The Board of Trustees of Mercer University unanimously elected law scholar William D. Underwood as the University’s 18th president at their semi-annual meeting in December.

Underwood, who served as interim president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, until Jan. 2, will take office on July 1, upon the retirement of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey, who has been the University’s chief executive officer for an unprecedented 27 years.

At the press conference held following the Trustees’ vote, David Hudson, presidential search committee chairman and newly-elected chairman of the Board, recalled the group’s first meeting with Underwood.

“One member said, ‘Call in the dogs, put the water on, the hunt is over,’” recalled Hudson. In an interview with the Waco Tribune-Herald, Hudson said Underwood stood out as a candidate because of his background teaching in the Baylor Law School since 1990 and his experience as interim president the past six months.

Underwood said he plans on “picking up where Kirby left off” and continuing many of Godsey’s initiatives, including continuing to upgrade the quality of the faculty and the student body, with an eye on making Mercer “a premier, nationally recognized university.”

Underwood will follow in the academic tradition of Mercer’s 16th president, Dr. Rufus C. Harris, who also was a nationally noted law scholar and who had served in a law school dean before beginning his 19-year presidentialcy at the University. During his term at the helm of Baylor, Underwood was credited for bringing unity back among the faculty, staff, students and alumni, which had become fractured during the previous administration over the future direction of the University. During his six-month presidency, he received the vote of affirmation as well as a standing ovation from the faculty senate and strong support from the alumni association. Prior to his appointment to interim president, Underwood had been a member of the faculty of the Baylor Law School since 1990. He held the Leon Jaworski Chair in Practice and Procedure and directed the rigorous Practice Court program, which has received high marks from the Princeton Review and Litigation News. In 2004, Baylor awarded Underwood the prestigious designation of Master Teacher for his commitment to teaching and scholarly research. Only nine of Baylor’s current 800 faculty members have received the Master Teacher designation.

Underwood, the son of a Baptist preacher, earned his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma Baptist University. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, he was a member of the Board of Editors of the University of Illinois Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. After law school, he completed a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable Sam D. Johnson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

He became a high-profile attorney practicing civil trial law with Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, a prominent litigation firm based in Dallas. Underwood has published extensively in the field of civil practice and procedure, including articles that have led to significant changes in federal and state procedure.

After joining the faculty of Baylor’s College of Law, he continued to successfully represent clients in a variety of civil and criminal cases.

An elected member of the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation, and the Texas Bar Foundation, Underwood has served as Reporter to the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas.

The new Science and Engineering Building

The new Science and Engineering Building began on Oct. 21. Helping in the groundbreaking were: (left to right) Michael Kehoe, director of engineering at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center; Richard C. Fallis, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; United States Rep. Jim Marshall, R-Georgia; M. Dayne Aldridge, dean of the School of Engineering; Elizabeth Embury, president of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society; Donald LaRue, chair of the National Engineering Advisory Board; and Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey.

Construction on the new Science and Engineering Building began on Oct. 21. Helping in the groundbreaking were: (left to right) Michael Kehoe, director of engineering at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center; Richard C. Fallis, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; United States Rep. Jim Marshall, R-Georgia; M. Dayne Aldridge, dean of the School of Engineering; Elizabeth Embury, president of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society; Donald LaRue, chair of the National Engineering Advisory Board; and Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey.
I t is January, Mercer University called together some 200 church and lay leaders to begin a dia-
logue concerning the sustainment of the University’s Baptist identity.

The two-day “Baptist Summit,” held on the Macon campus, resulted from the November vote by the Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) to end its 172-year relationship with the University. In December, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Mercer came to an agreement with the Executive Committee of the GBC on how to sever the affiliation in an orderly man-
er over the next two years.

President R. Kirby Godsey, in his opening remarks, reaffirmed that Mercer is committed to being a Baptist university.

“Mercer is about the convergence of one person, and the Baptist Idea [as] the union of the power of the mind and the power of grace,” he said. “Mercer is about the convergence of the power of thought and the power of one person, and the Baptist Idea that is what sets Mercer apart from other institutions.

Godsey explained that what makes the Mercer Experience unique is the fact it is a union of the Mercer Idea and the Baptist Idea. “The Mercer Idea is the power of the mind and the power of grace,” he said. “Freedom and the gift of grace,” he said.

However, he warned the group that “to preserve this great heritage of Baptist principles and to realize the university’s full potential, Mercer must resist the threat of secularization and be intentional in its efforts to stay true to its Baptist roots.

“Mercer can be the single greatest resource in Baptist life, if Baptists will embrace us,” said Underwood. “Mercer may be the best hope for preserving the principles that have defined Baptists. Today, there remain relatively few Baptist universities that have not been lost to either the threat of funda-
mentalist or the threat of seculariza-
This research on the New Science and Engineering Building will allow students and faculty to develop curriculum designed to work with instruction software modules for students, a project partly funded by a recent Keck Foundation award.

The state of Georgia now is the state in the north with more than 22,000 employees and military personnel, and 40 million dollars for the new facility. The construction of the new laboratory is expected to cost $14 million.

Other labs in the facility will include equipment and devices for students to study basic mechanical, electrical, electromag-
netic; solid-state, optical, and nonlinear phenomena; digital and anal-
log solid-state devices; the design and fabrication of devices with embedded microprocessors; digital signal processing, and composite materials.

The construction of the new building comes on the heels of the new $40 million University Center building that was completed in 2004. Both buildings are part of the University’s plan for major capital improvements to its Macon campus. During the most recently completed fiscal year, about 40 percent of the new engineers hired by Robins AFB came from Mercer School of Engineering, making it the number one provider of engineers to the base. Understanding the value that Mercer provides to the base, President R. Kirby Godsey and Maj. Gen. Michael A. Collins, Commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, in June 2004 expanded their joint venture, called the Education Partnership Agreement. The agreement provides for the Air Logistics Center with extra assistance and a new perspective in research and development areas of interest to its work. It also provides Mercer students, faculty and staff with access to resources, such as unique, state-of-the-art equipment and expert knowledge, along with the opportunity to work on practical prob-

aids... the kind of national Baptist University that is needed,” he explained.

William D. Underwood, who will become Mercer’s 18th president upon the retirement of President Godsey on July 1, 2006, closed the forum on an exciting, but cautionary note. He told those in attendance that a Baptist un-
iveristy has a distinct advantage over not only state-sponsored schools, which mandate that discussions of religion and theology be from a neutral, secular perspective, but also other faith-based institutions.

“What Baptist universities have is... the historical and theological commen-
tial of Baptists to individual free-
dom of thought and expression,” he explained. “Because of our Baptist commitment to freedom, we, among all universities, faith-based or secular, should have the most open and robust exchange of ideas — the fullest and most rewarding pursuit of truth. This can be the exciting future of Baptist higher education at Mercer.”

However, Mercer can be the single greatest resource in Baptist life, is proud of its legacy as the institution’s “Baptistness” beyond its previous connection with the GBC. “Continuing the University’s Baptist identity, Godsey said, is critical since that is what sets Mercer apart from other institutions.

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The School of Engineering celebrated its 20th anniversary on Oct. 21, 2005, bringing together many of the people who had a hand in its beginnings, including the first dean, many of the first students and even the Air Force general who helped to bring the school about.

As part of the celebration, the School held a special retrospective meeting of its National Engineering Advisory Board, as well as a ground-breaking on Mercer's new Science and Engineering Building and wound the day with a dinner honoring the founders of the school and featuring United States Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Georgia, as the keynote speaker.

"We have built a tradition of excellence and have stayed committed to our mission of educating men and women to be engineers who are prepared to serve roles in the companies and industries of Georgia and the United States."

Achievements

Among its many achievements over the past 20 years, the School of Engineering has built a reputation for producing graduates who are ready to work in industry and government and to pursue graduate studies in the most renowned research and professional schools. U.S. News & World Report has ranked Mercer's School of Engineering one of the top undergraduate engineering programs in the Southeast for the past seven years. Since it graduated its first class in 1989, the school has produced nearly 1,400 alumni, who have, in turn, been hired by more than 500 employers. The School of Engineering, from its inception, has worked closely with Robins Air Force Base, and is now the largest single provider of engineers to the Warner Robbins Logistics Center (WRLLC) at Robins.

In establishing the school, Mercer worked with area employers, including the largest employer in central Georgia, Robins Air Force Base, to create a curriculum to meet the needs of the area. Mercer's curriculum has kept students on the cutting-edge of technology while providing a broad-based, practical and innovative experience. Mercer also realized that a liberal arts approach — with written and verbal communication as a major component — and a faculty focused more on teaching students than doing research, would help graduates succeed in the real world. The approach has proven to be a winning one for the school.

The School now offers the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree with six specialization areas: biomedical, computer, electrical, environmental, industrial and mechanical engineering. Undergraduates can also earn a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management or technical communication. For graduate students, the School offers the Master of Science in Engineering degree with specializations in computer, electrical, software and mechanical engineering, as well as engineering management. Also included in the curriculum is a Master of Science degree in technical communication management, software systems and technical management. Graduate courses are offered at the Robins Air Force Base Resident Center in Warner Robins, further cementing the bond between the School and Robins. The Master of Science in technical communication management is offered online.

History of the School

Mercer and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce began exploring the perceived need for an engineering school in the Central Georgia area in January 1984, after Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey and Maj. Gen. Cornelius Nugent, then commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, held discussions about the need for engineers on the base.

On Dec. 7, 1984, Mercer’s Board of Trustees gave President Godsey authority to move ahead with the School of Engineering. The Chamber, then under the leadership of President Melvin Kruger, pitched in to help, appointing a committee to help on fund raising for the school. Beginning in early 1985, Mercer began work to complete plans for its newest school, with the appointment of planners and fostered by a talented, volunteer advisory board, the School of Engineering earned accreditation of its B.S. in Engineering degree by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology within five years of accepting its first class. An accreditation team visit in the fall of 1989 resulted in accreditation that applied to the first graduate of the school.

While it was building in first classes, Mercer drew upon the assets in industry and government to gain both support and expertise. In 1986, United States Sen. Sam Nunn helped the University establish the National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB). NEAB members have included former service members, industry and government leaders, as well as faculty. MERC has since grown into a national research engineering school in Central Georgia, with nearly 1,400 alumni, who have, in turn, been hired by more than 500 employers. The School of Engineering, from its inception, has worked closely with Robins Air Force Base, and is now the largest single provider of engineers to the Warner Robbins Logistics Center (WRLLC) at Robins.

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by Mark Vanderheek

"We have built a tradition of excellence and have stayed committed to our mission of educating men and women to be engineers who are prepared to serve roles in the companies and industries of Georgia and the United States."

The partnership between Mercer and Robins Air Force Base helps to secure the economic vitality of Central Georgia and the entire state.

"Robins Air Force Base plays a major role in Georgia's economy and we consider it our responsibility to continue our operations efficiently and effectively so we can continue to have that role," Hatch said. "It is through our longstanding academic partnership with Mercer University and its School of Engineering that we are able to meet the ever demanding needs for engineers."
Capt. John Newman, commander of B Company, 3–15 Infantry, and a 1999 BBA graduate of Stetson School of Business and Economics, doesn’t shy away from a challenge. Currently stationed in Baghdad, Newman had his mettle tested in October when his infantry company thwarted a terrorist attack aimed at the Sheraton and Palestine hotel complex — home to many international journalists in Iraq. Despite a number of civilian casualties in the attack, Newman said the incident was “a success story. It could’ve been much worse.”

A typical day for Newman might include patrolling the sand swept streets to defeat insurgents, searching for weapons and seeking out known terrorists, and helping local governments and police forces get re-established. “It’s honestly a very wide-ranging job, but it’s been very interesting, and we really feel like we’re making a difference,” Newman said.

