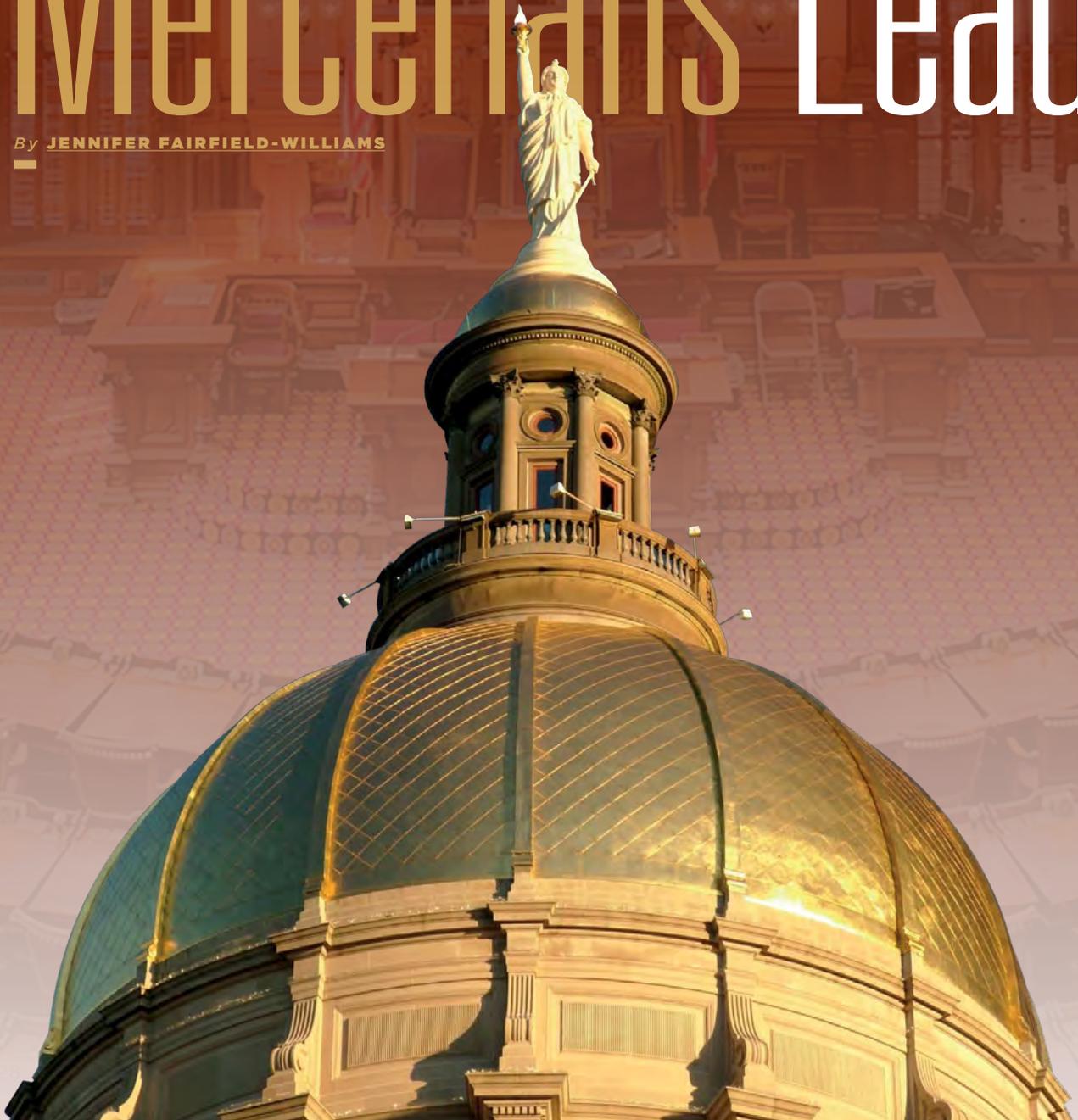


Mercer follows the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's (CASE) Global Reporting Standards for calculating gifts received and pledged during the campaign time frame. All unrestricted gifts (Mercer Athletic Foundation, school/college annual funds), restricted gifts (endowed funds, scholarships, etc.) and in-kind contributions were counted in this comprehensive campaign. In addition, certain planned gifts/pledges (charitable trusts, annuities, life estates, wills) were counted using formulas based upon a donor's age. These and other campaign guidelines are consistent with best practice policies employed at CASE member institutions.

Photographers: Paula Heller, Bekah Howard, John Knight, Kha Minh Nguyen, Salvdivia-Jones Photography, Christopher Ian Smith, Matthew Smith, Leah Yetter

# Under the Mercerians Leading

By **JENNIFER FAIRFIELD-WILLIAMS**



# Gold Dome g in the Legislature

## One

**OF THE LARGEST STATE  
LEGISLATURES IN THE NATION,**

**the Georgia General Assembly meets from January until late March each year to set the state's annual operating budget and propose laws on a variety of topics from education to environmental protection.**

**Mercer students major in changing the world, and as these leaders in the legislature demonstrate, Mercer alumni continue that commitment working to effect positive change under the Gold Dome. ➔**



## HOUSE FLOOR LEADER

# REP. SOO HONG

## DEFENDING — AND LIVING — THE AMERICAN DREAM

**A**S ONE OF GOV. BRIAN KEMP'S FLOOR LEADERS FOR THE GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REP. SOO HONG (LAW '08) SAID SHE IS DEFENDING — AND LIVING — THE AMERICAN DREAM.

The first woman of Korean descent to serve in the House, she is the daughter of first-generation immigrants, who instilled in her the importance of hard work, determination and sacrifice.

"It's a struggle, but just like anything in life, it's what you make of it," she said. "I learned a lot early on. I was in middle school, calling the phone company to dispute a bill, and I think in that sense I learned how to be there and help people who couldn't help themselves."

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Hong immigrated to the United States when she was just 10 years old, and she learned English with the help of teachers who volunteered after school. She graduated high school as a HOPE scholar and went on to receive her undergraduate degree in economics from Georgia Tech, working multiple jobs to pay her way through college.

After college, she interned at the Georgia State Capitol and said that was when she was drawn to study law.

"I wanted to be in a position to help people during some of their hardest times," she said. "To understand what people go through and hear their stories, and then have the knowledge,

the capability to be in a position to actually help them."

Hong was elected to serve the residents of House District 103 in 2022, representing parts of Gwinnett and Hall counties. In 2023, she was named a floor leader by Kemp. In that role, she coordinates legislative initiatives and serves as the chief spokesperson for the Governor's Office on the House floor.

As a freshman lawmaker, Hong sponsored notable pieces of

legislation, including a bill that leveled the playing field for women-, minority- and veteran-owned businesses and a bill that extended aid to pregnant women in Georgia through the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

Named to *Georgia Asian Times'* 2023 list of the 25 most influential Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the state, Hong was also the first Asian American and Korean American woman



selected as president of the Cobb County Bar Association. She was also named the 2023 Legislator of the Year by the Junior League of Atlanta.

"We certainly do see a lot of leaders come out of Mercer. I think it's the environment that Mercer creates, and the education that you get," she said. "Coming out of Mercer Law School and the connections and the opportunities that I've had because of Mercer Law, it's been more than I could have imagined."

Hong said she's always been grateful that her parents immigrated here, and she's proud to be an American citizen now.

"To not even know the alphabet at 10 years old to be where I am today, that to me is living the American dream, and I'm passionate about ensuring that we create every opportunity for future generations to live their version," she said.



# HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER REP. CHUCK EFSTRATION

## STANDING UP FOR THE VOICELESS AND THE VULNERABLE

**H**OUSE MAJORITY LEADER  
REP. CHUCK EFSTRATION (LAW '08)  
HAS MADE A CAREER OF PUTTING  
DANGEROUS CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS.

During his 10 years serving in the House of Representatives, he's sponsored legislation cracking down on criminal gangs and combating hate crimes, earning him a reputation for standing up for the voiceless and the vulnerable.

"As majority leader, I'm proud of the work our House has achieved to advance commonsense priorities that make Georgians safer, healthier and wealthier," Efstration said.

Efstration represents House District 104, which includes the Auburn, Carl and Hamilton Mill areas of Barrow and Gwinnett counties. A former assistant district attorney and chair of his county Republican Party, Efstration was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2013 and elected majority leader by his Republican colleagues in November of 2022.

Before being elected majority leader, Efstration served as chair of every judiciary committee and as an administration floor leader for Gov. **Nathan Deal**, another Mercer alumnus, helping to champion key policies to cut taxes, support law enforcement and protect the vulnerable.

Efstration said he never backs down from doing what's right. "Ultimately, I view my position in the Legislature as an

opportunity to help Georgians by improving the law, finding areas of injustice and working to address it through legislation and through funding in the state budget," he said.

As a proud Mercer Bear, Efstration said he looks back fondly on his time in Macon.

"Mercer offers a great chance to really focus on your education, hear from professors and work with classmates in a setting that is

very conducive to later success in life," he said. "The experience that I had in Macon certainly set me on a trajectory where I could be very effective in my career, and I think about that often. I received the high-quality legal education necessary to get me where I am today while also making lifelong friends along the way, some of whom I'm honored to serve with in the legislature today."

After law school, Efstration returned to his



hometown and worked in law enforcement as a felony prosecutor. As an assistant district attorney, Efstration conducted jury trials prosecuting offenses including murder, rape, armed robbery, child molestation, drug possession and sale, domestic violence, computer crimes, DUI and theft. He also served as a prosecutor for juvenile court and the Gwinnett County drug court. Today, he owns a small family law firm in the Dacula area.

"I think that being a lawyer goes very well with being a legislator because in working with the law all the time, and seeing how the law impacts Georgians, you can be very effective as you argue for changes, so it's a better reflection of what people need in order to live their lives and continue to live in what I think is the best state in the country."

# SENATE PRESIDENT *PRO TEMPORE* JOHN F. KENNEDY

## LEADING THE FIGHT FOR FAMILIES

**S**ENATE PRESIDENT *PRO TEMPORE*

**JOHN F. KENNEDY** (CLAS '87, LAW '90) PRESIDES OVER THE SENATE BODY WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE IS ABSENT AND IS ALSO THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE'S ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

A Georgia native born in the small rural town of Adrian, Kennedy said he's proud to call Middle Georgia his home and honored to give back to the community that has given him so much.

"Regardless of the issue, I have never backed down from fighting for our families," he said.

Elected to the state Senate in 2014 to represent Crawford, Monroe, Peach and Upson counties, as well as portions of Bibb and Houston counties, Kennedy was a legislative leader from the start. During his freshman term, Kennedy served as Deal's floor leader in the Senate, and his Republican colleagues elected him to serve as caucus chair for the Senate majority.

