Hatcher Leaves Footprints of Leadership

Robert F. Hatcher, BB&T Georgia chairman, is all about leadership. He talks it, he walks it, and, fortunately, he generously provides it as a volunteer.

During 2002, the Macon bank executive has filled three top leadership positions as chairman of Mercer University’s Board of Trustees, Macon’s Community Foundation and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

While Hatcher admits holding several major leadership positions at the same time can be challenging, he wears the responsibilities comfortably.

Sitting in his executive office on the first floor of the BB&T building in downtown Macon, he punctuates his sentences with an easy smile. His conversation moves effortlessly from banking trends to the legislative needs of businesses statewide to the need for vision and values in business today. It all reveals why others call upon the Macon banker for direction and leadership.

“It is most important for companies, particularly CEOs, to have a vision, to have values, and to live them and articulate them,” said Hatcher, who has been chairman of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Macon and Leadership USA. “When they have these qualities, suddenly you don’t have ethics issues anymore because they are living the kind of values that really make a difference. It’s part of leadership, and it’s part of success.”

It would be easy to believe that Hatcher comes by his business acumen naturally as the grandson of R. Kirby Godsey and one of Mercer’s most noted alumni.

Born in Kewanee, Ill., he spent his formative years there, where his father owned a Coca-Cola bottling company. He discovered his career path while looking for a summer job after he graduated from UGA in 1964, with majors in finance and marketing, he had several offers from banks. But he chose to return to First National, and in 1975, graduated from the School of Banking of the South. At First National (renamed Trust Co. Bank and now known as SunTrust), Hatcher steadily moved up the corporate ladder. In 1988, he was senior vice president and senior credit officer at Trust Co. Bank of Middle Georgia when First Liberty Financial Corp. named him president of Liberty Sugar Bank’s Middle Georgia Division.

A year later, Hatcher became president and CEO of First Liberty Financial Corp. & First Liberty Bank. In 2000, Liberty merged with BB&T, the 14th largest bank in the country, and today, Hatcher serves as chairman of BB&T.

A Natural Fit

Hatcher sees his involvement with the community as being a natural fit for him. “When you’re building a bank, you tend to build a community at the same time. They work together,” he said in a Macon Telegraph article earlier this year.

He has carried his partnership philosophy forward during his years as Georgia Chamber chairman. This year the state Chamber, at Hatcher’s behest, established a regional council in each of the organization’s 12 economic development districts. Each council has 30 to 40 people from the region who come together to discuss their various business needs.

“The role of the Georgia Chamber is to represent the needs of business in the legislative session,” explained Hatcher. “At these regional council meetings, the local members are letting us know what they want the state Chamber to work on. It has been a very beneficial communication tool.”

Charlotte McMullen, Macon’s Chamber chair, sees the regional councils as an extension of Hatcher’s style of leadership. “Bob is a very participatory kind of person,” she explained. “He listens very well. He has the ability to say, ‘What if we did this …’ and start a conversation to bring everyone on board. ‘He understands that we will accomplish much more if we are all working together,’” said McMullen. “The regional councils give people outside of Atlanta an opportunity to get involved in the state Chamber and that’s important for the economic development of the whole state.”

His Time as Mercer’s Chairman

With his current term on Mercer’s board of trustees coming to an end in

University Honors Presented to Kay, Setzer, Withers

Kay encourages graduates to rediscover childhood imagination.

Award-winning Georgia novelist and screenwriter Terry Kay told graduates of Mercer University’s four undergraduate schools in Macon to not let their education stand in the way of their imagination and ultimate success during commencement ceremonies in May.

More than 1,500 graduates of the College of Liberal Arts, Artsen School of Business and Economics, School of Engineering and Tift College of Education participated in the ceremonies held at the Macon Coliseum.

Kay, the author of such notable works as In Dance With the Dog, Shadow Song, The Runaway and Talking Lottie Home, challenged the graduates to retain the spark they possess as children as they set out to build successful careers.