In recognition of the difference its alumni and faculty are making through military service, Mercer is developing ways to express its support and gratitude. Sgt. 1st Class Allan Pitchford, the University’s liaison to the Army ROTC program and a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, has launched Operation Visibility in conjunction with the Mercer Military Alumni Program. After purchasing six Mercer flags, they forwarded them to AROTC alumni currently serving on active duty. These flags are now carried by Mercer AROTC alumni — one in Korea, two in Iraq, one in Afghanistan and one in Germany. The stench is flown on the campus flagpole on the Macon campus as a symbol of support and as a reminder of their sacrifice.

“I want to encourage solidarity among these Mercer officers during this difficult period, and hope that they pass the flag on as new Mercer officers roam in and out of their particular areas,” Pitchford said. “The Mercer community has historically been supportive of the military, and we want to carry on that tradition.”

Newman, who has posed with his flag throughout Baghdad, said the flag renewed pride in his alma mater and has given him a chance to meet other Mercer military alumni.

Having a Mercer flag here in Iraq has done a few things for me personally. It has given me a chance to get to know other military graduates from Mercer, both younger and older than myself — men and women who have had all different experiences and stress, and whose knowledge and experiences I can now tap into and learn from,” explained Newman. “It has also renewed a certain school spirit or pride. Having the flag hanging up in my room and taking pictures all over Baghdad with it has really renewed the pride in the school that I graduated from.”

Another initiative of the Military Science Department is Kittie’s Corner. The departmental secretary, Kittie Wheelus, donated soccer balls, sports magazines, books and other specially requested items are sent to be distributed to the soldiers under their command. The department is also planning a military alumni reception in time for Homecoming weekend in February.

“We recruit the best students for our program and teach them to understand the values of duty, honor, country, and to set a high moral standard as both military officers and as Mercerians,” Pitchford noted. “We all may very well disagree with the [political], but as officers they understand they are duty-bound by the oath they take to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies — foreign and domestic — and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same. This program produces officers who understand their responsibilities and are prepared to lead.”

Newman agreed with Pitchford about the caliber of cadets Mercer produces, and said Mercer ROTC cadets should continue to be appreciated and encouraged in the work they are doing.

“Almost just like reminding everyone what an important work is going on in the bottom floor of Penfield Gym. Many students only know of the ROTC folks as the guys or gals in uniform once a week, or the folks that threw them off the rappelling tower during their first-year seminar experiential wilderness weekend [formerly known as freshman seminar program]. The men and women that are being commissioned by Mercer are going on to lead literally thousands of soldiers, and are working day and night to keep not only our soldiers safe, but to protect the way of life we currently enjoy,” Newman said.

Those cadets in ROTC need a pat on the back and words of encouragement because they have a tough road ahead of them, but they will eventually be very, very proud they took the challenge.”

For more information on this effort, contact Pitchford at (478) 301–2658 or Pitchford_AJ@mercer.edu.
Around the University

Established in 2005 as a collaboration of Mercer University’s Department of Music of the College of Liberal Arts and McAfee School of Theology, the Sophia Malin Townsend and Raymond Clay Townsend Institute Graduate Programs in Church Music prepares musical artists for ministry. With an enrollment of seven students in Macon and one student in Atlanta during its first year, The Townsend Institute is enabling musicians to serve in local church, community music, or music missions ministries.

According to current student R. Creston Groover of Macon, “The Townsend Institute is raising the standard of excellence in church music and is preparing me to be a better musician, leader, disciple and scholar.”

Dr. John Simons, coordinator for graduate music studies, reported the program is expecting enrollment for fall 2006 to be seven to 10 students, bringing the total expected graduate student population to between 14 and 17 students.

The Townsend Institute is now accepting applications for the 2006-2007 academic year. The admissions deadline for the program is July 1.

One of the community programs initiated by The Townsend Institute is the Mercer Children’s Choir, which involves more than 70 children from Central Georgia. Comprised of the Preparatory Choir (ages 7-9) and the Touring Choir (ages 10-15), The Mercer Children’s Choir helps young singers develop their singing and performance skills. The Touring Choir performs throughout Georgia and also performs in an annual out-of-state concert tour. The choirs experienced an excellent first semester and performed in numerous concerts.

The choirs participated in the lighting of the Hospice Christmas Tree in Downtown Macon, performed on live television (channels 13 and 41), for the Macon City Council and at Colonial Mall, participated in Mercer’s Music Department’s performance of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and presented a Christmas concert to a full house in Newton Chapel.

This spring, the choirs are scheduled to perform Mahler’s 3rd Symphony with the Macon Symphony Orchestra, perform at three area churches, give a spring concert, and participate in a concert tour to St. Augustine, Fl., and Tampa, Fl.

For more information about The Townsend Institute admissions or its community programs, visit www.mercer.edu/music or contact Dr. John E. Simons, coordinator for graduate music studies, The Townsend Institute, at (478) 301-4012 or simons je@mercer.edu.

First Year Marked Success for Townsend Institute

By Denise Cook

The Department of Music of the College of Liberal Arts hosted the Robert McDuffie and Friends Fall Festival for Strings Sept. 8-11, 2005. Sixteen high school junior and senior string musicians, eight violinists, four cellists and four violins, were chosen for this exclusive three-day strings immersion workshop with five of the nation’s foremost concert artists and two outstanding Mercer Music faculty members.

Students participated in both personal and group lessons that advanced them to a new level of music performance. The University is now accepting applications for the 2006 Robert McDuffie & Friends Labor Day Festival for Strings, Aug. 31-Sept. 4. For more information, visit www.mercer.edu/mcduffie.

Robert McDuffie & Friends Fall Festival for Strings at Mercer University

Robert McDuffie coaches Jennifer Chun of Marietta, Ga., after her solo performance during a violin and viola master class.

The three-day festival culminated with a public concert during which the students performed alongside their master teachers.

Robert McDuffie

Mercer Homecoming 2006!

HOMECOMING, with a theme of MercerPalooza, featured many events for students and alumni. Feb. 10-11 events included both men’s and women’s basketball games in the University Center, dinner and dancing at the class reunions and lots of good food and fellowship. Student events held throughout the week included talent shows, competitions and the annual homecoming dance.

Cindy Strowbridge and Drew Hartley were named the 2006 Homecoming queen and king.
Renovations Enhance Historic Grand Opera House

By Denise Cook

On Monday night, Sept. 23, 1884, an asbestos fire curtain row on the opening performance in Macon’s new theater, then called the Academy of Music. After two years of construction, the facility was opulent beyond anything previously dreamed of in the small town of 15,000 people. The new theater was a source of enormous pride to the community. It was, according to the editorial writer of the Telegraph and Messenger, “… a model of elegance and a triumph of good taste; the prettiest amusement house in the south outside New Orleans.”

Fast forward more than 120 years, The Grand Opera House still stands tall on Mulberry Street in downtown Macon. The historic landmark theater is located just a few blocks down the street from Mercer’s Walter E. George School of Law and is officially dubbed “A performing arts center of Mercer University.”

In its early years, The Grand hosted spectacular names like Houdini, Will Rogers, Charlie Chaplin, the John Philip Sousa Band, George Burns and Gracie Allen. Then, after decades as a movie theater and a target for demolition, community leaders recognized its historical and cultural impact and worked together to bring about its revitalization.

On Oct. 1, 1995, Mercer University signed a lease with Bibb County for the management and administration of The Grand Opera House. Since then, the renewed focus has been to broaden the community’s access to the arts and reflect the diverse interests of Central Georgians by presenting a multitude of quality arts and cultural experiences. The University’s efforts to keep The Grand alive are a direct result of Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey’s continued emphasis on community engagement. In his words, “What’s good for Mercer is good for Macon, and what’s good for Macon is good for Mercer.”

As in the past, The Grand continues to rely on the dedicated support of countless volunteers and community leaders. In addition to the programing booked by the University, The Grand serves as one of central Georgia’s premier rental venues and is home to McBride Family Symphony Orchestra, the Macon Civic Chorus’ Annual Musical Review, the Macon Kiwanis Club’s Travel and Adventure Series, the Spectacles of Middle Georgia, and the Central Georgia Opera Guild, among others. Mercer’s music and theater departments frequently use the venue for student performances.

In his words, “What’s good for Mercer is good for Macon,” Lambert explained. “We’ve had more than 18,000 students from both public and private schools in seven counties participate in the program. They arrive at The Grand excited and noisy, and then they walk in and in their eyes get huge investment in capital improvements and operations at The Grand along with Bibb County and the City of Macon, the University has made physical improvements to the theater, such as renovation and repairing of the lobby and façade; reconstruction of the ceiling is now a breathtaking day-time sky that fades into night, complete re-carpeting of all interior floors; new lighting; new HVAC; new acoustical treatment of the walls and noise reduction features.

According to Karen Lambert, executive director for The Grand Opera House, “Subscriptions to our Broadway Series increased from 445 in 1995 to 1,255 in 2005 — a 286 percent increase.” Many of these shows have opened to sell-out crowds in recent years.

“They are the same tours that perform at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta and other major venues all over the world,” Lambert said.

In addition, community use of The Grand has increased by more than 50 percent. “Besides its traditional use for performances, The Grand is the perfect place for corporate meetings, dinners on stage, weddings, receptions, award ceremonies, pagants, anything you can imagine,” Lambert explained. In 1996, Mercer created the GrandKids Arts Education Series to provide rich learning opportunities to students, through exposure to professional music, dance and theatre performances at The Grand Opera House. According to Ann Fugate, house manager, and all they can say is ‘wow!’” Fugate adds, “For many children, this is their only opportunity to see professional performing arts.”

Through the program, more than 6,000 students visit The Grand several times during an academic year, experiencing a variety of professional art forms. Prior to each visit, the students watch a preparatory videotape workshop in their classrooms. Students also receive a GrandKids Gazette, which uses articles, puzzles and games to offer additional insight about the upcoming performance. Local radio personality Jami Gaudet writes the content for the workshops and serves as host in the videos and at the live performances. This distinctive approach moves the arts beyond leisure entertainment to a void learning environment.

The Grand underwent much needed renovation and repair work during the summer of 2005. Mercer architect Charles Brittain was in charge of the project. “It’s kind of like your own house. You may overlook the scratches on the wall and the dirty carpet, but someone new comes in and sees that it looks pretty bad. The Grand has been in need of serious repairs for a long time,” Brittain said.

Among the work completed was the removal and replacement of the original stage floor. “The old floor was worn out and uneven, and that was a problem during show load-ins,” Brittain explained. “But we did preserve Houdini’s trap door!” he added.

A separate HVAC unit was installed in the balcony and noise reduction features were installed in all of the duct work. “With the old unit, it was nearly impossible to keep both the balcony and the floor level at comfortable temperatures. Now we can regulate them separately. We also removed some of the old duct work in the balcony to add another row of seats,” Brittain said.

The entire theater — door frames,filigree work, columns and other details — have been painted bold, contrasting colors. The painting contractor responsible for the job was Tony Long, who is known for his restoration work on many other historical facilities in town.

“Before, you didn’t notice many of the architectural elements because everything was painted gold and white. The new colors bring out all of the little details,” said Long.

In addition to a rich, new color scheme, which is the first color change since the 1970s renovation, the ceiling is now a breathtaking day-time sky that fades into night, complete with more than one hundred fiber-optic twinkling stars.

The project was partially funded by a $250,000 grant from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Save America’s Treasures Grant Program. Additional funding was provided locally by a grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation. “The Grand’s Board of Governors and Mercer University are raising these non capital funds to cover the renovation costs,” said board chairman John Shoemaker.