During his time under the Gold Dome, Kennedy fought and worked to keep Middle Georgia's economy open during the pandemic, passed historic tax cuts for families, ensured Georgia elections were secure and increased funding for public safety.

"The most important thing is to serve the constituents that sent me there," he said. "I didn't go to warm a seat. I went to try to work and help people that have needs and have that connectivity that we as senators can provide for folks."

A champion of victim's rights, he said he's most proud

of the work he did getting Marsy's Law passed. The bill proposed an amendment to the Georgia Constitution that would entitle crime victims to certain rights including fair treatment, respect and dignity; reasonable and accurate notice of proceedings of the person accused of the crime; to be present and heard at public proceedings involving the victim; and to be informed of their rights.

"Now we have a constitutional amendment in Georgia that guarantees the victims and the family of victims the right to be heard," he said.

While at Mercer, Kennedy competed on the debate team and served as president of Sigma Nu fraternity. He described his time at Mercer as "good kids, good students, good people, good professors that cared about you. The whole university cared about you."

A testament to that fondness for Mercer, both Kennedy's daughter, **Katherine**, and son, **Will**, went on to receive degrees from Mercer (CHP '23 and CLAS '23 respectively), and his wife, **Susan**, is also an alumna (CLAS '90).

"I think folks that are looking at Mercer are attracted to that (leadership) spirit, but then I think it's furthered and nurtured while you're there," he said.

Eventually becoming a partner at the Macon-based law firm of James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP, Kennedy admits he never really considered throwing his hat into the political ring. But when he was initially approached to run for the Senate seat, he said, he thought it was a way for him to give back to a community that's been good to him.

"I've been incredibly blessed to get to do what I've done. What motivates me are two things. One, the ability to help people, and secondly, the problem-solving aspect of service is a lot of fun," he said. "I like the intellectual challenge of having problems and trying to figure out a way to address them."



**As proven leaders in the state legislature and their communities, these Mercerians are true examples of how every Mercer student majors in changing the world. As ROSALYNN CARTER once said, "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."**

# Alumni in Georgia Legislature

**Additional Mercerians** currently serving in the State Legislature include:

## REP. CLINT CROWE (BUS '12)

- Represents House District 110, portions of Butts, Henry and Newton counties
- Elected in 2020

"It was a rigorous curriculum, but you get to dive deeper into issues and really take ownership of what you're studying. The things we did at Mercer enabled me to take on a leadership role. It wasn't just lectures, it was interactive, so you got used to being in a collaborating role. That was a real big benefit for me."



## SEN. DAVID LUCAS (HON. LAW '02)

- Member of the Senate Appropriations, Economic Development and Tourism, Regulated Industries and Utilities, Transportation and Urban Affairs Committees
- Represents Senate District 26, Hancock, Twiggs, Washington and Wilkinson counties and portions of Bibb, Houston and Jones counties
- Elected in 2012

"Mercer has lived up to why we started the School of Medicine, and that was to try and get doctors into rural areas and get health care to the people who need it. The state legislature has the funds to do what the School of Medicine was started to do, and we get to do the work to change those health outcomes."



## REP. FAROOQ MUGHAL (CLAS '00)

- Vice Chair of the Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Public Safety Sub-Committee Chair of the Gwinnett Legislative Caucus, Member of the Georgia Black Legislative Caucus
- Represents House District 105, Buford, Dacula and Lawrenceville
- Elected in 2022

"The Mercer University experience is defined by the value of tradition, academic rigor and excellence. My experience at Mercer gave me the confidence to continue my personal and academic journey in pursuit of a public service career in the legislative and government affairs field."



## REP. LARRY J. "BUTCH" PARRISH (HON. LAW)

- Chair of the House Rules Committee and serves on the following committees: Banks & Banking, Economic Development & Tourism, Health, Human Relations & Aging, Public Health, Rules, Technology & Infrastructure Innovation. He also serves on the OneGeorgia Authority Overview Committee and the Georgia World Congress Center Overview Committee
- Represents House District 158, Candler, Emanuel and Jenkins counties and portions of Bulloch County
- Elected in 1985

"Being awarded an honorary degree is one of my most proud and honored moments as a legislator. Mercer continues to make a difference in the lives of all Georgians, and I am grateful to be their partner."



## REP. MATT REEVES (CLAS '00)

- Vice Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Deputy House Majority Whip, Secretary of the House Redistricting Committee, Judiciary Non-Civil (Criminal Law) Committee
- Gwinnett County House Republican Liaison with the Gwinnett County Public Schools
- Represents House District 99, Suwanee, Sugar Hill and Duluth
- Elected in 2022

"I am proud that my alma mater, Mercer, has been a leader in solving Georgia's health care primary care access problems. Keep Georgia number one in good things. State government should do a few things and do them well, and leave the rest of the money and authority to hardworking Georgians and local elected officials."



## REP. RON STEPHENS (PHA '78)

- Chairman of the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee, Member of the Appropriations, Rules, and Ways and Means committees
- Represents House District 164
- Elected in 1997

"Once I entered Mercer, every opportunity that was given to me over and above what I would have gotten anywhere else, in pharmacy, in business and in politics, stems from Mercer. Mercer creates leaders, no question. And we all take pride in going to the Capitol and having Mercer Day, wearing our Mercer ties, the other schools don't do that. There's not a person among us who doesn't puff out their chest proudly saying they're a graduate of Mercer University. We say it with reverence."



# Alumni Leading the State

Six Mercer alumni have served as governor of Georgia since the University's founding. These include:



**HENRY DICKERSON  
McDANIEL**  
(A.B. 1856, A.M. 1859)  
52ND GOVERNOR 1883-1886



**WILLIAM JONATHAN  
NORTHEN**  
(A.B. 1853,  
HON. LL.D. 1891)  
54TH GOVERNOR 1890-1894



**ALLEN DANIEL  
CANDLER**  
(A.B. 1859, A.M. 1866)  
56TH GOVERNOR 1898-1902



**THOMAS W. HARDWICK**  
(A.B. 1892)  
63RD GOVERNOR 1921-1923



**ELLIS ARNALL**  
(ATTENDED 1924)  
69TH GOVERNOR 1943-1947



**NATHAN DEAL**  
(CLAS '64, LAW '66)  
82ND GOVERNOR 2011-2019

PHARMACY AND HEALTH  
SPECTACULAR  
ADDITION  
TO ATLANTA CAMPUS



# THE SCIENCES CENTER LAWRENCE

**hen Vy Nguyen** (PharmD '25) first walked in the door of the new **Tony and Nancy Moyer Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center**, her reaction echoed that of many of her classmates.

“I was like, ‘Wow!’ It’s such a modern building, and you feel like we have our own space,” she said. ➔

By **AARON WILLIAMS**





PAULA HELLER PHOTOS; MATTHEW SMITH PHOTO

The latest addition to the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus, the Center is a 65,000-square-foot building that houses learning, teaching and administrative space for the College of Pharmacy.

It contains some of the most cutting-edge lab technology found in any academic setting, adjustable classrooms to fit the needs of individual professors and several areas for students to study and relax between classes.

“These state-of-the-art facilities will allow student pharmacists to learn through simulated patient care settings in preparation for future practice,” said **Dr. Susan Miller**, professor of pharmacy practice.

After years of extensive research and planning, Mercer broke ground on the Center in 2022. The first floor features a dramatic foyer with classrooms, simulation labs, the Admissions Office and meeting spaces. The second floor houses the dean’s suite, several conference rooms and faculty and staff offices.

Students say one of their favorite areas of the Center is the spacious student lounge.

“It’s so nice to have a space of our own. In the old building, we felt crowded. But now, we have a room with refrigerators and a coffee maker,” said Nguyen.

The Tony and Nancy Moye Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center is the latest chapter in the storied history of the College, which started as the Southern College of Pharmacy in 1903. Originally located in downtown Atlanta, the College of Pharmacy merged with Mercer in 1959, moving to its current location on the Cecil B. Day Atlanta campus in 1991.

“Mercer has always been one of the top pharmacy schools in Georgia, and now we have the best facility in the state,” said **Tony Moye**, a 1973 College of Pharmacy graduate who — with his wife, **Nancy** — provided the lead gift for the Center. “It’s a place where we can prepare students to succeed in the pharmacy industry, no matter where it goes in the future. Nancy and I were honored to participate, [and it] exceeded our expectations.”

The Center is not the only change to the College of Pharmacy. Other changes include renovating 18,500 square feet of lab space in the Duvall Pharmacy Research building — an important commitment by Mercer to support the College’s world-changing research.

“This will allow us to dramatically increase our research infrastructure that will ultimately increase our research productivity, which has grown tremendously over the last decade,” said **Dr. Nader Moniri**, associate dean for research and professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

This Center is the latest addition to a multi-year





transformation of Mercer Atlanta’s campus. The University completed the mixed-use Mercer Village Atlanta and a multi-million-dollar renovation to the Monroe F. Swilley Jr. Graduate and Professional Library in 2022. Major renovations to the Administration and Conference Center were completed last year, and Mercer is continuing to add more green space, recreational facilities and walking paths throughout the campus.

“The new Tony and Nancy Moye Pharmacy and Health

Sciences Center is a spectacular addition to Mercer’s Atlanta campus,” said Mercer President **William D. Underwood**. “It provides a signature building for the campus that contains the most advanced pharmaceutical science facilities in the southeastern United States. It is a fitting tribute to the service of former Board of Trustees Chair Tony Moye.”

Students began classes at the Center in January 2024. The official dedication is scheduled for April 19 following the spring Board of Trustees meeting.







MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR



# *Mercer University* HOMECOMING

NOV. 1 & 2, 2024

*Reconnect with friends and rekindle your fondness for the Mercer you remember.*

Planning is already underway for Homecoming 2024! Featured events for the weekend include our traditional Half Century Club Celebration; recognition of the Anniversary Classes of 1974, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2014; alumni career speaker series; alumni and friends awards dinner; pep rally; fireworks; campus-wide tailgating; Saturday football game; and much more. Mark your calendars now to cheer on the Bears. We can't wait to welcome you home!

