Knight Grant Expands Local News Reporting

Engineering Goes High Altitude with NASA

Inaugural Nathan Deal Scholars in Rural Medicine Announced
Mercer students display their creativity with homemade eclipse glasses during a watch party on Cruz Plaza for the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse.
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THE MERCERIAN, FALL 2017

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Cover and “In Our Lens” Photos: Christopher Ian Smith

Make the Connection — Become a fan of Mercer on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch our latest videos on YouTube.

mercer.edu/socialmedia
Many exciting developments taking place across the arts at Mercer are the subject of this fall’s cover story, beginning on page 16. Above, a painting by Luke Buffenmyer, assistant professor of art, hangs in Frances Sewell Plunkett Gallery in Hardman Hall as part of the annual faculty art show.
CCJ to Extend Local Reporting with New $2 Million Support from Knight Foundation

MERCER’S CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM (CCJ), which over the last five years broke new ground in advancing innovative journalism education practices and local community engagement, was recently awarded $2 million in new funding by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The investment helps to expand the Center’s efforts, including support for Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) and the addition of a TV reporting partnership with Macon-based CBS affiliate 13WMAZ, which is owned by TEGNA Inc.

Established in 2012 with $5.7 million in funding from Knight Foundation and the Peyton Anderson Foundation, CCJ is a unique partnership between Mercer’s Journalism and Media Studies Department, McClatchy-owned The Telegraph of Macon and GPB. The prototype brings students, faculty and veteran journalists together in a joint newsroom located in Mercer Village. Learning in a teaching hospital model, students and professional journalists work together to deliver strong local reporting and engage members of the community around issues of local concern. The collaboration has led to in-depth coverage of important issues and allowed students to use the latest digital tools and graduate with a portfolio of published work that gives them an edge in a rapidly changing field.

“The Center for Collaborative Journalism is a great example of how the teaching hospital model approach in journalism education can benefit both students and the community with stronger, more engaged journalism. By expanding the center’s efforts to include local television news, we hope it will create even more new lessons for the field,” said Jennifer Preston, Knight Foundation vice president for journalism.

“We are thrilled with Knight Foundation’s continued support,” said Tim Regan-Porter, CCJ executive director. “The foundation has been much more than a funder. It has been a true partner, providing advice and expertise that has helped the center excel. This new grant will enable the Center to continue to make a difference in Macon, in the work of our media partners and in the lives of our student body.”

Since 2012, CCJ students have published more than 600 stories for The Telegraph and GPB and produced content for National Public Radio, The Associated Press, ESPN and other regional and national media outlets. The Center has also completed several major, award-winning community engagement projects, such as “Macon in the Mirror,” which featured more than 600 interviews with Bibb County residents and resulted in a nine-part series in The Telegraph and on GPB. A seven-part series on residential blight influenced the local government to allocate $14 million for blight remediation, and a student-led series on pedestrian safety contributed to the formation of a community task force on the issue. The Center is currently in the midst of a project exploring the reasons behind and implications of the resegregation of public schools in Bibb County.

New Knight Foundation funding will enable the Center to partner with TEGNA’s 13WMAZ to add a local TV reporting component. The Center will employ a full-time reporter who will work with WMAZ and students to produce local news stories for broadcast and for its 13WMAZ.com website, as well as for Mercer’s own TV station, WMUB. Students will also, under the full-time reporter’s supervision, produce video content for The Telegraph and GPB.

Other initiatives that will be supported include:

- Funding for GPB to support and enhance its local news operation in Macon, including its participation in community engagement projects and activities to train and mentor students.

Continued on next page —
On The Quad

CCJ Receives New Support Continued

• Continued funding of the Couric Fellows Program, which places Mercer students in paid summer internships with The Telegraph, GPB and media outlets around the world. Over the last three years of this program, named for the late Mercer journalism alumnus John Couric (father of journalist Katie Couric), students have completed internships locally and at outlets like Billy Penn in Philadelphia, The Times-Picayune in New Orleans and the Cape Argus in Cape Town, South Africa.
• Continued funding for the center’s summer digital media camp that draws a talented and diverse pool of high school students from around the world for an intense, seven-day, hands-on experience producing stories on various digital media platforms.
• Establishment of a Community Engagement Desk at the Center to support the Center and affiliated news organizations in exploring new ways to develop content that engages audiences, including through social media.
• Funding for a full-time community engagement coordinator, who will work out of the Center’s Peyton Anderson Newsroom and assist partners in coordinating community events, oversee assignments and schedules for the reporting teams, and manage new community-engagement technology.
• Funding for knowledge sharing through conferences and a speaker series that will bring leading journalists from throughout the country to Macon.
  “Macon’s continued development is dependent on creating a community of informed and engaged residents who can contribute to its growth,” said Lynn Murphey, CLA ’90, Knight Foundation program director for Macon. “By involving residents in journalism, listening to resident needs and crafting stories relevant to their lives, the center is helping to secure a better future for Macon.”
  Support for CCJ is part of Knight Foundation’s efforts to advance excellence in journalism and journalism education and to help news organizations inform people in communities of all sizes through experimentation, innovation and leadership. Knight has made many investments in this area, including the Knight-Lenfest Newsroom Initiative, which aims to help advance digital transformation at local news organizations across the country.

Trustees Approve Record Operating Budget

Mercer’s Board of Trustees met in April on the Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta to adopt a record $244 million operating budget for 2017-18 and approve several new academic programs.

Continuing six consecutive years of below-market tuition increases, trustees voted to limit the tuition increase for Macon undergraduate programs to 2.5 percent for 2017-18. President William D. Underwood noted that the University’s disciplined approach to holding down costs for students and their families, coupled with the national achievements of its students and faculty, contributed to U.S. News & World Report last year ranking Mercer among the 25 best values among national universities.

Trustees voted for no tuition increase for Mercer law students and M.D. students in the School of Medicine. Most other programs across the University saw tuition increases in the 2- to 4-percent range.

Trustees approved a new management major in the Stetson School of Business and Economics; a new civil engineering concentration and a graduate certificate in technical communication in the School of Engineering; a graduate certificate in health informatics in Penfield College; graduate certificates in theological studies and social enterprise in McAfee School of Theology; and a graduate certificate in integrated behavioral health and medical family therapy in the School of Medicine.

Mercer Featured by Princeton Review for 15th Consecutive Year

MERCER WAS FEATURED AMONG THE NATION’S BEST institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review’s recently released 2018 edition of its college guide, “The Best 382 Colleges.”

Only about 15 percent of America’s 2,500 four-year colleges and two colleges outside the U.S. are profiled in the book, published annually since 1992. The guide contains detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores in eight categories, as well as ranking lists of the top 20 schools in 62 categories. All of the ranking lists are based on The Princeton Review’s survey of 137,000 students attending the colleges.

“We chose Mercer University because it offers outstanding academics,” said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s editor-in-chief and author of “The Best 382 Colleges.”

“Our selections are based on our surveys of administrators at several hundred four-year colleges. We also visit dozens of colleges each year and give weight to opinions of our staff and our 24-member National College Counselor Advisory Board. Most importantly, we look at feedback we get from each school’s customers—our surveys of students attending them. We also keep a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character.”

In its profile, The Princeton Review praises Mercer for its focus on research, leadership and service, as well as professors who seem “genuinely invested in their students.” “Mercer aims to produce graduates who will endeavor to ‘make positive changes in their local community and the world,’ the survey continues. “While the academics here are challenging, it’s obvious that the university wants to see its students succeed.”

In a “Survey Says” sidebar in the book’s profile on Mercer, The Princeton Review listed popular topics among students according to their answers to survey questions. The University’s list included “students are happy,” “great financial aid,” “everyone loves the Mercer Bears,” “intramural sports are popular” and “frats and sororities are popular.”
Mercer Innovation Center recently announced its second class of fellows — four new businesses that will launch with funding and support from the MIC — in addition to five companies-in-residence that will be provided office space and additional resources by the Center.

All told, from this year’s fellowship competition, nine new companies will base operations in Macon, with three relocating from Atlanta.

The annual Mercer Innovation Fellowships are open to entrepreneurs, 21 and older, from across the world, in addition to current Mercer students. Fellows receive a prize package that may include up to $20,000 in funding, housing and parking on Mercer’s campus, office space and MIC membership for a year, paid student interns, access to Mercer facilities, access to local investors, and coaching and mentoring by the Center’s advisory board.

After offering fellowships to two businesses — KUDU Safari Braai and HeadNoise — in its inaugural year, the MIC doubled its number of fellows this year by inviting four companies — Hygeia, MedaSol, Ultimental and 43 Tech — to compose its second class.

“We are excited about the increased number of fellows and businesses choosing Macon as the place to launch and grow their companies,” said Stephanie Howard, deputy director of the Mercer Innovation Center. “One of the goals of the Mercer Innovation Center is to help entrepreneurs launch sustainable businesses, which ultimately impacts the Macon-Bibb County economy.”

Fellowships for Hygeia and MedaSol also include funding from a Downtown Challenge Grant awarded by the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to support early-stage medical device and health information technology initiatives.

Hygeia, founded by Ricardo Ibarria, is a reimagined healthcare delivery system, designed with both patients and clinicians in mind. Its all-in-one, turn-key employer kiosk provides customized diagnostics in an onsite machine.

MedaSol, founded by Dr. Kevin Murnane, assistant professor in Mercer’s College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, is a personalized mobile app designed to improve medication adherence in patients at risk of heart failure or heart attack. The app can also be tailored to other patient populations and disease states.

Ultimental, founded by recent Mercer graduate Mike Masielle, is a natural, performance-enhancing supplement for white-collar, startup entrepreneurs that combines a green tea mix with natural sweeteners and eight active work-life performance enhancers, called nootropics.

43 Tech, founded by two-time Mercer graduate Michael Walter, strives to produce affordable and innovative technology solutions for everyday life. The company’s KiwiCard is a credit card-sized Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) tracking device designed specifically for wallets.

Five additional Mercer Innovation Fellowship applicants were selected as companies-in-residence and will receive support from the MIC, such as office space and interns. They include data analytics software developer IUVO, founded by Stephen Hatez; marketing services agency AlyMedia, founded by Mercer student Faiz Aly; natural hygiene products company The Bee’s Knees, founded by Mercer student Julia Nazerian; crowdsourced student notes platform Study Share, founded by Mercer student Ricky Vega; and makeup brand Amaka, founded by Mercer alumna Iijeoma Mbaezue.
Gov. Nathan Deal, CLA ’64, LAW ’66, at the State Capitol in June announced Georgia’s newest class of Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows, including 13 who will study at Mercer.

With the addition of this year’s class of 63 aspiring educators who will attend Mercer, Columbus State University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University and Piedmont College, the Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship will have prepared a total of 159 teachers to lead STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) classes in the state’s high-need secondary schools.

“As Georgia re-emphasizes its commitment to turning around the state’s low-performing schools, it is essential that every Georgia child has access to excellent educators, particularly in subjects like science and math,” said Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. “With the Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship program, Georgia colleges are ensuring Georgia classrooms have a pipeline of needed teachers both committed to teaching in high-need schools and with the skills and abilities to boost student learning. Teachers like our Georgia Teaching Fellows are key to future success.”

Among Mercer’s newest Fellows are recent graduates or career-changers with strong backgrounds in the STEM disciplines. They include Morgan Akridge from Toccoa; Joey Chan from Marietta; Julius Collado from Darien; Dezmon Gay from Atlanta; David “Ben” Jones from Huntington, West Virginia; Austin Lord from Toccoa; Angela Monetta from Loganville; Jiyoo Oh from Macon; Chelsea Robinson from Clarkston; Shakevia Robinson from Atlanta; Lynetria Sanders from Columbus; Jose Santana Villa from Conyers; and Ashley Stirgus from Detroit, Michigan.

Akridge (CLA ’17), Chan (CLA ’15), Lord (CLA ’17), Oh (CLA ’12, MED ’16) and Santana Villa (EGR ’16) previously earned undergraduate or graduate degrees from Mercer.

Each Fellow received $30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master’s degree program based on a yearlong classroom experience. In return, Fellows commit to teach for three years in the urban and rural Georgia schools that most need strong STEM teachers. Throughout the three-year commitment, Fellows receive ongoing support and mentoring.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation is partnering with a wide range of school districts across the state on this effort. The Bibb County School District, Dodge County Schools, Houston County Schools and Monroe County Schools are partnering with Mercer in Central Georgia.

Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey and Ohio are currently Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship states. The Georgia program brings the Woodrow Wilson Foundation’s total commitment to the Fellowship to more than $90 million nationally.
Mercer’s Zeta of Georgia Chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society on April 7 inducted 29 students into the nation’s most prestigious academic honor society.