The Board of Governors hopes to complete additional renovations and facility additions in the future. "This building belongs to the community, and we need to do everything we can to preserve it for generations to come," Shoramaker said.
College of Liberal Arts

International Conductor Performs at Mercer

Keith Lockhart led the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in a special performance, also featuring world-renowned violinist Robert McDuffie, in downtown Macon at The Grand Opera House, a performing arts center of Mercer University. The event was held in honor of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey and his wife, Joan, for their years of service to Mercer. Before the evening’s concert, Lockhart spoke with some of Mercer’s music students about his musical background and how he became conductor of the Boston Pops.

The following narrative highlights Lockhart’s discussion.

Musical Beginnings

I had been a pianist since the age of 7. I also played clarinet, and I was heavily involved in all the ensembles. Music was pretty much my entire life, but I didn’t know what I was going to do with it. I didn’t have musical parents, two BMus for parents, actually. And though they were very supportive, they only professional musicians I knew were my band director and my piano teacher.

I had decided that, since I didn’t know anybody who actually did music for a living, who had taken this passion and turned it into something to which they would devote themselves professionally, that I had to do what everybody else had to do and get a real job. I decided that I would go to a school with a good music department. I would take the entrance at the end of my four years and go to law school.

Becoming a Music Major

During college, I tried to keep my options open, but I was unable to divorce myself from music. It literally had become my life, and as I tried to remove parts of it and broaden my base a little bit further it just felt totally wrong. So I went to my parents and said ‘I’m going to be a music major.’ My father looked at me and said, ‘Well, you know I’ll support anything you want to do as long as you’re prepared to do it as well as anybody does it.’ That was a little daunting, but it was enough incentive to continue.

From Piano to Conducting

About three years into my undergraduate training I realized that I didn’t know what I was going to do with this degree. The easy choice was to go to grad school and get another degree in performance and piano, but I really wanted to be out there performing.

So this young professor at my college, Dr. John Roberts, now chair of Mercer’s Music Department, said, ‘Have you ever thought about conducting?’ I saw the possibilities I think for the first time of somebody actually doing that. So I came back to senior year, put the blinders on, barely squeaked out my senior recital because by that point, it was around the same time as my grad school conducting audition, and my focus was elsewhere.

The Road to Boston

After receiving my master’s degree from Carnegie Mellon, I joined the faculty, where I taught for six years. I conducted the wind ensemble, managed the orchestra, and I was the resident conductor of the orchestra.

By the time I left, I was the director of orchestras and in charge of the conducting program.

I left Carnegie Mellon to accept a position at the University of Akron. The next year I became the assistant conductor of the Akron Symphony.

Our general manager left a year later to become the operations director of the Cincinnati Symphony, which had been looking all year for a new associate conductor. The former general manager of the Akron Symphony said to them, “You know who you should call ...”, and I got a call asking me to audition. I became the associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and the Cincinnati Pops. Because of that exposure, people in Chicago called me to do educational concerts and corporate events. Then people in L.A. and Hollywood saw me, and

because of those events, people in Boston saw me.

So in 1992, when the conductor of the Boston Pops decided to retire, we began a two-and-half-year search in which I would guest conduct several times a year. In February of 1995, I was appointed conductor of the Boston Pops. I’m now in my eleventh season with the Boston Pops, and I’ve done more than 800 concerts, about 60 television shows, and nine recordings over the last decade. In 1997, I was a candidate for the music directorship of the Utah Symphony, but I decided not to get that job. Now I have a nicely balanced plate that involves me being in Boston for about 20 weeks and in Utah for 17 weeks of the year.

Student Benefits from New Women’s and Gender Studies Major

By Mark Sunderbeek

Erin Porter, a senior from Walkertown, Va., has made a big impact on the Women’s and Gender Studies program since arriving a little more than a year ago, fresh from earning her associate’s degree in her home state.

Porter is the president of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance chapter at Mercer and turned a WGS service-learning project into a job with Crisis Line of Middle Georgia, where she is an advocate for victims of sexual assault. Porter recently put her knowledge of women’s and gender studies to further use. She represented Mercer as a discussant on a panel about human trafficking during the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Northeast Regional Conference at Spelman College in Atlanta. The Mercer WGS program was a co-sponsor of the conference, which featured such speakers as Elaine Stelz, former president of the National Organization of Women and publisher of Ms. magazine.

‘She did an absolutely fabulous presentation at this conference,’ said Mary Alice Morgan, professor of English and director of the WGS program.

Morgan has been impressed with Porter’s focus and her “non-traditional” status. Porter, 28, went to college briefly after high school, but eventually stopped and began working. Taking a job at a hotel, she worked nights, reading USA Today and the Richmond Times-Dispatch as and as many as five novels a week.

“I went to an all-girls high school, and I’ve always been very interested in women’s issues, but I didn’t know until my 20s that I could make a career out of it,” Porter said.

Before she arrived at Mercer, Porter had already made the decision to major in English and minor in women’s and gender studies. She received good news last year, when the University announced that it would include a WGS major.

“I was really excited when I found out I could major in it,” she said.

Now, Porter is a double major in English and WGS and aspires to a career working with women’s rights internationally. She is currently applying to graduate schools outside the United States, including schools in England, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

“Eventually, I’d like to work someplace like the United Nations and go to developing countries and study gender and then make suggestions for small changes,” she said. “Because I hate it when people want to go over and change everything right away without studying what it’s like in that country.”
The Walker County crematory case of 2002, in which 334 rotting corpses were found strewn about the grounds of a northwest Georgia crematory, was one of the most challenging in the long career of Judge James G. Bodiford, BA ’74. It involved extremely complex legal maneuvers and incessant queries from state, national and international media.

But Bodiford didn’t even have to be there.

Bodiford, who in January 2005 took over as Chief Superior Court Judge of the Cobb Superior Court, accepted a request to be the presiding judge in the state of Georgia’s case against Walker County resident Ray Brent Marsh. Marsh pleaded guilty in November 2004 in a lumping the corpses, admitted to hiding bodies intended for cremation and passing off cement dust as their ashes, and was sentenced in January to 12 years in prison.

Jody Overcash, administrator for the 7th Judicial Administrative District, asked Bodiford to consider presiding over the case, because all four of the judges in the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit recused themselves from the case.

The case took months (although it could have been even longer, had it gone to trial) and coincided with an agreement Bodiford made with the U.S. Department of Justice to travel on four separate occasions to the European nations of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Etonia to consult with government officials on designing a judicial system. Suffice to say that Bodiford admits he didn’t have much in the way of down time between early 2002 and early 2005.

“I had handled other high profile cases before, but I didn’t quite realize how much work this one would be,” said the 55-year-old Bodiford.

Still, Bodiford said that when other attorneys asked him what possessed him to take the case, he responded that he didn’t hesitate when approached about the assignment.

“They are tiring, but if you have a case of interest to you, you do it,” he said.

Bodiford also faced the challenge of the 7th Judicial Administrative District, that was updated continuously with new docket items and other information. Another was that Bodiford’s clerk, Leanne E. Dolin, held a law degree and was very savvy in talking to the media.

“Most of the media interested in the case knew my law clerk on a first name basis,” Bodiford said.

The highly unusual nature of the Walker County crematory case drew extremely high levels of interest from print and broadcast media worldwide. Such was the media coverage of the crematory situation that when Bodiford traveled to Europe during the case, his audiences knew what he was working on.

“I traveled to Europe and France to handle the case. I had to be very, very careful about ruling on the merits of any particular issue,” Bodiford said.

...considerate about his decisions and very, very careful about ruling on the merits of any particular issue."

The case was very time consuming for Bodiford and his staff.

“We spent a lot of time on that case,” he said. “And I don’t mean to say that I resent it, but it’s just that’s a case that might take weeks.”

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There was another case that might have done that.

“Walker County had been gracious enough to let us move (the Tokars) case from Cobb County,” he said. “That was a death penalty case which took 59 days. I said that I owed Walker County a favor, and that all of Cobb County owed Walker County a tremendous debt of gratitude.”

The Tri-State Crematory case involved some very unusual legal maneuverings — some that Bodiford had not experienced before or since. One was the vast number of counts against Marsh — he pleaded guilty to 7/8 counts of theft, abuse of a corpse, burial service fraud and making false statements.

Other legal challenges included determining whether Marsh was an indigent and should be held financially responsible for the clean-up and investigation of the Tri-State Crematory.

Bodiford also faced the challenge of selecting a jury from the population of Lee County, in southwest Georgia, and moving them to Walker County.

“That was extremely unusual and complex,” Bodiford said. “That was my own problems: picking a fair and impartial jury from Lee County. I didn’t think we’d get too many volunteers for the amount of time that it took. I have a good staff and we were prepared to give as much time as we needed and we spent an enormous amount of time on the case.”

That Bodiford would accept the assignment to preside over the Marsh case says a lot about his character, according to Heather Garritt Wright, LSW ’99.

“...that’s the kind of guy he is,” said Wright, an attorney with the Atlanta firm Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, who clerked with Bodiford from 2000-2001. “He’s real considerate about his decisions and very, very careful about ruling on the merits of any particular issue."

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**Mercer Education Paved Way to National News**

By James Madden

T he 2,940 miles between Mercer University and Los Angeles, Calif., takes a mere five hours by airplane, but for Tom Madden, BA ’74, the journey has spanned 30 years and thousands of experiences. The stories woven into Madden’s journalistic and business career have included politicians, celebrities, average citizens and even America’s best-known corporations. However, despite that success, Madden rarely forgets the academic institution that laid the foundation that aids him today. Like many growing up in Central Georgia, Madden was raised by par- ents that spent a lifetime working at Robin Air Force Base, employment that brought economic freedom to thousands in the area. That strong work ethic instilled by his parents motivated Madden to seek a college education, a first for his family. At Mercer, he studied history under pro- fessors such as Dr. Spencer King, Dr. Jamie Cockfield and Dr. Henry Warnock.

In addition to his studies, he was hired by the late, legendary Harley Bowers at the Macon News & Macon Telegraph, allowing him to pay his way through school and support his family. Madden spent his days taking classes and his nights learning the dynamics of the newspaper business. Madden refined many talents in Madden, but one in particular impacted him the most — writing.

“The History Department at Mercer taught me that you need- ed to learn how to research and to learn how to write — sound writing was critical to the career path I chose,” Madden said.

Madden’s success at the News & Telegraph attracted the attention of the Warner Robins Sun, where he was appointed managing editor — not a small task for the 26-year-old Ludela native. While at the Sun, Madden interviewed then candidate Jimmy Carter, an interview that ulti- mately earned him a job with United Press International (UPI).

“Interviewing Jimmy Carter in 1975 — as he was beginning his run for President — certainly was a big break for me. I knew this was a moment in history for Georgia and the South,” said Madden.

It was with UPI that Madden cova-

ered notable events of the late 1970s and early 1980s — Elvis’ funeral, Muhammad Ali, James Earl Ray, Mississippi floods, even Herschel Walker’s first game — each story fill- ing the pages of the nation’s newspa-

pers and eventually elevating Madden to Southern Division News Editor of UPI, where he managed dozens of reporters and saw to the distribution of hundreds of daily stories. With subsequent stops as an assis- tant city editor at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and as managing editor with the former Gannett Daily News, Madden then moved into the media field that would dominate the remain- der of his career — corporate newsrooms.

It was in the newsindustry that Madden translated the ease with which he spoke to his interview subjects into increased sales for companies requir-

ing news distribution services. After transferring to Southern California with PR Newman, Madden launched his Mercer education and career into the creation of PrimeZone Media Network in 1998. PrimeZone is a global press release and multimedia distribution company, disseminating news for companies such as Delta Airlines, JetBlue, Northrop Grumman and MSNBC. He attributes Mercer as an integral part of that success. “When people ask me what I am most proud of in my life, among the first thoughts is my degree from Mercer — it has shaped me in so many ways over the years and helped to define who I am. I am forever grateful to Mercer and what it has meant to my life.”