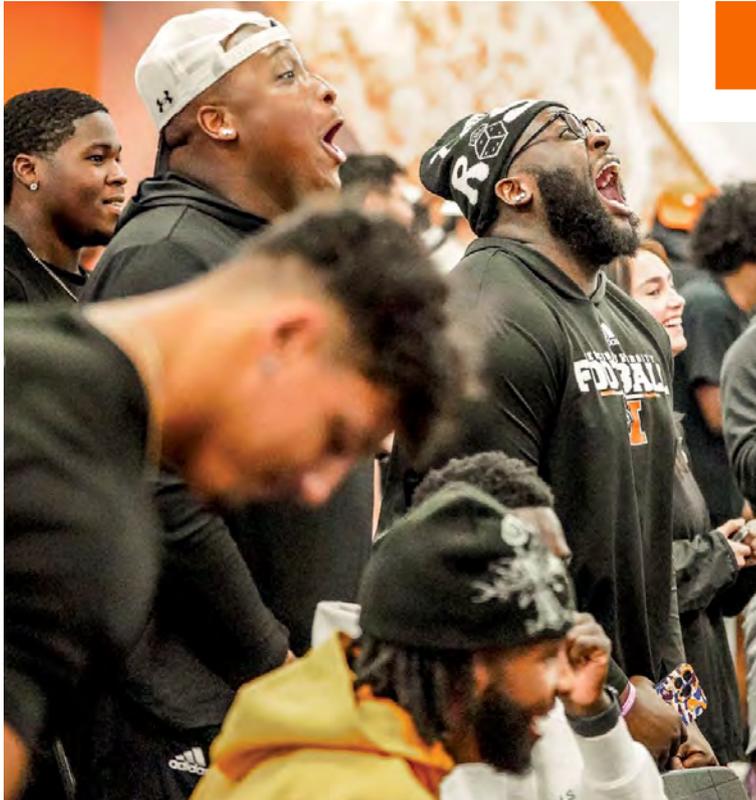
*For more information and to view photos from Homecoming 2023, visit [homecoming.mercer.edu](https://homecoming.mercer.edu).*



# BEAR BRIEFS

FOOTBALL

## Football Makes Histo



**T**he silence was near deafening when the 2023 edition of the FCS Playoffs Selection Show finally got underway on Nov. 19 in the team room of the Homer and Ruth Drake Field House.

Sure, there had been plenty of program-defining moments for the Mercer football team in the 49 previous seasons for the squad, but the coveted invitation into the NCAA postseason had narrowly eluded the Bears in the two previous years. Expectations, understandably, were a bit guarded this time around.

Just less than eight minutes into the programming, the silence in the room quickly turned into controlled pandemonium. The Bears were playoffbound!

Mercer climbed on the back of an opportunistic defense — one that produced 23 turnovers over its last nine games — to key a 9-4 campaign that was accentuated by a first-round

## PLAYERS RECOGNIZED ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Individual postseason recognitions came in bunches for the Bears at season's end. Five players combined to rake in 18 All-America honors, including senior wide receiver **Ty James**, who became the first unanimous All-American in program history, and **Lance Wise Jr.**, who closed the book on his collegiate career as a consensus All-American.

Fourteen players earned their way onto Phil Steele's All-Southern Conference squads, including **Devron Harper**, who was named an all-league standout at four different positions in addition to being crowned as the SoCon Special Teams Player of the Year. Harper and James both earned spots in postseason all-star games, as Harper was selected to compete in the Tropical Bowl, while James was included among the Hula Bowl invitees.

Mercer's players were presented with some impressive academic hardware as well. Juniors **Carter Peevy** and **Riley Adcock** were



Wise



James

both lauded with academic all-district honors from the College Sports Communicators for their work in the classroom. Fellow junior **Ken Standley**, who earned his bachelor's degree from Mercer in August, became the first student-athlete in the history of the Mercer football program to be selected to the FCS Academic All-Star Team.

# ry with Playoff Berth

NCAA home playoff victory over Gardner-Webb. The Bears captured six of their last seven regular-season contests, including a rousing 45-38 upset victory at then-No. 10 Western Carolina in late October, to fuel the historic campaign. MU also collected a program-best nine wins against NCAA Division I

competition along the way.

The Bears settled into both national polls at season's end, locking themselves into the No. 17 spot in the StatsPerform FCS Top 25, while grabbing a No. 20 national ranking in the American Football Coaches Association Top 25. It is the second straight year that Mercer has finished among the nation's top 25 teams in the StatsPerform listing.



## TWENTY-ONE-YEAR COLLEGIATE COACHING VETERAN **MIKE JACOBS**

was named as Mercer football program's 21st head coach on Jan. 18.

Jacobs, who has compiled a 74-17 record across head coaching stops at Notre Dame (Ohio) and Lenoir-Rhyne, boasts the nation's sixth-best winning percentage among active coaches at the NCAA Division I and II levels. During the 2023 season, he led Lenoir-Rhyne to a 13-2 record and an appearance in the semifinal round of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

"My family and I are humbled to be joining the Mercer University football family," Jacobs said. "Mercer is an elite institution that has competed at the highest level both on the field and in the classroom. We look forward to immersing ourselves in both the campus community and the city of Macon. Go Bears!"

**Drew Cronic** resigned as head football coach on Jan. 9 to assume the

offensive coordinator role with the Navy Midshipmen. Cronic led the Bears to 28 victories across his four seasons, including a 9-4 record in 2023 that culminated in the University's first berth in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs.

"Our goal throughout this process was to find not only a leader with a track record of success, but also one who will continue to build on the success that our program has already experienced," said Mercer Athletics Director **Jim Cole**. "Mike Jacobs shares our values and our vision for Mercer football, but I also think that he is a leader that young men will want to play for. I am excited to welcome Mike, his wife, Lacey, and their two sons, Luke and Knox, to the Mercer Bears family."

MEN'S SOCCER, ATHLETIC FOUNDATION

# Men's Soccer Wins 5th SoCon Title



**Pose the question** to Mercer men's soccer head coach **Brad Ruzzo** and there will be very little hesitation about the importance of defense in a team's overall success.

"You can win games with defensive stoppers. If you have that, you only need one chance to score a goal," Ruzzo said. "You have to be defensively sound, and I think we were. That's why we ended up with the success that we had."

Success indeed. The fifth-seeded Bears boasted one of the league's top defensive squads as they rolled to their fifth Southern Conference Tournament title in the last eight years with a 2-0 shutout win over third-seeded Furman in the

## ATHLETIC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES TRIO OF MAJOR ATHLETICS PROJECTS

Mercer University and The Mercer Athletic Foundation in January announced three major facility projects that will upgrade student-athlete and fan experiences in eight Mercer Bears programs.

### FOOTBALL/LACROSSE END ZONE FACILITY

Mercer Trustee **William H. (Billy) Anderson II**, **Les Cole** and **Southern Trust Insurance** have committed to funding a dynamic end zone project at the north end of Anderson Field within



Five Star Stadium. This addition will transform the grass berm underneath the stadium's videoboard into a multi-tier tailgate area. On the field, tailgate tents will be available on game day, allowing fans a unique in-game experience.

The top tier of the facility will feature common space to encourage mingling on game day with seating and concession areas. This project will enhance an already robust game day environment and fans will feel they are "part of the action" on the field. Football, women's lacrosse and men's lacrosse fans will benefit from this addition.

SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTOS



championship bout. The result also secured the program's fifth berth into the NCAA Tournament.

Mercer surrendered just two goals in its three-match run through the league tournament, while also posting road victories over the Nos. 1 and 3 seeds, respectively, on the way to history. Mercer routed fourth-seeded UNC Greensboro in its tournament opener, used a penalty kick shootout to knock off regular-season champion East Tennessee State in the semifinals, and then scored two goals in the first 5-1/2 minutes to topple

the Paladins in the finals.

"The pressure of being on the road and handling that adversity is something to be really proud of," Ruzzo said. "Even coaches in the conference were texting me, 'What you guys just did was pretty impressive.' Our guys had a 'This is what we do' mentality that we win tournament games, and then we move on. But, it was impressive how they did it."

The Bears fell to Florida International in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament and finished with an overall record of 7-6-8.

## BASEBALL PERFORMANCE CENTER

The **Cantrell Family Baseball Performance Center** is a 9,200-square-foot, two-story facility that will include batting cages, a pitching lab, team meeting space, a recruiting lounge, spectator balcony, coaches offices and a coaches locker room. Positioned on the third base side of



Claude Smith Field at OrthoGeorgia Park, the Cantrell Baseball Performance Center will be on par with the top baseball facilities in the country. **Charlie and Tammy Cantrell** provided the lead commitment for this facility, along with a major gift from the **Claude Smith Family Legacy Endowment**.

## TENNIS/GOLF FACILITY

**Janet Overstreet**, the **W.L. Amos Sr. Foundation** and **Kevin and Carolyn Scheck** have generously provided the lead commitments for a 5,800-square-foot facility that will be home to both Mercer women's and men's tennis and golf programs. The tennis complex will be dedicated as the **Copelan Tennis Complex**, the tennis facility will be named the **Overstreet**



**Tennis Center**, while the golf facility will be known as the **Kevin and Carolyn Scheck Golf Performance Center**. This facility will include locker rooms for the tennis program, a tennis lounge, office space for the tennis and golf coaches, a golf lounge and repair room as well as a putting lab and multiple hitting bays for golf. This new facility will transform the College Street entrance to campus.

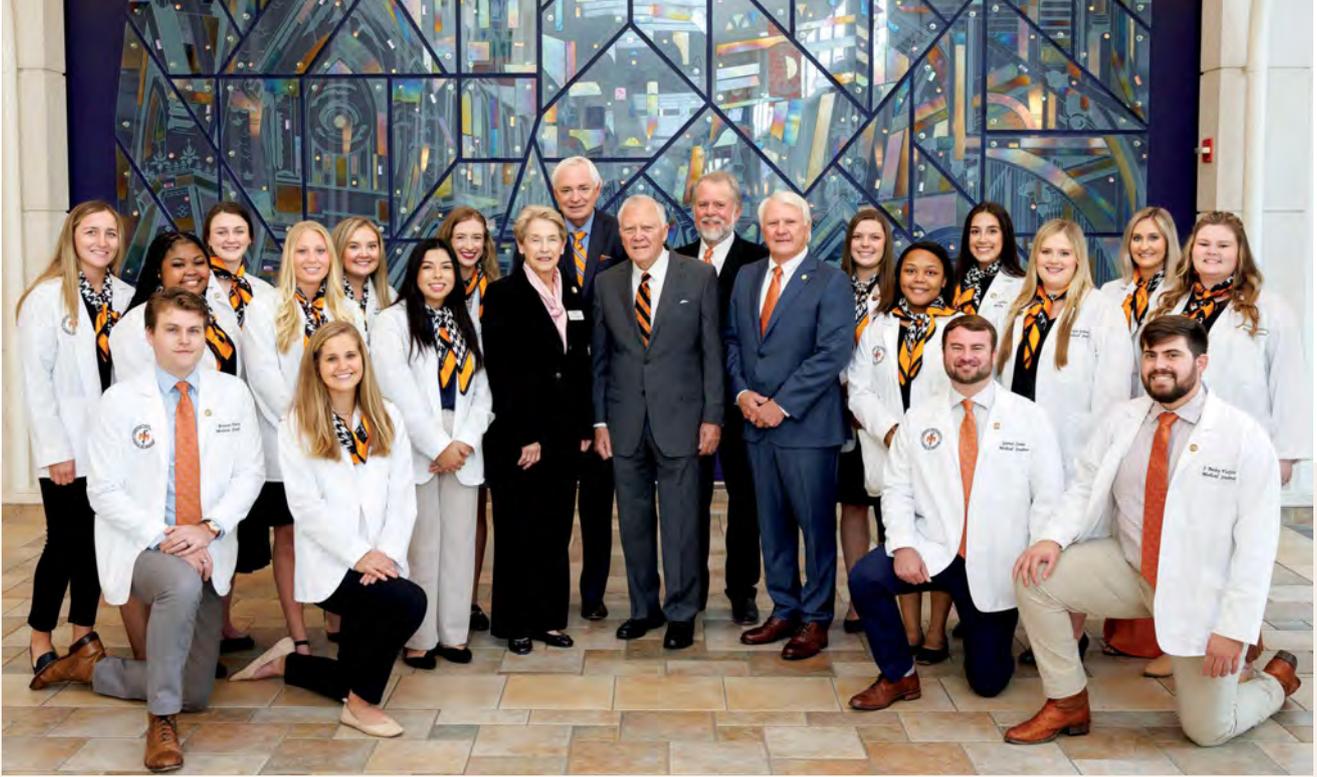
**MEDICINE**

# MERCER MEDICINE OPENS CLINICS ON JEKYLL ISLAND AND IN TAYLOR COUNTY

**In late 2023, Mercer Medicine opened two additional rural primary care clinics in Jekyll Island and Taylor County, expanding to six rural clinics across the state.**