Prospective Phi Beta Kappa inductees are usually seniors among the top 10 percent of their graduating class who have completed a broad range of liberal arts and sciences coursework, including foreign language study and mathematics. Exceptional students meeting the Society’s requirements may also be considered as juniors. This year’s inductees are:

Sarah Elizabeth Abney, a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and Spanish from Marietta

Emily Loraine Anspach, a senior majoring in political science and international affairs from Fort Collins, Colorado

Jacqueline Zanne Atchison, a senior majoring in history and sociology from Savannah

Anna Elise Bates, a senior majoring in English and philosophy from Houston

Taylor Nicole Bischoff, a senior majoring in communication and media studies and psychology with a minor in women’s and gender studies from Grayson

Anna Rose Cizek, a senior majoring in international affairs, French and global health studies from Naperville, Illinois

Alexandra Leigh Collins, a senior majoring in global health studies with minors in biology and chemistry from Cartersville

Nora Wilfong Darling, a senior majoring in global health studies and anthropology from Peachtree City

Sarah A. Estrada, a junior majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish from Tyrone

Nicole Alexa Gentile, a senior majoring in biology and Spanish with a minor in chemistry from Marietta

Andrew Irving Hearn, a senior majoring in global health studies with minors in biology and chemistry from Columbus

Abby Marie Henry, a senior majoring in English with a minor in film studies from Peachtree City

Abigail Hannah Hundley, a senior majoring in international affairs and political science with minors in economics and French from Buford

Anna Lauren Johnson, a senior majoring in neuroscience and women’s and gender studies from Westborough, Massachusetts

Hyun Min Lee, a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Asian studies from LaGrange

Timothy Martin Lewis, a senior majoring in law and public policy with a minor in Christianity from Macon

Kaitlyn Mary McBride, a senior majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish from Peachtree City

Shannon Marie Merritt, a senior majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry from Douglasville

Emma Rutherford Peel, a senior majoring in global health studies and Spanish with a minor in anthropology from Portland, Oregon

Ashley Elizabeth Ray, a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Spanish from Marietta

Abigail Christine Reddig, a senior majoring in communication and media studies with minors in journalism, media studies and Spanish from Fayetteville

Teal Baker St. Nicklaus, a senior majoring in English and philosophy with a minor in creative writing from Portland, Oregon

Taylor Amanda Steen, a senior majoring in English with minors in education and Spanish from Peachtree City

Jamilah Tejan, a senior majoring in global health studies with a minor in Spanish from Jacksonville, Florida

Natalie Kaye Thigpen, a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Spanish from San Diego, California

Bristal Paige Thompson, a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and Spanish from Doerun

Katelyn E. Towe, a senior majoring in political science with a minor in chemistry from Rome

Aurora Rose Vadini, a senior majoring in French with a minor in English from Macon

Andrew Michael Winslett, a senior majoring in political science and law and public policy from Newnan

Mercer installed its chapter and inducted its inaugural class of 26 seniors and juniors in the College of Liberal Arts last spring.

Founded by five students at the College of William and Mary on Dec. 5, 1776, The Phi Beta Kappa Society has chapters at 286 colleges and universities in the United States, 50 alumni associations and more than half a million members worldwide.

Members of Mercer’s second class in the Zeta Chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society gather following their April 7 induction ceremony.
Crabtree Named Dean of College of Pharmacy

Mercer alumnus and longtime pharmacy educator Dr. Brian Crabtree assumed the deanship of the University’s College of Pharmacy on Oct. 1. He becomes the fourth dean to lead the College over the last 60 years.

Dr. Crabtree succeeds Mercer’s longest-serving dean, Dr. Hewitt W. “Ted” Matthews, who retired June 30 after 27 years as dean of the College of Pharmacy and 44 years at Mercer.

“I am very pleased that Dr. Crabtree has agreed to return to his alma mater to lead one of Mercer’s most nationally recognized academic programs,” said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. “He has extensive experience in pharmacy education and clinical practice, as well as being a national leader on matters of pharmacy accreditation and best practices. I believe he will be an effective successor to Dr. Ted Matthews, who has provided extraordinary leadership for the College for more than a quarter-century.”

A native of Ringgold, Dr. Crabtree earned his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy in 1979 and his Doctor of Pharmacy in 1980 from Mercer and completed a postgraduate residency in psychiatric pharmacy at the University of Tennessee.

For the last four and a half years, he has served as professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Wayne State University’s Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He also served February 2016 as interim associate dean for pharmacy. Prior to joining Wayne State, where he began his teaching career in 1981, Dr. Crabtree was on the faculty for 28 years at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Concurrent to his faculty position in the School of Pharmacy, Dr. Crabtree served as an affiliate faculty member in psychiatry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a Thelma H. Cerniglia Distinguished Teaching Scholar at the University of Mississippi and the recipient of multiple teaching awards. He holds the title of Professor Emeritus from the University of Mississippi.

“Returning to my alma mater and native state to lead the College of Pharmacy is a dream come true,” said Dr. Crabtree. “Dean Matthews and the faculty and staff have created a legacy of excellence that has established Mercer’s prominence in the academy of pharmacy. I am energized by the opportunity to continue and build on the success of the College and this wonderful University to enhance the health of our communities.”

Dr. Crabtree’s teaching and research interests are in the areas of patient care, psychiatry, addictive diseases, developmental disabilities, and teaching and learning. He developed a particular interest in active learning strategies and coordinated implementation of the problem-based learning initiative at the University of Mississippi. Leadership, faculty mentoring and faculty development are his key passions. He is board certified in psychiatric pharmacy.

A past president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), Dr. Crabtree also serves as chair of the Argus Commission, composed of the five most recent past presidents. He previously served as chair of the AACP Council of Faculties.

“I would like to thank the pharmacy dean search committee, led by Dr. Nader Moniri, associate dean for research and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, for its excellent work in recruiting a well-qualified candidate pool,” Dr. Davis said.

Mercer Faculty Author New Books

BOOKS RECENTLY AUTHORED BY UNIVERSITY FACULTY:

Dr. Jonathan Addleton, adjunct instructor of international and global studies in the College of Liberal Arts, authored The Dust of Kandahar: A Diplomat Among Warriors in Afghanistan, Naval Institute Press.

Dr. Sarah E. Gardner, professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts, authored The Literary Marketplace and the Making of the Southern Renaissance, Cambridge University Press.


Dr. Paul Lewis, professor of religion in the College of Liberal Arts, authored Wisdom Calls: The Moral Story of the Hebrew Bible, Nurturing Faith Inc.

Dr. Whitney Phillips, assistant professor of liberal studies in Penfield College, co-authored, with Ryan Milner, The Ambivalent Internet: Mischief, Oddity, and Antagonism Online, Polity Press.

Dr. Douglas Thompson, associate professor of history and Southern studies in the College of Liberal Arts and director of the Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies, authored Richmond’s Priests and Prophets: Religious Richmond’s Struggle with Civil Rights, University of Alabama Press.
FaCulty rounDup

**Kiefer, Vo Appointed Distinguished University Professors**

President William D. Underwood announced at the spring Board of Trustees meeting in Atlanta the appointment of two new Distinguished University Professors, Dr. Adam Kiefer in the College of Liberal Arts and Dr. Ha Van Vo in the School of Engineering.

They join current Distinguished University Professors Robert McDuffie in the Townsend School of Music; Dr. David P. Gushee in McAfee School of Theology; and Dr. Wallace L. Daniel in the College of Liberal Arts.

The highest academic rank available to a Mercer faculty member is Distinguished University Professor. The appointment recognizes extraordinary scholarship or creative work by faculty who have achieved national and international distinction in their fields.

“Dr. Kiefer and Dr. Vo are accomplished scholars, outstanding teachers, beloved mentors to our students, and are both doing work that is making a profound difference in people’s lives around the globe,” President Underwood said. “They model every day Mercer’s commitment to integrating research and service to improve the human condition.”

Dr. Kiefer, who earned his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, joined Mercer’s Chemistry Department in 2008.

He has played a lead role in Mercer On Mission initiatives in Mozambique and Ecuador that have developed and implemented methods for reducing mercury poisoning among artisanal gold miners. The work has led to collaborations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Argonne National Laboratory and with scientists at other institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Vo, who is in his 12th year at Mercer, holds engineering and medical degrees and has dedicated his career to improving the lives of amputees due to his personal experience with those in his home country of Vietnam who lost limbs to leftover ordnance from the Vietnam War.

Through the University’s longest-running Mercer On Mission program, Dr. Vo and his students and faculty colleagues in the Biomedical Engineering Department developed a patented Universal Socket Prosthetic, an artificial leg that is affordable, easily fitted and extremely durable. Over the last eight years, more than 7,000 Vietnamese amputees have been fitted with the Mercer prostheses, allowing them to lead more productive and fulfilling lives while creating life-transforming opportunities for Mercer students who have participated in the program.

“Drs. Kiefer and Vo have both established internationally recognized programs that exemplify Mercer’s emphasis on engaging in ‘Research That Reaches Out,’” said Mercer Provost Dr. D. Scott Davis. “They are most deserving of this recognition.”

**CCJ Director Regan-Porter Awarded Knight Fellowship at Stanford**

Center for Collaborative Journalism (CCJ) Executive Director Tim Regan-Porter was awarded a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year at Stanford University.

Journalism fellowships at Stanford began in 1966 with the idea of giving reporters and editors free run of the university in order to produce superb journalism. A $4 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in 1984 permanently endowed the fellowship.

“I am thrilled to join this distinguished group of journalists,” said Regan-Porter. “This honor is a recognition of the accomplishments of CCJ’s students, faculty and partners. I look forward to returning to CCJ with new ideas, knowledge and connections to help the Center continue making a difference in Macon and in the field of journalism.”

Regan-Porter became the founding executive director of the CCJ on March 1, 2012. Previously, he was president and co-founder of Paste Magazine, the award-winning entertainment title that became the third-largest music magazine in the country.

**Knapp, Barbé, Moore Named Governor’s Teaching Fellows**

Three Mercer faculty members were selected last spring as Governor’s Teaching Fellows, a highly selective program designed to develop important teaching skills through emerging technologies and instructional tools and sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Kenyon Knapp, professor of counseling and coordinator of the Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision program in Penfield College, participated in the program’s intensive two-week summer symposium.

Dr. Tammy Barbé, assistant professor and student and faculty development coordinator in the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, and Dr. Michael K. Moore, professor of biology in the College of Liberal Arts, are participating in the 2017-2018 academic year fellowship consisting of six three-day symposia.

The Governor’s Teaching Fellows Program was established in 1995 by then-Gov. Zell Miller to provide Georgia’s higher education faculty with expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills.
Semmendinger, Cai
Mercer’s First Pair of
Goldwater Scholars in
a Single Year

For the first time in the University’s history, Mercer had two recipients in a single year of the nation’s most prestigious scholarship for undergraduates in science, mathematics and engineering. Senior Kyla Semmendinger and junior Runyu Cai both earned the highly competitive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, and senior Jessica Resnick was selected as an Honorable Mention for a second consecutive year.

“The most important measure of our work as a university must always be the doors to opportunity that we are helping open for our students,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “Six Goldwater awardees and three Honorable Mentions in the last five years is an impressive indicator of the quality of our students and the research they are engaged in, and the significant investment that their faculty mentors have made in helping position them for this prestigious national honor.”

Semmendinger and Cai were among 240 students — and two of only six in Georgia — awarded the scholarship based on academic merit from a field of 1,286 mathematics, science and engineering students nominated by the faculties of 470 colleges and universities nationwide.

Semmendinger, from Bremen, is majoring in environmental engineering with minors in Spanish, chemistry and engineering for development. She plans to obtain a Ph.D. in environmental engineering with a research focus in the relationship between hydrology and forestry, specifically in developing nations.

Cai, from Macon, is double-majoring in electrical engineering and physics and plans to obtain doctoral degrees in both fields of study. Originally from Weihai, Shandong, China, he aspires to teach at the university level and conduct research in nonlinear control and theoretical physics.

Resnick, from Woodstock, was one of 307 students recognized as an Honorable Mention. A biochemistry and molecular biology major, she was one of 256 students selected as an Honorable Mention last year. She plans to obtain a Ph.D. in an interdisciplinary program in genetics and molecular biology and to study genetic disease as a professor at a research university.

Goldwater Scholars have impressive academic qualifications that have garnered the attention of prestigious postgraduate fellowship programs. Recent recipients have been awarded 89 Rhodes Scholarships, 127 Marshall Awards, 145 Churchill Scholarships, 96 Hertz Fellowships and numerous other distinguished awards.

St. Nicklaus Awarded
Davies-Jackson Scholarship

Teal St. Nicklaus was awarded a Davies-Jackson Scholarship by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in a course of study at St. John’s College in the University of Cambridge in England.

Recipients of the Davies-Jackson Scholarship are admitted to Cambridge as affiliated students in St. John’s College to work toward a Cambridge Bachelor of Arts degree. Scholarship recipients take the more advanced courses of study over two years instead of the usual three. As a result of its academic rigor, the international travel opportunities that are available and the overall preparation that the course of study provides towards a career, this degree is typically considered to be the equivalent of a master’s degree in the U.S.

St. Nicklaus, who double-majored in English literature and philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts, is from Portland, Oregon. She is pursuing the affiliated Bachelor of Arts in English literature during her first year at St. John’s College and will pursue a Master of Philosophy in medieval and Renaissance literature during her second year.

Record-tying Three
Mercerians Receive
Fulbright Awards

For the second time in four years, Mercer University had a total of three current students or recent alumni selected to receive Fulbright U.S. Student Awards in a single year. This record-tying number brings Mercer’s overall tally of Fulbrighters to 13 since 2010.

Recent graduate Aaron Scherf is performing research in Germany for 10 months during the academic year, while recent graduate Alayna Williams and fellow alumnus David Wildes are serving as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) in South Africa and Spain, respectively.

These three Mercerians are among more than 1,200 U.S. citizens who are teaching, conducting research and providing expertise abroad for the 2016-2017 school year through the program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Students are selected based on academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and demonstrated
On The Quad

Student Achievements

leadership in their respective fields.

Scherf, from Acworth, triple-majored in international business, finance and economics with minors in global development studies and management. In Germany, he is pursuing a research project investigating the effect of housing conditions on cultural integration and well-being of refugees in the city of Heidelberg.

Williams, from Macon, triple-majored in international affairs, Spanish and women’s and gender studies. In South Africa, she is serving as an ETA and also hopes to implement a debate program — similar to one she helped start as part of a Mercer On Mission trip to the country last summer — as well as teach dance as a method of community building.

Wildes, from Valdosta, graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in international affairs, Spanish and political science with University Honors. In Spain, he is serving as an ETA in the region of Galicia.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to solve global challenges.

Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in many fields, including 57 who have been awarded the Nobel Prize, 82 who have received Pulitzer Prizes, and 37 who have served as a head of state or government.

Scherf Earns Donald M. Payne, Humanity in Action Fellowships

May 2017 graduate Aaron Scherf recently received a Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship to fund his graduate study and place him in a position with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) upon graduation.