**Speedway Case Among Those of Interest During Judge’s Career**

By Mark Vanderbook

J udge Stacey W. Cotton, AB ’60, LLB ’62, is one of the most respected bankruptcy lawyers and judges in Georgia. For 25 years prior to his appointment, Cotton, now retired, practiced law in Atlanta spe- cializing in the fields of corporate reorganization, creditors’ rights and bankruptcy. He founded and was the senior and managing partner of the law firm of Cotton, Katz & White, P.A., which consisted of 12 lawyers. During his practice, he represented a broad variety of interests in bankruptcy cases, including debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, receivers, trustees, creditors’ committees and equity holders. He also served as a trustee in some cases. Some of his cases included Atlanta International Raceway Inc., Trend Carpet Mills, B & B Bays, Atlanta Metallic Casket Company and Highland Bakery.

While a bankruptcy lawyer, per- haps his most notable case, and one of his most successful outcomes, had as much to do with racing as with bankruptcy law. He served as the Chapter 3 trustee, and later as the lawyer for the trustee, for the Atlanta International Raceway Inc., now known as Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cotton spent nearly four years in the early-to-mid 1970s making sure the race operation kept running. His efforts resulted in the raceway turning a profit, which enabled him to attract new investors and successfully devel-

op and implement a reorganization plan to pay creditors and shareholder- ers, which is generally judged a major success in a bankruptcy filing.

The experience with the raceway also has given Cotton some great sto-

ries. One of his favorite stories hap-

pened in 1973, when a tornado hit the track on a Thursday morning before a Sunday race. More than 1,400 seats were destroyed, as were several build-

ings. The press box was hardly dam-

aged. The track superintendent called on his friends from around the south and soon truckloads of racing fans were arriving to help clean-up, repair the damage and get the track ready for the race. Judge Cotton said.

“Some of them worked Thursday through Sunday without sleep, or very little sleep, and they replaced 1,000 of the 1,400 seats, ran electrical wires to the press box so they could broadcast the race on television, and it all came together on Sunday,” Cotton still marvels. “We had a big crowd and a big race.” The experience amazed Cotton, who learned about the dedication of stock car fans and the goodness of people.

“To me, it was just really unbeliev-

able that those fans cared that those fans cared that they were arriving to help clean-up, repair the damage and get the track ready for the race. Judge Cotton said.

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American history was integral to that success. “When people ask me what I am most proud of in my life, among the first thoughts is my degree from Mercer — it has shaped me in so many ways over the years and helped to define who I am. I am forever grateful to Mercer and what it has meant to my life.”

Retired Judge Stacy Cotton ’60, ’74

**College of Liberal Arts**
Students Develop Marketing Plan for PAWS Atlanta

By Mark Vanderheuck

Merce's business program in Atlanta aims to bring real world experience into the classroom, and that's just what the 28 students in Bob Anservitz's undergraduate Marketing Promotions class did. The students put what they were learning in the classroom to work developing a strategic marketing plan for PAWS Atlanta, one of the area's oldest and most well-regarded animal welfare organizations.

The students' work was of the quality that the chairman of the board of directors of PAWS, Chris Tierney, said he and his fellow board members would consider utilizing a significant amount of what was proposed. Among the most impressive items was a modified logo and a new tagline for the organization: "Pets. Love. Homes."

"This was clearly a high-caliber group," Tierney said. "The enthusiasm and the effort of the students showed through. They really put more into this than what they had to just get a grade. They really worked hard for us."

All 28 students in the class presented their ideas and materials on March 6 to PAWS Atlanta's executives and board members. The students got tough questions, but also glowing reviews. In addition to their regular coursework and exams in this class, the students also spent time in and out of this class working in task forces on this client's marketing needs. In response, they developed a number of deliverables, including a strategic marketing plan, public relations plan, PowerPoint walk-and-talk presentation, public service commercials, volunteer recruitment plan, and print and electronic advertising.

The task forces were responsible for different portions of the marketing plan, with each group presenting during a three-hour session that included numerous questions from the PAWS Atlanta board members. In the end, students got a lot out of their experience, according to Catherine McClabray, a senior in the class. "I definitely think it is a very worthy cause, and it was fabulous that we were able to work with them," McClabray added. "I felt proud to be able to contribute to it."

The volunteer animal welfare effort began in 1966 and later was incorporated as the Dekalb Humane Society. Over the past 40 years, it has expanded to include numerous services to homeless pets and has become the largest no-kill adoption shelter in the Atlanta area. Because PAWS Atlanta is so well run, it earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This rating held special appeal for Anservitz.

"When choosing a client to work with a class, among my main criteria is that the prospective client have both significant marketing needs and unquestionable fiscal integrity," he said. In part because its name implied it received county money, even though it did not, and because its focus widened beyond DeKalb County and order to be supported by the community. "At our next board meeting the students’ project will be a focal point for all the members," Tierney said. "The tagline is generating the most buzz right now, but we’re going to go back through what the class provided us, which was just a tremendous amount of information, and pick out the things we can implement immediately and the things that we can put on the road." Anservitz, who has been an adjunct marketing professor at Mercer for 20 years, knew the majority of the students in this class from having prior classes with them. "While working for an actual client in a class setting can be a dicey situation, I knew the remarkable potential of so many of these students," Anservitz said. "I teach here because the caliber of student that Mercer attracts is second-to-none."

Still, Anservitz explained the demands of this type of client work and then put the decision to a vote. "The class voted to take on these major client commitments and ended up delivering a total tour de force," he said. "This is truly an exceptional group of individuals. They developed great work for a great client. I couldn't have asked for more." Anservitz said. "This was really a win-win for Mercer, for PAWS Atlanta and for the students."}

Goddard Honors Former Professor with Classroom Dedication

By Mark Vanderheuck

T he University dedicated a state-of-the-art classroom in honor of longtime economics professor Charles H. Andrews on Oct. 25, 2005. The large classroom, located in Sexton Hall, features some of the latest teaching and presentation technology as well as photographs and memorabilia of his teaching career.

Andrews, who will retire at the end of the spring semester, is a professor of economics and holds the James D. Sexton Chair in Economics, as well as the founding dean of the Eugene W. Sexton School of Business and Economics. He returned to the classroom fulltime in 1988 and has continued to earn acclaim from his students. "It seemed like for awhile that we would have to retire the Faculty Teaching Award because Charlie won it all the time," said President R. Kirby Goddard, during the ceremony. One of Andrews' former students, Mercer alumnus Robert Goddard III, CLA '77, and his wife, Kathleen, made the generous gift to name the room in Andrews' honor. "Through Bob and Kathleen's generosity, this classroom is equipped with the latest teaching technology designed to provide the highest-quality learning environment for students," said President Goddsey during the dedication. "A classroom that offers the very best to a student's learning experience is truly a fitting tribute to Dr. Andrews, who has served as a professor and mentor to the thousands of young men and women who have studied economics at Mercer over the past 32 years." Andrews had a vital role in the growth and development of Mercer's business program. He earned his bachelor’s degree in economics at Mercer in 1969, and went on to earn his PhD from Vanderbilt University in 1977. After teaching at Mercer in Business School, he returned to Mercer in 1973, joining the business faculty in the College of Liberal Arts. In 1978, he became dean of the business school, then a division of the College of Liberal Arts. During his tenure as dean, he led the planning process for establishing the School of Business and Economics and led the faculty in designing and initiating the evening executive development and master of business administration programs. In July 1984, the school became a separate unit within the University. After serving 10 years as dean, Andrews returned to teaching full-time in 1988. Goddard is chairman and CEO of Goddard Investment Group, a privately held firm focused on investing in commercial real estate and serves as University’s Graduate School of Business, where he is a graduate of the Owners and Presidents Management Program. In 1976, he joined the Atlanta real estate firm of John Hunsonger & Company. In 1984, he became president of Brannen/Goddard Company, one of Atlanta’s premier full-service commercial real estate companies, later serving as the company’s chairman and CEO. Goddard has had a number of leadership roles in the community and at his alma mater. As well as serving on the Board of Visitors of the Sexton School of Business, he also served a term on the Mercer Board of Trustees. His wife, the former Kathleen Hill, is a graduate of Wesleyan College and also serves on many community and civic boards.

Goddard spoke at the dedication about his profound respect for his former economics professor. "I think the world of Charles Andrews, and he has meant a lot to me through the years, not just as a [teacher], but also as a friend," Goddard said.
Senators Bring World Issues to Forum

By Mark Vonderheide

World issues took center stage at The Executive Forum in December, as both of Georgia’s United States senators urged support for the United States’ mission in Iraq and the war on terror.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Georgia’s senior senator, spoke on Dec. 5 in Macon, urging support for the Iraq War, as well as a push to expand science and math education in the United States.

On Dec. 9, in Dahlonega, Sen. Johnny Isakson denounced politicians who are calling for a withdrawal from Iraq and pushed for the renewal of the Patriot Act.

Both men also took time out to praise Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey for his work in building Mercer into one of the Southeast’s leading educational institutions.

“What a great job Kirby Godsey has done at the University,” said Chambliss, whose son graduated from Mercer. “It was a good university before he arrived, but he has ever made it take off.”

Said Isakson: “Your service, what you’ve done for Mercer University, what you’ve done for the state of Georgia and what you’ve done to change the lives of countless thousands of students over the years is just incredible.”

In his speech, Chambliss briefly advocated for a fair hearing for Judge Samuel Alito, President Bush’s latest nominee to the Supreme Court, as well as an early withdrawal from Iraq.

Chambliss also pointed to the great strides that Iraq has made since Saddam Hussein was deposed.

“The leadership (within the Iraqi military) is increasing, and at some point — we’re hoping in the very near future — we’ll be able to turn that country back over to them and that’s when we’ll have victory in Iraq.”

U.S. troops are steadily training Iraqi troops to take their places, and the fledgling democracy is growing in Iraq, Chambliss noted, and American troops and their families are resolved to keep up the fight.

“I do this for us to go on, as some folks are out there publicly saying. It’s not the American way,” said Chambliss. “Americans have always stood by their allies to the end of the battle. We’re a ways away from total victory, but we are winning this battle.”

Isakson, a Republican, also devoted his speech to the war on terror and the Iraq conflict. He had harsh words for war critics, especially Howard Dean, the chairman of the Democratic Party and the former governor of Vermont.

Isakson said he was happy to have a forum in which to refute a Dean statement made earlier in the week that “the idea that we’re going to win the war in Iraq is an idea which is just plain wrong.”

Isakson denounced the statement and compared it to statements made in the Vietnam era, when, he said, politicians turned to making anti-war statements for political advantage.

For now, a man for this week to say the idea of winning the war is wrong and to recognize we’ve already secured two-thirds of the goals we publicly stated when we went into Iraq, is troubling to me when our sons and daughters are deployed there in harm’s way,” Isakson said. “We have deposed Saddam Hussein, Iraq has had two elections and, in six days, will have a third and final election. They have written and ratified a constitution, and they fight side by side with us. We have trained 200,000 and are on the way to training the sufficient force necessary for Iraq to defend itself.

“The idea that somebody would say that we can’t win a war that we are, in fact, winning by the measurement we established three years ago, is disappointing; it’s disconcerting and it’s just morally wrong for a leader to say that,” Isakson said.

Isakson also took the opportunity to advocate for the renewal of the USA Patriot Act, the legislation passed in the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks that has drawn fire from civil liberties groups.