The Jekyll Island clinic, which is located in the Jekyll Island Beach Village at 11 Main Street, Suite 201, operates in a 4,534-square-foot, second-floor space and offers walk-in and scheduled appointments for high-quality primary care provided by its board-certified family physician, **Dustin Horne, M.D.**, and staff. Other services include X-ray, point-of-care lab testing, immunizations and telehealth services. The Taylor County clinic, located in Reynolds at 57 Martin Luther King Drive, also offers walk-in and scheduled appointments by its board-certified





## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ANNOUNCES 2023 NATHAN DEAL SCHOLARS

**T**he School of Medicine recognized 17 new Nathan Deal Scholars for the 2023-24 academic year. Nathan Deal Scholars are eligible based on their strong ties to rural Georgia and selected by their character, leadership qualities, community involvement and their likelihood of serving in rural, underserved Georgia even after their scholarship obligations are met. They will receive 85%-100% of tuition for up to four academic years. The scholarship is an endowment funded by a one-time appropriation of \$35 million from the state of Georgia. This year's class of Nathan Deal Scholars are:

**Maria Balderas** of Tifton (Class of 2027); **Sydnee Burke** of Bainbridge (Class of 2027); **Amber Castleberry** of Barnesville (Class of 2025); **Abbie Earnest** of Donalsonville (Class of 2027); **Tiera Evans** of Sparta (Class of 2027); **Lillian Fagan** of Moultrie (Class of 2027); **Lendley Gibbs**

of Fitzgerald (Class of 2027);

**Madison Abbott Huff** of Monticello (Class of 2027); **Chloe Johnson** of Warrenton (Class of 2027); **Megan Kral** of Hoschtton (Class of 2026); **Gabrielle Newsome** of Cedartown (Class of 2026); **Kara Hubbard Patrick** of Richland (Class of 2027); **Bronson Pierce** of Rome (Class of 2027); **Lamonica Shinholster** of Haddock (Class of 2026); **Garrett Streat** of Nicholls (Class of 2027); **Haley Thompson** of Metter (Class of 2027) and **Bailey Vickers** of Wrightsville (Class of 2027).

internal medicine physician, **Srijana Ranjit**, M.D., Ph.D., as well as nurse practitioner **Allison Ball**, APRN, NP-C, and a highly qualified staff.

◀ **JEKYLL ISLAND CLINIC** – From left, Medical student **Matthew Corn**; School of Medicine Dean **Jean Sumner**, M.D., FACP; **Taylor Carver**; **Susan Conway**; Mercer President **William D. Underwood**; **Bentley Lauren Klein Smith**, FNP-C; Mercer Medicine Chief Operating Officer **Doug Brewer**, M.D., MBA, FASCRS, CPE; **Dustin Horne**, M.D.; School of Medicine Executive Director of Finance and Administration **Ben West**; and medical student **William Clifton**.

**TAYLOR COUNTY CLINIC** – From left, Medical student **Emily Hartley**; Mercer Medicine Chief Executive **Doug Brewer**, M.D., MBA, FASCRS, CPE; Mercer President **William D. Underwood**; **Srijana Ranjit**, M.D., Ph.D.; School of Medicine Chief Financial Officer **Ben West**; School of Medicine Dean **Jean Sumner**, M.D., FACP; and medical student **Kelby Bulles**. ▶



## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FARMWORKER MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT AWARDED AAMC GRANT

An interprofessional project led by School of Medicine faculty aimed at researching the use of telehealth to help farmworkers access mental health services has been selected for an American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Telehealth Equity Catalyst (TEC) Award. Led by **Dr. Kimberly Roth**, assistant professor of community medicine, and **Dr. Janine Chalk-Wilayto**, associate professor of anatomy on the Savannah campus, the project team also includes faculty members **Bonzo Reddick**, M.D., health director, Georgia Department of Public Health Coastal District; **Andrew Benesh**, Ph.D., LMFT, assistant program director, Master of Family Therapy; **Jill R. Mattingly**, DHSc, MMSc, PA-C, chair, physician assistant studies; **Erin Fitzpatrick Lepp**, MMSc, PA-C, coordinator, PA community engagement; and **Sherrie Williams**, director of operations, Georgia Partnership for Telehealth.



Dr. Roth and Dr. Chalk-Wilayto

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OFFERS NEW PH.D. IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The School of Medicine next fall will enroll its inaugural class in the new Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biomedical Sciences (Ph.D. BMS). The program will be offered on the medical school's campuses in Columbus, Macon and Savannah. **Christy Bridges**, Ph.D., a tenured professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, will serve as the program coordinator. This comprehensive five-year



Dr. Bridges

doctoral program, centered on research, is crafted to prepare graduates for successful careers in biomedical research, including in academia, biotech companies, hospitals and laboratories. The initial year of the program is modeled after the current School of Medicine Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences program (MSBMS), which is no longer admitting students. The Ph.D. program will produce graduates who are eligible for a wide spectrum of jobs in the science workforce, including post-doctoral fellowships for further specialization in their biomedical sciences field and professorships at the college and university level.

## AMA GRANT FUNDS PROFESSOR'S GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH ON FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE DRUG

**Dr. Raquibul Hasan**, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was

awarded a two-year \$154,000 grant from the American Heart Association (AHA) to further his work to unlock new treatment options for people with drug-resistant high blood pressure. With the funding from the AHA and any additional funding received, Dr. Hasan's research team will conduct a series of studies to determine if a new drug compound can slow the development of high blood pressure and prevent cardiovascular diseases like heart attack and stroke.



Dr. Hasan

# COLLEGE OF PHARMACY STUDENT CHAPTER NAMED **CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**



The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) named Mercer College of Pharmacy’s student chapter the Chapter of the Year, recognizing its engagement and dedication to community pharmacy, and placed in the top 10 of the NCPA Business Plan Competition. Mercer’s chapter was selected for this honor out of more than 100 chapters across

the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The NCPA based its decision on several criteria: advocacy, event participation, community service and outreach, and fundraising, among others. Also recognized by the NCPA, **Natalie Novak** (PharmD ’24) received the Neil Pruitt Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Entrepreneurism and **Sam Smith** (PharmD ’25) was awarded the Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship.

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## PHARMACY PROFESSOR, ALUMNUS NAMED **OUTSTANDING FACULTY LIAISON OF THE YEAR**

Professor and alumnus **Dr. Johnathan Hamrick** (PharmD ’10) is the National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation (NCPA) 2023 Outstanding Faculty Liaison of the Year. The foundation presents the award to a faculty liaison who demonstrates exceptional leadership and commitment to independent pharmacy, their student chapter and the community. Dr. Hamrick returned to Mercer in 2014 as a clinical assistant professor and director of introductory pharmacy practice experiences. He established and coordinated an advanced community pharmacy elective, providing students with hands-on opportunities to



**Dr. Hamrick**

explore innovative services and endless possibilities in community pharmacy practice. He also served as the faculty advisor for the NCPA Student Chapter for over seven years, writing numerous NCPA Foundation Scholarship recommendation letters, mentoring the

chapter’s business plan competition team, and proctoring exams remotely during conventions, so students could attend.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1950s

**Rev. Donald H. Voyles**, CLAS '59, celebrated 70 years as an ordained minister in March. Voyles is a 1962 graduate of Truett McConnell College. He attended the University of Georgia and West Georgia to pursue further education and also completed classes under the leadership of two local ministers at the Mercer Extension School. In 1989, he began as an instructor for the Mercer Extension School and taught throughout the 1990s at Unity Baptist Church in Paulding County until his retirement in 2019. In 2020, he held Bible study and worship services on the back porch of his home until he officially came out of retirement to found his current pastorate, Mt. Tabor Community Baptist Church in Dallas. Throughout his 70 years he has ministered to all people in need through hospital ministry (chaplain), visiting and delivering messages in jails, nursing homes, and other public events.

### 1970s

**Therese "Tee" Stiffler Barnes**, LAW '81, was awarded the St. Thomas More Award by the St. Thomas More Society of Atlanta. The award is given annually to recognize specific actions manifesting a commitment to justice and humanity, especially in difficult circumstances.

Send your ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MARRIAGES & BIRTHS and IN MEMORY announcements for THE MERCERIAN to ERIN LONES, director of advancement communications, at [lones\\_ep@mercer.edu](mailto:lones_ep@mercer.edu).

**The Hon. Quintress J. Gilbert**, CLAS '72, Macon-Bibb's first female African American judge, celebrated her retirement as juvenile court judge in January. Gilbert was one of 12 Black youth to integrate the Bibb County School District. After earning her undergraduate degree from Mercer, she graduated from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas. After returning to Macon, she clerked in probate court for two years and later took and passed the bar exam. A few years later, she was nominated for juvenile court judge for the Macon Judicial Circuit, a position she held for 24 years. In retirement, Gilbert plans to continue her service to the Macon-Bibb community and the area's youth.

**Allan Myers**, LAW '75, celebrated his first anniversary as a Neutral with Legion Mediation in Gainesville. Myers has shifted focus to providing services as a Neutral at Legion after a career in litigating a wide array of matters with the firm of Myers & Wingate.

**The Hon. W. Louis Sands**, CLAS '71, LAW '74, was awarded the St. Thomas More Award given by the St. Thomas More Society of Atlanta. The award recognizes a commitment to justice and humanity, especially in difficult circumstances.