Scherf, from Acworth, completed a month-long Humanity in Action Fellowship in Amsterdam on June 25, and is conducting research in Germany for 10 months during the current academic year as a Fulbright U.S. Student Award recipient. He hopes to pursue a master’s degree in international development or international trade and investment policy.

As an undergraduate, Scherf triple-majored in international business, finance and economics with minors in global development studies and management.

The Payne Fellowship is designed for young people who want to work on the front lines of some of today’s most pressing global challenges, such as poverty, hunger, injustice, disease, environmental degradation, climate change, conflict and violent extremism.

The Humanity in Action Fellowship aims to facilitate a collective exploration of the social and political roots of discrimination, as well as to provide a forum where potential solutions to some of today’s most challenging issues can be considered and discussed. The fellowship is also intended to instill a responsibility among fellows to recognize and address the need to protect minorities and promote human rights — in their own communities and around the world.

Bryant Joins Teach For America Corps

Recent alumnus Andrew Bryant was accepted into Teach For America and will spend the next two years teaching high school science in Eastern North Carolina.

Bryant, from Warner Robins, was a psychology major with a minor in philosophy. At Mercer, he was an active participant in the mock trial team, Student Government Association and Mercer Players. He also worked as a tutor in the University’s Educational Opportunity Center and as a telecounselor in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Teach For America has served for 26 years in Eastern North Carolina, and currently has around 270 corps members reaching more than 15,000 students in high-need schools across the region’s rural communities, with an additional 25 alumni serving in school and district leadership roles in the area.

Following his two-year commitment, Bryant is considering attending law school or graduate school in order to continue to impact the field of education.
OnTheQuad

Student Achievements

- **Cizek Accepted Into Teaching Assistantship Program in France**

  Recent graduate Anna Cizek was accepted into the Teaching Assistantship Program in France and is currently teaching secondary English at the Académie de Nancy-Metz for the 2017-2018 academic year.

  A joint initiative of the French Ministry of Education, the Centre international d’études pédagogiques and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the program’s goal is to strengthen English language instruction in French schools by establishing a native speaker presence while also providing American Francophiles with excellent teaching experience and first-hand knowledge of French language and culture.

  Cizek, from Naperville, Illinois, triple-majoried in international affairs, French and global health studies. Following her teaching assistantship, she intends to pursue graduate school for international affairs or language interpretation and translation.

- **Buckley Participates in John Lewis Fellowship**

  Senior Jaz Buckley was one of 30 American and European university students awarded the John Lewis Fellowship to participate in a four-week program about diversity and civil rights at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

  The John Lewis Fellowship, honoring the U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights Movement icon, is the American program of the Humanity in Action Fellowship. European programs take place annually in Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris, Sarajevo and Warsaw.

  In its first two years, the program explored the history of the Civil Rights Movement, diversity and minority rights in Atlanta. In its third year, the fellowship expanded to focus on restorative justice in Atlanta.

  Buckley, from Columbus, is a political science and women’s and gender studies double-major with a minor in French.

  Upon graduation, she plans to attend law school with a focus on critical race theory as it pertains to the U.S. legal system. She aspires to become a civil rights attorney for a nongovernmental organization such as the American Civil Liberties Union that specializes in the protection of individual rights and civil liberties.

- **Resnick Selected as Mercer’s Third Amgen Scholar in Three Years**

  Senior Jessica Resnick, a two-time Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention selection, was chosen as an Amgen Scholar and spent 10 weeks this summer conducting research at Washington University in St. Louis. She is the University’s third Amgen Scholar in as many years.

  Resnick, a biochemistry and molecular biology major from Woodstock, worked in the lab of a faculty member in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences under the direct mentorship of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

  In addition to research, she participated in lab meetings, scientific and professional development seminars and workshops, and social activities. She also wrote a paper and presented a scientific poster at the National Amgen Scholars Program Symposium at UCLA in July.

  Resnick plans to participate in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in genetics and molecular biology and to study genetic disease as a professor at a research university.

- **Thompson Selected as Truman Finalist**

  Senior Emily Thompson was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Truman Scholarship, the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders in the United States. She is only the second finalist in the University’s history.

  This year, 62 scholarships were awarded among 768 candidates nominated by 315 colleges and universities. Thompson was one of 199 finalists interviewed by the Foundation’s regional review panels.

  Thompson, from Leesburg, is a double-major in accounting and management with minors in psychology and economics. A Stamps Scholar, Presidential Scholar and Tift Scholar, she plans to pursue graduate study focused on a future career in politics and policy reform.

- **Rice Completes German Research Internship Program**

  Senior Zechariah Rice, a 2016 Goldwater Scholar, was selected to participate in this summer’s German Academic Exchange Service’s Research Internships in Science and Engineering program.

  Rice, from Newberry, Florida, is an electrical engineering and computer engineering double-major with minors in religion, physics and mathematics. He spent the summer working at Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt on two projects related to photovoltaic cells. The primary
project involved construction of a test-rig for solar thermal systems, while the secondary project comprised translation of a C++ computer model for solar thermal systems into a MATLAB model.

He aspires to obtain a Ph.D. in electrical engineering with a focus in non-linear controls and to conduct research and teach at the university level.

- **Bligen Tabbed for Newman Fellowship, CBCF Internship**
  
  Senior Kyle Bligen was selected as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization working to advance service-learning, civic engagement and the public purposes of higher education.

  The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, as well as access to exclusive scholarship and postgraduate opportunities.

  Bligen, a politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) major from Peachtree City, is one of 273 students from across the nation to be selected for this year’s cohort.

  Bligen also was selected to participate in a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Summer Congressional Internship. His duties included drafting responses to constituent mail, conducting research, writing talking points, organizing events, attending hearings and briefings and providing assistance on the floor of the House of Representatives from May 28-Aug. 4.

  Upon graduation, Bligen aspires to continue his education in the joint degree program in public administration and business offered by Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Business School.

- **Braxton Chosen for Journalism Internship in New York City**
  
  Senior Avery Braxton earned a Knight CUNYJ Summer Internship to New York City in June and July to participate in an all-expense paid journalism training and internship program.

  The program was established in 2015 by the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Journalism, with generous support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, to address under-representation in U.S. newsrooms by helping build a stronger pipeline of academically excellent, digitally trained minority journalists.

  Participants received classroom training from CUNY faculty and participated in a seven-week internship at a news outlet in the city. Braxton, a journalism major and media studies minor from Peachtree City, interned at Spectrum’s NY1 television station covering the city’s five boroughs.

  Following graduation, he plans to remain in Macon as a television reporter, with a long-term goal of becoming an anchor in a major market or a correspondent for a national news network.

- **Winfield Earns Critical Language Scholarship to Tanzania**
  
  Junior Anastasia Winfield was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study Kiswahili in Tanzania this past summer.

  The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. With the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, the CLS provides opportunities for students from across the U.S. at every level of language learning.

  Winfield, from McDonough, is a global health studies major on the pre-health track with a minor in art. She aspires to become a doctor or physician assistant and work with an organization such as Doctors Without Borders to serve areas with healthcare shortages.

- **Porter Named Mount Vernon Fellow**
  
  Junior Cole Porter was one of 16 students nationwide selected to participate in this year’s Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows program, a five-and-a-half-week summer leadership program for rising juniors who desire to make a difference.

  The fully paid and funded program takes place at the famous George Washington estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. The small, select cohort engaged in leadership education curriculum, interacted with nationally recognized corporate, government and military leaders in our nation’s capitol, and discovered how to change the world through self-reflection, experiential activities and a community service-focused capstone project.

  Porter, from Dublin, is a political science major who, upon his graduation from Mercer, aspires to attend law school.
A ssociate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Dr. Anthony Choi and 23 Mercer students partnered with NASA to launch a high-altitude balloon from Sunset, South Carolina, on Aug. 21 to capture footage from near space of the first total solar eclipse in the U.S. in 38 years.

The video, which was live-streamed on NASA’s website, is the latest in a series of collaborations between Mercer’s School of Engineering and NASA, building toward plans for a Macon campus-based academic center focusing on high-altitude payload delivery.

“We’re trying to develop a very low-cost medium for people to gain access to near space for experimentation and data collection,” said Dr. Choi, who also oversees Mercer’s Machine Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory.

NASA currently offers the opportunity for universities, high schools and nonprofit organizations to design and provide experiments in 10-cubic-centimeter CubeSats for launch into outer space. The process is highly selective and expensive, as it costs around $10,000 per pound to be delivered into earth’s orbit.

NASA set a goal to reduce the cost into the hundreds of dollars per pound over the next 25 years. Dr. Choi’s proposed, first-of-its-kind center could provide access to near space — between 65,000 and 328,000 feet above sea level — well within that goal at around $500 per payload.

NASA began providing grants to Dr. Choi in 2010 with a two-pronged goal of outreach — especially to K-12 students — as well as the capability to conduct research and build systems toward NASA’s goals.

This work originated with a project by Engineering Honors Program students James McNichols and Spencer Penley, who as freshmen began investigating mechanisms for delivering experiments into space. Under the advisement of Dr. Choi and with funding from NASA, these two students carried this project into their senior year and won several awards, including one from the American Society for Engineering Education.

Dr. Choi envisioned taking this student work to “the next level” by developing a Center for High-Altitude Payload Delivery, which attracted the attention of the Georgia Space Grant Consortium. Through contact with the consortium, Mercer was selected to represent the state through NASA’s efforts to promote and document this year’s total solar eclipse.

Dr. Choi, McNichols and Penley traveled to Montana State University last July for a weeklong intensive workshop on high-altitude ballooning. They’ve spent the past year leading nearly two-dozen engineering undergraduates through a similarly intensive program focusing on various components of the balloon launch system.

McNichols and Penley, who graduated in May, have passed on leadership responsibilities to current students such as Kyle Struck, Andrew Robinson, Jacob Sokolove and Timothy Hood.

Dr. Choi and his students have also been involved in other NASA-funded outreach projects, including robotics training for Middle Georgia schools and a partnership with the Putnam County Charter School System to train high school students to become FAA-certified drone pilots.

With information gained from these activities toward the development of a system to support primary and secondary schools and other universities through the planned center, Dr. Choi intends to spend the next academic year on a “finding mission” focused on how exactly the system will work and what additional resources are needed.

“We’re in this to create opportunities for K-12 and other researchers,” he said. “We can become a hub for this type of research activity.”
MUP Offers an Exciting New Season of Books

Publishing 18 titles by new and returning authors for the fall/winter 2017 season, Mercer University Press offers books in a variety of genres including history, memoir, biography, Southern foodways, poetry, fiction, philosophy and religion.

Highlighted books from this season include: The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter by Jimmy Carter, rich with four-color photographs showcasing his favorite hand-crafted furniture made in his Plains, Georgia, workshop; The Best President the Nation Never Had: A Memoir of Working with Sam Nunn by Roland McElroy, a first-hand account of the 1972 Georgia Senate race and life in Washington, D.C.; Play It Again, Sam: The Notable Life of Sam Massell, Atlanta’s First Minority Mayor by Charles McNair, celebrates the life and career of a true Renaissance man; Clarence Jordan: A Radical Pilgrimage in Scorn of the Consequences by Frederick L. Downing, a religious biography of the New Testament Greek scholar and founder of Koinonia Farm; The Strange Journey of the Confederate Constitution: And Other Stories from Georgia’s Historical Past by William Rawlings, includes essays on the intriguing and often convoluted history of the South; and A Journey of Faith and Community: The Story of the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia, by Bruce T. Gourley, a celebration of one of the most important Baptist congregations in Southern history.

Visit www.mupress.org to see a complete listing of titles. Books are available from your favorite independent bookstore and major online retailers. By calling the publisher directly and identifying yourself as a Mercer alum, Mercerians will receive a 40 percent discount on their order. Taxes and shipping charges will apply. Call toll-free (866) 895-1472 or (478) 301-2880.

THE 28TH ANNUAL

Authors Luncheon

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta

Authors speaking/signing include Jimmy Carter, Steve Oney and Anton Piatigorsky. Authors signing include Johnathon Scott Barrett, Christopher Blake, Vincent J. Dooley and Samuel N. Thomas Jr., Deron Hicks, Roland McElroy, William Rawlings, Fred W. Sauceman, Anna Schachner, Christopher Swann, and Virginia Willis. For additional information, email wallace_am@mercer.edu.
Mercer’s Flourishing Arts Scene

“To create, to discover, to inspire” is both the mission and the means propelling the arts at Mercer.

John Rutter’s Requiem begins softly, on a haunting, almost hesitant note. Just a few beats in, however, the music begins to quicken, and the tapping of the lone timpani is joined by the melancholy yaw of the strings. Within the space of a heartbeat, the swell of the singers’ voices ascends on the music, a celestial choir of many imploring the divine for intercession, and seeking the comfort of perpetua luceat — perpetual light.

Rutter’s remarkable work — notable for its rich themes explored through traditional Latin liturgy, English psalms, and selections from the Book of Common Prayer — is one of the composer’s most beloved pieces. Since it was first published in 1985, the ambitiously conceived choral and orchestral mass has been performed countless times by some of the world’s most renowned musicians and singers.

On Feb. 19, 2017, Rutter’s Requiem became part of the Mercer pantheon as well.

Performing on one of the most revered stages in the world, the Mercer Singers and the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Ensemble were joined by Mercer Singers alumni, musicians from the Chancel Choir of the First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon, the Choral Society of Middle Georgia, and the Chancel Choir of Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, director of choral studies and the Arthur Lowndes Rich Professor of Choral Conducting at Mercer, conducted the piece. It was one of three musical components of the gala concert presented by the University and Townsend School of Music.