“We must extend the Patriot Act,” Isakson stated. “I have great respect for those who are speaking against it and express concern about civil liberties, and we should always be concerned about civil liberties. But I want to tell you that we do not have the Patriot Act and passed it when we did, and allowed our intelligence networks to have the capabilities to do what they can do today. I do not believe that America would have survived without another terrorist attack in the last four years, and we have.”

Citing intelligence he has seen since Sept. 11, 2001, Isakson also defended the Bush Administration’s wider war on terror and the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, noting that without the Patriot Act, and the enemy combatant role at Guantanamo, the U.S. would not have gone without a terrorist attack on its soil.

“Had we not established the enemy combatant role … and had we not found a way to incarcerate enemy combatants that we could verify were a part of the terrorist network,” Isakson said, “I’m not sure we could have fought as effectively as we have in Iraq, and I’m confident we wouldn’t have stopped all the terrorist attacks we’ve stopped in America.”

From the MBA Bookshelf

by Linda L. Brennan

Depending on your approach to your career, the one on strategic thinking or the one on reflective thinking. Both chapters had very specific suggestions to help you make sure that you are spending your time on things that are important. One suggestion is to MAKE TIME FOR THINKING. Schedule that time into your calendar. Maxwel says that at the beginning of every month, he spends a half day working on his calendar for the next 40 days (this way he gets a “jump” on the next month and avoid being surprised). That’s a form of strategic thinking. Then he also suggests that, in reflective thinking, you set aside a few hours to review your calendar from the previous month (p. 189): “Review your appointments. Check your to-do lists. Figure out what you spent your time and whether you did so wisely. As you look at individual entries, ask yourself ‘Have I already reflected on this event?’ What went right? What went wrong? What did I learn? What can I do differently next time? Don’t forget to write down insights to be filed and action points to be completed.”

The point is that investing that time will reap dividends, the challenge is to find the time to invest by not wasting the time to read this book. Take it to the beach with you this summer — you won’t be sorry!”

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The book describes 11 skills that constitute good thinking:

• Seeing the Wisdom of Big-Picture Thinking
• Unleashing the Potential of Focused Thinking
• Discovering the Joy of Creative Thinking
• Recognizing the Importance of Reflective Thinking
• Feeling the Energy of Possibility Thinking
• Embracing the Lessons of Reflective Thinking
• Questioning the Acceptance of Rational Quotation
• Experiencing the Satisfaction of Unraveled Thinking
• Enjoying the Returns of Bottom-Line Thinking
• Feeling the Energy of Possibility Thinking

Each chapter starts with an inspirational quotation, a humorous vignette (“What Were They Thinking?”)
The 41st annual celebration of The President’s Club, held Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, honored Mercer President R. Kirby and Joan Godsey. The Presidential Extravaganza, which featured a video in tribute to Dr. Godsey’s 27-year tenure as president and CEO, was held at the InterContinental Buckhead in Atlanta.

During the Extravaganza, Dr. Godsey was presented a glass sculpture by Merridy Palmer, the same artist who designed the glass sculptures hanging in the McCorkle Music Building and the University Center, and Joan was presented a limited edition Boehm porcelain of Van Gogh Irises. Also, Mercer alumnus and Trustee Doc Schneider read a poem he had written for the occasion.

Alexa: Stephanie Shepherd, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Godsey; reads the salute to her father, while Mercer development officer Matt Hall presents the glass sculpture to Dr. Godsey.

Left: Mercer development officer Shawna Douglies; presents the Irises sculpture to Joan Godsey while son Hunter Godsey looks on.

Goddess family members present for the Extravaganza include, left to right: Jack Godsey; Dr. Godsey’s brother, and his wife, Judy; Joseph and Erica (daughter) Godsey Daniel; Hunter Godsey (son); Joan Godsey; Kirby Godsey; Raleigh (son) and Judy Godsey; George and Stephanie (daughter) Godsey Shepherd, and Jeannine Morrison (George’s mother).
The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, with Keith Lockhart as guest conductor and Robert McDuffie as guest solo violinist, performed a Presidential Musical Gala Oct. 13, 2005, at The Grand Opera House in Macon. Lockhart serves as music director of the Utah Symphony and as conductor of the Boston Pops. McDuffie has appeared as soloist with many of the world’s major orchestras.

James A. and Mary Bishop of Sea Island and William A. and Neva L. Fickling of Macon served as co-hosts of the Presidential Musical Gala.

Gala guest conductor Keith Lockhart, with Kirby and Joan Godsey and guest solo violinist Robert McDuffie

Mercer Presents a Musical Tribute to President and Mrs. Godsey

Joan and Kirby Godsey speak to the capacity crowd at The Grand Opera House.

Mercer Trustee and Gala Co-hosts William A. and Neva L. Fickling, with Kirby and Joan Godsey, and Mercer Trustee and Gala Co-hosts James A. and Mary Bishop

Joan and Kirby Godsey speak to the capacity crowd at The Grand Opera House.

Former Trustee Mimi and Tommy Holland at The Grand Opera House

Janet and David Hudson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, enjoy the Gala.

World-renowned violinist Robert McDuffie with Neva Fickling, for whom Mercer’s Fickling Music Hall is named.
Founders of School Honored on 20th Anniversary

During the 20th Anniversary dinner for the School of Engineering on Oct. 21, 2005, the University, the School of Engineering and the National Engineering Advisory Board (NEAB) recognized the four men who were instrumental in the successful development of the School of Engineering.

Dr. C.B. Gambrell, dean emeritus of the School of Engineering, was honored for his significant contributions to the School in its earliest days. Gambrell served as founding dean of the School of Engineering from 1985 to 1993. In 1987, he organized the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MEERC) in Warner Robins, and was its director from 1987 to 1995. He retired in 1996 as vice president for University Research.

The special recognition for Gambrell stands in part because he "provided valuable guidance and leadership to the School by recruiting and hiring the inaugural faculty and staff and directing them through the accreditation process in record time," he [Gambrell] organized the Mercer Engineering Research Center in Warner Robins to serve the engineering needs of Warner Robins Air Force Base and to provide practical work experience for Mercer’s engineering students and became the center’s first director, serving from 1987 to 1995.

"For [his] visionary leadership, development of innovative programs and ingenious efforts to increase the size and stature of the School of Engineering, we honor [him] with this resolution in an expression of our profound gratitude for [his] devotion to the establishment and development of the Mercer University School of Engineering." - Melvin Kruger, CEO I.E. Schwartz and Son Inc., was chair- man of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce in 1985, and helped to provide much needed community support in establishing the School of Engineering. He served on the inaugural NEAB board, is a former chairman of NEAB and still serves on the Board.

The special resolution honoring Kruger noted that he "shared the University’s vision for the School of Engineering and played a key role in working to ensure that the vision became a reality. [He] faithfully, tirelessly and generously has supported the engineering programs at Mercer University through not only [his] time and leadership, but also annual gifts and the establishment of the Harry Morris Schwartz Endowed Scholarship. "And, [he] believe[s] so firmly in the high quality of a Mercer education that [he] has hired Mercer engineer- ing graduates for [his] company, Schwartz Precision Manufacturing," the resolution continued.

"For [his] long demonstrated belief in the Mercer School of Engineering and [his] unwavering dedication to its success through [his] wise leadership, we wish to honor [him] with this resolution as an expression of our sincere appreciation on the occasion of the Engineering School’s 20th anniversary." - Retired Maj. Gen. Cornelius Nugteren, who served as the com- mander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at Robins Air Force Base from 1982 to 1988, was instru- mental in the alliance between Mercer and the WRALC. According to the resolution, Nugteren con- tributed to the suc- cess of the School through his “persistent and determined efforts to have an engineering program in Central Georgia while serving as Commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center that the University took steps to estab- lish the School of Engineering. "[H]is dedicated service as a member of the National Engineering Advisory Board and as an inaugural member of the National Engineering Advisory Board Fellow demonstrated [his] staunch belief in the Mercer School of Engineering and assisted in the school’s continuing suc- cess,” stated the resolution.

"For [his] strong connec- tion in the vision of the Mercer University School of Engineering before the first student ever enrolled, for the key role [he has] played to ensure that our shared vision became a reality and for [his] time, resources and efforts to advance this school, we wish to honor [him] with this resolution along with our deepest appreciation as we mark this 20th anniversary milestone.” - The National Engineering Advisory Board surprised the key founder of the School of Engineering, President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey, with a spe- cial award at the end of the evening. - Continued on page 21

Students Develop Control System for Train Exhibit at Hartsfield-Jackson

By Andy Peters

The senior engineering design project of Mark Bouamami, Mehran Mohieb and Nabil Salman, completed as Mercer University School of Engineering stu- dents, is on display for millions of peo- ple to see at one of the world’s busiest destinations, the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The stu- dents, who graduated at Mercer’s 2005 commencement, used their electrical engineering expertise to develop a sen- sor control system for one of the trains in the “Model Trains Through the Ages” exhibit that went on display in Concourse T of the airport last August. In fall 2004, in conversations with their professor, Dr. Edward O’Brien, the students learned that the Central Georgia Model Railroad Club needed someone to develop a control system that would allow passengers to activate the trains when they get close to the glass surrounding the exhibit. The group also needed a counter so that they could monitor how many times the trains are activated, and they needed a control system that would allow them to vary the speeds of the trains in the exhibit. The three students were assigned the project in September, and by December 2004, they had a working prototype. They said they enjoyed being able to put their engineering education into practice through this senior design project prior to gradu- ating. All three students specialized in electrical engineering at Mercer.

It was challenging. We had a tight timeline to complete the project, and we had to get used to getting up at 6 a.m., but we did it,” Mohieb of Dubai, U.A.B., said.

Bouamami said having a real-life client, a hard timeline and a budget for his senior design project provided him with insight into the workings of the real business world.

"Failure was not an option with this project,” Bouamami, who is from Kenya, said. "It was exciting to work on such a high-profile, complex project." Salman of Greenville, S.C., said he and his two fellow students had a lot of fun.

“We really had a great time,” he said. “There were so many components, and we ran into obstacles that we didn’t have predicted, like interference issues, but we were able to get past those obstacles. I think we all have a certain fondness for trains now.”

Since graduating, two members of the group have continued their engineering studies at the graduate level, and the other has begun his engineer- ing career. Mohieb is pursuing a mas- ter’s degree in electrical engineering at Duke University in North Carolina and Bouamami is working on a master’s degree in electrical engineering at California State University — Los Angeles. Salman is an electrical engi- neer for Kraft Foods in South Carolina.
Baseball Letterman Inducted into GACA Hall of Fame

Harold Lee Scott, AB ’55, who lettered in baseball for four years at Mercer, was inducted into the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Hall of Fame at the 67th annual GACA Awards Banquet in 2005 in Dalton, Ga.

His first coaching job was in 1956 at Nahuna High School. He immediately coached a state championship squad and a state runner-up in his first three seasons in boys’ basketball. Two years later, he moved to Cherokee High School where his girls were region champs five of six seasons, state champions once and state runner-up twice. His boys’ teams made it to the state playoffs three times, finishing in the top four in the state twice.

From 1966-1974 at Savannah High, Coach Scott was the Region Basketball Coach of the Year five times and Savannah Coach of the Year six times. Scott then returned to Summerton to farm with his father. However, the man “born to coach” came out of retirement in 1987 and led the Summerton boys to their first and only region championship the next season. In 1995, he led the Gamecocks to their only other state playoff.

Coach Scott retired in 2001 after receiving a host of awards and honors for his accomplishments including induction into the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame, the Screven County Athletic Hall of Fame and the Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame.

