



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

Est. 1833

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

2024



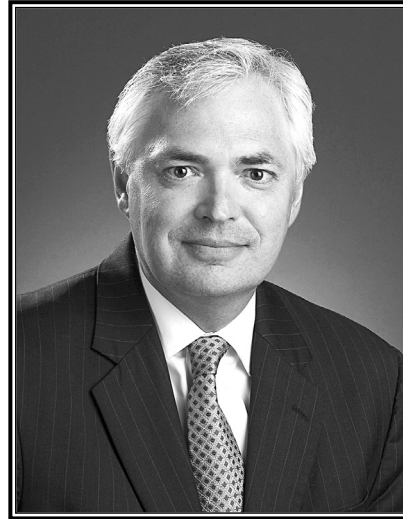
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2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Mercer Graduate:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William D. Underwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "W".

William D. Underwood
President

MERCER UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENTS

Approximately 2,257 students will participate in Mercer University's 2024 commencements. To make graduation a special day for these students and their families, Mercer University will conduct five ceremonies in May. Each ceremony will be unique and will reflect the schools and colleges represented.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.

Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

SCHOOL OF LAW

Saturday, May 11, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

ATLANTA

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | 12:00 p.m.

Gas South Arena, Duluth

College of Nursing | College of Pharmacy

College of Health Professions

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.

Gas South Arena, Duluth

School of Business | College of Education

College of Professional Advancement | School of Theology

MACON

Monday, May 13, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.

Five Star Stadium, Macon Campus

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

School of Business | School of Engineering

College of Education | College of Professional Advancement

School of Music | College of Health Professions

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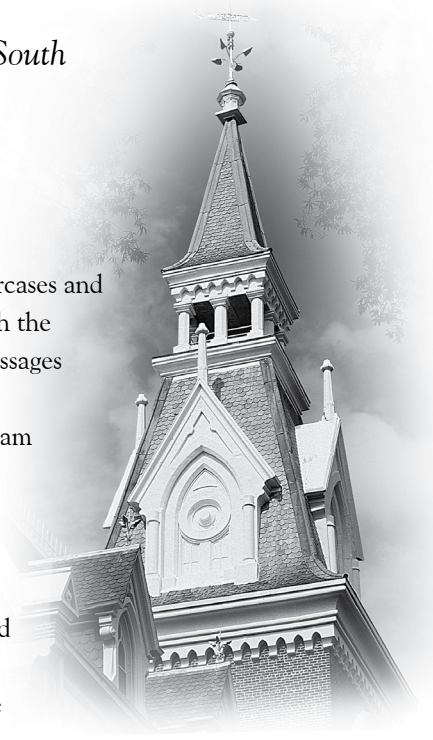
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MERCER TRADITIONS

Mercer University is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the South and over 191 years has developed a number of cherished traditions.

SPIRES AND TOWERS

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



PILGRIMAGE TO PENFIELD

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

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



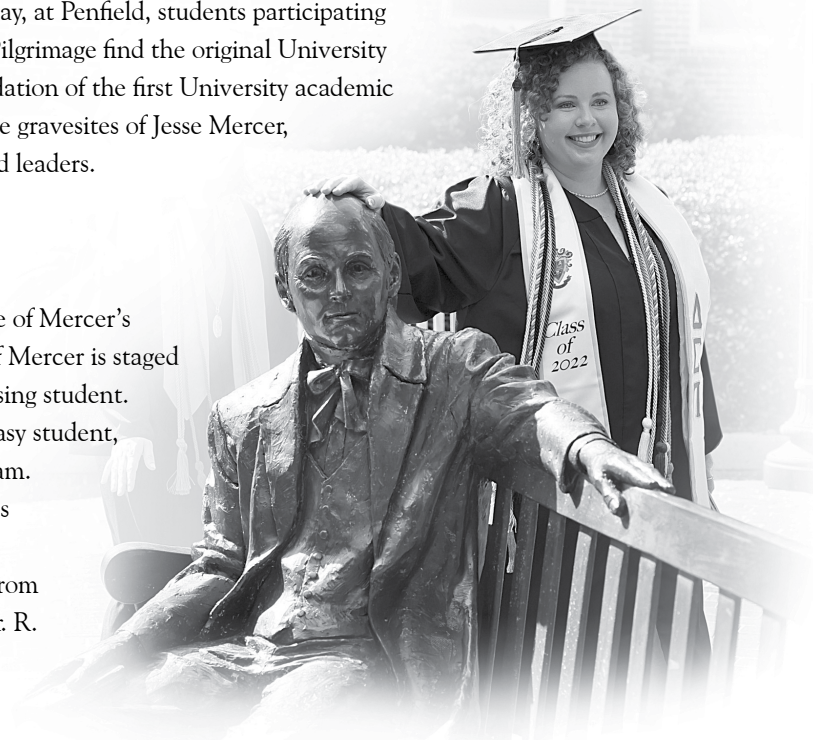
Today, at Penfield, students participating in the Pilgrimage find the original University chapel, the foundation of the first University academic building, and a cemetery that includes the gravesites of Jesse Mercer, as well as a number of former University presidents, trustees and leaders.

JESSE MERCER PLAZA

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

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

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



Since the statue was installed on the Macon campus in 1995, this area in the main Quadrangle has become one of the most visited sites on campus by students and alumni. The statue, sculpted by Don Haugen of Marietta, was duplicated on the Atlanta campus in 2005. Beginning in 2009, first-year students, as part of Fall Convocation, and graduating seniors, as part of Baccalaureate, began processing past the Jesse Mercer statue on the Macon campus, rubbing his head at the beginning of their academic careers and at the conclusion of their Mercer tenures.

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

FOUNDERS' DAY

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

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

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



RINGING THE TIFT BELL

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

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

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

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

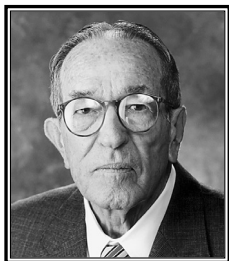


GRIFFIN B. BELL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



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

THE HONORABLE GRIFFIN B. BELL



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

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

He served as U.S. Attorney General until August 16, 1979, when he returned to King & Spalding, serving as chair of its Policy Committee. An active counselor and advisor to leaders in Congress, the U.S. Attorney General's office and U.S. presidents, Judge Bell's influence was wide reaching. He is recognized as one of the country's great Americans. Judge Bell died January 5, 2009, at the age of 90.

2024 GRIFFIN B. BELL AWARD RECIPIENT

CIANDRA CALHOUN

College of Health Professions



During her time at Mercer, Ciandra “CiCi” Calhoun has made her mark on the community and campus as a servant leader and role model. She now graduates from Mercer’s physician assistant program with a Master of Medical Science and previously earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in marketing at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Calhoun has a heart for service and she has made time for numerous volunteer activities amid her rigorous academic coursework. She has worked with refugee patients at Grace Village Medical Clinic in Clarkston, provided care to migrant farmworkers at the Georgia Farmworker Project in South Georgia, cared for homeless patients during Lazarus Health Day in downtown Atlanta, participated in nearly all of the physician assistant program’s service-learning offerings, and

volunteered at admissions outreach events.

She was selected as a 2022-23 Physician Assistant Education Association Student Health Policy Fellow and chosen as the recipient of the inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Scholarship from the Georgia Association of Physician Assistants. In addition, Calhoun helped to establish the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee in Mercer’s Department of Physician Assistant Studies during her tenure as diversity chair of the Godsey-Matthews Society.

She believes in compassionate care and has sought to inspire the next generation of physician assistants, including as a mentor to middle and high school students through the Project Access pipeline initiative. She also presented a workshop on “Becoming a Physician Assistant: Education, Resources and Confidence” during the 2023 Georgia Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership Conference.

Calhoun has a desire to improve health equity in underserved communities and foster a more diverse and inclusive environment in her field. As a National Health Service Corps Scholar, she will dedicate the first several years of her career to working in an area with a shortage of health professionals. She wants to focus on women’s health and be an advocate for policy changes to improve maternal health outcomes in Georgia.

To view past Griffin B. Bell Award for Community Service winners, visit studentaffairs.mercer.edu/awards/bell/.

WALLACE ODELL DUVALL EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

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

BENJAMIN SMITH

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



It wasn't long after stepping onto the Macon campus that Benjamin Smith started finding ways to get involved at Mercer. In addition to excelling academically by obtaining dual degrees in biology and communication studies, he has taken on many leadership roles, approaching each with joy, kindness and dedication. His warm personality has made him well known and beloved across campus, leading his classmates to choose him as the 2023 Homecoming King.

He has earned the respect, admiration and ear of his peers, advocating for their needs and often emerging as a voice of reason. With the Student Government Association, Smith was elected as a freshman senator; class president for his sophomore and junior years; chair of the organizational affairs committee; and student body president for his senior year.

He also has served as a resident assistant, peer advisor and member of the orientation leadership team, as well as a member of the student leadership team and Mercer experience team for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. He has been involved in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, including as treasurer, and participated in Mercer On Mission trips to Rwanda and the Republic of Georgia. In addition, he's a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies.

Smith has bled orange and black over the past four years, demonstrating his love for Mercer in every action. He has proven himself a compassionate and collaborative leader with a heart for serving others and making a difference.

To view past Wallace Odell DuVall Excellence in Leadership award winners, visit studentaffairs.mercer.edu/awards/duvall/.

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

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

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

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

NATHANEAL BARROW

College of Professional Advancement



Nathaneal Barrow, who was born in Tucson, Arizona, but raised in Macon, dreamed of being a superhero. In common story lines about superheroes, some lose their powers and regain them, some sacrifice themselves to save others, and some overcome childhood traumas or tragedies. Barrow has lived all of those story lines.

Barrow did not graduate from high school and immediately enroll in college. He initially chose to serve his country by enlisting in the military. Barrow received multiple awards, including the Army Service Ribbon for Excellence in Leadership Development, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star and

NATO Medal for service in an imminent danger zone of hazardous duty.

While deployed to Afghanistan and on patrol outside of Kandahar, Barrow's convoy triggered an IED buried in the road that sent the vehicle rolling into a ditch. He sustained severe injuries to his lower back, pelvis and abdominal organs that required numerous surgeries and eventually led to his medical retirement at the rank of sergeant. Barrow was in a wheelchair at one point and told he would never walk again. He said he felt like he went from being a superhero to being nothing at the age of 25. Suffering from chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, Barrow found himself falling into a dark hole and reaching for whatever might relieve the physical and emotional pain. He began to self-medicate with addictive substances, and his downward spiral accelerated after he lost his brother to suicide in September 2021.

Barrow amazingly mustered the courage to push back against the darkness surrounding him from his injuries, combat trauma and brother's death. He entered a cognitive behavioral therapy program, and, after 18 months, was cleared to graduate from the program. The lead therapist requested that he continue to attend the meetings to offer his example, wisdom and support to new veterans joining the therapy group. As Barrow attended therapy sessions as a mentor to the newer members, he realized his life's work — to become a counselor to veterans struggling with the same kinds of issues that he experienced.