The musicians and vocalists introduced the gala concert on the Perelman Stage in Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium, the cornerstone venue where Stravinsky played to a U.S. audience for the first time and Maria Callas brought down the house on her farewell performance tour. From Leonard Bernstein to the Beatles to Benny Goodman, Carnegie Hall has played host to the world’s finest musical talent, so even performing in those hallowed halls is no small thing. But
When the Mercer-led musical collective made its debut, they played to a full house, and when the final refrain of Requiem was sung, the performers received a standing ovation. “They were on their feet cheering,” says Dr. David Keith, dean of Mercer’s Townsend School of Music. “Those of us who have spent our careers doing music don’t rely on the cheering of an audience to determine the worth of a program … but that was incredibly gratifying.”

The Magic of Art

Eric O’Dell has a favorite saying he likes to repeat to his students: “Art no easy; art no cheap; art hard work.”

A Mercer alumnus, O’Dell earned his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in 1992. After receiving his Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) from Florida State University, Eric returned to Macon in 1994, and served as an adjunct professor at Mercer before joining the Arts Department faculty in 2013 as an assistant professor.

Passing on “the magic of art” that he first discovered at Mercer as an undergraduate, is
part of Eric’s continuing mission — both as a teacher and a working artist.

The discipline of creative expression in any form requires hard work and a deepening commitment to edification for its own sake, Eric maintains. But at its best, he says, art is a breathtaking, illuminating force of nature capable of uplifting — even transforming — humankind. “Art is a deep and abiding connection to the community. It’s really easy to treat art cheaply if you keep it about the individual.”

Over the years at Mercer, O’Dell has taught classes in drawing, art history, art appreciation, art criticism and 3D design. As a drawing professor, he has led multiple summer sessions in Rome, Florence, Paris and Athens as part of Mercer’s Study Abroad program. In addition, he is also an ongoing instructor for Great Books, an eight-course program that serves as a general education track in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA).

From Descartes to Shakespeare and Goethe, to classic works by authors as diverse as Flannery O’Conner and Karl Marx, Great Books provides students with a grounding foundation in religious thought, philosophical thinking, political debate, and the discoveries of science — all keystones of manifesting the creative spirit and the study of art.

“Remember when God said to Moses, tell them that ‘I Am’ sent you? Art is about that ‘am-ness’ — who and what you are in this world,” O’Dell says.

“Whether it’s music or art, a good color or a good composition can move thousands of people. Art is a distinctly human thing.”

And so uniquely elevating to the “inward places of the soul,” as Plato called it, that a person can spend an entire lifetime attempting to decipher and describe the nearly inexplicable alchemy that occurs through its creative expression.

“Music unlocks the mystery of life for many in a way that words cannot. It has transformative powers that move us from our daily existence — which can be full of detours and potholes — to a sense of hope and well-being,” Dr. Keith says, adding, “Our goal is for our students to grasp essential music skills, and also to instill a desire to use those gifts to make the world better through those gifts.”

Forging New Paths

In April 2015, the Mercer Board of Trustees undertook the usual business of passing an
operating budget for the coming academic year, discussing the important points of holding down tuition where possible, and increasing the resources and infrastructure needed to support the University’s ever-increasing undergraduate enrollment.

In another notable item of business, the board also authorized a new Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree in the College of Liberal Arts to augment the existing B.A. degree. It was an important step in preparing Mercer to invest in what economist and author Dr. Gerald Gordon calls “the currency of the 21st century.” Gordon, who also serves as the president/CEO of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Economic Development Authority, defines that currency as “creativity.”

It’s a sentiment echoed by other modern-day leaders of industry.

“We need people who think with the creative side of their brains — people who have played in a band, who have painted,” said Annette Byrd, an executive for GlaxoSmithKline. “It enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm, learning how to kick-start a new idea, or how to get a job done better, less expensively.”

From a dollars-and-cents perspective, the arts directly generated $166.3 billion in economic activity in the U.S. in 2015. According to figures provided by Americans for the Arts, related nonprofits and arts and culture-based industries generated $63.8 billion in spending, plus an additional $102.5 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. That translated into:

- 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs
- $27.5 billion in federal, state and local government revenue
- $96.1 billion in household income.

Years in the making, the B.F.A. directly positions art students at Mercer to competitively enter the workforce. Developing this enhanced educational track also recognizes the confluence of a rapidly evolving global economy, the impact of emerging technologies and the powerful sway that dynamic design and artful
Caleb Brown is a 2016 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. As an undergraduate, he excelled on many fronts including as a running back on Mercer's first football team since 1941 and as a student in the pre-physical therapy program. However, in the final semester of his senior year, Brown shifted his focus to pursue his lifelong talent — art — on a full-time basis. Inspired by art instructor Eric O’Dell, Brown founded his own business, FiNaO Enterprises LLC, and his artwork has attracted many prominent collectors, including Super Bowl MVPs, platinum-selling recording artists and Grammy Award winners. FiNaO stands for “failure is not an option” — the mantra on which Brown centers his efforts. Using many of the lessons he learned at Mercer, he strives to set an example that inspires others to pursue excellence and work constantly towards a life they love.

Amy Pirkle is a 2002 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. A book artist, printer and instructor at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Pirkle has taught courses in the Honors College, Blount Undergraduate Initiative, Department of Art and Art History, and New College. Her work has been featured in 500 Handmade Books: Inspiring Interpretations of a Timeless Form and 500 Handmade Books: Volume 2, both by Lark Books in New York, as well as in numerous exhibitions and permanent collections. She earned the Raymond F. McLain Book Arts Award and a Wingate Fellowship from the University of Alabama and served a Winter Letterpress Residency at the Penland School of Crafts in 2010 and a creative residency at Hambridge Center for Creative Arts and Science in 2013. She is a member of the Guild of Book Workers and the College Book Art Association and has served as a freelance printer and printing assistant at Pace Editions in New York City. She earned her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Alabama.

Amy Wilson is a 2010 graduate (Master of Music) of the Townsend School of Music. Currently, she is music director of the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, artistic director and founder of the Southeast Stonewall Music Festival and principal guest conductor of the Atlanta Musicians Orchestra. Wilson has been invited to spend a summer in Aspen as a guest of Robert Spano, where she studied with him privately. She also attended the Bakersfield Conducting Workshop and the Seasons Fall Festival, where she conducted the Bakersfield Symphony and Yakima Chamber Orchestra. She also holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of North Texas.
innovation holds over even the most mundane aspects of life — and at diverse touchpoints. The influence of those skillsets can range from how developers render websites for businesses to connect with customers, to how architects direct function and flow in living and work spaces, to the influx of “virtual reality” rapidly populating every conceivable, consumable media platform.

Along with more traditional B.A. degrees in Studio Art, Graphic Design and Art History, the interdisciplinary B.F.A. program offers Mercer students access to new career and life paths with opportunities to develop polished portfolios and seek internships in private and public sectors.

The new B.F.A. offering is also a powerful recruitment tool, says Art Department Chair Gary Blackburn. He adds the intensely focused coursework and thought leadership in and outside the classroom that are part and parcel of the interdisciplinary visual arts program also compels students to explore new creative directions and fine-tune highly competitive proficiencies in drawing, printmaking, photography, digital media, public art installations, performance, videography and ceramics.

Even as the B.F.A. program takes flight, leadership in CLA is already eyeing potential academic expansion. Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson, dean of the College, says they are “exploring the option” of adding an M.F.A. program and weighing the resources and investments that would be required versus the growth and benefits it would bring.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) defines a 21st Century liberal arts education as “an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest.”

Moreover, the AACU contends, “a liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.”

Noting her zeal for “the humanities” and predisposition towards the liberal arts, Dr. Gustafson maintains students who are exposed to the idylls of such an education — particularly in the kind of small-classroom settings for which Mercer is renowned — does indeed offer daily opportunities to learn to think analytically as well as creatively, as well as shape and hone students’ foundational communication skills.

For Mercerians actively pursuing careers in the visual or performing arts — or simply being exposed to both through elective classes and an abundance of opportunities to plug in through CLA — “there’s no limit to what we can do.”

Hitting the Right Note

That same fervor and spirit is alive and well at Townsend School of Music, which continues to rise on the tide of national recognition and gain prestige for its award-winning student body, as well as its artist faculty of 15 adjuncts.
instructors, 15 full-time professors, and 10 Distinguished Artists currently in residence at the McDuffie Center for Strings.

Additionally, the School offers aspiring musicians the allure of not only state-of-the-art performance facilities and studio space, but also a globe-trotting tour of festival performances, concert series and special performances for the School’s three collegiate choirs, the University Wind Ensemble, University Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Percussion Ensemble and Flute Choir.

At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, courses of study at the School range from performance-based to music education, and a unique, ecclesiastical emphasis is available at the graduate level through the Townsend-McAfee Institute’s Church Music program. Degree options for undergraduates include a Bachelor of Music in Performance (B.M.), Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.), or Bachelor of Arts in Music (B.A.). Graduate studies include a Master of Music in Performance, Master of Music in Collaborative Piano (vocal and instrumental), and a Master of Music in Conducting.

To help nurture student musicians pursuing their degrees, Townsend School of Music touts such feathers in the cap as its designation as an All-Steinway School, ensemble rehearsal rooms with recording capability, numerous practice rooms, labs, working classroom space, and the Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building. The 200-seat recital hall features outstanding acoustics, Dr. Keith says, and is equipped with a pipe organ and professional-level audio and recording equipment.

At an even more intensive level, the McDuffie Center for Strings offers conservatory-level master classes, private instruction and coaching sessions. Housed off-campus in a renovated historic structure on College Street, the McDuffie Center operates as a special institute within Townsend School of Music and caps enrollment at 26 students: 12 violinists, six violists, six cellists and two double bassists.

Remaining faithful to artistic pursuits that are “fundamental to our humanity,” mentoring young instrumentalists and vocalists “to achieve at their highest levels,” and positioning students to pursue successful careers in music, is the demand of every instructor and staff member under his leadership, Dr. Keith says. It requires a fine balance between designing a curriculum that offers a core comprehensive study of musical skills and nurturing the development of a “world view” through rigorous educational requirements, he adds.

“We want you to become the best musician you can be, but we also want you to become the best person you can become,” Dr. Keith says.

Setting the Stage

“The play’s the thing, wherein I’ll catch the conscience of the king,” Shakespeare famously wrote in Hamlet, revealing not only the namesake character’s inner dialogue, but also the powerful exchange that can occur between a performer and his or her audience.

It’s the kind of “reciprocal relationship,” that appeals to Mercer Director of Theatre Scot Mann. No stranger to Shakespeare, Mann has been cast in and directed numerous productions written by the bard, appearing in productions mounted by the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New American Theater, New American Shakespeare Theatre, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Like Eric O’Dell, Mann is a Mercer alum who sought a graduate degree elsewhere, then returned to his alma mater to pass on the gifts of mentorship and artistic collaboration that had been shared so generously with him when he came to campus as a student, he says — one of them being a unique specialty in combat choreography.

A certified sword master, in-demand stunt professional, and president of the Society of American Fight Directors, Mann teaches Mercer students the finer points of stage combat and movement, as well as acting, directing and improvisation. Mounting a handful of productions every year — as diverse as James and the Giant Peach, She Kills Monsters and Merchant of Venice — the Mercer Theatre Department offers students the chance to put their behind-the-scenes skills and front-of-house talents to good use.

Every performer, of course, requires a stage, and Mercer has invested in venues that serve not only the needs and interests of students, but also benefit the Middle Georgia community.

The Tattnall Square Center for the Arts, located on the perimeter of campus in the heart of the College Hill Corridor, is housed in the renovated rescue of a century-old church. Opened in 2014, the multi-purpose arts space holds classrooms, studios, and expansive, temperature-controlled storage space for costumes and props used in Theatre Department productions. The painstakingly restored venue also opens its doors to community organizations for lectures, arts events and seminars.

On an even more ambitious scale, the historic Grand Opera House, located in downtown Macon, has been operated by Mercer since 1995. In its original heyday, such greats as Sarah Bernhardt, Pavlova, Will Rogers, Charlie Chaplin and Houdini wowed Macon audiences at The Grand. Today, the venue continues to attract touring Broadway shows, as well as offer Mercer students performance and stagecraft opportunities through the Mercer-staged operas and musical theatre productions. Since 1986, The Grand has served as the home stage for The Nutcracker of Middle Georgia, one of the most well attended and cherished annual arts-related events in the area.
Jonathan Johnson is a 2011 graduate (Bachelor of Music) of the Townsend School of Music. A tenor, Johnson has recently appeared in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's productions of “Les Troyens,” “Lucia di Lammermoor” and “Don Quichotte.” He made his debuts at the San Diego Opera as Fenton in “Falstaff,” the Kansas City Lyric Opera as Frederic in “The Pirates of Penzance” and the Piedmont Opera as Lindoro in “L'Italiana in Algeri.” Currently a member of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, he has appeared in the company’s mainstage productions of “Le nozze di Figaro,” “The Merry Widow,” “Der Rosenkavalier,” “Capriccio,” “The Magic Victrola” and “The Passenger.” He earned a master’s degree and artist diploma from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

Braeden Orr is a 2014 graduate (Bachelor of Arts) of the College of Liberal Arts. Currently signed with East Coast Talent, his most recent work as a film and television actor includes the roles of Deputy Silas Greene in Investigation Discovery’s “Your Worst Nightmare,” Chester Killmore in “The Family That Preys” and Robert in “Prowlers.” His most recent stage work includes portraying Portenjohn in “99 Uses for a Naked Man” and Claudius in “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead.” His most recent production work includes writing and directing the short films “Crypts and Cretins,” “SHOTS” and “Safe Words,” as well as the web series “Dire Straights.” He is currently pursuing his Master of Arts in film and television from Savannah College of Art and Design.
Lasting Connections

Two other large-footprint developments in the works continue to deepen Mercer’s ties to Macon and increase the likelihood that President William D. Underwood will see, in the relatively near future, his personal vision for the downtown area come to fruition.

“What I think downtown needs is to be filled with creative young people with tattoos and nose rings,” the president says.