He received the National Federation Interscholastic Coaches Association State Distinguished Service Award, the GACA Dwight Keith Award, the GACA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year, the National High School Association Southeastern Region Coach of the Year, the Atlanta Tip-Off Club award and, several times, was named Basketball Coach of the Year by various Georgia newspapers. Also, the new Screven County High School gym was named the Harold Lee Scott Gym in his honor.

Mercer Golfer Advances to Match Play in Canadian Amateur Golf Championships

M
cercer men’s golf team members Brandon Price, Michael Gregory and Andrew An competed in the Canadian Amateur Championship in mid-August.

Mercer held the distinction as the only school to send three returning players to the competition. The tournament format featured 36 holes on Sunday, Aug. 14 and Monday, Aug. 15, with the winner moving on to the championship match on Friday, Aug. 19.

Bears’ sophomore Andrew An made the cut of 64 and advanced to the match play portion. An shot a 76 in the first round and followed that up with a 75. His two-day total of 149 put him in a tie for 58th place with eight other golfers. Those eight golfers competed in a playoff that sent the top seven to the match play rounds. An went on to make the cut and Tuesday morning was matched up against Andrew Ross, an Ontario native that plays at Arkansas State.

Price struggled in the first round shooting an 81, but he made a strong push for the cut after shooting a 69 in the final round. He birdied three of the last four holes and finished in a tie for 66th place. His score of 69 was one of only nine scores in the 60s on that Monday.

Gregory finished in a tie for 81st, after shooting scores of 78 and 75. Gregory had an up and down second round as he made the turn at three under par, but proceeded to shoot four over par on the back nine to miss the cut by two strokes.

An defeated Ross by a score of two up on Tuesday to advance to the round of 32, and faced Ben Moser, a Kent State graduate, on Wednesday morning in an 18-hole match with the winner moving on to play in the round of 16 in the afternoon. The Richmond Hill, Ontario, native lost one down to Moser in the round of 32 on Wednesday morning.

After a back and forth first nine, An made the turn one down. Moser won the 12th hole, but An proceeded to birdie holes 13 and 14 to even the match at all square. A costly double bogey at the par four 15th, and another bogey on hole number 16 allowed Moser to take a two-hole lead. An won the par-three, 17th hole to pull within one, but Moser closed out the match on number 18 to win one up.

After stumbling slightly to open the fall season at the Reynolds Plantation Classic, An closed out the Bears’ fall season with a team-best 71.7 stroke average, finishing in a tie for fourth place at the Sam H. Hall Intercollegiate, hosted by Southern Mississippi, Oct. 31-Nov. 1. He recorded a career-low round of 63 at the Farms Golf Club in Hattiesburg.

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Click on “University Relations & Marketing,”
Click on “URM Photos,"
Just select the event you would like to view!
The Voice of a Teacher

By Shannon Friedman

J oy Brown doesn’t know who the geniuses are in her class. Frankly, it doesn’t matter.

Each child gets a shot at success in her class at Hickory Flat Elementary School, she says.

“Even if a child does not excel in math or science, when they’re in the music room, they’re treated as equally as possible,” she says.

Brown hopes her approach gives everyone the chance to taste victory in school early on. That, she hopes, will propel them to achieve later on in all subjects.

“If children have a successful experience in elementary school, they are more likely to enjoy school and do better in middle and high school,” she says.

Brown’s energy, innovation and dedication earned her Teacher of the Year honors for Henry County this year. She’s now competing against teachers across the state for Georgia Teacher of the Year, which will be announced at a spring banquet.

Hickory Flat principal J.R. Lomberg says Brown is an upbeat, outgoing instructor with an impressive knowledge of music.

“The kids love her, the faculty loves her, I love her,” he says. “She’s just one of those people who is going to make sure that whatever she does, she does it right.”

Brown’s Georgia native who studied at Mercer University in Macon and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. She and her husband have a teenage daughter.

Brown has taught for nine years. Before that, she worked in social services, as a teacher at Oglethorpe Elementary and at a psychiatric center for emotionally disturbed children.

“I feel everything else I’ve done has prepared me for what I’m doing now,” she said.

The student population at the McDonough school includes children who speak 14 different languages at home, and her principal landed her for incorporating music that celebrates students’ diverse backgrounds.

But she also gives lessons in American music history — from Yankee Doodle to slave spirituals to Yankee Doodle to slave spirituals to Yankee Doodle to slave spirituals.

“The need for the expanded space is due to the science requirement in the core curriculum and the growing interest in science-based careers. All undergraduate students enrolled at a Regional Academic Center are required to complete at least two science classes, regardless of their major. Education or criminal justice students must take even more. New experiments and activities that are not currently possible will be incorporated into existing courses,” she said. “The combination of presentation multimedia technology and instructional laboratory furnishings and equipment will guarantee a significant impact on instruction and learning. New experiments and activities that are not currently possible will be incorporated into existing courses.”

The new facility, to be named the Mercer Singers — all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She also met her future mentors, Dr. Stanley Roberts, Mercer Singers director, and Mrs. Marie Roberts, Erin’s voice teacher.

— Continued on page 21
ACHIEVEMENTS

1936
William J. Crump, AB, of Savannah, celebrated his 90th birthday surrounded by 86 friends and family. A native of Carnesville, he retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District in 1972 after 32 years of federal service as chief of the Office of Administrative Services. In 1970, the Crump Annex building was named after Crump because of his instrumental role in its final realization. He was inducted into the Savannah District’s Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees in 1978.

1935
The Rev. Samuel M. Waldron, AB, of Macon, has been an interim associational missionary with the Pulex-Bickley Association since 2004. From 1966 to 1994, he served as a foreign missionary to the Philippines. When not participating in mission activities, he has served as pastor to several Baptist churches.

1936
The Rev. Tolly L. Williamson Jr., AB, of Decatur, who retired from Emory University in 2001, recently became interim director of the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the CPE Partnership in Nashville, Tenn. In 2004, he was named supervisor emeritus by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. He and his wife, Jerry, GHCN ’58, will maintain their residence in Decatur.

1958
Oliver Chappell Wilson Jr., AB, of Marietta, celebrated the 50th anniversary of being ordained to the Baptist ministry on Sept. 21, 2005.

1962
B. Ray Hardman, AB, of Hoover, Ala., participated in the national Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh, Pa. His team, the Hoover Legends, placed fifth among the 45 teams in the 65-69 age division. Hardman, a retired information technology specialist at BellSouth, was the team’s leading scorer.

1972
Lynda M. Kay, BA, of Buford, was promoted to regional field trainer for the Southeast Region Lifetouch Portrait Studios. She was named Manager of the Year in 2003.

1982
Jeffrey Beegal, BA, of Smithfield, N.C., has written a new book, Americans in Florence During the 20th Century. He is the international baccalaureate coordinator at Purnell-Mitchell High School in Winston-Salem, N.C.

1985
Lynn H. Murphy, BA, of Cordova, Tenn., has written her second novel, Moonlight In His Hand, a sequel to I’ll Be Seeing You. The characters in the book come from a short story Murphy wrote during her time at Mercer. She also writes freelance articles for magazines, as well as drama scripts for worship services. She is working on a novel set in the Terezín concentration camp.

1999
Jodonna G. Baker, BA, of Lithonia, has written her first book, Hurt so good. A woman’s journey, under the name J.D. Baker. The book was published in June and is available online through major bookstores.

1999
Amy Smith Boyer, BA, of Forsyth, was promoted to partner with Vaughn Wright and Boyer LLP in April 2005.

1999
Calla Busby-Boaz, BA, of Macon, graduated from Leadership Macon.

1999
Jennifer Bryant Dornan, BS, of Buckhead, was promoted to managing attorney of the Atlanta office of William E. Curphey & Associates. She has been practicing real estate law with the firm for three years.

1997
Brian Riegnerczak, BA, of Atlanta, designed a project called Ambient Experience for Healthcare. The project was recognized by BusinessWeek Magazine as a 2005 IDEA Gold winner. He works at Philips Design in Atlanta.

1998
Elaine Turk Neill, BA, of Clemmons, N.C., became a licensed clinical social worker; the highest license in social work in the country.

1999
The Rev. C. David Dean, GBCN ’58, will maintain their residence in Decatur.

2000
Evans Robert Davis, BA, of Decatur, was named head men’s basketball coach and instructor in health and physical education at Truett McConnell College.

2000
Henry Sherman Piasayan IV, BS, of Marietta, accepted a position as first officer flying an Embar AR Flight Regional Jet for Chautauqua Airlines. Chautauqua is a regional carrier for Delta, United, American and US Airways.

2001
Lacey Perkins Gwyn, BA, of Centerline, earned her MA in professional counseling from Argosy University in September 2005.

2003
Matthew R. Miller, BS, was promoted to captain in the United States Army on Sept. 1, 2005.

2005
Meredith D. Waters, BS, of Clemmons, N.C., is a military contractor with Halliburton KBR. She is currently working with the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department at Camp Anaconda, Balad Airbase, Iraq.

MARRIAGES, ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHS

1937
Harriet W. Tindal, AB, of Nova, Mich., announces the birth of her great-grandson, Everett R. Wallace of Fort Collins, Colo.

1955
The Rev. J. Olan Jones, AB, of Waycross, and his wife, Ann, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Sept. 17, 2005. Jones is president emeritus of Baptist Bible College.

1986
David C. Leeth, BS, and his wife, Melanie, announce the birth of their daughter, Eva Ann Arepply, on March 11, 2005. The family resides in Baltimore, Md.

1990
Holly Greene, BS, (see Arepply ’89)

1999
Karen L. Smith, BM, of Eagle Pass, Texas, and her husband David, are directors/coordinators of House of Mercy Orphanage, a 106-bed facility for children in Piedras Negras, Guadalajara, Mexico.

1978
Merry W. Fort, BS, of Macon, was promoted to vice president of Nursing Services Corporate of the Medical Staffing Network, the largest provider of per diem nurse staffing in the United States.

1962
L. Col. Terry J. Mulhakay, BA, of Ormond Beach, Fla., who retired from the Army after 21 years of service, is executive director of alumni relations at Embry-Riddle University. He and his wife, Nancy Cricht, BA ’79, who teaches international baccalaureate English at the local high school, have been married for 25 years. Their son, Jack, is a cadet at West Point Military Academy.

1982
Michael L. Ruffin, BA, of Augusta, published a new book, Living Among the Advengers. He has been the pastor of The Hill Baptist Church in Augusta since January 2003.

2000
Evans Robert Davis, BA, of Decatur, was named head men’s basketball coach and instructor in health and physical education at Truett McConnell College.

2000
Henry Sherman Piasayan IV, BS, of Marietta, accepted a position as first officer flying an Embraer Regional Jet for Chautauqua Airlines. Chautauqua is a regional carrier for Delta, United, American and US Airways.

2002
Margaret Anne Pitts Ritter, BA, lives in the Philadelphia, Pa., area and serves as director of annual giving at the Shapley School.

2002
Lacey Perkins Gwyn, BA, of Centerline, earned her MA in professional counseling from Argosy University in September 2005.

2004
Matthew R. Miller, BS, was promoted to captain in the United States Army on Sept. 1, 2005.

2004
Meredith D. Waters, BS, of Clemmons, N.C., is a military contractor with Halliburton KBR. She is currently working with the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department at Camp Anaconda, Balad Airbase, Iraq.

1998
Elaine Turk Neill, BA, of Clemmons, N.C., became a licensed clinical social worker; the highest license in social work in the country.

1999
Equus Robert Davis, BA, of Decatur, was named head men’s basketball coach and instructor in health and physical education at Truett McConnell College.
Amber Miller Hollis, BA, JD ’00, and her husband, Lance, announce the birth of their son, Knox Edward, on April 2, 2005. The family resides in Atlanta, where she is an associate at King & Spalding LLP.