Barrow completed a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Professional Advancement in December 2023 and began his master's program in clinical mental health counseling in January 2024. He is the inaugural student from the College of Professional Advancement to receive the McAfee Vision and Leadership Scholarship. In his letter of nomination, Dr. Craig McMahan wrote, "Nathaneal Barrow has endured some of the most painful and traumatic experiences anyone could imagine. By his own fortitude and the grace of God, he is turning these nightmares into dreams, the dreams of helping others. I am confident that he will use his experience and Mercer education to lead others through their own darkness into the light."

MATTHEW SMITH

School of Business



Matthew Smith, from Macon, is graduating from the School of Business with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in management. While a student at Mercer, he was elected vice president of the Student Government Association and helped allocate funding to student organizations and clubs as part of the organizational affairs committee. Smith has been actively involved in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) leadership team, serving as outreach coordinator to maintain consistent communication with peer groups and assisting with the guidelines of weekly messages. He has represented the University positively to prospective students and their families as a member of the Office of Admissions' Mercer Experience Team.

Smith, whose parents met at and graduated from Mercer, and his two siblings, who are also graduating in the Macon commencement ceremony, "bleed orange and black," according to his nomination letter from Dr. Doug Pearson.

Faith is important to Smith. He has grown up in Vineville Baptist Church in Macon, where he sings in the choir, assists with the children's sermon on a rotating basis and assists with youth events. He graduated from Mount de Sales Academy in 2020 with a diploma endorsement in business. He participated in theater, basketball and tennis and was a member of the Student Council.

In summer 2022, Smith traveled with a Mercer On Mission team to Rwanda, where he helped teach university students how to create marketing plans and promoted entrepreneurial development. He also traveled with BCM during spring break 2023 to the Dominican Republic, where the Mercer team partnered with Holt's House of Hope.

Throughout his college career, Smith has been a coach with Macon-Bibb Tennis, leading private lessons and mentoring young people. Working with children and youth through tennis helped Smith realize his dream of starting a nonprofit that would create an after-school program that centers on physical and spiritual development.

Smith gained experience with a local nonprofit organization as an intern with United Way during fall semester 2023. He contacted potential businesses for campaign involvement, prepared and executed campaign kickoff events and assisted in auditing the local schools' campaigns. Smith intends to earn a Master of Business Administration degree on Mercer's Atlanta campus to gain the skills and acumen to create a nonprofit that offers after-school sports and activities to children and youth and also incorporates a devotional time.

To view past James T. McAfee, Jr., Endowed Vision and Leadership Scholarship recipients, visit studentaffairs.mercer.edu/awards/mcafee/.

LOUIE D. NEWTON GENERAL EXCELLENCE MEDAL

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

JOSE L. GARCIA-ESPINOSA

School of Business



Jose L. Garcia-Espinosa is a giver who has left a positive mark on the Mercer and local community during his undergraduate career. A double-major in accounting and finance with a minor in marketing, his intellectual curiosity and genuine love for learning have inspired his peers and enriched his classrooms. With a humble and generous nature, he gladly and without hesitation organized study groups, offered peer tutoring, shared his talents and took action when he saw a need.

He has immersed himself in academic and extracurricular opportunities at every turn, always bringing his contagious smile and unmatched energy to the table. Garcia-Espinosa was a senior portfolio analyst for Mercer's Student-Managed Index Fund, director of communications for Beta Alpha Psi accounting honor society, director of finances for Phi Delta Theta fraternity, treasurer of the Prosthetics and Orthotics Club and director of service for the Financial Management Association, which he and other seniors helped revive from dormancy. He was also inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma international business honor society.

Garcia-Espinosa served as project manager for Traffick Jam — a fundraiser for MU Miracle's Bearthon — and was an enthusiastic member of the Mercer Maniacs, Mercer Car Club and Mercer marching band. In addition, he was a camp counselor and student council member for Jay's Hope 4 Kids with Cancer, and since he is fluent in Spanish, he was an English tutor for parents of high school students in Bibb County's English to Speakers of Other Languages program.

Garcia-Espinosa's academic excellence and commitment to bettering his community have positioned him to be a mover and a shaker in his future.

To view past Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal winners, visit studentaffairs.mercer.edu/awards/newton/.

ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN MEDAL

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

JAMYAH COMBS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Jamyah Combs has served her community with the utmost compassion, integrity and respect, exemplifying Mercer's mission and values in the process. A global health studies major with double-minors in anthropology and sociology, she has made assisting others a priority and has demonstrated strong moral principles and honesty in her actions.

Through art and advocacy, she has supported initiatives to foster a welcoming multicultural community at Mercer and to promote diversity and inclusion. Combs has served as president of the Mercer International Bears Association and secretary of the Mercer Community Health and Promotion Scholars.

In addition, she completed Mercer's certificates in Applied Social Justice and Peace Corps Prep and was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Phi Beta Kappa honor society. She was an ambassador for Mercer's Office of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives, a student mentor for the Minority Mentor Program and a participant in Mercer On Mission trips to Tanzania and Mexico. She was part of a collaborative effort to develop an exhibit commemorating the 60th anniversary of integration at Mercer that was displayed in the Frances Sewell Plunkett Gallery. She also worked with Mercer student artists to create a moveable canvas mural celebrating the representation of minority cultures and reclamation in the Macon-Mercer community.

Combs is a gracious leader who is dedicated to engaging with and improving her community. With her determination and passion, she has a bright future ahead as a change-maker and an advocate.

WILLIAM CUMBIA

School of Theology



Helping others have a better life is both a passion and a priority for William Cumbia. He completed his Master of Divinity with a certificate in interfaith dialogue online at Mercer's School of Theology in December, while simultaneously living and working in Europe to change the world through other endeavors. He also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing from the College of William and Mary.

Cumbia has served as the coordinator for migration issues for the European Baptist Federation since 2021 and a field coordinator for a partnership focused on refugee work with the Baptist General Association of Virginia since 2019. For four years, he worked with Project Gemeinde Baptist church in Vienna, Austria, as an intern and refugee integration leader.

In these roles, his focus has been working with Farsi-speaking refugees in Vienna and migrant populations from across the Middle East and Africa seeking safety in Europe. He has become a Baptist leader on issues of migration, refugees and asylum seekers and worked to support the hospitality and care of Baptist churches who have welcomed displaced people across Europe and the Middle East.

Cumbia has a genuine love for people and feels a calling to help those who have been marginalized by war and religious persecution, as well as LGBTQ+ people who have been ostracized by their communities. He has supported fundraising for many relief efforts, and he often puts the needs of others before his own.

Cumbia is a Mercer Bear on a mission, and his combined experience and knowledge have set him up to continue to change the world for the better.

To view past Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medal winners, visit studentaffairs.mercer.edu/awards/sullivan/.

JOE AND JEAN HENDRICKS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

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

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

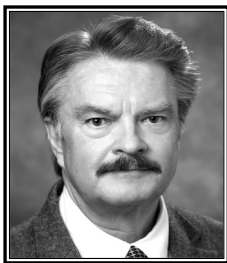
The Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes a full-time teacher in one of Mercer's 12 schools and colleges who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguished Joe and Jean Hendricks as teachers and mentors to generations of Mercer students:

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

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

BALINT KACSOH, M.D., PH.D.

School of Medicine



Dr. Balint Kacsoh inspires those around him to seek a deeper understanding through education. He joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1992 and is a professor of histology and physiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Born and raised in Hungary, Kacsoh holds an M.D. from Semmelweis University of Medicine in Budapest, Hungary, and a Ph.D. in medical sciences/endocrinology/physiology from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He came to the United States at age 27 and has been teaching since 1979. He has extensive knowledge in histology, molecular and cellular biology, anatomy, embryology and physiology.

Caring about students as individuals is the centerpiece of Kacsoh's teaching philosophy. He is always available to them and pairs his high expectations with support and encouragement.

He creates a dynamic and engaging learning environment and individualizes his teaching as the setting permits. He delivers difficult material in an understandable way while also fostering curiosity, urging his students to be active learners through problem solving and critical thinking.

Kacsoh has received numerous teaching honors while at the School of Medicine, including the Outstanding Faculty Award, Outstanding Basic Science Faculty Award and Hooding Award. In 2019, he was named the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Anna N. Walker Teaching Award.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
COMMENCEMENT

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 2:00 p.m. | Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

Presiding	William David Underwood, JD <i>The President of the University</i>
Call to Order	Paul C. McCommon, JD <i>Trumpeter</i>
Academic Procession*	Mercer University Pipes and Drums
Invocation*	James Charles Elder, Jr., DMin <i>Pastor, First Baptist Church, Columbus Trustee, Mercer University</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings from the School	Jean Rawlings Sumner, MD, FACP <i>Dean, School of Medicine</i>
Greetings from the Board of Governors	Jennifer Tarbutton, MD, FAAP <i>Chair, School of Medicine Board of Governors Trustee, Mercer University</i>
Introduction of Speaker	D. Scott Davis, PhD <i>Provost</i>
Commencement Address	Caylee Noggle, MA <i>President and CEO, Georgia Hospital Association</i>
University Honors	The President of the University
Special Awards	Jean Rawlings Sumner, MD, FACP
Conferring of the Degrees	The President of the University <i>Master of Family Therapy Master of Science in Preclinical Sciences Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Health Sciences Doctor of Medicine</i>
Awarding of Diplomas	Jean Rawlings Sumner, MD, FACP
Hippocratic Oath	J. David Baxter, MD, FACP <i>Senior Associate Dean, Savannah</i>
Special Programs Recognition	Edwin Walker Grimsley, MD, MACP <i>Senior Associate Dean, Macon</i>
Military Recognition	Don K. Nakayama, MD, FACS <i>Senior Associate Dean, Columbus</i>
Alumni Welcome	Kenneth W. Jones, MD, FAAFP <i>Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Atrium Health Floyd</i>
Special Music, <i>Here I Am Lord</i>	Melanie Buckner, DMA <i>Composed by Dan Schutte</i>
Benediction*	James Charles Elder, Jr., DMin
Academic Recession**	Jonathan Alan Poe, MMus <i>Director of Music and Liturgy, Christ Church (Episcopal), Macon</i> Paul C. McCommon, JD

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

CAYLEE NOGGLE

Commencement Speaker



Caylee Noggle is the president and CEO of the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA). Prior to joining GHA in August 2024, she served as the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH). Previously, she served in a variety of roles in the Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp, including as the state's chief management officer, interim chief of staff and deputy chief of staff for operations. She was the first woman in Georgia history to serve in a chief of staff capacity to the governor.

Before joining the Kemp administration in January 2020, Noggle served as president, interim president, chief operating officer, and chief financial officer for the Georgia Student Finance Commission. She holds a bachelor's degree from Millikin University and a master's degree in college student affairs from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she served as a financial aid officer before moving to Georgia.

She played a central role in the state's COVID-19 operational response, coordinating staffing augmentation for health care facilities statewide, facilitating the Alternate Care Facility at the Georgia World Congress Center and leading cross-agency efforts to plan and deploy vaccination and testing sites. During her tenure at DCH, she led efforts to implement several new Directed Payment Programs that secured over \$1 billion in new funding for hospitals around the state.