Mercer is planning a major revitalization of the historic Capricorn Studio, a venture that was co-founded by the late Mercer alum Phil Walden. Walden’s brainchild took off, and the label is credited with the rock-and-roll rise to fame of the Allman Brothers Band, Wet Willie, Elvin Bishop and the Marshall Tucker Band, among others.

The label disbanded more than a decade after it was first launched in 1969, and the crumbling Capricorn building remained vacant. For years, the former epicenter of Southern Rock continued to fall into disrepair until it was rescued by NewTown Macon in 2010. The nonprofit group purchased the building with a grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation and is helping to lead the charge to renovate the historic structure and transform the facility as an anchor for the largest market-rate residential development ever conceived in downtown Macon.

Mercer has committed to raising an additional $2 million to complete the restoration, which will be re-envisioned as Mercer Music at Capricorn, offering music students recording and rehearsal space. It will serve as an incubator for music talent in the community, host offices and meeting spaces for arts organizations, and include a two-story interpretive area that tells the story of Capricorn and Macon’s rich and influential music history.

Just a few blocks away, on Second Street, plans are underway to wholly remodel and re-envision a historic building as a visual arts gallery and multi-functional space that will include working studios for art students. It’s a passion project for O’Dell, who has occupied his own painting studio space just around the corner since 1994. It’s a renaissance he’s hoped for and waited on for more than 20 years.

President Underwood takes a pragmatic view.

It is “enlightened self-interest” for Mercer to invest in the kinds of projects and arts programming that forge lasting connections with the community it calls home. “The better Macon is, the better Mercer is.”

Keitaro Harada is both a 2007 (Bachelor of Music) and 2008 (Master of Music) graduate of the Townsend School of Music. He is currently in his third season as associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops. Recently, Harada made his debut with the West Virginia Symphony, South Bend Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, and assisted at Los Angeles Philharmonic. Overseas, he conducted Bamberg Symphony, Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester, Tokyo Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic, Kanagawa Philharmonic and New Japan Philharmonic. This spring, he was on the staff of the Asia Tour with Cincinnati Symphony and the Pops Orchestra. This summer, he made his debut with the Charlotte Symphony, Music In The Mountains Festival, Cincinnati Opera, and participated in the Europe Tour with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In the fall, he will conduct the Louisiana Philharmonic and make his European opera debut with the Sofia National Opera in Bulgaria.

Patrick Mathis is a 2013 graduate (Bachelor of Science) of the College of Liberal Arts. A freelance lighting, projections and media designer, he has worked in regional theaters from Kentucky to Cape May, New Jersey, and recently accepted a position as a graduate teaching assistant at Utah State University. His most recent works include lighting design for the Utah State Theatre’s production of “Next to Normal,” Shawn Fisher’s latest premiere “Fear Not Beasts of Sand” with the Fusion Theatre Project, as well as projection design for “Dogfight” with the Utah State Theatre Company. He is a standing member of the Society of American Fight Directors, the United States Institute of Theatre Technologies, and Actors Equity.
Planning your trip for Mercer’s Homecoming? Don’t miss the opportunity to get an inside look at the college admissions process.

College Bound:
An Inside Look at Admissions
Friday, Nov. 3, 2017
11:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
Emily Parker Myers Admissions and Welcome Center
Lunch will be provided.

The Admissions staff will provide information on
- Evaluating colleges and universities during your search
- Preparing a competitive application
- Mastering college entrance exams
- Understanding financial aid
- And more

Your family will have the opportunity to
- Meet one-on-one with an admissions counselor
- Ask your pressing questions about college readiness
- Learn more about Mercer’s admissions process
- Take an optional student-led campus tour

Registration is required for this free seminar at homecoming.mercer.edu

Confirmation and details will be sent via email closer to the event date.

For more information contact Chelsea Flieger, CLA ’12, Assistant Director of Admissions and Campus Visitation (478) 301.2076 or flieger_cm@mercer.edu.
Homecoming 2017 is a chance to reconnect with friends and rekindle your fondness for the Mercer you remember.

Homecoming 2017 is Nov. 3-5.

MERCER UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING

To view photos from Homecoming 2016, visit homecoming.mercer.edu.
Homecoming 2017 is a chance to reconnect with friends and rekindle your fondness for the Mercer you remember. Come and explore all of the exciting campus additions and improvements. (If you haven’t been back in years, you will be amazed!) Or reminisce with friends at a tailgate party, and then cheer on the Bears when they face Samford University on the football field.

View schedule and details at homecoming.mercer.edu.

Other featured events for the weekend will include the traditional Half Century Club luncheon, 50th Class Reunion, alumni awards dinner, pep rally, and so much more. Homecoming 2017 is for all Mercerians!

To view photos from Homecoming 2016, visit homecoming.mercer.edu.
Mercer Mourns the Loss of Winningest Coach in University History

FORMER BASEBALL COACH

BARRY MYERS

Barry Myers, head baseball coach at Mercer University from 1978 to 2003, died Aug. 10 at the age of 78.

Myers was the winningest coach in Mercer history with 663 victories during his 26-year career. His teams won three Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) tournaments, and he earned Coach of the Year honors four times — in 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1994.

Myers also coached at Florida State University, Miami-Dade Community College and Jacksonville University.

His success on the field was more than matched by the performance of his players in the classroom. One season, 24 of his 30 student-athletes were named to the conference’s All-Academic team. During his career, more than 95 percent of his players earned their college degrees.

Myers’ accolades at Mercer include three divisional titles, in addition to the three conference championships. At one time, the Bears recorded nine consecutive 30-win seasons under his guidance.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Myers taught physical education courses. In his early years at Mercer, he served as the baseball team’s first assistant, second assistant, trainer and groundskeeper. He was also the University’s soccer coach from 1974 to 1976.

Myers was inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002, and the University’s Barry Myers Endowed Scholarship was created in his honor.

A native West Virginian, Myers attended Marshall University, where he played baseball for the Thundering Herd.

Myers was preceded in death by his mother, Rosalie Myers, and his father, Ingrim Myers.

He is survived by his son, Robb Myers, and brother, Mike Myers, both of Macon.

The family requests that gifts be made in his memory to the Barry Myers Scholarship Fund at Mercer.
Mercer University posted a Southern Conference-leading 113 honorees over the course of the year as the league announced its Spring Academic All-Conference Selections. The total selections for the year by the Bears led the league and was nearly 20 more than any other Southern Conference School.

Mercer was the only school in the league to post over 100 academic all-conference selections. Only ETSU (95) and Samford (91) posted over 90 selections.

The spring academic all-conference team included all sports whose seasons concluded after the start of the year. Mercer posted 61 selections in the spring, second in the league, after posting a conference-leading 52 honorees in the fall.

In addition to leading the league with the overall total number of selections for the academic calendar year, 14 of Mercer’s teams either led or were second in the total number of selections for each respective sport. Baseball (12), football (18), men’s golf (4), men’s lacrosse (12), men’s tennis (4), women’s soccer (13) and volleyball (8) all either led or tied for the league lead in number of selections.

Men’s soccer (6), softball (8), women’s basketball (4), women’s cross country (5), women’s golf (4), women’s outdoor track and field (10) and women’s tennis (4) all were second in the league in number of selections throughout the year.

To be eligible for the academic all-conference team, student-athletes must carry at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average at the conclusion of the spring semester and were required to compete in at least one-half of their teams’ competitions. In addition, the student-athletes must have successfully completed at least three semesters at their institutions, making true freshmen and first-year transfers ineligible for inclusion.

The Spring Academic All-Southern Conference selections came after Mercer claimed the Barrett-Bonner Award for the second consecutive year. The Barrett-Bonner Award is given to the Southern Conference school that places the highest percentage of its student-athletes on the league’s academic honor roll.

As Mercer student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, the Presidential Scholastic Award for the 2017 spring semester was awarded to the men’s golf team. The team’s composite grade-point-average for spring was 3.857.

Mercer Leads SoCon with 314 Honor Roll Selections
Mercer tallied 86 more honor roll selections than the next closest school

Mercer University had a Southern Conference-leading 314 student-athletes named to the league’s 2016-17 academic honor roll, marking yet another academic accomplishment for the school’s 18 intercollegiate athletics programs this past year.

The Bears have led the SoCon in honor roll recipients for three straight years dating back to the 2014-15 academic year. Mercer’s 314 honor roll selections were 86 more than the next closest school, which was Furman (228). Mercer also led the conference with 31 student-athletes who earned 4.0 grade point averages.

The academic honor roll originated in 1988-89, when SoCon athletic directors established the award as a way to recognize the league’s outstanding student-athletes. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports and posted a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher, were eligible the entire academic year and were members of the final squad lists.

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MUSM, Gov. Deal Recognize First Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship Recipients

The University funded the scholarship program with the entirety of a one-time infusion of $35 million from the state of Georgia as a result of a settlement agreement offer from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in February 2016.

“IT is critical that we remain focused on improving access to quality health care in rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia,” said Deal. “When rural hospitals shut their doors, it’s not only bad for healthcare access but also for the local economies. This program is instrumental in prioritizing this access by training and placing graduates in high-demand areas of our state. I am proud of these inaugural scholars and the commitments they are making.”

President William D. Underwood announced that current and future recipients of the scholarship will be called Nathan Deal Scholars in recognition of Georgia’s 82nd governor who is a graduate of both the University’s College of Liberal Arts and School of Law.

“Gov. Deal, who was raised in Sandersville, has been a strong advocate for rural health care in the state,” said President Underwood. “He was instrumental in directing the federal settlement proceeds to programs that enable the preparation of more physicians for rural and other medically underserved areas of our state.”

The Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship Program will accept new applicants each fall among admitted first- through fourth-year students. Second-, third- and fourth-year students who meet the program’s criteria will be eligible to receive funding for each of their previous years of study.

In return, those who accept the scholarship commit to at least four continuous years of full-time medical practice in a medically underserved, rural Georgia county upon the completion of residency. Furthermore, the medical practice must accept Medicaid patients.

“Mercer University School of Medicine, our faculty, staff and students are committed to service in rural Georgia,” said Dr. Jean R. Sumner, MED ‘86, dean of the School. “The Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship Program enables well-prepared students from rural communities, who want to return to their rural community after medical school, to begin practice with essentially no debt. We are grateful for this opportunity and solidly focused on improving access to quality health care in these areas. These Nathan Deal Scholars will help to reestablish a strong foundation that will grow through the years.”

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE on Aug. 18 recognized the first 25 students to receive inaugural Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarships, which cover 85 to 100 percent of tuition for up to four years in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program.

MUSM Dean Dr. Jean Sumner, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, Mercer President William D. Underwood and State Rep. Terry England participated in a luncheon honoring the inaugural recipients of the Physicians for Rural Georgia Scholarship.
College of Nursing Awarded Nearly $2 Million to Improve Workforce Diversity

The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing was recently awarded a nearly $2 million grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities who are underrepresented among registered nurses.

The College of Nursing is one of 29 nursing programs across the country — and one of only two in the state — to receive this grant. A total of $1,992,044 will be awarded to the College over four years.

In concert with the legislative purpose under Title VIII of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, the Dedicated to Diversity: Risk to Resilience (R2R) program is focused on promoting successful transition to the nursing workforce for baccalaureate (BSN) nursing students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds. The project’s goal is to identify and mitigate risk while fostering resilience and ultimately increasing diversity in the nursing workforce and enabling health equity.

The R2R program is built upon a strong foundation of lessons learned through the 2016 Dedicated to Diversity (D2D) program, which focused on the retention of diverse and disadvantaged BSN nursing students through a multilayered program of academic, social, physical and mental health, financial, and professional interventions.

Dr. Lanell M. Bellury, associate professor, will serve as the principal investigator and project director for the grant, which involves collaboration with faculty in Mercer’s College of Health Professions and Tift College of Education, the Center for Nursing Excellence, student affairs and minority affairs offices, as well as the Atlanta Black Nurses Association.

The 2016 D2D program supported 20 qualified undergraduate nursing students who evidenced strong academic potential as well as economic need. The 2017 R2R program will continue support up to 20 qualified progressing senior students and support up to 15 qualified junior nursing students annually.

The project was supported by the HRSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under grant number D19HP30842, Nursing Workforce Diversity Program.

Holcomb Named NSCA Sports Medicine Specialist of the Year

Dr. Bill Holcomb, professor and founding director of the Master of Athletic Training Program in the College of Health Professions, was recently presented the Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Specialist of the Year Award by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

“We would like to recognize Dr. Bill Holcomb for his outstanding accomplishment,” said Michael Massik, executive director of the NSCA. “This award is a small attempt to recognize him for the impact he has made to sports medicine and rehabilitation for athletes.”

Dr. Holcomb was selected for the award by the NSCA’s Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Special Interest Group, which determines the winner based on contributions to the NSCA, their community and the field of sports medicine/rehabilitation for athletes. The award has been presented annually since 2001.

Dr. Holcomb joined the College of Health Professions in May, bringing 24 years of program directorship experience to the faculty. He is a Certified Athletic Trainer and Fellow in the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, as well as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist and Fellow in the National Strength and Conditioning Association. His primary teaching and research expertise is in the area of athletic injury rehabilitation.

“We are so pleased that Dr. Holcomb has joined Mercer University and are proud of his many accomplishments to date,” said Dr. Lisa Lundquist, dean of the College of Health Professions. “He is a leader in the field of athletic training, an accomplished scholar and an experienced program director and teacher. We know that he will continue to advance the education and clinical training of athletic trainers.”

Dr. Holcomb received the award during the 40th Annual NSCA National Conference, which took place July 12-15 in Las Vegas, Nevada.
Achievements

1960s

William T. Abare Jr., EDU ’65, recently retired from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, after 16 years as president and 46 years as an employee with the institution.