**Rita Stinson Williams**, NUR '79, retired as a family nurse practitioner in December 2021.

### 1980s

**Michael David "Mike" Grindstaff**, PHA '89, released his second novel, a sequel to his pharmaceutical mystery, *Moon Over Knoxville*, in August 2023. *Second Chance to Die* is published by Jan-Carol publishing and is available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other online sites. It can also be purchased from

## REMEMBERING...

### Friend and Generous Supporter

## Teresa Bennett

**Teresa Fowler Bennett**, a friend and generous supporter of the College of Nursing, School of Medicine and Mercer University Press, died on Jan. 31. A native of Cumming, Bennett was responsible for founding Bennett Graphics, a family printing business in Tucker. Bennett and her late husband, **Everett Bennett**, a former University Trustee, shared a strong faith and were active members in their church, Johns Creek Baptist Church. Bennett also supported the Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA) in Honolulu and cared deeply for the people of Hawaii and those she met from around the nation through the HBA. The Bennetts were life members of The President's Club and supported the University for decades through their business and individual contributions.



### Loyal Alumnus and Generous Supporter

## John Black

**Dr. John Bryant Black Jr.**, CLAS '61, died on Aug. 22, 2023. A Macon native, Black graduated from Lanier High School, Mercer University and the Medical College of Georgia with a Ph.D. in endocrinology. He retired from the University System of Georgia after serving as a professor at Augusta College and in various administrative positions at East Georgia State College, Dalton State College, Middle Georgia State University and the University of Georgia System Office in Atlanta. He proudly leaves as his legacy the many students he was privileged to teach in the classroom or coach on the soccer field. A loyal and dedicated alumnus, Black served as president of Mercer's Half Century Club from 2015-2016. He and his wife of 58 years, **Dorothy**, made a generous gift to the construction of the Godsey Science Center.

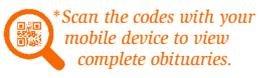


Jan-Carol or Grindstaff.

**The Hon. Mark Herr**, LAW '86, was appointed by Florida

Gov. Ron DeSantis to serve as judge on the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court. Since

2001, Herr has served as a County Court Judge for Seminole County.



Journalist, Politician and Author  
**Martha Ezzard**



**Martha McElveen Ezzard**, journalist, former Colorado State Senator, attorney and winery press owner, died on Oct. 29, 2023. An Atlanta native, Ezzard earned



her bachelor's degree in journalism at the University of Georgia and a master's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri. After raising her young children, she went to work as a press aide for Colorado Gov. John Love. She later decided to run for political office and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and the Colorado State Senate in 1981. While serving in the Senate, Ezzard attended law school and earned her J.D. degree. After practicing law for several years, Ezzard returned to journalism and moved back to Georgia to join the Editorial Board of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 1993. While pursuing her journalism career, Ezzard and her husband created a successful vineyard and winery called Tiger Mountain Vineyards (TMV). Ezzard went on to write a book published by Mercer University Press called *The Second Bud*, narrating the story of how she and her husband created a second life and profession in their 60s by saving a family farm and starting a winery. She won Best Author of Georgia for this book.



year developed and marketed top-selling snow globes and music boxes. Working part time with special needs students, Thompson developed a campaign involving model trains and an educational display for STEM studies with Space Invaders over Ola Middle School, achieving top-50 status out of 110,000 entries in ChevyDreamChasers.com competition to introduce CHEVY Volt in 2023. The 2023 festival sales theme was Northern Lights Over Pre-WW2 Alaska territory and saluted military personnel, model railroads, swing dancing, festivals and education. This display was featured at the North Georgia Mountain Fair in October 2023, Macon Christmas Made in the South in November 2023 and special set ups at Ola Middle School and Ola High School in McDonough in December 2023.

**1990s**

**Dr. Penmaraju Saleena Rao Dakin**, MED '95, is assistant physician in chief, service and capital planning and assistant chief of pediatrics for Northern Virginia Service Area of the Mid Atlanta Permanente Group.

**Selena Saunders DeConti**, PHA '99, was promoted to captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and associate director for safety at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of New Drugs, Division of Cardiology and Nephrology.

**Youlanda M. Gibbons**, CLAS '90, was acknowledged by The Inner Circle as a distinguished professional for her contributions to leadership and education. Gibbons is owner and founder of The Partnership for Inclusion Leadership, a women-owned business she founded after having served as a diversity strategist for the Department of Commerce Census Bureau from 2013 to 2020. She was recognized by the University

for Instructional Excellence in 2009 and was appointed to serve as an affiliated Georgetown University Scholar because of her visionary work with the federal government. In addition to her undergraduate degree, Gibbons earned a Master of Science in public health and a Master of Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She also earned a master's degree in social work and a Ph.D. in sociology and a Master of Arts in sociology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**R. Brent Hatcher**, CLAS '95, LAW '99, joined Legion Mediation in Gainesville. Hatcher provides mediation and arbitration services throughout Georgia, covering a host of legal specialties to augment his successful law practice with the Gainesville firm of Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles.

**The Hon. Mark Hendrix**, LAW '99, was appointed by Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp to the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in December 2023.

**R. Shane Lazenby**, CLAS '94, LAW '99, celebrated his 10th anniversary as the managing member of Lazenby Law Group LLC. Lazenby Law Group is a Gainesville-based law office specializing in representing victims of personal injury and families of loved ones who suffered a wrongful death.

**The Hon. G. Kevin Morris**, LAW '99, was appointed by Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp to the Superior Court of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit.

**Lee Summerford**, CLAS '93, LAW '96, was recognized as a member of *Georgia Trend's* 2023 Legal Elite. Summerford is a partner with Oliver Maner LLP in Savannah.

**2000s**

**Erin Elizabeth Atkins**, LAW '02, recently accepted a position as director, patient services counsel for Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

**Leland Malchow**, LAW '85, has expanded his offices to Beaufort and North Augusta, South Carolina. The lawyers in his law firm are licensed in Georgia and South Carolina.

**The Hon. Nancy Mau**, LAW '89, was appointed to a four-year term as a full-time magistrate judge for Fulton County.

**Chris Rakestraw**, CAS '86, graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Doctor of Social Work degree in May 2023. His capstone project was titled "Engaging Predominantly White Church in Racial Justice Work." Rakestraw is a child and family therapist at a community mental

health center and a part-time instructor at Kentucky's College of Social Work.

**Charles Edwards "Chas" Reynolds II**, CLAS '85, LAW '88, was elected to the Board of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) at its annual meeting in Hawaii in August 2023. The IADC is the largest association of international defense and corporate counsel in the world with members in more than 50 countries and territories.

**Darcee S. Siegel**, LAW '85, was appointed to serve as treasurer and chair of the finance committee on the National Judicial College's Board of Trustees.

**The Hon. Howard Z. Simms**, CLAS '84, LAW '88, retired as the chief judge from the Macon Judicial Circuit Supreme Court for the State of Georgia, where he served for 13 years. Prior to serving as chief judge, he served as a district attorney for nine years and as an assistant district attorney for 12 years.

**Arthur Richard Thompson**, BUS '86, retired from corporate world finance in 2009. Since then, Thompson and his wife, Traci, developed their direct holiday decor business, SILKS and Such, now in its 22nd year. SILKS and Such was named top Holiday Decor Artist for Christmas Made in the South Shows in 2017, and since that

**Rebecca McKelvey Castañeda**, LAW '06, was named to the Super Lawyers list in the 2023 edition of *Mid-South Super Lawyers*. Castañeda is a partner with Sities & Harbison in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Kristin Starnes Gray**, LAW '06, was selected by her peers for the 2024 Best Lawyers in America recognition for Litigation – Labor and Employment. Gray was also named to the *Profiles in Diversity Journals'* 22nd class of Women Worth Watching in Leadership. Gray is a partner in the Ford Harrison LLP Spartanburg, South Carolina, office where she assists employers with their labor and employment law needs, including issues regarding harassment and discrimination claims, employee leaves of absence, HIPAA compliance and arbitrating labor grievances.

**Gina Greenwood**, LAW '01, was the keynote speaker at Middle Georgia State University's School of Computing and Department of Information Technology. Her presentation was titled "IT Professional Tips on Surviving Ransomware Attacks and Other Data Breaches." Greenwood is the chair of Nelson, Mullins Data Privacy, Security & Breach practice group.

**Keitaro Harada**, MUS '07, '08, was the 2023 recipient of The Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award. Harada returned to Mercer to conduct a concert with the McDuffie Center for Strings in February.

**V. Phillip Hill IV**, BUS '08, LAW '08, was elevated to partner at the Atlanta office of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP, an Am Law 100 national litigation firm with more than 1,000 lawyers across all 50 states.

**Soo Jung Hong**, LAW '08, is a Republican member of the Georgia House of Representatives representing District 103, which is comprised of parts of Gwinnett and Hall

counties. She is the first woman of Korean descent to serve in the House of Representatives.

**KaCee Johnson Lackey**, LAW '06, has joined Bryant Miller Olive PA in Tallahassee, Florida. Johnson Lackey focuses on representing clients in complex real estate matters, including commercial, residential and governmental development projects.

**George Thomas "Bo" Major Jr.**, LAW '08, was recognized as a member of *Georgia Trend's* 2023 Legal Elite.

Major is a partner with Oliver Maner LLP in Savannah.

**Kim Mark Minix**, LAW '00, is of counsel with Brown & Adams LLC in Columbus.

**Cayce Myers**, LAW '09, was promoted to full professor at Virginia Technical School of Communication in August 2023.

**Thomas Alexander Peterson IV**, LAW '01, is one of two newly appointed state solicitors general announced July 18 by Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp. Peterson currently serves as the city attorney for Lyons and the county attorney for Tattnall County. He has served on the advisory committee for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia since 2013.

**Del Schwalls**, EGR '00, presented at the International Australian Floodplain Management Conference in Sydney in May 2023. He spent six weeks in Australia and New Zealand meeting with floodplain management professionals across the two countries and exploring Down Under.

**The Hon. Kenneth "Ken" Smith**, BUS '03, LAW '07, was appointed by Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp to the Superior Court of the Macon Judicial Circuit, a vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. **Howard Simms**, CLAS '84, LAW '88. Smith is the founder and trial attorney for the Law Offices of Ken Smith LLC. He serves on the board of the Ronald McDonald House and is a

REMEMBERING...