Noggle has previously served as director of the Physical and Economic Development Division in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget where she handled budget and policy oversight for more than 20 state agencies. She also served as coordinator of First Year and Academic Support programs at the University of West Georgia.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation and a 2022 graduate of Leadership Georgia. She is a past recipient of GASFAA's Outstanding Service to Students Award and NASPA's Graduate and Professional Student Award. She and her family live in Atlanta and are members of Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS

FACULTY MARSHAL

Roberta J. Weintraut, MD, FAFP
Associate Professor of Family Medicine

READERS

Andrew Benesh, PhD, LMFT
Interim Program Director, Master of Family Therapy Program
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

James E. Drummond, PhD
Director, Master of Science in Preclinical Sciences Program
Associate Professor of Microbiology

Christy C. Bridges, PhD
Director, Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program
Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Biomedical Sciences

Anne Montgomery, PhD
Director, Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Health Sciences
Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine

Don K. Nakayama, MD, FACS
Senior Associate Dean, Columbus Campus

J. David Baxter, MD, FACP
Senior Associate Dean, Savannah Campus

Edwin Walker Grimsley, MD, MACP
Senior Associate Dean, Macon Campus

ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARDS

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

2024 FACULTY HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

Kristen Kettelhut Kahrman, MD
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine

2024 STUDENT HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

Chandler L. Cubbedge

DR. ANNA N. WALKER AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

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

2024 AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

E.S. Prakash, MBBS, MD (Physiology)
Professor of Physiology, Department of Biomedical Sciences

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

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

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MASTER OF FAMILY THERAPY

Matthew Dylan Barecky
Byron, Georgia

Lauren Belding
Peachtree City, Georgia

Toni LeNaye Belin Ingram
Atlanta, Georgia

Julia Amy Bondeson †
Suwanee, Georgia

Kelsie Dow Boyd †
Atlanta, Georgia

Kyana Sherie Brown †
Douglasville, Georgia

Michael Scott Clanton
High Falls, Georgia

Jenny Andrea Contreras
Atlanta, Georgia

Jasmin Alexandria Copeland †
Thomasville, Georgia

Nicole Trina Del Vecchio †
Decatur, Georgia

Amanda Wilkinson Denzer-King
Tucker, Georgia

Bailey Lane Everett
Valdosta, Georgia

Rachel Marie Forrister †
Carrollton, Georgia

Olivia Nichole Greathouse
Perry, Georgia

Raekwon Griffin †
Atlanta, Georgia

Michelle Anne Hawksworth †
Woodstock, Georgia

Dayva Esperanza Hubbard †
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Brandon Barron Jacobs
Coffee Springs, Alabama

Ayana Janelle Johnson
Detroit, Michigan

Tatyana Raven Jones
Fairburn, Georgia

Grace Dianne Lee †
Claremont, California

Deidreè Erin McVane
Macon, Georgia

Harrison Mitchell Parker
Dublin, Georgia

Eliza Anne Philbin
Palm Coast, Florida

Mary Kathleen Pickard
Macon, Georgia

Raven Elizabeth Pittman
Macon, Georgia

Kianna Porter-Simons †
Locust Grove, Georgia

Audrey Elaine Pugh †
Gray, Georgia

Krishna Priya Rayala
Cumming, Georgia

Janai Nicole Scott †
Macon, Georgia

Meredith Bailey Simmons †
Atlanta, Georgia

Ariyana Raechelle Smith
Warner Robins, Georgia

Ashley Alexandra Smith
Atlanta, Georgia

Ja'vya Jazmyne Smith
Frederick, Maryland

Deja Rae Tharpe
Macon, Georgia

Rachel Katharine Frances Zimmerman †
Bloomington, Illinois

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PRECLINICAL SCIENCES

Hashim Akhtar
Martinez, Georgia

Sahar Anis Ali
Forsyth, Georgia

Alexandra Isabel Bernard
Tifton, Georgia

Jordyn L. Carson
Marietta, Georgia

Victoria Amber Dawkins
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Ikponmwoosa Jeffrey Enabulele
Jonesboro, Georgia

Ashiana Clare Furtado
Douglas, Georgia

John David Gaddis
Conyers, Georgia

James Edward Harper III
Tignall, Georgia

Erica Latrese Holland
Macon, Georgia

Alauna Meré Hunt
Houston, Texas

Angel Chinelo Ibezi-Enendu
Duluth, Georgia

Mariah Johnson
Decatur, Georgia

Asia Bethany Laconico
Forsyth, Georgia

Gabriel Joshua Lockhart
Acworth, Georgia

Douglas Stephen Morris
Peachtree City, Georgia

Akash Jagdish Kumar Patel
Macon, Georgia

Dhaval K. Patel
Warner Robins, Georgia

Tanisha Patel
Sylvester, Georgia

Jordan Michelle Simmons
Claxton, Georgia

Advaith Sunil
Columbus, Georgia

Melissa Tchomtchoua Nwafo
Bafoussam, Cameroon

Trang Ngoc Vo
Liburn, Georgia

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Jacob Andrew Allen
Columbus, Georgia

Lloryn Jahnee Cylin †
Hampton, Georgia

John Paul Escate
Kissimmee, Florida

Tyler Faircloth
Savannah, Georgia

Stan Patrick Heath
Tybee Island, Georgia

Hunter Baley Tinker
Atlanta, Georgia

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN RURAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Herman Benjamin West †
Roberta, Georgia

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Muhammed Subhi Ayman Al Jabi
St. Simons Island, Georgia

Delon Alaine Altherr ✦
Richmond Hill, Georgia

Yazan Alwawi † ✦
Centerville, Georgia

Neel Atawala
Albany, Georgia

Sara Catherine Auger
Tifton, Georgia

Sarah Bakr
Locust Grove, Georgia

Matthew Ryan Beblowski
Statesboro, Georgia

Rictavious J. BOWENS
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Logan Douglas Brookshire
Rockmart, Georgia

Randall Cody Brown
Macon, Georgia

Kelby Flournoy Bulles
Barnesville, Georgia

Cody David Carrell † ✦
Monroe, Georgia

Steven Henry Carroll
Towne Lake Hills, Georgia

Latisha Tamika Pryor Carswell
Oglethorpe, Georgia

Justin Byoung Choi
Kennesaw, Georgia

Courtney Elizabeth Civelli
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Seth Andrew Clary
Odum, Georgia

Carlyle Miller Cone ✦
Cumming, Georgia

Chasen Hall Cottle † ✦
Tifton, Georgia

Chandler Lee Cubbedge ✦
Guyton, Georgia

Aditi Ashishkumar Dave ✦
Suwanee, Georgia

Benjamin Dale Day ✦
Bainbridge, Georgia

Nicole Elizabeth Doetch
Saint Marys, Georgia

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Dorsey ✦
Canton, Georgia

William Vann Downs
Statesboro, Georgia

Nigel D'Souza
Alpharetta, Georgia

Courtney Thomas Dunlap ✦
Augusta, Georgia

Brooke Barker Eck ✦
Culloden, Georgia

Macie Adele Edwards
Hamilton, Georgia

Natalie Kate Goodman
Savannah, Georgia

Shaquita Tashon Greene
Savannah, Georgia

Christina Grace Gross
Thomaston, Georgia

Kimberly Autumn Gunby
Stapleton, Georgia

Evan Elizabeth Hall
Donalsonville, Georgia

Chandler Shackelford Hammond ✦
Fitzgerald, Georgia

Hannah Marie Hardwell
Rome, Georgia

Ethan Elliott Harrison
Dublin, Georgia

Neill Bickerstaff Hatcher, Jr.
Columbus, Georgia

Sage Marie Havrilla
Thomson, Georgia

Abigail Lane Haythorn
Wrens, Georgia

Jay Alex Hilton
Habersham, Georgia

Christopher Hogue † ✦
Evans, Georgia

Kaitlyn Denise Holder † ✦
Gray, Georgia

Nicholas Adam Howard ✦
Conyers, Georgia

Eric Wayne Hua
Macon, Georgia

Austin Joe Huddleston
Franklin, Georgia

Huey Huynh ✦
Gainesville, Georgia

Sean Henry Jackewicz
Savannah, Georgia

Sally Elizabeth Jones
Rome, Georgia

Kayla Diane Kelley
Sharpsburg, Georgia

Nathaniel Kim Kitchens † ✦
Sandersville, Georgia

Thao Thi Le
Grayson, Georgia

J'Lynn Jerome Louise Lewis
Fayetteville, Georgia

William Wells Lundy ✦
Cedartown, Georgia

Nicholas William Maron
Cumming, Georgia

Zachary Ryan Massey
Lake Park, Georgia

Haley Elisabeth Matthews
Jasper, Georgia

Alicia Monique Denise May
Dublin, Georgia

Kathryn Elizabeth McGraw
Milton, Georgia

Hannah P. McQueen † ✦
Flowery Branch, Georgia

Veronica Ariel Mize
LaGrange, Georgia

Alyssa Marie Moffitt ✦
Canton, Georgia

Kendra Denise Moore
Midland, Georgia

Webster Kohen Newsome
Washington, Georgia

Brandon Tran Nguyen
Loganville, Georgia

Yvonne Giang Nguyen
Warthen, Georgia

Rachel Catherine Nissen-Uphouse
Evans, Georgia

Sláine Sinéad O'Bryant
Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia

Stormy Marlowe Orlin
Flowery Branch, Georgia

Abigail Summer Owens
Rochelle, Georgia

Avani Ashok Patel † ✦
Tallapoosa, Georgia

Tirth Parag Patel
Snellville, Georgia

Yash Bharatkumar Patel
Warner Robins, Georgia

John David Patton, Jr. ✦
Colbert, Georgia

Austin Daniel Peigh † ✦
Guyton, Georgia

Amanda Paige Porter † ✦
Kennesaw, Georgia

Christian Buchanan Robertson † ✦
Savannah, Georgia

Rachel Fricker Sauls ✦
Hahira, Georgia

Emily Todd Schlottman
Macon, Georgia

Melanie Shanlin Shoemaker
Watkinsville, Georgia

Michelle Diane Simmons
Hawkinsville, Georgia

Cullen Dane Smith
Butler, Georgia

Jason Campbell Smith
Brooks, Georgia

Joncel Stephens
Smyrna, Georgia

Alexis Grabow Strahan † ✦
Savannah, Georgia

Gabriella Lea Stribling
LaGrange, Georgia

Brooks Ashmore Stroud
Canton, Georgia

Anish Pankaj Sutaria
Suwanee, Georgia

Haaroon Mohammed Tariq
Alpharetta, Georgia

Claire Marie Tibbetts
Rome, Georgia

Rachel Brineman Toller
Canton, Georgia

Brittany Nha Y Tran
Ila, Georgia

Abby Alaine Unger
Willacochee, Georgia

Boris Milutin Velimirovich
Milledgeville, Georgia

Kyle Gary Fitzgerald Wicker
Austell, Georgia

Cason Buzzell Wilkin
Macon, Georgia

Alicia Marie Williams
Riverdale, Georgia

Danielle Dee Windom
Ball Ground, Georgia

Sabrina Rose Worrell-Fraser
Covington, Georgia

Larson Zettler ✦
Clyo, Georgia

HIPPOCRATIC OATH

(MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE VERSION)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT

SCHOOL OF LAW COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 11, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. | Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Prelude	Jonathan Alan Poe, '16 <i>Director of Music and Liturgy, Christ Episcopal Church, Macon</i>
Academic Procession*	Jonathan Alan Poe
Invocation*	Sarah Gerwig <i>Professor of Law and Director of Experiential Education</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings from the Law School	Karen J. Sneddon <i>Dean and Professor of Law</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Karen J. Sneddon
Commencement Address	Ivy N. Cadle, '07 <i>Managing Shareholder, Baker Donelson Law Firm</i>
Student Awards	Jeannie Zipperer <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i>
Special Recognitions	
George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence	D. Scott Davis <i>Provost</i>
Reynold J. Kosek, Jr., Excellence in Teaching Award	Savannah Holley Hall <i>Editor in Chief, Mercer Law Review</i>
Conferring of the Juris Doctor	Karen J. Sneddon
Presentation of the Class of 2024	Caitlin Marie Verrillo <i>President, Student Bar Association</i>
Hooding Ceremony	The President of the University Karen J. Sneddon
Benediction*	Sarah Gerwig
Academic Recession**	Jonathan Alan Poe

* *The audience is requested to rise.*

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

IVY N. CADLE

Commencement Speaker



Born and raised in Swainsboro, Ivy Cadle, '07, graduated *cum laude* in 2000 from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, and a Master of Accountancy in 2002. He earned his juris doctor from Mercer University Law School in 2007.