Hewitt W. “Ted” Matthews, PHA ’68, received the Bowl of Hygia award from the Georgia Pharmacy Association’s (GPHA) annual convention in June. He was honored for his 44 years of service to Mercer University’s College of Pharmacy and to the profession of pharmacy. Selected annually through a state pharmacy associations, each recipient of the award is recognized for making unique contributions to a strong, healthy community through service and personal leadership.

Edward G. Simmons, CLA ’65, received the 2017 illumination Gold Medal Award for Spirituality (given by the Jenkins Group) for: Talking Back to the Bible: A Historian’s Approach to Bible Study, published in February 2016.

William B. Westbrook, CLA ’67, was recently honored by the Medical Illustration Graduate Program at Augusta University as its Outstanding Alumnus for 2016. The award is presented annually to an alumnus for professional excellence and outstanding support of the program. He was also honored last year by the international Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI) by being selected as the recipient of the Bridel Award for Excellence in Education. This award recognizes and honors a medical illustrator for exceptional educational contributions to the profession of medical illustration.

Linda Ann Fleming White, TIFT ’65, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Chowan University, Murfreesboro, North Carolina, for her service to higher education as a university First Lady for 31 years. Her husband Martin Christopher White, CLA ’65, is president of Chowan University.

1970s

Franklin Abbott, CLA ’73, has released a new album of songs and poems, Don’t Go Back to Sleep. It is available on CD or download from CDBaby, Amazon, iTunes and Spotify. Abbott has been a psychotherapist in private practice in Atlanta for more than 30 years. He edited three anthologies on men and masculinity including Boyhood Growing Up Male (University of Wisconsin Press) and is the author of two books of poetry. His papers have been archived in the Women and Gender collection at Georgia State University. He is the founder, chairman and former CEO of First Performance Corporation, a global payment card technology platform company.

R. Howard Jump, CLA ’76, LAW ’79, served as editor and contributing author for the insurance law section of the 2016 Survey of Law, published annually by the Illinois Association of Defense Counsel Trust. He is a past president of the association and practices in Chicago.

Terry J. Malarkey, CLA ’78, LAW ’79, executive director of development for Nova Southeastern University has been re-certified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), joining more than 5,000 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

The Hon. Carlise Overstreet, LAW ’70, retired as chief judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit on Dec. 31, 2016. A portrait made possible by contributions from members of the Augusta Bar Association and friends of the Judge was unveiled in March.

Capt. Donna Price, JAGC, USN (Retired): CLA ’76, LAW ’79, has relocated her law practice to Charlottesville, Virginia, where she continues to represent individuals in security clearance adjudications and will be building a “family compound.”

The Hon. W. Louis Sands, CLA ’71, LAW ’74, was recognized for Professional Excellence: Lifetime Achievement by the Fulton County Daily Report for his lasting imprint on the legal community of Georgia.

Jeanne Van Tyle, PHA ’76, recently retired from Butler University after teaching there for more than 40 years. Van Tyle specialized in pharmacoeconomics and women’s health. She also published articles in various scholarly journals like Pharmacotherapy and Annals of Surgery. She wrote several book chapters for textbooks in pharmacoeconomics. For the past 20 years, she has served as a volunteer pharmacist for the Gennesaret Free Clinics, which provides health care for the homeless.

1980s

Steven M. Clement, BUS ’82, accepted the position of vice president of business development for Secure Healthcare, a managed behavioral health management company, in March. Clement has more than 26 years of experience in healthcare sales, operations, and leadership. He previously served as president of The Georgia Associations of Health Underwriters and as a board director for a variety of regional/national health underwriter organizations. In addition, he served on former Gov. Roy Barnes’ Executive Task Force that sought to address the needs of the uninsured in Georgia.

The Rev. Carl Grubbs Cook, T’81, was appointed senior pastor of Chamblee First United Methodist Church in June.

The Hon. C. Andrew Fuller, LAW ’80, was reappointed to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by Gov. Nathan Deal. Fuller is the chief judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit Superior Court in Gainesville.

Anton F. Mertens, CLA ’84, LAW ’87, was recognized with the prestigious Officer’s Cross of the Order of Leopold. The Order of Leopold (Leopoldorde, Ordre de Leopold) is one of three current Belgian national honorary orders of knighthood and is awarded by royal decree “for services rendered to the homeland.”

J. William Pierce Jr., LAW ’92, is listed as leading U.S. attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending by the Chambers USA 2017 guide. Pierce’s firm Glankler Brown, PLLC, based in Memphis, Tennessee, is named leading U.S. firm in Real Estate.

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Saylor, LAW ’83, received the Atlanta Bar Association Women in the Profession Section’s 2016 Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for her commitment to excellence in both her professional and personal life, as well as her contributions to empowering women in the legal profession and the Atlanta community. Saylor, a former president of the Atlanta Bar, past chair of the Women in the Profession Committee and one of the Section’s founding members, also was elected the 2016-2017 treasurer of the Atlanta Bar’s Estate Planning & Probate Section. In 2017, she was again chosen as a Georgia Super Lawyer in Estate Planning & Probate; she earlier was a member of the Top 50 Women Super Lawyers.

Ray S. Smith III, LAW ’87, was appointed by Mayor Rusty Paul of the City of Sandy Springs to serve as chairman of the Municipal Court Reform, Judicial Selection & Legal Services.

Andy Kaye Walsh, CLA ’83, is one of the 2017 Each Moment Matters Honorees who makes each moment matter through exemplary community and volunteer service. The honorees were celebrated on Sept. 29 at the 2017 Each Moment Matters Luncheon benefiting the Faith Presbyterian Hospice Caring Fund.

Key to Mercer Schools and Colleges — BUS — Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics; CAS — College of Arts and Sciences; CP — College of Pharmacy; BUS — College of Health Professions; DUV — Ruther School of Theology, EDSU — Tri-Cities College of Education; EGR — School of Engineering; LAW — Walter F. George School of Law; MED — School of Medicine; MUS — Townsend School of Music; NUR — Georgia Baptist College of Nursing; PHA — College of Pharmacy; TCS — Tri-Cities College; Tift — Tift College

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1990s

Dr. Kirk Austin, MED ’92, was recently named the Doctor of the Year at Carl Vinson VA Medical Center. He is the acting chief of the Urgent Care Clinic and Medicine at the Dublin VA. Austin completed his residency at Memorial Medical Center and is board certified in family medicine. A veteran with 32 years of service with combined active duty and reserve service, Austin retired from the Army National Guard as a colonel in the Army Medical Corp in 2014. He has worked at the VA Medical Center since January 2006.

The Hon. David Leon Cannon Jr., LAW ’95, a Blue Ridge Superior Court Judge, served in the Georgia Supreme Court Tuesday, June 20, in place of Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, who recused himself in the appeal of City of Marietta v Summerville regarding condemnation of a man’s property. Judge Cannon is serving his second term in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit since 2012.

Dr. Joseph A. Davis, CLA ’98, was recently named the President of the Year. She is a third-grade teacher at KB. Sutton Elementary School in Forsyth.

The Hon. Jeffery N. Osteen, CLA ’91, LAW ’95, was named one of James Magazine’s 2017 Legislators of the Year. Osteen was elected to the state Senate in 2014 to represent six Macon-area counties.

Vincent C. Lefler, CLA ’91, was recently promoted to national director of Southeast Multi-Family Capital Markets Group for the Nashville Office of Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL). Previously Lefler served as senior vice president, advising institutional and private clients in the sales of apartment building properties across the Southeast. In March, he received his second consecutive NAOP Broker of the Year award at the Nashville chapter of NAOP’s Commercial Real Estate Development Association’s annual awards gala.

LaNaya Kimmichowski, EDU ’98, was named Methodist Children’s Hospital’s Teacher of the Year. She is a third-grade teacher at K.B. Sutton Elementary School in Forsyth.

The Hon. Jeffrey N. Osteen, CLA ’91, LAW ’95, was appointed by Gov. Deal to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of The Hon. Leon M. Braun Jr. Osteen, who is the Liberty County solicitor-general, is an attorney with Jones Osteen & Jones in Hinesville.

J. Angela Price, EGR ’94, was promoted to construction asset department manager for the collection and distribution department at Spartanburg Water where she has been employed since March 2013. In her previous position, she was regulatory programs specialist and utilities asset engineer.

Nancy Ruby, CLA ’90, earned a Master of Arts degree in English from Western Illinois University in August 2016. She also earned a graduate certificate in Multicultural and Transnational Literatures in May from East Carolina University, where she is a third-year doctoral student in Rhetoric, Writing, & Professional Communication.
Jennifer McLean LeMieux, CLA ’94, Named Chief Operating Officer of XMI

In July, Mercer alumna Jennifer McLean LeMieux was named chief operating officer of XMI, a company based in Nashville, Tennessee, that provides business infrastructure platforms. In this role, LeMieux will be responsible for strategic planning and management, and identifying business development and partnership opportunities, and strengthening internal company teams and company culture.

She joins XMI with more than two decades of experience working with companies to improve business operations and processes. Under her leadership in previous roles, LeMieux forged long-term client relationships that produced process management improvements, higher revenue flows, and growth for client companies. She also has significant experience implementing training programs for employees and developing initiatives to reward top performers.

Prior to joining XMI, LeMieux was chief customer/operations officer at Gaffey Healthcare and HealthTechS3. Her career has been focused on partnering with growing businesses and supporting them with business process services and outsourcing needs. LeMieux has bachelor of science degrees in biology and English from Mercer and an executive MBA from Belmont University. She is the co-founder of Elisha’s Chariots of Fire, a community organization for families with special needs children. LeMieux also serves as an officer for both Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society-Tennessee Chapter and the Tennessee chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.
Beth Terry Walford, MED ’02, an accomplished pediatric surgeon at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida, was mentioned favorably in a recently published book, Jupiter, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas French and his wife, Kelley, a Pulitzer finalist. Walford was one of the surgeons who helped save the life of the author’s baby.


2010s
Ashley A. Akins, LAW ’13, has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an attorney in the Atlanta office where she will practice with the School and University Law group.

Natasha S.L. Banks, LAW ’16, joins the labor and employment law firm Fisher Phillips Atlanta office. Banks, who clerked for Fisher Phillips in the summer of 2015, represents clients in all areas including employment discrimination and retaliation claims, wage and hour disputes, and employment policies and procedures. Additionally, Banks is part of the firm’s global immigration practice group.

Candice Branche, LAW ‘10, was named the fourth year. He was also named an associate of the firm’s global immigration practice group.

Emily L. Evett, LAW ’17, was named partner of the firm’s global immigration practice group.

LAW ’11, was named an associate of the firm’s global immigration practice group.

Dustin E. Davies, LAW ’17, was named partner of the firm’s global immigration practice group.

D. Grant Hamrick, PHA ’10, received the Mal T. Anderson Award for Outstanding Region President at the Georgia Pharmacy Association’s annual convention in June. Hamrick served as Region 5 president, serving metro Atlanta.

Erica E. Heck, LAW ’14, is the new director of academic success for the University of Idaho College of Law in Boise, Idaho. Heck was previously an academic success lecturer at Charleston School of Law.

Hannah Crook Hensley, LAW ’16, joined the Piedmont Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office in June. She previously served as judicial clerk in the Toombs Circuit Superior Court.

Jennifer M. Howard, LAW ’14, joined Joseph Law Firm, PC a full-service law firm based in Auburn, Colorado, on March 13.

Norbert Daniel Hummel IV, LAW ’12, was selected in March by the Fulton County Daily Report as one of 30 Attorneys on the Rise. He was also selected as one of the 2017 On The Rise Lawyers under 40 who are making a difference in the community. He joined Lewis Brubis Bisgard & Smith in Atlanta on April 24, where he practices general civil law. Hummel was elected as the next secretary of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division for 2017-18.

Alexandra E. Landis, LAW ’11, started as general counsel at Maryland-based Textron Systems in January.

Bryce Linden, LAW ’16, joined Hartley, Rowe & Fowler, P.C. as an associate attorney and graduated from the Georgia Washington University Law School with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) specializing in Environmental Law.

Lauren Gay Lopez, EDU ’16, was named executive director of assessment and effectiveness at Clark Atlanta University in April.

Tyler D. Mashburn, LAW ’14, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia’s 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

Collier W. McKenzie, LAW ’11, was named partner at Jones Cork & Miller, LLP effective Jan. 1.

John M. McMichael, LAW ’12, joined James Bates Brannan Groover LLP as an associate attorney in the practice of estate and asset protection planning.

Kays B. McQueen, LAW ’10, joined James Bates Brannan Groover LLP as counsel for the firm’s corporate and transactional practice group in April.

Bryan William Miller, LAW ’16, announced the formation of the Miller Institute for Public Policy in January. The Miller Institute is designed to preserve the legacy of former Gov. Zell Miller, promote bipartisan solutions to critical issues facing Georgia, and inspire stakeholders to work together to achieve results. Miller serves as chairman of the board and executive director of The Miller Institute.

Daniel J. O’Connor, LAW ’12, was appointed as associate Municipal Court judge for the City of Vidalia by Mayor Ronnie Dixon effective July 13. O’Connor has been involved in this part-time judge capacity for several years.

O’Connor will continue to practice law with the Law Offices of Bryant & Cook PC in Vidalia.

Elizabeth Pool O’Neal, LAW ’11, was named partner at Smith, Welsh, Webb & White, LLC. O’Neal has been with the firm since she graduated in 2011 and focuses her practice in the areas of family law, adoption, general civil litigation, and juvenile law.

Keith B. Owseny, LAW ’16, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia’s 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

Akhesh B. Patel, LAW ’12, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia’s 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy.

Ashley N. Pruitt, LAW ’12, joined Swift Currie McGhee & Hier in Atlanta as an associate in their general civil litigation section. Pruitt was previously with a national insurance company where she litigated first and third party automobile liability claims.

Rahul Sheth, LAW ’12, joined Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young LLP in Atlanta.

Grant S. Tall, LAW ’17, joined Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin, LLC in March as a member of the workers’ compensation litigation department.