“I don’t want to talk about who you will be, but who you have been,” Kay said. “I want you take you back to a time more of you will not remember clearly, but was, perhaps, the most important year of your life — back to that time when you were four years old. And I do this not from the reference of studies conducted by sociologists, but from my own observations as a parent of four children and four grandchildren.”

At four years old, Kay contends, the mind is not hindered by rigid societal convention. It is the four-year-old mind that sees and expresses the innocence of life with refreshing imagination.

That, more than a degree, will make a graduate successful, Kay said.

“As you accept your documents of diploma today — signifying success in your fields of study — I can tell you on behalf of every person who has ever stood before you in a classroom, that it is perfectly acceptable to reclaim your four-year-old mind, the mind that dazzled you with its power of exploration, the mind that made each moment inconceivably vibrant,” Kay said.

— Continued on page 9

— Continued on page 9
Fleming Named Executive V.P.

By Lance Wallace

Mercer University welcomed Dr. Mercer named Fleming as executive vice president in July after five years of service as executive vice president of the University of Southern Mississippi.

"It is a great time to be associated with Mercer University," said Fleming. "I have an open-door policy, and we will work together to achieve our goals."

Mercerians' Unselfish Acts Enhance Lives of Others

A common bond exists between two Mercerians whose selfless acts have changed the lives of others.

Mercer's two alumni houses in Macon, Ga., have been able to resume their normal activities while hosting donors. Both have been able to help others in need.

"Our philosophy is to give back to the community," said Dr. Mercer. "We believe in giving back to those who have helped us reach our goals."
ATS Accredits McAfee for Initial 5-Year Period

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited Mercer University’s School of Theology for the five years, the longest period of time ATS will give for initial accreditation.

“This is a tribute to the leadership of Dean Alan Cupperly and the faculty of the School of Theology,” said Mercer President R. Kirby Godyck. “We congratulate them on this achievement, which was at least one year earlier than the traditional accreditation schedule would have indicated.”

Cupperly officially received the accreditation, and McAfee was granted full member status at the recent biennial meeting in Pittsburgh.

ATS accredits more than 240 theological schools, seminaries and divinity schools representing all of the major Christian denominations. ATS is the theological education accrediting body for the United States and Canada.

In February, ATS sent a three-member accreditation team to McAfee. The team returned a recommendation for full, five-year accreditation. The ATS Commission on Accreditation met at the end of May, and notified McAfee of their decision to accredit in early June.

Sabbath Named Law School Interim Dean

Mercer University President R. Kirby Godyck named Michael Sabbath to the position of interim dean of the Walter F. George School of Law at Macon, effective July 1, 2002. Sabbath, who joined the Law School faculty in 1979, has served as dean for the past five years. President Godyck expects to select a new law school dean by July 1, 2003.

University Trustee James A. Bishop of Sea Island, Ga., 67, is chairing the search committee. Other committee members include: Suzanne Cassidy, of the Law Library of Congress; Robert Ogg, an Atlanta attorney and member of the Mercer Board of Trustees; Stephen Johnson, associate dean and Law School professor; Patrick Long, Law School professor; Emily Myers, senior vice president for University Advancement and Admissions; and Richard “Doc” Schneider, J.D. ’71, of Atlanta, attorney and member of the Law School Board of Visitors.

Sabbath, a native of Sandersville, Ga., has served as dean of Mercer’s Law School, located at a position at the University of Missouri School of Law.

Pharmacy's Undergrads Honored at Graduation

While most of the Southern School of Pharmacy Class of 2002 waited anxiously for their acceptance letter this year, six of them knew their fate as early as their freshmen year as McKenzie Undergraduates. That’s because they had received early acceptance in the Pharmacy School as part of Mercer’s early acceptance program through the College of Liberal Arts.