Cadle started his career in Macon as an associate with Baker Donelson. He is now the office managing shareholder for Baker Donelson's offices in Atlanta and Macon. In his practice, Cadle is a renowned "dirt lawyer" who litigates issues surrounding real estate, eminent domain, land use, zoning and conservation easements. Cadle's litigation skills have been recognized by The Counselors of Real Estate, an international association of trusted advisors who find solutions to complex real estate challenges. Before law school, Cadle served as an audit associate at a big four accounting firm in Atlanta. He is a certified public accountant. In 2022 and 2015, Cadle's pro bono work was recognized by Baker Donelson. His many

other honors include being listed in The Best Lawyers in America® in the area of Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law (2021-2024) and Litigation - Land Use and Zoning (2023-2024); selected to Georgia Super Lawyers in the area of Eminent Domain (2018-2024); and awarded Mercer University School of Law Young Alumni Council Volunteer of the Year Award (2023).

Outside of the office, Cadle is a highly sought-after speaker and committed volunteer to Mercer Law School, the Macon legal community and the State Bar of Georgia. At Mercer Law School, he serves as an adjunct professor, teaching accounting for lawyers. Additionally, he routinely volunteers for moot court preparation, mock interviews and as a guest speaker.

Cadle's bar service began with the Macon Young Lawyers Division where he served as president. From 2017-2018 he was the president of the Macon Bar Association, and from 2016-2017 he was the president of the William Augustus Bootle Inn of Court.

At the same time, Cadle was extensively involved in the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division (YLD) where he received the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the YLD in 2014, the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Bar, Leadership Academy in 2013, and the Award of Excellence for Dedication to the YLD in 2022.

Cadle continued his volunteer work with the State Bar of Georgia where he was elected to its board of governors in 2017 and its executive committee in 2019. He was elected to the office of secretary in 2021. On June 8, Cadle will be sworn in as the 62nd president of the State Bar of Georgia.

Cadle's home is in Macon where he lives with wife of nearly 22 years, Leslie L. Cadle, '07, and their chocolate lab, Stella. When he is not dealing with land issues, Cadle takes to the sky. He is an aviation enthusiast and currently holds a multi-engine commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS

MARSHALS

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

Katie Powers
Assistant Dean of Advocacy

Pamela A. Wilkins
Associate Professor of Law

HOODERS

Bonnie Carlson
Assistant Professor of Law

James P. Fleissner
Professor of Law

Ishaq Kundawala
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Professor of Law*

Michael D. Sabbath
Professor of Law

USHERS

Mercer Law Students

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

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

SCHOOL OF LAW

Caroline Diane Abbey * <i>Dawsonville, Georgia</i>	Benjamin Howard Brewton, Jr. <i>Augusta, Georgia</i>	Daniel D. Farnham <i>Warner Robins, Georgia</i>	Zara F. Khalid <i>McDonough, Georgia</i>	Tyler M. Morris <i>Jackson, Georgia</i>	H. Madison Short * <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Rebecca Ashley Wallace <i>Macon, Georgia</i>
Kaelyn Renee Aills <i>Fort Collins, Colorado</i>	Montgomery E. Campbell <i>Rockford, Illinois</i>	Taylor Noelle Farnsworth <i>Kathleen, Georgia</i>	Caleb John Kot * <i>Johnstown, Pennsylvania</i>	Avery Mitchem Morrison <i>Milledgeville, Georgia</i>	Erin Olivia Sinatra ** <i>Bonaire, Georgia</i>	Jacob Holland White <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>
Anika Akbar * <i>Norcross, Georgia</i>	Mary Alex Carter <i>Valdosta, Georgia</i>	Sarah Michael Farrington <i>Bainbridge, Georgia</i>	Eesha Manoj Kumar <i>Cumming, Georgia</i>	Ana Karina Muñoz <i>Fayetteville, Georgia</i>	Teressa Sue Sizemore ** <i>Leesburg, Georgia</i>	Benjamin Butler Williams <i>Athens, Georgia</i>
Joseph Henry Anderson * <i>Covington, Georgia</i>	Catherine Ruth Churchill <i>Panama City, Florida</i>	Ellie Madison Gravitt <i>Gainesville, Georgia</i>	Ariana A. Laboy Mena <i>Grovetown, Georgia</i>	Ricardo Jorge Nunez <i>Marietta, Georgia</i>	Willie Sizemore * <i>Leesburg, Georgia</i>	Blake C. Williamson * <i>Waynesboro, Georgia</i>
Katie Anderson ** <i>Johns Creek, Georgia</i>	Patrick Charles Edward Clements <i>LaFayette, Georgia</i>	Griffin Daniel Green * <i>Ringgold, Georgia</i>	William Jackson Latty * <i>Gainesville, Georgia</i>	Riya Rajendrakumar Patel <i>Lawrenceville, Georgia</i>	Julie Elaine Skinner <i>Eagle River, Alaska</i>	Simone Patrice Wilson <i>Detroit, Michigan</i>
Lauren Ray Andrews * <i>Sandersville, Georgia</i>	Taylor Grace Cocke <i>Rincon, Georgia</i>	Stephen Jefferson Greenway, Jr. ** <i>Marietta, Georgia</i>	Walker Vaughn Lee <i>Douglas, Georgia</i>	Natalie Bayley Peek <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Jessie Anne Smith * <i>Talbotton, Georgia</i>	Spencer G. Wiseman <i>Nokomis, Florida</i>
Kester Y. Avila <i>Columbus, Georgia</i>	Matthew Cooper <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Richard Joshua Gregory <i>Gaffney, South Carolina</i>	Rebecca Ruth Lindsey * <i>Leland, North Carolina</i>	Jacob Michael Penanen <i>Brownstown, Michigan</i>	Wood Smith <i>Hazlehurst, Georgia</i>	James Dongyoung Yoo <i>Sokcho, South Korea</i>
Lucy Badillo <i>Moultrie, Georgia</i>	Shelby W. DeMeyers <i>Augusta, Georgia</i>	Savannah Holley Hall * <i>Blakely, Georgia</i>	Jeffrey Wayne Lovingood <i>Murphy, North Carolina</i>	Kayla Lya Pfeifer ***~ <i>Savannah, Georgia</i>	Josie R. Soroan <i>Cumming, Georgia</i>	Peter A. Zachos <i>Niceville, Florida</i>
Jaylee Nicole Bass ** <i>Adel, Georgia</i>	Nayelli I. Diaz <i>Pembroke Pines, Florida</i>	Lawson Andrew Haynes <i>Suwanee, Georgia</i>	Hannah Grace Marchant <i>Charleston, South Carolina</i>	Laura Amanda Picott <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Jonathan Allen Tabor <i>Woodstock, Georgia</i>	SPECIAL HOODING
Danielle J. Bayles <i>Port St. Lucie, Florida</i>	John Ronald Dickey * <i>Rincon, Georgia</i>	Lauren A. Herrin * <i>Patterson, Georgia</i>	Michael Randy Marshall <i>Gainesville, Georgia</i>	Eleanor Everett Porter <i>Allendale, South Carolina</i>	Emily Grace Talbot <i>Roswell, Georgia</i>	Charlsie Elizabeth Mann <i>Augusta, Georgia</i>
Jake Beninato <i>Boynton Beach, Florida</i>	Tara Lynn Dow <i>Tampa, Florida</i>	KaitLynn Leigh Isley ** <i>Dallas, Georgia</i>	Morgan Padgett Mathis <i>Rome, Georgia</i>	Saqib Mohammad Qadir <i>Macon, Georgia</i>	Grayson T. Thomas <i>Valdosta, Georgia</i>	Jillian Elizabeth Wimberly * <i>Cochran, Georgia</i>
Bryce Overton Biggerstaff <i>North Augusta, South Carolina</i>	Hunter S. Duke <i>Warner Robins, Georgia</i>	Thomas H. Johnson III <i>Pine Mountain, Georgia</i>	J. Patrick Matthews <i>Athens, Georgia</i>	Miller Peterson Robinson, Jr. <i>Columbus, Georgia</i>	Sydney A. Thompson *~ <i>Blakely, Georgia</i>	<i>Final grades for graduates are not due until June. Degrees and honors will not be determined or become final until all GPAs of students are computed in June. The program reflects those graduating students who, based on grades earned in the first five semesters, are likely to receive honors when final grades are calculated.</i>
Phillip Owen Blackmar * <i>Columbus, Georgia</i>	Tessola Monaé Duncan <i>Marietta, Georgia</i>	William Johnston <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Jake McCarthy <i>Covington, Georgia</i>	Jordan Benjamin Rosenblatt <i>Miami, Florida</i>	Grace Elizabeth Townsend * <i>Statham, Georgia</i>	
Emma Leigh Blue * <i>Rincon, Georgia</i>	Olivia R. Durkin * <i>Darnestown, Maryland</i>	Guy Hayes Kenimer, Jr. <i>Columbus, Georgia</i>	Elizabeth Eileen McDaniel * <i>Hawkinsville, Georgia</i>	Mary Janet Scarlett * <i>St. Simons Island, Georgia</i>	Samuel E. Tucker <i>Marietta, Georgia</i>	
Jordan Stephanie Bracewell * <i>Dublin, Georgia</i>	Amanda Chandler Edwards <i>Savannah, Georgia</i>	Luckshume Boyee Ketheeswaran <i>Fayetteville, North Carolina</i>	Zachary Edward Mikos <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	Kirsten Paige Ehlers Scott * <i>St. Louis, Missouri</i>	Caitlin Marie Verrillo <i>Omaha, Nebraska</i>	
Morgan Elizabeth Brady <i>Valdosta, Georgia</i>			Christain Faith Miles * <i>Jackson, Georgia</i>	Hunter Lee Wallace * <i>Griffin, Georgia</i>		

CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING, RESEARCH AND DRAFTING

The Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research and Drafting is awarded to students who have completed intensive advanced-level writing workshops spanning the final two semesters of law study, as well as advanced training in legal research and drafting.