Wesley Thompson, DIV ’14, recently published a book, In Sickness and In Health: A Story of Love, Strength, and Faith, detailing the experience of his wife developing a rare brain disorder caused by their first pregnancy. Thompson is a former admissions representative for the University’s Stone School of Business and Economics on the Atlanta campus. His book is available for purchase on Amazon.

Randi Adams Warren, LAW ’12, graduated from the State Bar of Georgia’s 2017 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy, and was elected to a one-year term on the YLD Representative Council. Warren is an attorney in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice at Taylor English.

Matt Wetherington, LAW ’07, LAW ’10, was named partner for The Wetherington Wetherington Law Firm. He has gained national recognition for his efforts to protect consumers from dangerous products and predatory corporate practices.

Marriages, Births, Anniversaries

1970s
J. Calvin Webb, CLA ’77, and his wife Lynda celebrated 50 years of marriage on March 18. Calvin has served as pastor of First Baptist Church Brookshire (Texas) since 2004. Previously, he served as pastor of White Oak Baptist Church in Luburn (1985-1996) and Aisley Park Baptist Church in Savannah (1998-2008).


1990s
Brett McDaniel, BUS ’94, married Donna Duke McDaniel, BUS ’94, on April 29 at Quail Branch Lodge in Lake Park. Donna is employed by Duke Energy and Brett is employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The couple resides in Valdosta.

The Hon. Kathryn L. Powers, LAW ’09, and her husband Andrew announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Eloise Harrell, on May 24.


The Hon. Kathryn L. Powers, LAW ’09, and her husband Andrew announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Eloise Harrell, on May 24.

Julia Riggs, CLA ’06, married Anthony Chatfield on Feb. 18.

Katherine Miller Tucker, LAW ’08, and her husband Chad announce the birth of their son, Jackson Miller Tucker, on Feb. 22.

Jason M. Wilbanks, CLA ’08, LAW ’11, and Judy J. Wilbanks, BUS ’08, announce the birth of their second son, Isaac Nathaniel, on April 20, 2016.

1980s
Keith announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Meredith Wood Peterson, CLA ’10, MED ’14, and Justin Wayne Peterson, CLA ’10, married Preston Ryan Weaver on June 3 in Atlanta.

Adam Cornell, CLA ’10, and his wife Melissa Coone Cornell, BUS ’09, announce the birth of their second child, Nicholas Allan Cornell, on May 9.

Stephanie Delk, LAW ’08, and his wife Suzanne announce the birth of their daughter, Vivian (“Vivi”) Whitley Delk, on March 15.

Vera Sharon “Shari” Edenfeld, LAW ’03, married William Lindsey on March 18 at the Meldrin Woods Plantation in Brooklet.

Melissa Durand Faulkner, CLA ’05, and her husband announce the birth of their first child, a son, on Nov. 8, 2016. They are expecting their second child to arrive in March 2018.

Lee Ann Foeley, LAW ’09, welcomed her son, Augustus (Gus) Victor, on Jan. 24.

Gould B. Hagler II, CLA ’06, and his wife Ann announce the birth of their son, Gould B. Hagler III, on Feb. 7.

Sandra Watts Harvey, CLA ’03, DIV ’07, and her husband David welcomed their third child, Nathan Dennis Harvey, on Jan. 23.

Kasey Robinson Harrell, CLA ’09, and her husband Andrew announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Eloise Harrell, on May 24.


The Hon. Kathryn L. Powers, LAW ’09, and her husband Andrew announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Eloise Harrell, on May 24.

Julia Riggs, CLA ’06, married Anthony Chatfield on Feb. 18.

Katherine Miller Tucker, LAW ’08, and her husband Chad announce the birth of their son, Jackson Miller Tucker, on Feb. 22.

Jason M. Wilbanks, CLA ’08, LAW ’11, and Judy J. Wilbanks, BUS ’08, announce the birth of their second son, Isaac Nathaniel, on April 20, 2016.

2010s
Roshanma McNeely Beard, EDU ’11, and Jason Beard, CLA ’11, announce the birth of their daughter, Raquelle Naomi-Gail Beard, on March 25.

Ellen Begley, CLA ’13, LAW ’16, married Preston Ryan Weaver on June 3 in Atlanta.

Adam Cornell, CLA ’10, and his wife Melissa Coone Cornell, BUS ’09, announce the birth of their second child, Nicholas Allan Cornell, on May 9.

Tiffany Garrett Gardner, LAW ’10, and her husband Ross announce the birth of their third child, Ewan Kenneth Gardner, born on March 18 in Atlanta.

Norbert Daniel Hummel IV, LAW ’12, married Christina Hoover on May 20 in Atlanta.

Kayla Godelin O’Neal, CLA ’13, CHP ’16, married Daniel Joseph O’Neal on June 3 at the First Baptist Church in Bainbridge.

Justin Wayne Peterson, CLA ’10, MED ’14, and Meredith Wood Peterson, CLA ’10, announce the birth of their son, Hiram Graham Peterson, born on Jan. 17.

Jessica Garcia Stevens, EDU ’14, and her husband Keith announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Marin Stevens, born on June 3.

Ally Zaidi, LAW ’12, and husband Hasan announce the birth of their son, Zameer, on Jan. 5.
In Memory

1930s
Grace Bryan Holmes, TIFT ’39, of Decatur, April 21.
Martha Connally Caldwell Power, TIFT ’38, of Greenville, South Carolina, April 13.

1940s
Gloria Woods Barker, TIFT ’49, of Bradenton, Florida, April 2.
Ben Tallferro Bowdre Jr., CLA ’43, of Macon, June 15, 2016.
Vera Leoma Campbell-Gallatt, TIFT ’42, of Fairburn, March 15, 2016.
Elsie Hutchings Chaffin, TIFT ’45, of Macon, May 27.
Charles Barton Clark, CLA ’44, of Houston, Texas, June 22.

Former Faculty Member
Waldo Emerson Floyd Jr., M.D.

Waldo Emerson Floyd Jr., M.D., former professor in the School of Medicine, died on April 20. Born in Statesboro on Oct. 29, 1929, Floyd graduated with honors from Statesboro High School at age 16. He attended Virginia Military Institute and graduated from Emory University in 1950, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. After graduating from Emory, he married Helen Joann Peterson in Ailey. They attended Johns Hopkins, where he received his M.D. in 1954, and she a master’s degree in education. He was appointed Johns Hopkins Exchange Surgery student at Harvard Medical School in 1953. At his 50th reunion at Johns Hopkins Medical School, he was honored as lifetime president of his graduating class.

Floyd was the first orthopaedic surgery resident in Georgia, training at Georgia Baptist Hospital and at the Medical College of Georgia. Subsequently, he served as Lt. Cmdr. in the U.S. Navy at Charleston Naval Hospital. He taught at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He moved to Macon in 1961, establishing his practice of orthopaedic and hand surgery which is now known as OrthoGeorgia. Floyd pioneered reconstructive hip and hand surgery in Georgia. His two sons are orthopaedic surgeons.

Floyd was a diplomat of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the American Association of Hand Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons, also the Society of Colonial Wars, the St. Andrews Society of Savannah, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Macon Rotary Club, the Idle Hour Country Club, the Highlands Country Club, the Gideon Society, the Ailey Methodist Church, and the First Presbyterian Church of Macon. He was a Freemason.

Floyd was president of the Georgia Orthopaedic Society, and he was president and a founding member of the Georgia Society for Surgery of the Hand. He served on the Board of Counselors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons for six years. He was honored by the Bibb County Medical Society as Doctor of the Year in 2008. Instrumental in the school’s founding, Floyd was a Professor of Surgery at Mercer School of Medicine and served on the admissions committee. His son, John Floyd, M.D., graduated from the School of Medicine in 1999.

MERC Senior Advisor and School of Engineering Pioneer
Maj. Gen. Cornelius “Newt” Nugteren, USAF (Ret.)

Major General Cornelius “Newt” Nugteren, pioneer and forebearer for the School of Engineering, passed away on Aug. 24. Gen. Nugteren was born on Feb. 7, 1928, in Colton, South Dakota. After graduation from high school in Marion, South Dakota, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 1951.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force in January 1952 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in March 1953, through the aviation cadet program. In 1956, Gen. Nugteren married the love of his live, Liane Albrecht.

Among the highlights of his distinguished military career, Gen. Nugteren served as the commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center from 1982 to 1988. During this time, he was also instrumental in building a Museum of Aviation. Additionally, Gen. Nugteren helped to establish the Mercer School of Engineering. His idea of creating a university engineering program in central Georgia to provide talent to Robins Air Force Base and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center was the seed that Dr. Kirby Godsey and the late Dr. C.B. Gambrell grew into the Mercer School of Engineering.

He served on Mercer’s National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB) and was named a NEAB Fellow in 2001. In 2004, Gen. Nugteren was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, and later most proudly received the Order of the Sword, bestowed on him by the men and women of the enlisted corps. He retired from service in 1988 and later became the senior advisor to the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) from 1996 until 2015. He was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Warner Robins.
William Levy McMurray Jr., LAW ’50, of Atlanta, April 13.
Seab H. Miller, CLA ’52, of Hahira, March 23.
Sybil Stevens Miller, CLA ’53, of Richmond, Kentucky, May 13.
Patsy Ann Nutt, CLA ’58, of Albany, July 27.
Dorothy Claudia Wiley Parker, TIFT ’52, of Covington, March 8.
Margaret Holland Peak, EDU ’56, of Starkville, Florida, June 12.
Faye Williams Powers, CLA ’56, of Cumming, May 27.
Harold R. Pullen, CLA ’54, of Pavo, April 29.
William E. Rayburn, EDU ’53, of Brunswick, June 5.
James Glenn Spivey, CLA ’59, of Columbus, May 6.

Ann Johnson Stultz, NUR ’52, of Rock Spring, June 20.
Ronald G. Warnock, CLA ’58, of Mineral Bluff, July 27.
James Cullen Williams, CLA ’57, of Lake Wales, Florida, Dec. 19, 2016.

1960s
Raye Lynn Chesterham Allen, TIFT ’60, of Winter Haven, Florida, March 19.
Julia A. Archer, CLA ’61, of Arbooke, Virginia, April 8.
Gaston Elton Barton, EDU ’60, of Tifton, May 24.
Reginald Foster Braddock III, CLA ’67, of Atlanta, Kentucky, March 23.

Grady A. Chance Jr., CLA ’67, of New Orleans, Louisiana, April 5.
Johnny M. Curry, CLA ’61, of Cookeville, Tennessee, March 21.
Hugo M. Davis Jr., CLA ’62, of Covington, July 4.
Joyce Ivey Dennard, TIFT ’64, of Opelousas, Louisiana, July 26.
Nora Bishop Dent, CLA ’60, of Cartersville, Feb. 24.
Jack L. Fowler, CLA ’65, of Atlanta, July 25.
Sherry Glenn, NUR ’61, of Tifton, Feb. 23.
Richard Kittrell Gully, CLA ’69, of Woodstock, June 27.
Margaret Virginia Ivey, NUR ’63, of Deepstep, June 21.
George A. Kelly Jr., CLA ’63, of McDonough, May 19.
Pam Elia Koob, NUR ’67, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, April 8.

Martha Hackney Livengood, CLA ’60, of Nashville, Tennessee, March 25.
Luther R. Mills, CLA ’60, of Asheville, North Carolina, May 1.
Joe Grady Musick, PHA ’62, of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, June 14.
Sue Buck Paddgett, TIFT ’63, of Martinez, April 22.
Marsha Rottgering Stone, CLA ’69, of Peachtree Cornes, Feb. 23.
Jeanie Gaskill Sutton, TIFT ’65, of Fernandina Beach, Florida, Jan. 18, 2016.
Patricia P. Walshe, CLA ’63, of Tucker, March 20.
Nathan Lynn Yokum, PHA ’60, of Melbourne, Florida, April 4, 2012.

Alumnus and Generous Supporter
Cecil Burke Day Jr., CAS ’76

Cecil Burke Day Jr., alumnus and generous University supporter, died on March 5. Born April 12, 1954, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, to Cecil Burke Day Sr., CLA ’56, and Marian Uldine (Deen) Smith, CLA ’55, HON ’80, he was the eldest of five children.

His father, Cecil B. Day Sr., founder of Days Inn, brought him into the family business after high school, helping to dig the foundation of the first Days Inn on Tybee Island. Day would later go on to author the book, Day by Day, telling the story of his late father’s success in the hospitality industry. Day met his high school sweetheart Sally at Peachtree High in Dunwoody and married her at Dunwoody Baptist Church where he grew up. Day and his wife had three sons.

He studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC and Mercer University in Atlanta. He began building homes in Atlanta and then Tybee Island, where the family would move in 1991. Day and his wife joined Chapel by the Sea Baptist Church. He ran for the city council on Tybee and served two terms. In 1994 he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives and served for 16 years. During his tenure, Day served on the Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Veterans Affairs committees, as well as 16 years on the Public Safety & Homeland Security committee where he served as chairman the last five years. In 2007, he participated in The International Conference on Counter-terrorism in Israel. The Stephens-Day Homestead exemption was one of many pieces of legislation authored by Day. He retired from public office in 2010, but became POST certified serving the State of Georgia as a chaplain for law enforcement officers and their families. The City of Tybee Island honored Day with the dedication of the Burke Day Public Safety Building in 2015.

In recognition of Day’s generous support for the University, the College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta was named the Cecil B. Day College of Arts and Sciences in 1984. In 1991, the University’s Atlanta campus was re-designated as the Cecil B. Day Campus in honor of Day’s father. His son, Daniel Day, graduated from the College of Liberal Arts in 2009.

Emeritus Professor
Bruce J. Innes, M.D.