*Loyal and Distinguished Alumnus*

Kevin Greenaugh

**Kevin C. Greenaugh**, CLAS '77, died on Dec. 17, 2023. Greenaugh was a distinguished scientist and nuclear engineer born in the United Kingdom and raised as a U.S. military dependent. His family

lived in Berlin during the Cold War and later moved to Augusta. After graduating from Mercer, Greenaugh earned a master's in nuclear engineering and a master's in public policy from the University of New Mexico. He also completed post-master's studies at the University of Arizona, earned an engineering certificate in technology

from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and made history as the first Black doctoral graduate in nuclear engineering at the University of Maryland. Greenaugh held various senior leadership roles with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). As the assistant deputy administrator for strategic partnership at the agency, he served as senior policy advisor to the administrator of NNSA. He briefed members of Congress, including the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, on matters relating to nuclear deterrence. In 2013, Greenaugh received the Mercer University Distinguished Alumnus Award.



member of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon.

**The Hon. Erica L. Tisinger**, LAW '03, was appointed by Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp to the Superior Court of the Coweta Judicial Circuit. She will fill the vacancy created by the appointment of the Hon. Bill Hamrick to the Georgia State-wide Business Court earlier this year.

2010s

**Alston Auten**, LAW '16, was named to *Georgia Trend's* 40 Under 40 list for 2023. Auten is a founding partner of Morgan & Auten, a legal practice in Columbus that encompasses legal matters pertaining to real estate, mergers and acquisitions, and employment law, among other topics.

**Ken Blair**, COPA '14, was

named to *Georgia Trend's* 40 Under 40 list for 2023. Blair is Wesleyan College's first director of strategic initiatives, but his work takes place both on and off campus as he strives to inspire the next generation – particularly first-generation and low-income minority youth – to become leaders. Blair is co-chair of Mercer's African American Alumni Network, a 2022 graduate of Leadership Macon and is a board member of the Macon Transit Authority.

**Stephen Bradshaw**, CLAS '12, BUS '14, was named to *Georgia Trend's* 40 Under 40 list for 2023. Bradshaw is a second-generation community banker with Queensborough National Bank and Trust in Augusta.

**Meredith Williams**

**Chilausky**, LAW '10, joined Campbell Law in Raleigh, North Carolina, as assistant director of academic support in September. Chilausky will also help launch a Bar Success program for all Campbell Law graduates and alumni.

**Cindy Delgado**, LAW '17, was appointed as the solicitor general of Emanuel County. Delgado is a general practitioner for J. Kendall Gross PC with a predominate focus on criminal defense and family law.

**I. William Drought**, LAW '15, was recognized as a member of *Georgia Trend's* 2023 Legal Elite. Drought is a partner with Oliver Maner LLP in Savannah.

**Walker Garrett**, LAW '10, was selected as one of



Loyal Alumna

# Sarah Huddleston

**S**arah Hancock Huddleston, NUR '49, died on Jan. 12. Huddleston was a longtime Georgia resident, world traveler and nurse. She graduated from Thomasville High School in 1945, went to Tift College then earned her nursing diploma from Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. A lifelong nurse, Huddleston worked at Georgia Baptist Hospital in labor and delivery, the operating room, orthopedics, and the School of Nursing. She worked for several home care agencies and as a private nurse until her retirement in 2012. Huddleston was a generous supporter of the College of Nursing and was a member of The President's Club. In 2016, she established an endowed scholarship in the College of Nursing to provide financial support for nursing students. Huddleston's sister, Martha Tatum Hancock, is a 1952 College of Nursing graduate, and her daughter, Lisa Webster, is a 1977 graduate of the College of Nursing. Memorial gifts may be made to the Sarah Hancock Huddleston Endowed Scholarship in the College of Nursing.



Former Faculty

# John Hudson

**D**r. **John Allen Hudson**, M.D., former School of Medicine faculty, died on Dec. 27, 2023. Hudson graduated from University of Missouri and Columbia Medical School and went on to serve as a physician in the U.S. Navy before moving into private practice in southern California and Carrollton. He later moved to Macon, where he was employed by the Medical Center of Central Georgia (now Atrium Health Navicent) and Mercer University School of Medicine for 40 years. Hudson helped lay the foundation of the School of Medicine, serving in a variety of roles throughout the School's earliest days. His adventurous spirit, brilliant mind and compassionate soul made him an esteemed colleague and skilled mentor to countless young physicians in Macon and across the nation. Memorial gifts may be made to the John A. Hudson Endowed Scholarship for the School of Medicine at [medicine.mercer.edu/givenow](http://medicine.mercer.edu/givenow).



*Georgia Trend's* 40 Under 40 in 2023. Garrett is an equity and managing partner at Morgan and Morgan in Columbus. His primary focus is personal injury cases.

**David Joseph "DJ" Greenberg**, LAW '16, was elected chair of the State Bar of Georgia Taxation Law Section for 2024.

**Sarah Barry King**, CLAS '18, began a new job as lecturer of economics at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia.

**Leah C. Mayo**, LAW '18, was named Outstanding Young Alumna for her undergraduate institution, Presbyterian College. Mayo is the assistant district attorney in Rome and is admitted to practice in all Superior Courts in the state of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Georgia.

**Adam M. Miller**, LAW '14, was elected shareholder at GrayRobinson in Orlando, Florida. Miller focuses his practice on property insurance defense, personal injury defense and litigation.

**Gracie K. Paulson**, LAW '14, was named a partner at Roberts & Stevens in Asheville, North Carolina. Her practice is primarily focused on property law, and her clients include both buyers and sellers in commercial and residential transactions. Paulson is a graduate of Leadership Asheville and was named "Ones to Watch" by 2024 Best Lawyers in America.

**Georgios Tarasidis**, LAW '19, joined Ruane Attorneys at Law, one of the largest statewide criminal defense firms in Connecticut, headquartered in Shelton, Connecticut. Tarasidis is responsible for handling all criminal cases represented by the firm at several courthouses across the state.

**David Tatem**, LAW '15, was appointed chief public defender for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit, serving Jackson, Lamar and Monroe counties.

## 2020s

**Margaret Parker Andrews**, DIV '23, started a new job as the coordinator for constituency engagement at Columbia Theological Seminary.

**Emma F. Duke**, LAW '23, joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Huntsville, Alabama, as an associate.

**Samuel Lyon**, LAW '20, joined the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, which consistently ranks as one of the 100 largest and most profitable law firms in the United States, in November 2023.

**Victoria R. Nease**, LAW '21, joined the Litigation Group at HunterMaclean in the Savannah office. Nease's practice focuses on admiralty and maritime law, general litigation, medical malpractice and product liability.

**Jordan Stone**, LAW '23, joined Coleman Talley as an associate in the firm's Valdosta office. Stone's legal focus is estate planning and employment law, which is enriched by his former career in human resources.

## MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

### 2010s

**Dr. Chelsea Blanton Metzger**, MED '18, married Art Blanton on May 5, 2022. Metzger will complete her Wake Forest Otolaryngology Residency in June and will move to Savannah to begin working as an otolaryngologist at ENT Associates of Savannah in September.

**Elizabeth Evinger Meyer**, LAW '16, and her husband, Jake, welcomed their son, Colin, in March 2023.

**Lauren Rohwer Toves**, CLAS '10, welcomed a son, Isaac Rohwer Toves, on July 26, 2023.

### 2020s

**Samuel Lyon**, LAW '20, welcomed a son, Shepard Steven Lyon, on Aug. 17, 2023.

IN MEMORY

1940s

**Nony Britt McMichael**, CLAS '43, of Macon, on Dec. 22, 2023.  
**Anne Alday Wise**, CLAS '46, of Thomasville, on Nov. 2, 2023.

1950s

**Dr. Edwin T. Avret**, CLAS '55, of Decatur, on Oct. 7, 2023.  
**Dr. William I. Barkley Jr.**, CLAS '50, of Longview, Texas, on Aug. 10, 2023.  
**Mildred Roberts Blackburn**, CLAS '52, of Martinez, on July 26, 2023.  
**Mary Savage Bone**, CLAS '59, of Gastonia, North Carolina, on Oct. 9, 2023.  
**Claudette "Chris" McDearis Brady**, NUR '58, of Rome, on Oct. 1, 2023.  
**Alice Lee Hatton Burch**, TIFT '57, of Greensboro, North Carolina, on Sept. 13, 2023.  
**Daisy Leticia Shiver Cone**, NUR '55, of Dublin, on Aug. 4, 2023.  
**Richard A. Dennis**, CLAS '52, of Fort Valley, on Nov. 6, 2023.  
**Wilmer "Carlos" Fuller**, PHA '53, of Carrollton, on Sept. 18, 2023.  
**Mary E. Rea Hammontree**, TIFT '54, of LaFayette, on Aug. 10, 2023.  
**Martha Claxton Hill**, CLAS '53, of Albany, on Nov. 17, 2023.  
**William "Noah" Lindsay**, EDU '53, of Gainesville, Florida, on Aug. 26, 2023.  
**Ann S. Watkins Lucas**, TIFT '59, of Forsyth, on Sept. 15, 2023.  
**Patricia A. Hill Lunsford**, TIFT '52, of Decatur, on Oct. 6, 2023.  
**Sylvia C. Hall McEver**, TIFT '59, of Lawrenceville, on Aug. 7, 2023.  
**Greta Hensley McMillan**, TIFT '50, of Greenville, North Carolina, on Nov. 28, 2023.  
**Georgia Phelts**, CLAS '58, of Butner, North Carolina, on Aug. 1, 2023.  
**Glenda Mishew Richardson**, TIFT '52, of Bartow, Florida, on Aug. 9, 2023.  
**Beverly Bowers Ward**, CLAS '58, of Mechanicsville, Virginia, on Oct. 29, 2023.  
**Celia W. Wu Yu**, CLAS '52, of Annapolis, Maryland, on July 28, 2023.