Anika Akbar	Emma Leigh Blue	Daniel D. Farnham	Luckshume Boyee	Michael Randy Marshall	Kayla Lya Pfeifer	Caitlin Marie Verrillo
Joseph Henry Anderson	Mary Alex Carter	Taylor Noelle Farnsworth	Ketheeswaran	Elizabeth Eileen McDaniel	Jordan Benjamin Rosenblatt	Hunter Lee Wallace
Katie Anderson	Catherine Ruth Churchill	Ellie Madison Gravitt	Zara F. Khalid	Ana Karina Muñoz	Mary Janet Scarlett	Rebecca Ashley Wallace
Lucy Badillo	Tessola Monaé Duncan	KaitLynn Leigh Isley	William Jackson Latty	Riya Rajendrakumar Patel	Teressa Sue Sizemore	Blake C. Williamson
Phillip Owen Blackmar	Olivia R. Durkin	Thomas H. Johnson III	Walker Vaughn Lee	Natalie Bayley Peek	Grace Elizabeth Townsend	Simone Patrice Wilson

GEORGE WALDO WOODRUFF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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

2024 AWARD RECIPIENT

Stephen Jefferson Greenway, Jr.



ATLANTA COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY I

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

ATLANTA COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | 12:00 p.m. | Gas South Arena, Duluth

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Academic Procession*	Alvin Roy Blount <i>Organist</i>
Invocation*	Penny Loraine Elkins <i>Executive Vice President</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings and Words of Encouragement	Thomas P. (Tom) Bishop <i>Chair of the Board of Trustees</i>
Message from the President	The President of the University
Conferring of the Degrees	
College of Nursing	Dean Tammy Diane Barbé <i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing Master of Science in Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice Doctor of Philosophy</i>
College of Pharmacy	Dean Brian Louis Crabtree <i>Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Master of Science Doctor of Pharmacy Doctor of Philosophy</i>
College of Health Professions	Dean Lisa Murphey Lundquist <i>Master of Medical Science Master of Public Health Doctor of Public Health Doctor of Physical Therapy Doctor of Psychology</i>
University Marshal	Susan Whitley Miller <i>Professor of Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Sharon Lim Harle <i>Assistant Vice President, Office of Alumni Engagement and University Special Events; Reader</i>
Alumni Welcome	Penny Loraine Elkins <i>Executive Vice President</i>
Benediction*	Kellie Raiford Appel <i>Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives</i>
Academic Recesson**	Alvin Roy Blount

* *The audience is requested to rise.*

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

THOMAS P. (TOM) BISHOP

Greetings from the Mercer Board of Trustees



Tom Bishop serves as chair of the Mercer University Board of Trustees and is currently in his third five-year term on the board. A Double Bear, Bishop earned his undergraduate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1982 and his J.D. from Mercer Law School in 1985. He is retired chief compliance officer and deputy general counsel for Southern Company Services, and for more than 20 years served in senior executive positions with the Southern Company and its subsidiaries, including Georgia Power. He previously served on the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia Corporate Law Section, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, as a member of Gov. Nathan Deal's Judicial Nominating Commission, and currently serves as a trustee of the Georgia Legal History Foundation. He is past national president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and currently serves as trustee and chair of the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund. Bishop has been a member of the Mercer Law

School Alumni Board in addition to his service on the University's Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Darla, have a son, Tyler, who also holds undergraduate and law degrees from Mercer, and a daughter, Darian, who has an undergraduate degree from Mercer.

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* Cum Laude | ** Magna Cum Laude | *** Summa Cum Laude | † University Honors | ~ Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society | ° Phi Beta Kappa

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Maria Veronica Cedeño <i>Lawrenceville, Georgia</i>	
Kourtney Danielle Chang <i>Queens, New York</i>	

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Folashade A. Dada <i>Auburn, Georgia</i>

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Manjusha Jaya
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Statesboro, Georgia

Mia Roberts
Douglasville, Georgia

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Buford, Georgia

Troy Lamar Ashe
Dublin, Georgia

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Atlanta, Georgia

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Zewdie Chanyalew Ayenew
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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McDonough, Georgia

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Orange, California

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Rama Avinash Kashikar
Pune, India

Richard Darien Khusial
Queens, New York

Smital Rajan Patil ~
Mumbai, India

Tanishka Satyajit Saraf
Mumbai, India

Sharon Vijayanand ~
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* Cum Laude | ** Magna Cum Laude | *** Summa Cum Laude | † University Honors | ~ Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society | ° Phi Beta Kappa

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Big Cabin, Oklahoma

Meghan Mae Barber
Statesboro, Georgia

Emily Donna Becker
Tucker, Georgia

Caitlyn Rae Beeman
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Gainesville, Georgia

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Hickory, North Carolina

Joyce Eunbee Cho
Savannah, Georgia

Cassandra Chu
Sandy Springs, Georgia

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Dublin, Georgia

Mackenzie Grace Daniels
Hatfield, Pennsylvania

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Malibu, California

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Chickamauga, Georgia

Katie Lauren Holliday
Kennesaw, Georgia

Hannah Catherine Humphrey
Charlotte, North Carolina

Mariam Khalid Ishaq
Kennesaw, Georgia

Daniel Alan Johnson
Atlanta, Georgia

Amanda Elizabeth Kelley
Leesburg, Georgia

Jordon C. King
Snohomish, Washington

Johanna Daisy Knowles
Madison, Georgia

Min Kyung Ko
Seoul, South Korea

Emily Theresa Krause
Atlanta, Georgia

Pedro Antonio Landaverde
Dalton, Georgia

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Batavia, Illinois

Casey Robert Lawrence
Bogart, Georgia

Vivie Shang Lee
Livingston, New Jersey

Elyse Lim
Ringgold, Georgia

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Virginia Beach, Virginia

Chelsea Jade Mackay
Savannah, Georgia

Annabelle Grace Miller
Marietta, Georgia

Alysha Naran
Duluth, Georgia

Jenna Anne Nash
Canton, Georgia

Elijah Netjes
East Grand Rapids, Michigan

Sarah Elizabeth Nowicki
Villa Rica, Georgia

Ashley Simone Park
Brookhaven, Georgia

Dilan Kalpesh Patel
Rome, Georgia

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Leesville, Louisiana

Elizabeth Brennan Quirk
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Jordan Wesley Rogers
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ATLANTA COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | 5:30 p.m. | Gas South Arena, Duluth

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Academic Procession*	Alvin Roy Blount <i>Organist</i>
Invocation*	Clark Gregory DeLoach, III <i>Dean, School of Theology</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings and Words of Encouragement	Thomas P. (Tom) Bishop <i>Chair of the Board of Trustees</i>
Message from the President	The President of the University
Conferring of the Degrees	
School of Business	Dean Julie Ann Petherbridge <i>Bachelor of Business Administration Master of Accountancy</i> <i>Master of Business Administration Master of Science</i>
College of Education	Dean Thomas Raymond Koballa, Jr. <i>Bachelor of Science in Education Master of Arts in Teaching</i> <i>Master of Education Specialist in Education Doctor of Philosophy</i>
College of Professional Advancement	Dean Priscilla Ruth Danheiser <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science Master of Science Doctor of Philosophy</i>
School of Theology	Dean Clark Gregory DeLoach, III <i>Master of Theological Studies Master of Arts</i> <i>Master of Divinity Doctor of Ministry</i>
University Marshal	Jody M. Blanke <i>Chair, Ernest L. Baskin, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Law, School of Business</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Sharon Lim Harle <i>Assistant Vice President, Office of Alumni Engagement and University Special Events; Reader</i>
Alumni Welcome	Penny Loraine Elkins <i>Executive Vice President</i>
Benediction*	Kellie Raiford Appel <i>Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives</i>
Academic Recesson**	Alvin Roy Blount

* The audience is requested to rise.

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

THOMAS P. (TOM) BISHOP

Greetings from the Mercer Board of Trustees



Tom Bishop serves as chair of the Mercer University Board of Trustees and is currently in his third five-year term on the board. A Double Bear, Bishop earned his undergraduate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1982 and his J.D. from Mercer Law School in 1985. He is retired chief compliance officer and deputy general counsel for Southern Company Services, and for more than 20 years served in senior executive positions with the Southern Company and its subsidiaries, including Georgia Power. He previously served on the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia Corporate Law Section, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, as a member of Gov. Nathan Deal's Judicial Nominating Commission, and currently serves as a trustee of the Georgia Legal History Foundation. He is past national president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and currently serves as trustee and chair of the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund. Bishop has been a member of the Mercer Law

School Alumni Board in addition to his service on the University's Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Darla, have a son, Tyler, who also holds undergraduate and law degrees from Mercer, and a daughter, Darian, who has an undergraduate degree from Mercer.

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Erin Tara Maurer
Atlanta, Georgia

Hannah Jessie May
Hull, Georgia

Jamie Nickole McBride
Atlanta, Georgia

Hallie McGuinness ~
Cumming, Georgia

Layne McLaughlin
Marietta, Georgia

Lillie McLean ~
Atlanta, Georgia

Christopher J. McMullen
Macon, Georgia

Carlesea De'Anna McRae
McDonough, Georgia

Ross Mills
Suwanee, Georgia

La'Sha Adrielle Mitchell
New Orleans, Louisiana

Brittany N. Moore
Valdosta, Georgia

Katie Morand
Buford, Georgia

Sarah Olivia Morris
Alpharetta, Georgia

Meagan Alexis Morrison
St. Marys, Georgia

Denny Nguyen
Macon, Georgia

Vi Nguyen
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Philip Bruce Niekro
Atlanta, Georgia

Kayla Rose Oates
Jonesboro, Georgia

Sylvia Okoma
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Peace Oluwatomiwa Olaniran
Jonesboro, Georgia

Maria D. Ortiz
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Sydney Ashley Otuata ~
Liburn, Georgia

April Tamika Owens
Camden, New Jersey

Jessica Lynn Park
Johns Creek, Georgia

Madison Rose Patterson ~
Smyrna, Georgia

Robal Petros
Jonesboro, Georgia

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Rocky Face, Georgia

Serenity RacQuel Quant
Miami, Florida

Naveena Rameshbabu
Waxhaw, North Carolina

Niah Simone Redmond
Decatur, Georgia

Nakeya Reese
Selma, Alabama

Whyeethia Respress
McDonough, Georgia

Karlee Nichole Robinson
Opelika, Alabama

Laura Branch Roche
Tucker, Georgia

Genoa Octavia Rodgers
Grovetown, Georgia

Briana Irene Roger ~
Atlanta, Georgia

Jasmine Rose
Buffalo, New York

Jessell Daniela Salgado Hernandez
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Fonda Coleman Shanks
Lithia Springs, Georgia

Sheliethe Aliana Simpson
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Alexis Laneeka-Lofa' Slocum
Jonesboro, Georgia