Stacy Veasey Lange, BA, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their child, Lindsay Hollis Lange, on Aug. 20, 2005. The family resides in Smyrna.

Elaine Turk, BA, married William Elmer Nell on Feb. 12, 2005, at Wesleyan Drive Baptist Church in Macon. The couple resides in Grannen, N.C., where he is a chemist with R.J. Reynolds.

Kimberly Walker-Thurmond, BA, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Ellen, on March 17, 2005, at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta. The family resides in Norcross.

Lori Redwine Varnadoe, BA, and her husband, Erik Varnadoe, BA ’97, announce the birth of their son, Abby Grace, on March 27, 2005. The family resides in Gray.

Kelley Shirelle, BA, married Derrick William Grogan on April 2, 2005. The family resides in Lilburn. She is pursuing a master’s degree from Georgia State University in science education.


David A. Walker Jr., AB, 86, of New Fairfield, Conn., died Nov. 12, 2005.

The Rev. Robert T. Jones, AB, 98, of Columbus, died Aug. 9, 2005.

Pattie Swallm Withiam, 83, of Macon, died July 9, 2005.

Elizabeth Cline, BA, married Nicholas Laxon on July 50, 2005. The couple resides in Virginia Beach, Va., where she is pursuing a master’s degree in counseling at Regent University.

Heather Van de Voort, BM, married Richard Davis Ellison on Jan. 1, 2005, at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Macon. The couple resides in Atlanta where she works for the Atlanta Opera, and he is an architect with Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Torch and Hendley.


Thomas K. Bellam, BA, AB, 80, of Dublin, died June 1, 2005.


M.G. Wood, AB, 82, of Tallahassee, Fla., died May 22, 2005.

Frank L. Hobby, AB, 71, of Milledgeville, died June 29, 2005.

Gay H. Browne, 68, of LaGrange, died Jan. 28.

Vonnele O. Compton, AB, of Atlanta, died Aug. 2.

James E. Miles, AB, 68, of Macon, died Aug. 20, 2005.


Linda W. Wharam, AB, 66, of Macon, died April 13, 2005.

Olene Burton Worley, AB, 73, of Gordele, died April 15, 2005.

William E. Fairley, AB, 74, of Cleveland, Tenn., died Feb. 21, 2005.

Angela Anderson Hasty, AB, of Macon, died Aug. 5, 2005.

Genie Greene Hearne, 62, of Stone Mountain, died April 12, 2005.

Carolyn H. Kinman, AB, 88, of Valdosta, died July 31, 2005.


Kathery A. Smith, AB, 64, of Macon, died Nov. 12, 2005.

Oliver E. Snow Jr., of Macon, died Aug. 29, 2005.

Thelma L. Goss, BA, 92, of Macon, died April 20, 2005.

Ted W. Pickren, BA, 51, of Macon, died June 15, 2005.


Debra E. Clark, BM, 48, of Atlanta, died Aug. 8, 2003.

Phyllis Davis Lowe, BS, of Macon, died June 27, 2005.

Jeanine Williams Allen, AB, 76, of Columbus, died July 27, 2005.

Purcell Whisler Jr., BA, 50, of Macon, died July 22, 2005.

Stephanie Wrightbough, BA, 35, of Macon, died Dec. 5, 2005.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1991
Charles N. Eldred, MBA, of Omaha, Neb., is the vice president and chief financial officer of the Omaha Public Power District, one of the largest publicly owned utilities in the nation. The Association of Government Accountants presented him with the 2005 Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award.

1994
Mark S. Wright, BBA ’92, MBA, of Kirkwood, Mo., was named the associate athletic director for development at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Mo.

1995
Shelissa Hill, MS, of Duluth, graduated from the Georgia 100 Executive Leadership Development Program. She is also pursuing a Ph.D. in organization and management from Capella University.

1997
Andrea C. Miller, BBA, of Antioch, Tenn., earned her MBA in management from Middle Tennessee State University on Aug. 14, 2005. She is employed by BCA Shared Services of Nashville, Tenn.

1999
Laura E. DeMars, MSHA, of Atlanta, was promoted to manager of materials management for Saint Joseph’s Mercy Care Services, an entity of Saint Joseph’s Health System. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in health care administration from Walden University.

2002
Henry W. Smith, BBA, earned his MBA from the University of Notre Dame in May 2005. He is employed by Ernst & Young financial consulting practice in McLean, Va.

2003
Lt. Chris Angel Fuller, BBA, is a quartermaster officer in charge of the supply support activity area at the Al Asad Forward Operating Base outside of Falujah.

2004
J. Barrett Carter, MBA, of Smyrna, is the vice president and director of transactions at Timbervest, LLC, a timberland investment management organization. He specializes in the acquisition, management and disposition of the company’s timberland holdings.

Marriages & Births

1988
Todd Adams, BBA, and his wife, Heather, announce the birth of their son, Alfred Troy Adams, on Feb. 9, 2005. They have two other children, Hayden and Megan. The family resides in Flowery Branch.

1995
Marguerite Perkins Aring, BBA, and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Elizabeth, on June 29, 2005. They also have a son, Brigg. The family resides in Winter Park, Fla.

2004
Melanie Thomas Meade, BBA, married Jason Meade, BSE, on June 4, 2005, at Riverside United Methodist Church in Macon. The couple resides in Savannah.

In Sympathy

1976
Bette B. Dutttenhaver, BBA, of Macon, died Aug. 25, 2005.

1989

1998
Sumowouli Pewu, MBA, 42, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Dec. 2, 2005.

2000
Mark Lee Jones, MBA, 41, of Macon, died July 27, 2005.

1960 Grads Remain Best Friends

For many, graduation marks the bittersweet end of many close relationships as friends become separated by geographic location, life experiences, and busy careers. However, for one group of Mercer alumni, their 1960 graduation from the College of Liberal Arts marked the beginning of a friendship that has grown stronger over the past 45 years.

In the months after their separation, the group began corresponding through letters to share their post-graduation experiences. These letters continued for the next 28 years. In 1988, the group decided to have a reunion to celebrate their 50th birthdays. This was the beginning of a new tradition for the friends, and they have held several subsequent reunions over the past 12 years.

While they are separated by geography, they remain close in spirit through letters and e-mail. They have served as a support group for each other during times of grief and joy. Although their lives have become very different since their college graduation, they still share a common love for the alma mater, Mercer University.

When these eight alumnae get together, they share stories and reminisce about their years at Mercer. Friendship is a bond that can last forever. This group of women would like to encourage other Mercer alumni to make contact with their classmates from Mercer and reestablish the connection that began during their years in college.

If you would like to receive a Mercer University commemorative tag, please complete this form and return it to the Mercer University Office of University Relations at 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207, along with a $25 check made payable to Mercer University “Commemorative Tag.”

Mercer University alumni, students and friends have an opportunity to proudly display their school loyalty by purchasing a Mercer University commemorative tag.
Have You Registered in Mercer’s New Alumni Online Directory?

No? Well, why not?

This secure service is provided at no cost to you by the Mercer Alumni Association!

You can...
- search for other alumni
- update your record
- receive a permanent e-mail address
- post and read class notes
- receive e-mail about your Alma Mater

How to Access the Online Community

Visit www.mercer.edu, click on the Alumni Menu and choose the Directory link. This link takes you to the Alumni Online Community. There you can register by using your unique Mercer Alumni Identification Number. The six-digit number that you need to register for the online community is the last six digits of your Alumni Identification Number, located on the top of the address label on the back of this publication.

If you have any problems accessing or registering in the Alumni Online Directory, call Kim Adams at 1-800-837-2911, ext. 2189, or E-mail adams_km@mercer.edu.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1990
Joel Lee Tolbert, BS, of Decatur, graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2005. He is serving as pastor of Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Decatur. His wife, Jill Patterson Tolbert, BA ’88 is graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary. They reside in Decatur with their three sons, Adam, Daniel and Michael.

1997
Sam Martinez Jr., BSE, of Macon, was promoted to director of operation at Burgess Pigment Company on April 1, 2005.

MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1997
Erik D. Varnadoe, BSE, and his wife, Lori Redwine Varnadoe, CLA ’97, announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace, on March 27, 2005. The family resides in Gray.

1998
Karen Davis Morrow, BSE, and her husband, Alvin, BSE ’99, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Joseph Morrow, on April 27, 2005. The family resides in Hephzibah.

1999
Alvin Morrow, BSE, and his wife, Karen, BSE ’98, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Joseph, on April 27, 2005. The family resides in Hephzibah.

MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1998
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1999
The family resides in Hephzibah.

2002
Richard Childers, BSE, and his wife, Camellia Childers, BBA, announce the birth of their son, Hunter Ethan Childers, on Nov. 11, 2005. The family resides in Killearn, Texas.

2004
Jason Meade, BSE, married Melanie Thomas, BBA ’94, on June 4, 2005, at Riverside United Methodist Church in Macon. The couple resides in Savannah.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1940
Gertrude A. Tharpe, AB, is the executive director of the Alabama Grief Support Foundation in Birmingham, Ala.

1992
Linda Pyant Merrick, BS, of Virginia Beach, Va., left the legal field to join Sullivan, Andrews & Taylor PC, a CPA/consulting firm as an administrator.

Michael G. Michaels, BS, of Oro Grande, Calif., celebrated the grand opening of his Iron Hog Saloon in May. The Iron Hog is housed in a 100-year-old building off Route 66 in California. According to local historians, the building was originally part of the Pony Express route, and a frequent stop for Roy Rogers.

1997
Roderick Hilton, BA, received a Ph.D. in educational leadership, & Ed, from Capella University on Oct. 1, 2005.

1998
Myron Massey, BS, of Hiram, received an award for five years of service with Coca-Cola Enterprises. He was promoted to business analyst in the information technology organization in Atlanta.

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2002
Lakisha Dennis Deon, B.S., and her husband, Alton, announce the birth of their son, Armon Walter, on July 20, 2005. The family resides in Dover, Del.

2003
Brandi Lee Hodges, BSED, and her husband, Clay, announce the adoption of their son, Evan, on April 15, 2005. Evan was adopted from Russia. The family resides in Conington.

Kelly Marie Smallwood, BSED, married Will Collins on June 11, 2005, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. The couple resides in Macon, where she is a third-grade teacher at Sonny Carter Elementary and he is a franchise owner of Firehouse Subs.

2005
Tasha S. Warren-Sears, BSED, married Jerry Sears Jr. on July 9, 2005. The couple resides in Stockbridge. She is a third-grade teacher at Parkline Elementary School in East Point and plans to attend graduate school in 2006.

IN SYMPATHY

1912
Annie Maud J. Johnson, AB, of Tuna, died June 7, 1995.

1927
Cecilia Lawrence Cook, AB, 99, of Decatur, died April 28, 2005.

1929
Grace Turner Swan, AB, 96, of Fort Valley, died July 24, 2005.

1930
Mary C. Hoffman, AB, of Dothan, Ala., died March 25, 2005.

1933

1941
Louise G. Dougherty, AB, 85, of Smyrna, died March 16, 2005.

1943

1946
Carolyn Cutts Waters, AB, 80, of Chamblee, died June 5, 2005.

1949

1951
Winifred Colquitt Williams, M.Ed., 81, of Americus, died July 24, 2005.

1954

1956
Florence M. Sanders, AB, 93, of Macon, died Sept. 28, 2005.

1958


1959
Frances Hammond Funderburk, M.Ed., 79 of Valdosta, died April 1, 2005.

1970
Eva Mae Ball, BA, 96, of Hiram, died Aug. 28, 2005.

1979
Timothy Jackson, of Augusta, died March 15, 2005.

1980
Annie Rawlins, BS, 80, of Zebulon, died June 13, 2005.

1992
John M. Gillispie, 61, of Thomson, died July 13, 2005.

1995

1994
Charles Vernon Merrick, BA, 56, of Virginia Beach, Va., died June 20, 2005.

2003

Engineering Honors
— Continued from page 14

MIAI named Godsey as a National Engineering Advisory Board Fellow “in recognition of his inspiring courage to step forth and meet a real academic need in Central Georgia by establishing the Mercer University School of Engineering, his visionary leadership that allowed him to see the multitude of possibilities beyond the clear obstacles, his persuasive talent for developing partnerships and collaborations that have strengthened and enhanced the School and its academic endeavors, and his steadfast commitment to prepare men and women to be outstanding engineers ready to serve Georgia, the nation and the world with knowledge, creativity and innovation,” the resolution stated. “It is with heartfelt gratitude and profound admiration and respect that the National Engineering Advisory Board bestows this high honor of service and leadership upon the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the School of Engineering . . .” the resolution concluded.