Bruce Jeremy Maitland Innes, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the School of Medicine, died on July 6. Innes was born in Hartford, Virginia, on May 1, 1934. He received his medical degree from McGill University, and completed his surgical residency at Montreal General Hospital. He received further training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Bellevue Hospital and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

Innes moved to Norfolk, Virginia, in 1969 where he began his career as a pioneer in adult and pediatric cardiovascular surgery.

During his career, he held professional and academic appointments at the University of Virginia, Old Dominion University, Eastern Virginia Medical School, University of Florida, Mercer School of Medicine and Trinity School of Medicine. He was a founding faculty member of Eastern Virginia Medical School where he was named Chief of Surgery. He joined the faculty at Mercer School of Medicine as clinical professor of surgery in 1981, and in 1994 was appointed director of undergraduate surgical education where he was the clerkship director for 20 years. He was the assistant dean of clinical affairs at Trinity School of Medicine at the time of his death.

Innes was a dedicated surgeon, professor, historian, philosopher, father and grandfather, who never passed up an opportunity to teach those with a strong sense of curiosity. Memorials may be designated to the Bruce Innes Memorial Fund at the Mercer School of Medicine.
Mamie Mae Mercer Krewer, NUR ’44

Mamie Mae Mercer Krewer, distinguished alumna, died on May 3 on St. Simons Island. Krewer was born in Omega, where she grew up with her parents and seven brothers and sisters. She graduated from Norman Park High School and went on to attend Georgia Baptist School of Nursing in Atlanta. While in nursing school, she graduated number one in the class of 1944 and received the Loving Cup Award. She served her country as a registered nurse in the United States Navy where she met her husband of 57 years, Joseph William Krewer. Working as a nurse throughout her life, Krewer and her husband and four children settled on Jekyll Island in 1968. She was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Brunswick and volunteered at St. Vincent DePaul Society Thrift Store. Consistent with her life of generous giving, she donated her body to science at the Medical College of Georgia. Krewer was the last living member of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Class of 1944.

Alumnus and Generous Supporter
Billy Lee Thomas, CLA ’51

Billy Lee Thomas, an alumnus and generous University supporter, died on May 21. Thomas graduated from Boys High in Macon in 1944. He proudly served in the military during World War II, with a tour in the Philippines. Upon returning, he attended and received a degree in business administration from Mercer.

In 1948, Thomas and his brothers formed Thomas Packing Company in Griffin, a meat processing plant that, among many items, provided shelf-cured hams to families for generations. They also provided hot dogs for the Kiwanis Club’s infamous ‘fair korn dogs.’ Thomas remained active in the business until it was sold in 2004, having served the area for more than 50 years. Thomas was a member of the Griffin Historical Society, Capital City Club, Coffee Club, the Kappa Alpha Order and Rotary Club, where he was both a Paul Harris and Will Watt Fellow. He was a member and past president of the Southeastern Meat Packers Association and served on the board of the Rotary Club, where he was both a Paul Harris and Will Watt Fellow. He was a member and provided hot dogs for the Kiwanis Club’s infamous ‘fair korn dogs.’

A generous supporter of the University, Thomas was a Lifetime Member of The President’s Club, the Jesse Mercer Heritage Club, and the Executive Forum in Atlanta. A scholarship in the McAfee School of Theology was established in his honor.

Alumna and Generous Supporter
Elizabeth Merritt Peavy Murdock, CLA ’54

Elizabeth “Betsy” Merritt Peavy Murdock, an alumna and generous University supporter, died on June 4. Murdock was born on July 27, 1933. After graduating from high school, she attended LaGrange College, Mercer and Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina, where she graduated magna cum laude. Murdock married her husband Bob in 1953, and they had two daughters. They settled in Stone Mountain in 1965. She was founding president of the DeKalb College Women’s Club at DeKalb Junior College where her husband taught physical education and coached athletics. An accomplished pianist, Murdock taught piano lessons for many years and later worked as a reading tutor in the public schools. The couple returned to Byron by 1982. Murdock served as the founding president of the Byron Area Historical Society and sang in the choir at Byron United Methodist Church. She was a generous supporter of various educational institutions, medical research and charitable organizations.

Distinguished Alumna
Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer

Krewer
The 1917-18 Orchestra Club of Tift College included students who played the violin, piccolo, kettle drum, bass drum, mandolin, ukulele and guitar. They were directed by Gustave E. Von Hofe of Tift’s School of Music, Art, and Expression, who accompanied them on the cello.

Wartime rationing affected student organizations on campus. In the fall of 1942, the Glee Club announced that “there will be no trips, due to the gas and tire shortage,” but they planned to feature weekly radio broadcasts instead. Among the singers was freshman Olive Ann Burns, who later became famous for her novel, Cold Sassy Tree. Pictured here from the 1943 Cauldron is a subset of the Glee Club making up the Chapel Choir.

The annual Campus Sing competition was held in the chapel on Feb. 21, 1968. Alpha Gamma Delta [A] took first place overall under the leadership of Pam Warwick, Alpha Delta Pi [B] and Kappa Sigma [C] won for the sorority and fraternity divisions, respectively. The Alpha Gams were invited to reprise their winning performance for the Mercer Alumni Association later in the year.
Aspire More than Halfway to $400 Million Goal

IN NOVEMBER 2014, THE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED ASPIRE, THE CAMPAIGN FOR MERCER UNIVERSITY, a $400 million capital campaign to secure financial resources that will empower Mercer, already emerging among the Southeast’s elite private research universities, to become an international leader in deploying its intellectual capital to better serve the needs of humankind.

Mercer experienced tremendous success in fundraising during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, receiving nearly $31.5 million in private gifts. In the last seven years, the number of alumni donors has increased more than 35 percent and the number of total donors has increased more than 28 percent. As of June 30, $209 million has been received and pledged towards the $400 million campaign goal. Major gifts received in the most recently-completed academic/fiscal year include:

- $10 million capital gift from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation for the Spearman C. Godsey Science Center
- $2 million scholarship endowment from the estate of James D. Orr
- $1.25 million capital gift from the Peyton Anderson Foundation for the Godsey Science Center towards its $3 million pledge
- $1 million endowment gift from the Jennings Family Foundation for the McDuffie Center for Strings
- Over $900,000 in endowment gifts from M. Anthony and Joy Greene for the G. Van and Minta J. Greene Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy
- Over $550,000 from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation for the Stamps Scholarship Program
- $500,000 in endowment gifts from the James T. and Carolyn T. McAfee Foundation for the McAfee School of Theology and the Townsend School of Music
- $500,000 from the Baugh Family Foundation for the Stamps Scholarship Program
- $500,000 in endowment gifts from the James T. and Carolyn T. McAfee Foundation for the McAfee School of Theology and the Townsend School of Music
- $500,000 from the Griffith Family Foundation for the renovation of a new Fine Arts building in downtown Macon

Other five- and six-figure gifts were received to support various campaign priorities including OrthoGeorgia Park, the Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies, Mercer Music at Capricorn, the Medical School Scholarship Endowment, the new College of Pharmacy Building in Atlanta, the Mercer Innovation Center, support for the creation of a new endowment in Christian Ethics in memory of Dr. Glen Stassen, the Savannah Education and Research Building and Tarver Library renovations.

All gifts received during the campaign timeframe are used to calculate the totals. All unrestricted gifts (Mercer Athletic Foundation, school/college annual funds), restricted gifts (endowed funds, scholarships, etc.) and in-kind contributions are counted in a comprehensive campaign. In addition, certain planned gifts/pledges such as charitable trusts/annuities/life estates/wills are counted using formulas based upon a donor’s age. These and other campaign guidelines are consistent with best practice policies employed at member institutions of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

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

University Honors New President’s Club Life Members

NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB WERE recognized on April 21, during the University’s 52nd annual celebration of its most generous supporters. Members of The President’s Club gathered for dinner followed by a dessert reception at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta.

The University’s highest level of leadership giving, President’s Club Life Member, is conferred on individuals and churches who have contributed at least $100,000 to Mercer. At this year’s event, the following were recognized for achieving Life Member status: William T. Barnett; Peter Rhea and Ellen Jones; Winona Saturday Junkin, Tift ’54; Homer, CLA ’55, and Kay Nelson; Northside Drive Baptist Church; Bill, CLA ’78, and Kathy Pou; Bill and Lesli Underwood; and Lin Wood, CLA ’74.

The President’s Club was established in 1964 to recognize alumni and friends who provide a nucleus of support for the University. Friends and alumni of Mercer who contribute $1,000 or more during the calendar year are eligible for membership in The President’s Club.
On May 3 and 4, the University held its inaugural “Day of Giving, Orange & Black Give Back.”

Thanks to generous supporters, the event raised more than $87,000 from more than 700 donors, surpassing the goal of 500 donors. For 24 hours, students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends came together to make a difference for Mercer by contributing to student scholarships, strengthening academic programs, funding transformational research, and much more.

The University will hold its second annual Day of Giving on Wednesday and Thursday, April 4-5, 2018. If you would like to serve as a Day of Giving Ambassador, contact Andy Carter at carter_aw@mercer.edu or (478) 301-2924. Visit mugiveback.com to learn more about the Day of Giving.

McAfee Honored for Support of Music at Mercer

THE UNIVERSITY’S TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC unveiled a portrait of Carolyn Townsend McAfee during a ceremony on Sept. 5 to honor her generous support and service. Mrs. McAfee has served the University with distinction through multiple terms as a member of the Board of Trustees. She and her late husband, James, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees, provided the founding endowment for Mercer’s McAfee School of Theology, which was named in their honor. Mrs. McAfee and her son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Julie, later provided the endowment for the University’s School of Music, which was named in memory of Mrs. McAfee’s parents, Raymond and Sophia Townsend.

Carolyn McAfee at the portrait unveiling with her granddaughters Zoe (right) and Malin (left) and her son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Julie.
When Huyen Nguyen applied to Mercer, she dreamed of participating with Mercer On Mission in Vietnam where she would have the opportunity to assist with fitting prosthetic legs for amputees and provide orthopedic care. She was chosen to participate in the program in December 2016 and this past June. Mercer On Mission was a life-changing experience for Huyen that intensified her desire to pursue a profession in the medical field.

From Forest Park, Huyen is a junior pre-med student majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. She is starting her third year as a student worker for the Mercer phonathon. Through phonathon, she has the opportunity to talk with many of the alumni and friends who support the University and make it possible for students like her to receive scholarships and participate in Mercer On Mission.

Mercer students are changing the world, and by simply answering the phone, you can help them.

This fall through early spring 2018, Mercer phonathon students are making calls to more than 77,500 alumni and parents to update contact information and seek support for The Mercer Fund — the foundation of all charitable giving to the University.

Gifts to The Mercer Fund help provide computers, journal subscriptions and lab equipment for our more than 8,700 students, and every gift, regardless of amount, makes a difference. Through mailing and calling efforts, phonathon is responsible for 50 percent of the University’s alumni donor count.

So, when you get the call, please help our students change the world by making a gift to The Mercer Fund. Or go online now and make your gift through our secure site at www.mercer.edu/givenow.

Gifts to The Mercer Fund have the power to change students’ lives. For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement at (800) 837-2911 or www.mercer.edu/givenow.

“Because of gifts from alumni and friends, I was able to fulfill one of my dreams and help provide a second chance for someone else in need.”

—Huyen Nguyen
MERCER BASKETBALL
2017-18 SCHEDULES

MEN’S

NOV. 10  CENTRAL FLORIDA
NOV. 12  TOCCOA FALLS
NOV. 14  JACKSON STATE
PARADISE ISAM
  * NOV. 17  LIBERTY
  * NOV. 18-20  TBD
NOV. 26  HINASSIE COLLEGE
DEC. 2  TENNESSEE
DEC. 5  FLORIDA A&M
DEC. 9  LA SALLE
DEC. 19  ALABAMA
  (AT HUNTSVILLE)
DEC. 28  KENNEDY STATE
DEC. 31  ETSU*
JAN. 6  FURMAN*
JAN. 10  WESTERN CAROLINA*
JAN. 12  SAMFORD*
JAN. 15  CHATTANOOGA*
JAN. 16  VMI*
JAN. 20  UNCG*
JAN. 24  ETSU*
JAN. 27  THE CITADEL*
FEB. 1  FURMAN*
FEB. 3  WOFFORD*
FEB. 10  CHATTANOOGA*
FEB. 12  SAMFORD*
FEB. 15  VMI*
FEB. 17  UNCG*
FEB. 20  WESTERN CAROLINA*
FEB. 22  THE CITADEL
FEB. 23  WOFFORD
FEB. 25  SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
MAR. 25  * SOCON TOURNAMENT

WOMEN’S

NOV. 10  CENTRAL FLORIDA
NOV. 12  FLORIDA ATLANTIC
NOV. 14  GEORGIA SOUTHERN
NOV. 16  GEORGIA
NOV. 19  GEORGIA
NOV. 24  WESTERN KENTUCKY
(NO SEASON)
NOV. 26  VCU (GSU CLASSIC)
DEC. 3  CAMPBELL
DEC. 6  DAVIDSON
DEC. 10  GEORGE WASHINGTON
DEC. 17  UNC ASHEVILLE
DEC. 19  WINthrop
DEC. 21  SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
DEC. 28  HOWARD
DEC. 30  NORTH CAROLINA
JAN. 4  WOFFORD*
JAN. 6  FURMAN*
JAN. 13  SAMFORD*
JAN. 18  UNCG*
JAN. 20  WESTERN CAROLINA*
JAN. 25  ETSU*
JAN. 27  CHATTANOOGA*
FEB. 1  FURMAN*
FEB. 3  WOFFORD*
FEB. 10  SAMFORD*
FEB. 15  WINTHROP
FEB. 17  UNCG*
FEB. 19  SAMFORD*
FEB. 22  WESTERN CAROLINA*
FEB. 24  THE CITADEL
FEB. 25  ETSU*
MAR. 1  * SOCON TOURNAMENT

* SOCON GAME
BOLD FACE = HOME GAME

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