Kindred Elizabeth Smith
Alpharetta, Georgia

Lydell Deon Smith ~
Houston, Texas

Amber Southern ~
Marietta, Georgia

Jordan Elyse Spurlin
Decatur, Georgia

De'Quundra Chemelle Stevens
Eden, Georgia

Sherita Stringer
Washington, District of Columbia

Narissa Michelle Strozier
Miami, Florida

Christina Stump
Warner Robins, Georgia

Mandisa Taqquee
Snellville, Georgia

LaShana Renea Taylor
Rentz, Georgia

Kayla Marie Teater
Toccoa, Georgia

Briana M. Thomas
Cedartown, Georgia

Dejah Jasandria Paulette Thomas
Albany, Georgia

Marija Thomas
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Rayvin Olivia Townsend
Alpharetta, Georgia

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Stratford, Connecticut

Angela Unger
Dacula, Georgia

Alisha Virani
Hyderabad, India

Shelly Vyas
Warner Robins, Georgia

Ambrasia DaShun Washington
Jeffersonville, Georgia

Breana Christine Watson
Memphis, Tennessee

Ansley Edge Wetherington ~
Peachtree City, Georgia

Latasha Levett Williams
Rentz, Georgia

Andrea Marie Wilson
Avon Park, Florida

Dianne Michelle Wisham
Decatur, Georgia

Tomeco N. Woods ~
Loganville, Georgia

Sarah Ann Woolson
Palm Harbor, Florida

Kayla Je'Nae Wright
Snellville, Georgia

Margaret Ann Yates
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Cumming, Georgia

Leah LaChele Howard
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Halle Marissa Matula
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Connie DeLane Mitchell
Atlanta, Georgia

Priscilla Donna Powers
Atlanta, Georgia

Cha'Ke'Sha Shani Spencer
Detroit, Michigan

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Winston, Georgia

Khaaliq Thomas
Detroit, Michigan

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Taqaveous Tyrice Chandler
Nicholson, Georgia

Ting Gao
Shenzhen, China

Sierra Hurst
Locust Grove, Georgia

Stuart Andrew Miner
Tucker, Georgia

Luan Nguyen
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Talisia D. Rowell
Montgomery, Alabama

Thizier Innocent Seya
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Harriet Sandoval
Stephens
Columbus, Georgia

Abram Leonard
Washington
Urbana, Illinois

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Alpharetta, Georgia

Michael D. Biddle
Griffin, Georgia

Jewel Desiree Cannon
The Bronx, New York

Jonathan Biju Chacko
Kerala, India

Anne Sylvester Cramer
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

William Moncure Cumbia
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Roderick Mitchell
Cummings, Sr.
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Nigel Leondre Fulmore-Smith
Effingham, South Carolina

William A. Green III
East Point, Kentucky

Kelly Elizabeth Holdway
Greer, South Carolina

Christian Xavier Ingram
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Andrea Corso Johnson
Villa Rica, Georgia

Vicki La-Jai Lightfoot
Sandston, Virginia

Lilibate Lilly Luhanga
Dunwoody, Georgia

Zachary Mason
Lawrenceburg, Kentucky

Emily Ann Niehoff
Mendham, New Jersey

Andrea Marie Wilson
Avon Park, Florida

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Martha Kate Hall
Augusta, Georgia

Ronald Paul Hayes
Boone, North Carolina

Christopher Joshua Hensley
Belmont, North Carolina

Dahl Antonio Moss
Midland, Georgia

Robert Christopher Murphy
Mount Holly, North Carolina

Adama Melitte Zawadi
Stoncrest, Georgia

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



MACON COMMENCEMENT

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MACON COMMENCEMENT

Monday, May 13, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. | Five Star Stadium, Macon Campus

Presiding	William David Underwood <i>The President of the University</i>
Academic Procession*	Walton's Crown Imperial
Invocation*	Craig Thomas McMahan <i>Minister of the University and Dean of Chapel</i>
Welcome	The President of the University
Greetings and Words of Encouragement	Thomas P. (Tom) Bishop <i>Mercer University Board of Trustees</i>
Special Music	Rondeau from <i>Duo No. 1 in G</i> W. A. Mozart Virgil Moore, violin <i>Bachelor of Music, Class of 2024</i> Carlos Walker, violin <i>Bachelor of Music, Class of 2024</i>
Introduction of the Speaker	D. Scott Davis <i>Provost</i>
Message to the Graduates	Kendall Webb <i>Bachelor of Arts, Major in History; Class of 2024</i>
University Honors	The President of the University
Student Awards	Douglas R. Pearson <i>Vice President and Dean of Students</i>
Conferring of the Degrees	The President of the University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Dean John Thomas Scott <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Science in Health Science</i>
School of Business	Dean Julie Ann Petherbridge <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Business Administration Master of Business Administration</i>
School of Engineering	Dean Laura W. Lackey <i>Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Science in Engineering Master of Science Master of Science in Engineering</i>
College of Education	Dean Thomas Raymond Koballa, Jr. <i>Bachelor of Science in Education Master of Arts in Teaching Master of Education</i>
College of Professional Advancement	Dean Priscilla Ruth Danheiser <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science</i>
School of Music	Dean Gary Gerber <i>Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Music Bachelor of Music Education Master of Music</i>
College of Health Professions	Dean Lisa Murphey Lundquist <i>Bachelor of Science Master of Athletic Training</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Edward J. Weintraut <i>Professor Emeritus of Foreign Languages and Literatures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Reader</i>
Alumni Welcome	B. Todd Smith <i>Executive Director, Mercer University Alumni Association</i>
Alma Mater*	Stanley Roberts <i>Arthur Lowndes Rich Professor of Choral Conducting and Associate Dean, School of Music</i>
Benediction*	Craig Thomas McMahan
Academic Recession*	Verdi's <i>Aida: Grand March</i>

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

THOMAS P. (TOM) BISHOP

Greetings from the Mercer Board of Trustees



Tom Bishop serves as chair of the Mercer University Board of Trustees and is currently in his third five-year term on the board. A Double Bear, Bishop earned his undergraduate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1982 and his J.D. from Mercer Law School in 1985. He is retired chief compliance officer and deputy general counsel for Southern Company Services, and for more than 20 years served in senior executive positions with the Southern Company and its subsidiaries, including Georgia Power. He previously served on the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia Corporate Law Section, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, as a member of Gov. Nathan Deal's Judicial Nominating Commission, and currently serves as a trustee of the Georgia Legal History Foundation. He is past national president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and currently serves as trustee and chair of the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund. Bishop has been a member of the Mercer Law

School Alumni Board in addition to his service on the University's Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Darla, have a son, Tyler, who also holds undergraduate and law degrees from Mercer, and a daughter, Darian, who has an undergraduate degree from Mercer.

KENDALL WEBB

Student Commencement Speaker



Kendall Webb is a history major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with minors in journalism and Southern studies with a certification in political communications. This Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, native has thrived in her academic experiences and contributed widely to the Macon campus culture through her ongoing involvement.

Working with Dr. Douglas Thompson's "Penfield Project," she has helped to uncover more about Mercer's founding and economic development in Penfield. She is a Stamps Scholar and has continued to mentor new students entering the program since 2021.

Most recently, Webb was chosen for the Women's Public Leadership Network Nonprofit Management Fellowship for the 2023-2024 academic year. She was one of only three women chosen for the fellowship out of nearly 100 finalists. 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.

Webb has been involved with the Student Government Association since 2021 and served in other leadership positions, including as a Mercer ambassador and peer advisor. She is also a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority where she has served as director of public relations and has represented Mercer's Greek students as the director of philanthropy for the Panhellenic Executive Council. Webb has worked as a writing tutor in the Academic Resource Center and is a member of a number of honor societies, including Phi Eta Sigma, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Alpha Theta.

After graduation, Webb will join the fifth cohort of the Women's Campaign School at the University of Texas's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, one of the nation's premier programs for female campaign managers and future office holders. She plans to move to Washington, D.C., to continue a career in politics, hopefully going to the halls of Congress to work with political campaigns and public policy.

EMILY PARKER MYERS

Doctor of Humanities



Emily Parker Myers over her 35-year career at Mercer University held a number of leadership roles, helping to raise the profile of the University and inspiring those around her in the process.

A native of Columbus and a graduate of Florida State University, Myers worked in administrative positions at Jacksonville University and Stetson University School of Law in Florida before joining Mercer's Admissions Office as associate director of admissions in 1973. In 1979, she was appointed by President R. Kirby Godsey as the University's first female senior vice president for University Advancement. At the time, she was among only 25 women in the United States to lead a higher education advancement program.

As coordinator of Mercer's external relations programs, Myers led dozens of staff members across Mercer's schools, colleges and campuses in helping secure hundreds of millions of dollars for the University. She also guided the recruitment of more than 1,000 volunteers for various Mercer boards and committees and served on numerous executive search committees to fill many key administrator positions.

Myers was senior vice president of Advancement and External Affairs and special assistant to the president when she retired from Mercer in 2008. In 2010, the University's new Admissions and Welcome Center was named in her honor to recognize her decades of service and significant contributions to the institution.

Following her Mercer retirement, she became Chief Executive Officer of Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting, which works with colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations across the country, and served in that capacity until her retirement in 2023.

She has been active in numerous organizations in the Macon community and throughout Georgia. In 2021, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame established the Emily Parker Myers Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding vision and leadership. Myers was a member of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority from 2011 to 2021, serving as chair for eight years.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS

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Kedrick Hartfield

Professor

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Jeff Pullen

*Co-Chair and Associate Professor
of Mathematics*
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Carol Sargent

Associate Professor
School of Business

Pablo Biswas

Associate Professor
School of Engineering

Susan Morrissey

Assistant Professor
College of Education

Kevin Williams

Assistant Professor of Healthcare Leadership
College of Professional Advancement

Marcus Reddick

Associate Professor
School of Music

Mary Mathis

Associate Professor/Director, BSPH Program
College of Health Professions

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Sarah Gardner

Distinguished University Professor
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Marko Horne

Associate Professor
School of Business

Ramachandran Radharamanan

Professor
School of Engineering

Vicki Luther

Associate Professor
College of Education

Fred Bongiovanni

*Chair, Department of
Liberal Studies/Professor*
College of Professional Advancement

Martha Malone

Professor/Director of Opera
School of Music

Nannette Turner

Associate Dean/Professor
College of Health Professions

STUDENT MARSHALS

Benjamin Smith

Student Government President
Class of 2024

Matthew Smith

Student Government Vice President
Class of 2024

UNIVERSITY ORGANIST

Jack Mitchener

Professor/Chair of Keyboard Studies/Director
Townsend-McAfee Institute for Church Music

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* Cum Laude | ** Magna Cum Laude | *** Summa Cum Laude | † University Honors | ~ Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society | ° Phi Beta Kappa

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Lawrenceville, Georgia

Omosede Naomi Chidinma Abbe *°
Loganville, Georgia

Amira Lashawn Abdul-Rahim
Atlanta, Georgia

Cecilia Affer
Atlanta, Georgia

Asia Sidonney Imani Allen **
Cumming, Georgia

Mary Kate Allen *
Bowie, Maryland

Alexander Denis Alvonellos
Atlanta, Georgia

Cleveland Phillip Anderson **
Macon, Georgia

Abigail Sloan Aubrey *
Statesboro, Georgia

Nicholas Wagner Ayerbe
Macon, Georgia

Martin Ayuk-Okata
Jonesboro, Georgia

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Grayson, Georgia

Karlecia Lynura Barry
Snellville, Georgia

Ela Beadles
Dacula, Georgia

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Lakeland, Florida

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Nashville, Georgia

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Conyers, Georgia

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Fayetteville, Georgia

Jacob Broad
Cusseta, Georgia

Cole Rainey Brockman
Cumming, Georgia

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Tyrene, Georgia

Sidney Leann Bunkley
Brunswick, Georgia

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Summerville, South Carolina

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Cairns, Australia

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Buford, Georgia

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Evans, Georgia

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Silver Creek, Georgia

Emily Katherine Gilbert
Martinez, Georgia

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Roswell, Georgia

Tori Brae Glazier
Hinesville, Georgia

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Greenwood, South Carolina

Lauryn Green ***
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Winder, Georgia