Robert McDuffie & Friends Labor Day Festival for Strings at Mercer University
August 31–September 4, 2006
An exceptional opportunity for outstanding high school junior and senior string musicians, along with highly selected music majors in a string immersion workshop. Tuition scholarships available. Audition CD or cassette tape and music recommendation required. Application deadline: May 4, 2006.

Class Notes
Penfield’s Perpetual Caretaker

Curtis Whittaker stood among the tombstones — the final resting place for so many people who once lived in Greene County. Here were people know as a child, those who grew up with and those about whom he only has heard stories. Here also are his parents and the place he too expects to lie one day.

“Both loved that tree,” Whittaker said about his father’s admiration for the huge red oak that shaded this corner of Penfield Cemetery where his parents and brother are buried.

In the distance a group of crows could be heard on this mild and sunny October day, when Whittaker had been mowing the cemetery grass. Since 1959 he has served as the cemetery’s caretaker, tending to its needs from picking up fallen branches to cutting the straberry. And for about 10 years before that, it was a task taken on by his father, William Whittaker.

Penfield Cemetery, with a perpetual-care endowed fund, shows the care it is afforded. Surrounding a brick and granite wall, the tombstones that line the cemetery are joined by holly, cedar, magnolia and oak trees. Whittaker lives in a house just outside the front gate where he keeps an eye on a cemetery that is important to Mercer University, which has campuses in Macon and Atlanta.

It is here, in this rural community, that Mercer University had its beginning.

Jesse Mercer, its founder, and Bullington Sanders, its first president, are buried here. Mercer University was founded in Penfield in 1833, and in 1871 it moved to Macon. But that move doesn’t mean Mercer has lost touch with its roots. Every fall, the University takes freshmen class members to Penfield to roam the cemetery, place wreaths on the graves of its early leaders and tour the old Mercer Chapel, a large two-story columned building set on a crest of the hill that gives a compelling view for those driving into this rural community.

During his time as the cemetery caretaker Whittaker has come to know Mercer presidents such as Sprynt Dowell, who served Mercer from 1928 to 1955.

“He loved Penfield and wanted to be buried here,” Whittaker said.

And he knows R. Kirby Godsey, the current president, who is retiring this year after 27 years. “Dr. Godsey was up here last week, but I didn’t get to visit them. They are really interested in this place,” Whittaker said about the Mercer University leaders.

The cemetery’s fund for upkeep was established by Col. James G. Boswell, a wealthy Californian, whose mother, Minnie Griffin Boswell, was buried here.

In fact, many people would like to be buried here, but few can.

“It’s real restrictive. You’ve got to be a long-time resident of Penfield or former long-time resident of Penfield before you can be buried here. There are a lot of disappointed people because when you drive through the cemetery, you want to be buried here,” he said.

“The most we’ve had out here is five burials in one year. Sometimes we’ll go one or two years without a funeral. There are not many native Penfield people left,” he said. “I’d say 50 percent of the tombstones you see out here have been put since I’ve been here.”

The presidents of Mercer are eligible for burial here. Dowell, the last president buried here, died in 1963.

The name most often found on the tombstones is Boswell, a family with a long history in Penfield and Greene County.

Also buried here is L.A. Carre, a former publisher for The Christian Index, the Southern Baptist newspaper that Jesse Mercer moved to Penfield, where it was published for many years. Others include Peter Northern, a veteran of the War of 1812, who was buried here in 1865. It is the most often found on the tombstones is Boswell, a family with a long history in Penfield and Greene County.

Also buried here is L.A. Carre, a former publisher for The Christian Index, the Southern Baptist newspaper that Jesse Mercer moved to Penfield, where it was published for many years. Others include Peter Northern, a veteran of the War of 1812, who was buried here in 1865. It is the most often found on the tombstones is Boswell, a family with a long history in Penfield and Greene County.

By Wayne Ford, Athens Banner-Herald

Mercer Trustees and their spouses visited the Penfield Cemetery following the December 2005 Shoals, a town that died out in the 19th century. His father moved the family to Penfield in 1948 to take on the caretaker’s job at the cemetery.

“It’s a small community today. The two things that bring the most traffic to Penfield are the Penfield Christian Home, a Christian-based treatment center for alcohol- and drug-addicted persons; and The Swamp, a large church retreat center that was erected in 1986 and restored in 1949. The church has about 15 active members.

Penfield is a place off the beaten path, only as a county road passes through. Whittaker sometimes sees the occasional visitor who happens upon the community with its cemetery, historic chapel and old homes.

“Unless you’re just riding around looking for something,” Whittaker said, “you’d probably never know anything about it.”

Reprinted with permission
Beall’s Hill Master Plan Receives Citation Award

By Anna Sandison

Cover of Beall’s Hill AIA Maryland Design Award announcement

I n the last half century, the once thriving neighborhood of Beall’s Hill has encountered many of the problems that affect inner-city neighborhoods. Of those houses that have escaped fire or demolition, many have succumbed to the corrosive effects of time and neglect. The prime location of this neighborhood makes this deterioration an even more regrettable situation. Beall’s Hill is situated near the Medical Center of Central Georgia, Mercer University’s Macon campus, an elementary school, Tattnall Square Park and downtown Macon’s variety of shops, restaurants and museums.

 Mercer’s Center for Community Engagement and its partners are working to recreate the safe, attractive neighborhood that once existed at Beall’s Hill. This development plan is a 30-block component of the larger Central South Revitalization Project. The overall goal is to create a variety of economic, educational, health and social service programs in the 120-block Central South neighborhood.

According to Last June, Mercer announced its partnership with Piedmont Healthcare in McAfee School of Theology Macon’s variety of shops, elementary school, Tattnall Macon campus, an Georgia, Mercer University’s Hill is situated near the regrettable situation. Beall’s Hill project. Earlier, the Congress for the New Urbanism honored the Beall’s Hill Urban Design and Architectural Guidelines with a Charter Award. Of 136 submissions from around the world, only 14 designs received an award. The Charter Award honors projects that improve the overall neighborhood environment, including layout and landscaping — not simply the appearance of the buildings. In 2002, former president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, presented Mercer University and CORE Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc., with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration. The exception- nal effort toward improvement and preservation demonstrated by the Beall’s Hill collaboration stood out among 33 nominated programs in Georgia.

For more information about the Beall’s Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Project, visit www.mercer.edu/MDC.

Doss Named Superior Court Judge — Oliver Harry Doss, BA ’79, JD ’85, of Blue Ridge, was installed as Superior Court Judge in the Appalachian Circuit by Gov. Sonny Perdue in December ceremonies at the State Capitol. Doss served from 2001-2003 as the president of the CLA Alumni Association Board of Directors. He served as president of the 1986 senior class as well as president of his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega.

FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNED AND ESTATE GIFTS — Planning for Your Future

By Claude D. Smith Jr.

I n today's busy world, it seems that we spend so much time taking care of others, that we neglect many of our own needs — especially our financial planning needs.

Year after year, we put off meeting with an estate planning attorney, a financial planner and other key professionals who can help us plan a secure future for ourselves and our loved ones.

Whether you are self-employed, work in a small office or large corpo- ration, planning early is key. By maxi- mizing your contributions to an IRA or other retirement plan at work, you allow money that is sheltered from income tax to grow over the years. For example, by investing $150 per month for 30 years, assuming an 8 percent return, you would accumulate $23,553.92 for your retirement.

However, if you increased your contri- bution by only 10 percent every year, you would accumulate $954,028.11 after 30 years. Now, assume that you have maximized your annual retire- ment contribution, but would still like to contribute more toward retirement. One alterna- tive is to establish a deferred charita- ble gift annuity. There are two distinct advantages to this type of gift. First, there is no annual contribution cap as there is with a tax deferred retirement plan. Second, the payment rate is higher.

As an example, if you make a gift of $100,000 to Mercer when you and your spouse are 50 years old and elect to begin receiving payments when you both are 65, you will receive an annual payment of 12.5 percent, or $12,500, for your life- times. You also qualify for an income tax deduction of $49,639 at the time of the gift. At death, the remaining funds in the annuity are transferred to your pre- ferred school.

If you have a desire to make a charitable gift which would benefit you and your spouse as well as Mercer, you may want to consider a deferred charitable gift annuity. Of course, there are other methods of estate planning that you can access on Mercer’s Web site by clicking on Alumni/Parent Planning. For more infor- mation, contact Claude D. Smith Jr., special counsel for planned and estate gifts, or Richard C. Spivey, assistant vice president for estate gifts and development.

Richard Spivey
CLA ’73, BGS ’77,
special counsel for planned and estate gifts

Claude Smith, CLA ’74, LAW ’82,
special counsel for planned and estate gifts

Martin Dalton

McAfee School of Theology began a pastoral residency program in June. The program is funded by a $2 million gift from the Lilly Foundation. The residency program is designed to help McAfee graduates transition from the classroom to full-time pastoral ministry. The grant will expire in five years, but McAfee hopes to continue a smaller-scale program through support from participating churches.

The Southern School of Pharmacy introduced a pharmacy education program geared for the community. Called “Pharmacy College,” the program sponsors lectures on practical information topics, such as herbal medicines and reducing medicinal costs.

Last June, Mercer announced its partnership with Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta to create the Center for Health and Learning. The first initiative through the Center addresses the growing need in Georgia to attract and educate more nurses. On Dec. 5, the Center introduced the inaugural group of Piedmont Scholars, 12 Georgia Baptist College of Nursing students who will receive their clinical training at and begin their nursing careers with Piedmont Healthcare.

Dr. Martin L. Dalton, Jr. has been named the new dean of the School of Medicine. His career took him to Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, the District of Columbia — via the United States Army — before bringing him to Georgia. He participated in the first successful human lung transplant in 1963. In the medical school, he also serves as professor and chair of Mercer’s Department of Surgery, is chief of surgery and directs the surgical residency program at the Medical Center of central Georgia.

According to The Princeton Review, “Professors Rock” at Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law. For the second year in a row, Mercer’s law professors have made this top 10 list, based on the quality of the classroom experience and accessibility outside of class. This year Mercer’s faculty ranked nationally. That fall, the School of Law also began offering Business Certificate Programs in Practice Management and Corporate Finance. To complete these programs, law students enroll in specific courses through the Dean of School of Business and Economics without having to actually enroll in the MBA program.

U N I V E R S I T Y N E W S B R I E F S

UNIVERSITY春秋特刊 2004

23
Share Your Latest News!

Alumni Services would like to keep your classmates up to date on your latest news. If you've recently moved or are planning to relocate, please send in this form so we can keep our records current. We also want to know if you have recently married, had a baby, received a promotion, retired or accomplished something else noteworthy.

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Name ____________________________________________________
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“Chip Off the Old Block” —
Please list any family members who are Mercer alumni.
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

News to Share ______________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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