1960s

**Dr. James A. Askew**, CLAS '68, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on Sept. 28, 2023.

**David A. Baldwin**, LAW '61, of Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 17, 2023.  
**Sandra J. Barfield**, TIFT '65, of Marietta, on Sept. 9, 2023.  
**James "Jim" Franklin Biles Jr.**, LAW '61, of Fayetteville, on Sept. 8, 2023.  
**Grant W. Black**, CLAS '67, of Bryan, Texas, on Oct. 19, 2023.  
**Iris Roberts Bradley**, CLAS '61, of Sonora, Texas, on Oct. 11, 2023.  
**Ralph Lamar Brantley Jr.**, CLAS '62, of Chicago, Illinois, on Aug. 4, 2023.  
**Caroline Bellflower Chapman**, TIFT '61, of Statesboro, on Aug. 27, 2023.  
**Nancy Baker Clark**, CLAS '67, of Atlanta, on Oct. 1, 2023.  
**Laura Gail Striplin Duke**, NUR '67, of Tucker, on Aug. 25, 2023.  
**Betty A. Echols**, CLAS '60, of Jacksonville, Florida, on Oct. 30, 2023.  
**Sharon Quinn Edwards**, CLAS '67, of Macon, on Nov. 11, 2023.  
**Bela A. Lancaster Jr.**, CLAS '67, of Clayton, on Oct. 29, 2023.  
**Floyd A. Moon**, LAW '64, of Valdosta, on July 31, 2023.  
**Mildred Mathews Moore**, CLAS '60, of Macon, on Aug. 8, 2023.  
**Amy Williams Olson**, PHA '63, of Greenville, South Carolina, on Sept. 18, 2023.  
**James M. Pahrish**, CLAS '63, of Jonesborough, Tennessee, on Aug. 29, 2023.  
**Albert A. Parker**, CLAS '64, of Culloden, on Oct. 26, 2023.  
**Constantine G. Patronis**, PHA '62, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Oct. 19, 2023.  
**Jessie Williams Patton**, TIFT '69, of Macon, on Aug. 22, 2023.  
**Robert Stephens Slocumb**, LAW '63, of Vidalia, on July 25, 2023.  
**Carolyn Prince Toman**, TIFT '66, of Culloden, on Sept. 23, 2023.  
**Joy Deavours Touchton**, CLAS '61, of Deltona, Florida, on Sept. 10, 2023.  
**Jane Clark Trice**, TIFT '68, of Fayetteville, on Dec. 8, 2023.  
**Bettye P. Pridgeon Veal**, CLAS '65, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Oct. 20, 2023.  
**Eleanor Haralson Webb**, CLAS '66, of Plymouth, North Carolina, on July 24, 2023.  
**Jessie Crowe Youngblood**, CLAS '68, of Ashburn, on Nov. 29, 2023.

1970s

**Robert A. Belloir**, CLAS '70, of Savannah, on Nov. 13, 2023.

REMEMBERING...

Loyal Alumnus and Generous Supporter

Bobby Lovvorn

**William Robert "Bobby" Lovvorn**, PHA '54, died on Oct. 13, 2023. A native of Carrollton, Lovvorn began his career working at Griffin New Pharmacy when he was 14 years old. After graduating from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in 1954, he opened Lovvorn Pharmacy in 1955 in Bremen when he was 23 years old. Lovvorn influenced and mentored many pharmacists in the 55 years of owning his pharmacy, including his son, son-in-law and two granddaughters. An active member of his community,



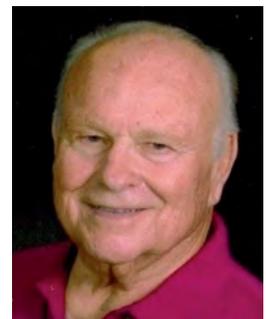
Lovvorn served on the Bremen City School Board as secretary-treasurer for 19 years. He was a past officer of the Bremen Rotary Club, a member of Sunset Hills Country Club and a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Bremen.



Former Dean

Carl Martray

**Dr. Carl Richard Martray**, former dean of Mercer's Tift College of Education, died on Sept. 19, 2023. Martray completed his undergraduate studies at Fairmont State College, where he also played football. Later in his studies, he was awarded a NDEA fellowship at the University of Alabama, where he finished his master's degree and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and Counseling. For 47 years, he devoted his career to quality education for students of all ages. He served as the dean of the College of Education at multiple respected institutions



including Western Kentucky University, University of Southern Mississippi and Mercer University. Dr. Martray was a skilled administrator and an admired professional and close friend to many during his time at Mercer.



**Rosalynn Smith Carter**, TIFT '79, of Plains, on Nov. 19, 2023.  
**James J. Clinton**, LAW '77, of Sylacauga, Alabama, on Sept. 28, 2023.

**John Thomas "Tom" Cooley**, CLAS '74, of Tampa, Florida, on Aug. 5, 2023.  
**Conner L. Davis**, CLAS '71, of Suwanee, on Oct. 18, 2023.

**Susan Dougherty Kern Huellemeier**, CLAS '71, of Guntersville, Alabama, on July 24, 2023.



Loyal Alumnus

# Bert Schwartz

**B**ert Daniel Schwartz, CLAS '54, died on Sept. 17, 2023. A Macon native, Schwartz attended Winship Grammar School, Lanier High School, Auburn University and graduated from Mercer. While at Mercer, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, ROTC and the National Society of Scabbard and Blade. He excelled in tennis and basketball and won the City Golf Tourney in 1960. Schwartz was employed in his family's business, Boston Leather Company, and owned a women's and children's dress shop, Jories. He later worked for Blue Bird Bus Sales and Yancey Brothers Co. He was a member of the Rotary Club and the Macon Civic Club. A loyal supporter of Mercer Athletics, Schwartz was a member of the Mercer Athletics Hall of Fame and served on the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board of Directors.



Friend and Loyal Supporter

# Richard Smith

**T**he Hon. Richard Herbert Smith died on Jan. 30. A native of Wrightsville, Smith earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his master's degree from the University of Florida. In 1970, Smith began his career with the UF Cooperative Extension Service. In 1978, he transferred to the University of Georgia (UGA) Cooperative Extension Service and also served as an adjunct faculty member of the UGA Fanning Leadership Center from 1990 to 1999. Smith was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2004 and represented portions of Muscogee and Harris counties. He was a great friend and public servant and was one of the key leaders who helped Mercer establish its medical school campus in Columbus. Memorial contributions may be made to The Honorable Richard H. Smith and Clara W. Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund for the School of Medicine.



Joy Jones, NUR '75, of Augusta, on Aug. 18, 2023.

Richard A. Kling III, CLAS '74, of Normandy Beach, New Jersey, on Sept. 5, 2023.

George T. Leveritt, EDU '77, of Savannah, on Nov. 11, 2023.

Charles "Chas" Jeffrey Liipfert, LAW '73, of Fort Valley, on Aug. 14, 2023.  
 Diana Renner Lord, NUR '74, of Otto, North Carolina, on Oct. 12, 2023.  
 Ralph M. Middleton, EDU '73, of North Charleston, South Carolina, on Oct. 13, 2023.  
 Thomas J. Morgan, LAW '76, of Wilmington, North Carolina, on Sept. 1, 2023.  
 Dan A. Payne, LAW '77, of Ozark, Alabama, on Nov. 9, 2023.  
 Frances Robilio Ruffin, CAS '76, of Austin, Texas, on Nov. 1, 2023.  
 Linda Suzanne Ogle Turner, CLAS '73, of West Point, Virginia, on Aug. 21, 2023.  
 Johnny A. Wellons, CLAS '75, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Sept. 7, 2023.  
 Kathleen McClain Wheeler, EDU '74, of Macon, on Nov. 25, 2023.  
 Melinda I. Bunton Wright, CLAS '78, of Statesboro, on Oct. 11, 2023.

## 1980s

Rick H. Bullock, BUS '88, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Sept. 28, 2023.  
 Jerry C. Creamer, CLAS '84, of Warner Robins, on Oct. 6, 2023.  
 John Thomas "Tom" Durden Jr., LAW '82, of Hinesville, on July 27, 2023.  
 James A. Harte, BUS '87, of Atlanta, on July 27, 2023.  
 Nancy Treu Klotz, CAS '84, of Atlanta, on Sept. 13, 2023.  
 Catharine Burns Liles, CLAS '89, of Macon, on Nov. 27, 2023.  
 The Hon. Victor A. McKinney, LAW '87, of Abingdon, Virginia, on Sept. 22, 2023.  
 Adrian H. Purvis Jr., CLAS '81, of Dublin, on Nov. 22, 2023.  
 Rev. Herbert Norton Rosebrock, BUS '82, of Winter Park, Florida, on Oct. 22, 2023.  
 Robin Sanders Shrader, CLAS '82, of Asheboro, North Carolina, on July 30, 2023.  
 Deborah Simko, NUR '83, of Jacksonville, Florida, on Aug. 25, 2023.  
 Stephanie Tolbert Trolinger, CLAS '89, of Newnan, on Aug. 30, 2023.  
 Mary Sabra Truitt, TIFT '86, of Thomaston, on Sept. 24, 2023.  
 Deborah Mixon Upchurch, CAS '87, of Suwanee, on Oct. 23, 2023.

## 1990s

Brian Matthew Brown, BUS '96, of Macon, on Nov. 26, 2023.  
 Geri S. Collins, CAS '90, of Flowery Branch, on Sept. 8, 2023.  
 William Frederick Heitmann, CLAS '94, of Pooler, on Dec. 9, 2023.  
 Scott A. Huggins, LAW '97, of Cumming, on Aug. 1, 2023.  
 Lynette Garland Lindsey, COPA '94, of Griffin, on Nov. 10, 2023.  
 Linda McLoon Williams, COPA '95, of Denton, on Oct. 28, 2023.

## 2000s

Thomas John Conlon, PHA '00, of Fernandina Beach, Florida, on Aug. 26, 2023.  
 Melanie Gray Davis, PHA '04, of Uvalda, on Aug. 12, 2023.  
 Michon Nathan, COPA '03, of College Park, on Aug. 19, 2023.  
 Margaret Melinda Nickelson, COPA '04, of Woodstock, on Oct. 17, 2023.  
 Robert A. Presley, COPA '00, of Thomaston, on Sept. 13, 2023.

## 2010s

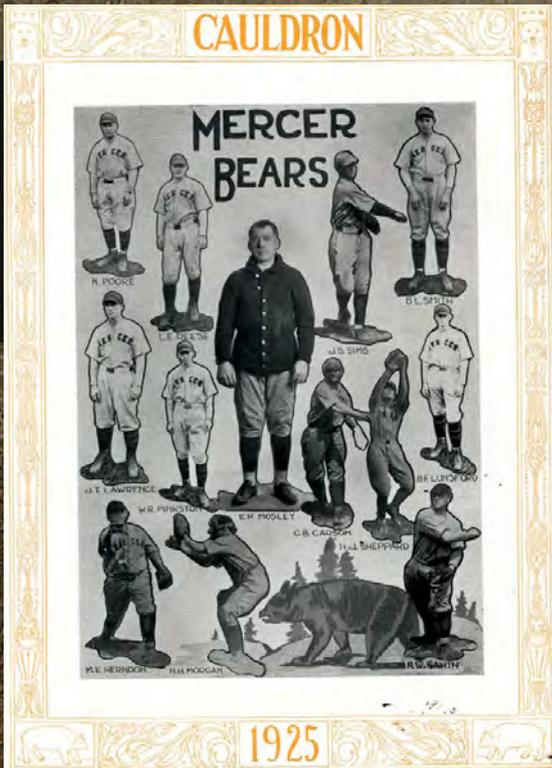
Meredith Kellett Lowry, LAW '14, of Thomaston, on Nov. 28, 2023.  
 Melania A. Robertson, BUS '16, of McDonough, on Aug. 15, 2023.