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Marietta, Georgia

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Johns Creek, Georgia

Devron Tramine Harper
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LaGrange, Georgia

Gage Hart *
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Atlanta, Georgia

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Griffin, Georgia

Sydel Nkem Idehen ***~
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Manchester, Connecticut

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Baltimore, Maryland

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Locust Grove, Georgia

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Lilburn, Georgia

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Cincinnati, Ohio

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Marietta, Georgia

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St. Louis, Missouri

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Stone Mountain, Georgia

Hailey Margaret Katona *
Tilbury, Ontario

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Douglas, Georgia

Arden Grace Latham **
Cordele, Georgia

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Michelle Lopez-Sanchez
Locust Grove, Georgia

David Travis Lorenz
McDonough, Georgia

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Tifton, Georgia

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Sugar Hill, Georgia

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Stevensville, Maryland

Isabella Hanako Martinez
Richmond Hill, Georgia

Yajaira Melany Martinez
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Alpharetta, Georgia

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Powder Springs, Georgia

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Louisville, Tennessee

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Peachtree City, Georgia

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Macon, Georgia

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Frisco, Texas

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Acworth, Georgia

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Chapelton, Clarendon, Jamaica

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Claxton, Georgia

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Annapolis, Maryland

Joshua Jeremiah Parker
McDonough, Georgia

Margi Rajendrakumar Patel
Frankfort, Illinois

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Macon, Georgia

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Statesboro, Georgia

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Savannah, Georgia

Amanda Brooke Sees ***
New Market, Virginia

Sydney Michelle Seligman-Miguel *
Temecula, California

Anwyn Mackenzie Shanahan ***°
Lindale, Georgia

Lily Sharpe
Columbus, Georgia

James Logan Shubert
Waycross, Georgia

Tyler William Shupe
Cary, North Carolina

Cameron Sims
Memphis, Tennessee

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Macon, Georgia

Jaylen Rhea Smith *°
Peachtree City, Georgia

Lara Craig Smith ***°
Charlotte, North Carolina

Kimberley Claire Spivey *
Blackshear, Georgia

Henry Robert Steed ***
Bowdon, Georgia

Anna Copeland Stephens
Suwanee, Georgia

Elizabeth Lyle Stinson **
Newnan, Georgia

Melinda Joyce Sturbaum
Peachtree City, Georgia

Kaila Alexis Suárez
Cedartown, Georgia

Abigail Lynne Sugg *
Covington, Georgia

Erin McKayla Sweat
Woodstock, Georgia

Lindsey Rose Tatum **
Clarksville, Georgia

Morgan Perry Taylor **
McDonough, Georgia

Brianna Olivia Teegarden **
Evergreen, Colorado

Diana Maria Tejera Berrios ***†°
Columbus, Georgia

Evan Thompson
Macon, Georgia

Matthew Clark Thompson ***°
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John Lucas Todd **
Rome, Georgia

Kassandra Torres *
Acworth, Georgia

Avery J. Towns
Lithonia, Georgia

Michael A. Tripp
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Norcross, Georgia

Sydney Renee Walker *
Macon, Georgia

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Leila Works **
Mableton, Georgia

Shane Michael Zachos
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Gainesville, Georgia

Erin Nicole Gargini ****°
Canton, Georgia

Cassandra Rose Carver ****°
Marietta, Georgia

Kayla Grace Chambers *
Carrollton, Georgia

Jaanvi Bhama Chopra
Alpharetta, Georgia

Rafay Muhammad Choudhry
Buford, Georgia

Haley Nicole Cobb
Cordele, Georgia

Miracle Odessa Rheannan Cole
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Johns Creek, Georgia

Jaquavious Malik Daniels
LaGrange, Georgia

Luis Eduardo De Paz Capobianco
Atlanta, Georgia

Alexia Lane Edwards **
Rocky Face, Georgia

Ifemachukwu Blessing Ekpe
Loganville, Georgia

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Buford, Georgia

Ashley Nicole Erickson
Barnesville, Georgia

Amaan M. Faraz ****°
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Hoschtan, Georgia

Angeleesa Lynette Fletcher
Ellenwood, Georgia

Eric Ross Foreman
Evans, Georgia

Tiffanie Faith Fraley
Canton, Georgia

Maliah L. Frasier
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Raven Somari Reyn Friday
Chicago, Illinois

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Sugar Hill, Georgia

Merin Jaya George **°
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Trenity Lynnae Gill
Douglasville, Georgia

Tori Brae Glazier
Hinesville, Georgia

Destiny Jasmine Gomez
Douglas, Georgia

Arianna Yazmin Gonzalez
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Jada Roselle Gresham
Thomason, Georgia

David Christian Grizzle
Valdosta, Georgia

Genevieve Grzech **
Grayson, Georgia

Kaytlin Alana Hamilton
Dallas, Georgia

Jade Avonda Hargrove
Warner Robins, Georgia

Kellie Jade Harmon ****°
Peachtree City, Georgia

Gage Hart *
Americus, Georgia

Maia Ilene Hawk
Hampton, Georgia

Priscilla Kya Haywood ****°
Yatesville, Georgia

Reemah Mohammad Hazama *
Macon, Georgia

Mary Elizabeth Hendley *°
Lake Park, Georgia

Jeffery Austin Parker
Herriott, Savannah, Georgia

Ansley Marie Hewitt
Marietta, Georgia

Astrid Vanesa Hidalgo Lopez
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Lila Hope Hunt
Franklin, Tennessee

Joshua Graham Hynds ***~
Homewood, Alabama

Gabriel Alexander Imlay
Forsyth, Georgia

Marcia Maria Inacio
Oakville, Ontario

Lauren Elizabeth Insko ***°
Charlotte, North Carolina

Ammar Ahmad Irfan
Waycross, Georgia

Farhana Akther Jabin
Kennesaw, Georgia

Joseph Kelly Jackson ***
Savannah, Georgia

Madison G. Jakubowski
Peachtree City, Georgia

Yash Chirag Jani ****°
Albany, Georgia

Madelynn Frances Judd
Rome, Georgia

Claudine Kase *
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Bryneisha S. White
Warner Robins, Georgia

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Noe Alcantar
Fort Valley, Georgia

Enow Taye Ayuk ~
Dublin, Georgia

Monique Bolt
Clermont, Florida

Towanna Tiesha Brown
Cochran, Georgia

Mark Walter Edward Donnell
Dublin, Georgia

William Farran
Fort Valley, Georgia

Indiana Floyd ~
Macon, Georgia

Jasmine Tiria James
Macon, Georgia

Jory Michael Newman
Macon, Georgia

Victoria Anna Ramirez
Hazlehurst, Georgia

Breanna S. Smith-Jackson
Macon, Georgia

Alexis Janelle Stephens
Danville, Georgia

James T. Williams ~
High Point, North Carolina

Taylor Williams
North Babylon, New York

Quaneisha LaShay Woodford ~
Dry Branch, Georgia

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Jalen K. Cobb
Decatur, Georgia

Courtney Renee Gettins
Hastings, New Zealand

Ahmed Saad Ali Imam
Karachi, Pakistan

Jordan Christopher Martin
St. Louis, Missouri

Griffin Henry Myers
Hastings, Minnesota

Brittany Marie Reeves
Macon, Georgia

Jacob Thomas Ward ~
Jonesboro, Georgia

Vladimir Zander-Velloso
Newnan, Georgia

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Krystle Dawn Freeman ***~
Richmond, Virginia

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Nathaneal Issac Barrow
Macon, Georgia

Aina S. Bibbs
Bonaire, Georgia

Kewaner Coleman
Macon, Georgia

Hadden M. Fulgham
Lakeland, Georgia

Melanie Hofmann
Warner Robins, Georgia

Twayne S. Moore *
Covington, Georgia

Kimela Jevaye Williams
Macon, Georgia

David Bernard Wynn
Warner Robins, Georgia

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Andrea Lan
Marietta, Georgia

Ella Jan Trotter ***
Macon, Georgia

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Carson Christian Campbell ***
Decatur, Alabama

Virgil G. Moore II **
Lynchburg, Virginia

Carlos Walker **
St. Petersburg, Florida

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Benjamin Michael Barkley *
Peachtree City, Georgia

Abby Grace Hodges ***
Forsyth, Georgia

Sarah Katelyn King *
Jesup, Georgia

Melody Manami Little ***
Marietta, Georgia

MASTER OF MUSIC

Zachary Bradsher
Roxboro, North Carolina

Gunner P. Chancey
Waycross, Georgia

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Avery
Griffin, Georgia

Declan Robert Champey ***
New Bern, North Carolina

Jackson Alexander Cherry
Forest, Virginia

Charity Lauren Cook *
Irmo, South Carolina

Kendall Ann Cook
Cumming, Georgia

Isaac D. Dowling *
Snellville, Georgia

Zachary Bishop Dubois *
Dublin, Ohio

Nancy Flores *
Marietta, Georgia

Ryan Christopher Frischkorn
Macon, Georgia

Kate Liston Giglio ***
Marietta, Georgia

Victoria Grace Gipson ***
LaGrange, Georgia

Isaia Jraedon Harris
Warner Robins, Georgia

Sierra G Harris
Dublin, Georgia

Miles Parker Hicks **
Warm Springs, Georgia

Daniel Roland Jones **
Bainbridge, Georgia

Joshua Kraver **
Merritt Island, Florida

Jordan Lynn *
Spanish Fort, Alabama

Glenn Edwin Mandel
Ponte Vedra, Florida

Josie-Tatum JielLun Mattox ***
Blackshear, Georgia

Makayla Brooks Passmore
Molena, Georgia

Heli Patel **
Vidalia, Georgia

Shree Dinesh Patel
Dublin, Georgia

Kendall Rhae Patterson
Sharpsburg, Georgia

Julia Perry **
Gainesville, Georgia

Natalie Kaye Pounds
Macon, Georgia

Dalton Shay Reyna
Dallas, Texas

Maria Alejandra Rossy-Roig
Grayson, Georgia

Sandra Leigh Salit
Johns Creek, Georgia

India Nicole Sapp ***
DeLand, Florida

Isabella F. Schindler *
Alpharetta, Georgia

David Wayne Shell II ***~
Bethlehem, Georgia

Kyah Lyssa Sheppard **
Augusta, Georgia

Eliza May Snyder *
Gainesville, Georgia

Alexia Faye Steeh ***†
Warner Robins, Georgia

Jordan Tyrell Swain
Brunswick, Georgia

Quontez Demond Thomas *
Louvale, Georgia

Kerell Devon Thompson *
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Georgia Irene Wade
Peachtree City, Georgia

Margaret Katherine Wendt **
Jacksonville, Florida

Alyssa Olivia Woods **
Houston, Texas

MASTER OF ATHLETIC TRAINING

Taylor Jordan Brooks
Jonesboro, Georgia

Briana Kyera Simone Jordan
Hartsville, South Carolina

Shola Biola Ogunde
Marietta, Georgia

Alexandrea Shepard Sullivan
Newnan, Georgia

Elaine Brianna Williams
Rochester, New York

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

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

It is my honor to welcome you to the Alumni Association, a network of more than 90,000 Mercerians. There is no need to join; you are already a member. The Alumni Association is for all Mercer alumni and provides opportunities for you to connect with your classmates and all who came before you — and those who will come after. We hope you will stay in touch by keeping your contact information current, participating in reunions and events and supporting the University with your time, talent and resources.

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

Go Bears!



B. Todd Smith
Associate Vice President & Executive Director



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



PHI BETA KAPPA ZETA OF GEORGIA

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

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

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

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

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

2024 PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES

Amira Lissette Abbasi
Senior | Lawrenceville, Georgia

Naomi Abbe
Senior | Loganville, Georgia

Adil Ahmed
Senior | Snellville, Georgia

Atia Lashay Bailey
Senior | Grayson, Georgia

Samuel E. Barrow
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Sarah Grace Boyer
Junior | Forsyth, Georgia

Mekai Elanna Brown
Junior | Powder Springs, Georgia

Ryan T. Brownlee
Senior | Flowery Branch, Georgia

Luke Caldwell
Junior | Kathleen, Georgia

Erin N. Cargin
Senior | Canton, Georgia

Cassandra Rose Carver
Senior | Marietta, Georgia

Kayla N. Chambers
Senior | Newnan, Georgia

Jamyah Janise Combs
Senior | Senoia, Georgia

Wendy Lorena Cruz
Senior | Lawrenceville, Georgia

Aaliyah Yasmin Deen Sesay
Senior | Lawrenceville, Georgia

Dakota Raye Ellis
Senior | Clarksville, Georgia

Amaan M. Faraz
Senior | Cumming, Georgia

Merin Jaya George
Senior | Marietta, Georgia

Papa Guerrero
Junior | Sugar Hill, Georgia

Priscilla Haywood
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Mary Elizabeth Hendley
Senior | Lake Park, Georgia

Kyla N. Hudson
Senior | Newnan, Georgia

Olivia Grace Hundley
Senior | Buford, Georgia

Lauren Elizabeth Insko
Senior | Charlotte, North Carolina

Yash Chirag Jani
Senior | Albany, Georgia

McGregor Koenig
Senior | Savannah, Georgia

Stephanía Lopez
Senior | Fort Valley, Georgia

Insia A. Merchant
Senior | Snellville, Georgia

Kaylee Nicole Miller
Senior | Sycamore, Georgia

Eliza Jane Moore
Senior | Chattanooga, Tennessee

Anjali Rajesh Patel
Senior | Athens, Georgia

Paige Renee Riser
Senior | Macon, Georgia

Seiler Rivers
Senior | Newnan, Georgia

Anwyn Mackenzie Shanahan
Senior | Silver Creek, Georgia

Jaylen Rhea Smith
Senior | Lexington, Kentucky

Lara Craig Smith
Senior | Charlotte, North Carolina

Diana Maria Tejera Berrios
Senior | Midland, Georgia

Matthew Clark Thompson
Senior | Canton, Georgia

Samantha Vaquero-Covarrubias
Senior | Peachtree City, Georgia

Kendall Charlcie Webb
Senior | Hot Springs National Park,
Arkansas

MERCER UNIVERSITY PROFILE

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

With more than 9,100 students enrolled in 12 schools and colleges, on major campuses in Macon and Atlanta; medical school campuses in Macon, Savannah and Columbus; and at regional academic centers in Henry and Douglas counties, Mercer is ranked among the top tier and best values of national research universities by *U.S. News & World Report*. More than 90,000 alumni are making important contributions to their professions and communities throughout Georgia, the Southeast and the world.

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

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

School of Law

Macon — In 2023, Mercer University School of Law celebrated 150 years of equipping legal professionals to practice with purpose. Founded in 1873, Mercer School of Law is one of the oldest law schools in the U.S. and the first in Georgia accredited by the American Bar Association. Mercer Law School is committed to preparing students for high-quality, general practice in a supportive and professional learning environment. It is home to the 2023 National Champion Moot Court Advocacy Council and is a two-time recipient of the prestigious ABA Gambrell Professionalism Award for excellence and innovation in ethics and professionalism throughout the curriculum. With an enrollment of approximately 380 students, Mercer Law continues to be recognized for preparing students for practice through its award-winning programs in legal writing, advocacy, experiential education and emphasis on ethics and professionalism.

School of Business

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

Stetson-Hatcher School of Business is an accredited member of The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International which places it among the top 5% of business schools worldwide. Mercer's business school has been recognized

as one of the "Best Business Schools" in the U.S. by both The Princeton Review and *U.S. News & World Report*. Mercer is listed as one of the "Best Undergraduate Business Programs" by *U.S. News & World Report*, and it has been recognized among "MBA Programs Where Grads Make More Money Than They Owe."

U.S. News & World Report has ranked the Evening MBA among the top 200 MBA programs in the country and the Online MBA among the top 100 Online MBA programs nationwide — making it the highest-ranked program in Georgia.

School of Engineering

Macon and Online — Mercer's innovative and academically challenging engineering and engineering-related programs provide students with a comprehensive education, featuring a solid foundation in mathematics and sciences, a core engineering curriculum, a range of courses in engineering specialties and a strong emphasis on communication methodologies and technologies. The School of Engineering marked its 35th anniversary in 2020, and its undergraduate program is consistently ranked among the top programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Known for its breadth of instruction in its undergraduate program and its 4+1 integrated bachelor's and master's degree program, Mercer combines technical education with hands-on laboratory experience, research and real-world problem-solving. The School has produced 12 Goldwater Scholars in the last eight years — including an unprecedented three recipients in three consecutive years — and 13 Department of Defense SMART Scholars in the last nine years.

College of Education

Macon, Atlanta, Douglas County, Henry County and Online — Mercer's Tift College of Education prepares more professional educators than any other private institution in Georgia. It offers undergraduate and graduate programs in teacher education and educational leadership, including initial teacher certification, advanced teacher education, P-12 educational leadership, independent school leadership and higher education leadership. The College's teacher certification programs are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Guided by the conceptual framework of "The Transforming Educator," the College supports those who aspire to grow professionally throughout their careers, while also seeking to transform the lives of students. In addition to full-time, daytime baccalaureate programs for residential undergraduate students, the College of Education offers programs with flexible delivery formats for working professionals, including baccalaureate and graduate-level programs with a combination of online and on-campus coursework and fully online graduate-level programs.

School of Theology

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

College of Professional Advancement

Macon, Atlanta, Douglas County, Henry County and Online — Mercer's College of Professional Advancement offers undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs for adults seeking leadership roles in their community and beyond, professional transition and advancement and lives that have meaning and purpose. Programs support the needs of high-growth and high-demand employment sectors and provide students with a multidisciplinary curriculum that integrates theory and practice. Flexible program delivery formats include fully online programs and options for a blended combination of online and on-campus coursework. Areas of study include communication, counseling, health care, human resources, human services, humanities, leadership and administration, public safety, psychology, science, technology, informatics, data intelligence and machine learning, along with interdisciplinary and self-designed options. The College also offers pre-professional coursework that prepares students for nursing and pharmacy schools.

School of Music

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

MERCER HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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

School of Medicine

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

College of Pharmacy

Atlanta — Founded in 1903, Mercer's College of Pharmacy has a long history of advancing health care through teaching, research, patient-centered care and service innovations. The College's motto, "A tradition of excellence, a legacy of caring," frames its philosophy of providing excellent academic programs in an environment where every student matters and every person counts. The 400 enrolled students are encouraged to get involved in the College's many nationally recognized professional organizations. They also can take advantage of internships and other opportunities with Atlanta-based health care organizations and government agencies. Planned renovations of the Duvall Pharmacy Research Building are expected to increase the productivity of the College's renowned research efforts. Construction of the Moyer Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center was completed in late 2023, and it opened to students in January 2024.

College of Nursing

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

College of Health Professions

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

MERCER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Mercer University Libraries seek to embody a patron-driven philosophy by practicing excellent customer service, making available learning-centered gateways of information resources, offering robust collections in support of the academic mission of the Mercer community and utilizing patron-driven materials acquisition models. The libraries provide a range of print materials and cloud-based resources such as e-books, e-journals, streaming media, research guides and how-to videos.

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

Library facilities contain multiple learning environments designed for mixed study scenarios, including comfortable spaces for group gatherings, quiet areas for individual work and private group study rooms for collaborative projects.

The Mercer University Libraries Include:

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

Specialized Libraries at Mercer:

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

MERCER MEDICINE

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

MERCER ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTER

Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) is the University's nonprofit applied research operating unit. Located in Warner Robins, MERC was established in 1987 to provide engineering and scientific services, research and specialized technical expertise to Robins Air Force Base, other Department of Defense (DoD) entities, DoD international partners and allies (Foreign Military Sales), as well as commercial customers. MERC's core competencies include electrical engineering, electronic warfare, digital transformation, artificial intelligence and machine learning, embedded software, custom software development, cybersecurity, computational fluid dynamics, human factors and biomechanics, finite element analysis, structural integrity, mechanical testing, non-destructive inspection, reverse engineering, and prototyping. MERC employs interns who work closely with MERC engineers and scientists in a broad range of areas allowing students to obtain hands-on experience that adds depth to their education while gaining a better understanding of expertise provided to customers in solving real-world problems.

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

ATHLETICS

Mercer is the only NCAA Division I private institution in Georgia and competes in the historic Southern Conference (SoCon). In the 2022-2023 academic year, Mercer student-athletes achieved an overall GPA of 3.38. The University has won the Southern Conference's Barrett-Bonner Award for academic achievement every year since joining the conference in 2014. Mercer's 18 intercollegiate teams include men's baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer and tennis; and women's basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, beach volleyball, track and volleyball. Other members of the Southern Conference include the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, East Tennessee State University, Furman University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Samford University, The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, Western Carolina University and Wofford College.

EMBLEMS

THE MACE

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

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

THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL

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

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

ACADEMIC REGALIA

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

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

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

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

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes

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

The following colors are associated with the various faculties:

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

THE MEDALLION OF PHI KAPPA PHI

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

ALMA MATER

MACON CAMPUS

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

Chorus

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

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

ATLANTA CAMPUS

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

Chorus

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

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

UNIVERSITY CORPORATE OFFICERS

William D. Underwood, *President*

Kellie Raiford Appel
Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Atlanta Operations

D. Scott Davis
Provost

Penny L. Elkins
Executive Vice President

James S. Netherton
Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance

Larry D. Brumley
Senior Vice President for Marketing Communications and Chief of Staff

Julie T. Davis
Associate Vice President for Finance and Treasurer

Matthew R. Hall
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary to the Corporation

John A. Patterson
Senior Vice President for University Advancement

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