## FRIENDS, FACULTY & STAFF

Franklin A. Bacon Jr., of Macon, on Dec. 19, 2023.  
 Frieda Headley Byrd, of Macon, on Aug. 12, 2023.  
 Paul L. Camp, of Rome, on Sept. 8, 2023.  
 Dr. Thomas A. Joiner, of Albany, on Oct. 15, 2023.  
 Allen Lancaster, of Clayton, on Nov. 1, 2023.  
 Dr. Spyros A. Lazaris, of Atlanta, on Dec. 7, 2023.  
 Su-Chin Rosemary Lin, of Long Beach, California, on Sept. 18, 2023.  
 Vern A. McCarty, of Atlanta, on Sept. 29, 2023.  
 Sybil C. Meyers, of Kennesaw, on Sept. 12, 2023.  
 Hilda Giddens Pruett, of Macon, on Aug. 14, 2023.  
 Bettijo Trawick, of Macon, on Nov. 23, 2023.

# 50-75-100 YEARS AGO

Photos and archival information assembled by Haley-Marie Ellegood and Daniel Williams of the Tarver Library Special Collections staff.



## 100 YEARS AGO

**1924 - Mercer Named the Bears** — Mercer decided to change its mascot name from the Mercer Baptists because of the confusion caused by many other Baptist colleges using the same name. A contest was held to choose a new mascot for Mercer with community members submitting a variety of suggestions including the Bees, the Mercerians and the Orange Typhoon. Ultimately, a committee composed of representatives from Mercer and the local newspapers selected the name Bears submitted by Julie Hill Powers. The name change was reflected in the next year's *Cauldron*, with the athletic teams being referred to as the Bears and bear imagery featured throughout the yearbook. (SOURCE: *Macon Daily Telegraph* issues of August 17, 1924, and September 14, 1924)



## 50 YEARS AGO

**1974 - Students Study Abroad for the First Time** — In the spring and summer of 1974, students traveled overseas for formal academic programs for the first time. Fifteen Mercer sociology students and instructor Marlin Gilbert spent the spring quarter in Central Mexico immersing themselves in Mexican culture. During their 12 weeks in Mexico, students learned Spanish and visited markets and street vendors daily for fresh vegetables and fruits.

In the summer quarter, 27 undergraduate and graduate education students enrolled in a seminar and study tour of England that focused on informal education and the open classroom. Before leaving for England, the students had an intensive orientation to prepare them for the trip with internationally known educators conducting sessions. Former Mercer education professor Charles D. Foust directed tours of several schools



in England, and the students observed a British teacher training institution. While in England, they also attended seminars on art, music, physical education and discovery approaches that were taught by faculty members of British colleges and public school officials. (SOURCE: *The Mercorian* Fall 1974)

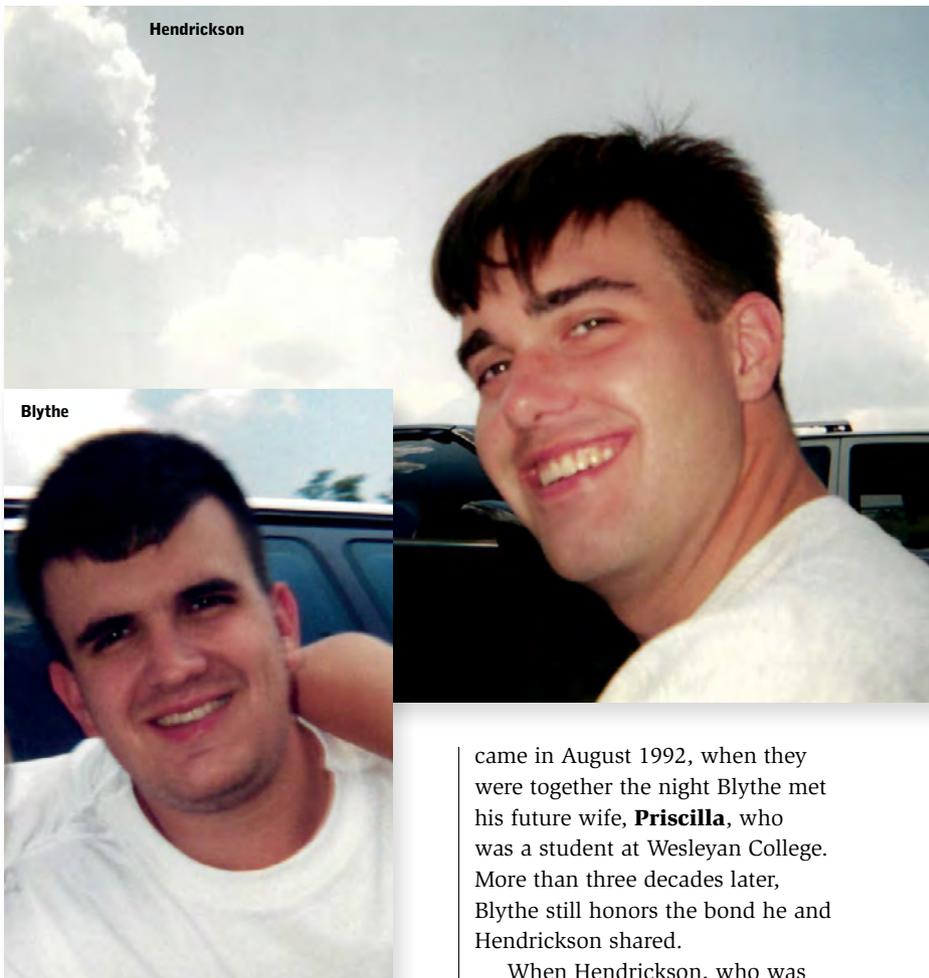
## 75 YEARS AGO

**1948 - Willingham Chapel Rededicated** — After several months of renovations, Willingham Chapel reopened and was rededicated at the 116th Founders' Day exercises. The renovations included enlargement of the chapel to hold approximately 1,200 people, doubling the previous seating capacity. A three-manual Moller organ given by Broadus Willingham was installed during the renovation and dedicated during the ceremony. President Spright Dowell spoke on the chapel's history and provided a tribute to Broadus Willingham. Educator and editor Dr. C. Sylvester Green gave the principal dedication address. Music was provided by Helen Rich and the Chapel Choir. However, the new organ was not played because it had not yet been tuned. (SOURCE: *The Cluster*, January 12, 1949)



# THE LASTING LEGACY OF AN UNFORGETTABLE FRIENDSHIP

**A**llen Blythe, CLAS '95, met Grant Hendrickson as entering freshmen on move-in day in the fall of 1991. The two were across-the-hall neighbors in University Hall (now called Mercer Hall) who became fast friends. They were largely inseparable, being seen together on a daily basis in the cafeteria, hanging out in the Pi Kappa Phi (Pi Kapp)lodge, exercising, studying and just being college students. Blythe majored in biology and minored in chemistry. He was a cadet in ROTC, a resident advisor in three different dorms and a member of Pi Kapp. Hendrickson majored in electrical engineering and physics. In addition to being active in Pi Kapp, Hendrickson was a Mercer cheerleader, a member of the Student Government Association and someone who loved spending time with friends, hunting, fishing and playing intramural sports. He was known for his big heart, an even bigger smile and a small patch of white hair on the side of his head. Throughout their college careers, the fraternity brothers became as close as actual brothers. Blythe has many fond memories with Hendrickson, but the most important



came in August 1992, when they were together the night Blythe met his future wife, **Priscilla**, who was a student at Wesleyan College. More than three decades later, Blythe still honors the bond he and Hendrickson shared.

When Hendrickson, who was

a senior, and his girlfriend, **Michele Cartagena**, a sophomore, died tragically in January 1995, Blythe, along with the rest of the Mercer student body and the Macon community, were shocked and overwhelmed with sadness. He grieved for his friend and brother and also committed to honor Hendrickson's life. One way Allen and Priscilla Blythe honored their friend was by naming their son after him. **Grant Blythe**, who is almost 17, knows the story of his namesake and the special meaning his name carries. In his room, a large shadow box with memorabilia such as Hendrickson's original Pi Kapp bid day jersey is on display, reminding the Blythe family of a friendship that will never be forgotten.

Blythe also attributes his friendship with Hendrickson, along with Hendrickson's and Cartagena's deaths, with leading him to Christ. Blythe has taught junior and senior high students in Sunday School for the past 15 years and often shares his testimony, which is inextricably intertwined with Hendrickson's story, with them.

The Blythes knew for years they wanted to do something to commemorate Hendrickson at Mercer and in late 2021, they created the **Grant Hendrickson Memorial Endowed Scholarship**. Since Hendrickson was an electrical engineering and physics major, the Blythes established the scholarship to assist engineering

students with financial need who are classified as juniors, seniors or graduate students. They also wanted to give special preference to eligible students who are from Macon or Middle Georgia since Hendrickson was a lifelong Macon resident who enrolled at Mercer on an academic scholarship after graduating with honors from Tattnall Square Academy.

In 2023, Mercer awarded the inaugural Hendrickson scholarship to **James Jarrett**, a senior industrial engineering major who is originally from Albany. Along with **Mary Hendrickson**, Grant's mother who still lives in Macon, the Blythe family met Jarrett on campus in October. The Blythes and Mrs. Hendrickson shared about Grant's life and legacy, and Jarrett was overcome with emotion and gratitude over their generosity. Jarrett reflected, "In my time at Mercer, I have never received a named scholarship like this — let alone been the first one to do so. I am extremely grateful to have been selected. Learning about the person Grant Hendrickson was and meeting those he personally impacted was inspiring. I hope to honor and make the most of this opportunity to be part of his legacy."

*The Blythe family created and fully endowed the scholarship, which will commemorate Hendrickson's life in perpetuity. The family hopes that other Mercer alumni or friends who remember Hendrickson and his impact will also contribute to and help grow the fund. If you have questions about contributing to the Grant Hendrickson Memorial Endowed Scholarship, or other scholarship questions, please call **Shawna Dooley**, associate vice president for advancement, at (478) 301-2720.*

From left, Mary Hendrickson, Priscilla Blythe, Alli Anne Blythe, James Jarrett (inaugural scholarship recipient), Grant Blythe, Allen Blythe, School of Engineering Dean Laura Lackey



JAN GROCKER PHOTO; OPPOSITE: LEAH YETTER PHOTO

# ORANGE & BLACK GIVEBACK

MERCER UNIVERSITY  
WEEK OF GIVING  
MAY 6-10, 2024



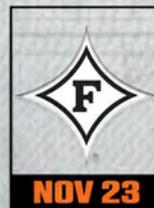
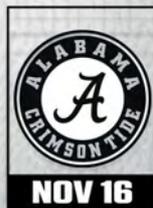
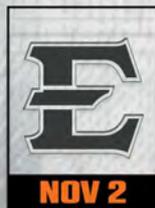
[mugiveback.com](https://mugiveback.com)



#IYKYK

**BE THE BEAR**

# 2024 MERCER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



HOME  AWAY 