With 1,020 applicants vying for 1,30 slots this year, the Pharmacy School’s Early Acceptance Program puts these students minds at ease.

“Mercer’s early acceptance program is perfect for college freshmen who have already decided on pharmacy careers,” said Jen Flint, Pharm.D., associate dean for student affairs and admissions. “It really gives students peace of mind to know they are guaranteed a slot when they finish their undergraduate requirements.”

Before they are guaranteed placement, students must fulfill specific requirements of the program. They must make satisfactory progress in the two-year pre-pharmacy curricula and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Falling below 3.0 automatically cancels a student’s early acceptance status.

EAP students also participate in academic advising and career seminar programs, provided jointly by Dr. Flint and the College’s pre-pharmacy advisor, and must keep in touch with the Pharmacy School’s Office of Student Affairs and Admissions as specified in the EAP requirements and procedures. For information about the Early Acceptance Program call the Pharmacy School’s Office of Student Affairs and Admissions at (706) 547-6322.

School of Medicine Celebrates 20 Years

The School of Medicine is commemorating two decades of teaching, service and healing with a series of celebrations throughout Georgia this year.

With more than 400 alumni and friends, the School held kick off the School’s Biennial Anniversary Celebration in April at the home of Mercer Trustees Chair Robert F. Hatcher and his wife, Georgia. Among those speaking at the Macon event were charter class member Jack Summer, M.D. ’66, of Starmore; Charles H. Jones, founding chair of the School’s Board of Governors, who, with his wife, Lois, is co-chairing the 20th Anniversary Celebration, and President Godyck.

“This School of Medicine was not the doing of any one person,” said President Godyck during the Macon event. “This School is due to everyone here and many who are not with us tonight whose dedication and determination led to the opening and all-time success of this School.”

Other spring receptions were held on St. Simons Island and in Stockbridge.

“These celebrations allow us to recognize alumni, friends, benefactors and community leaders whose contributions and commitments to the School have helped to improve health care in Georgia,” said Dr. Anne C. Johns, dean of the Medical School. “Some 600 students have graduated from Mercer Medical School. More than 50 percent of Mercer’s graduates are treating patients who live in federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. More than 1.3 million Georgia residents are treated annually by physicians who graduated from Mercer School of Medicine.

College of Nursing Offers MSN Degree

With the demand for nurses continuing to rise, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing (GBCN) has added a master of science in nursing (MSN) degree to its offerings. Known for its reputation for excellence in nursing education, GBCN has tailored its graduate program to meet two critical needs in health care today: nursing education and acute/critical care nursing of the adult.

“Graduates of our program will help ease current and future shortages in both areas,” said Dr. Susan S. Bailey, dean of the College. “By earning the master’s degree, students will also expand their career opportunities.”

The nursing education track will prepare graduate students for careers as nurse educators, whether in an academic environment or as a health care professional. Students will be paired with experienced faculty members and will become involved in classroom and clinical responsibilities in their area of interest.

The track for acute/critical care nursing of the adult will prepare the adult student to work in intensive care units in their nursing careers. The program involves clinical experiences that encompass all areas of adult health. Classroom instruction and work in the off-campus learning lab, where clinical care simulations are stimulated through state-of-the-art technology, will supplement the off-site learning experience.

This 42 semester hour program is available to students on a part-time or full-time basis, with full-time students completing the degree requirements in four semesters. The College also offers a bachelor of science in nursing degree and the R.N. to B.S.N. track. For more information contact the Office of Admissions, (706) 547- 6700, e-mail nurs@mercer.edu, or visit www.mercer.edu.

Harrisons Use Charitable Remainder Unitrust to Benefit Mercer

By Claude Smith

As we move swiftly toward the end of the year, do not forget the power you have — the power to help students at Mercer succeed.

If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact the Mercer Financial Aid Office.

Gifts to Mercer are made annually through The Mercer Fund. Each of you have been called at one time or another by a Mercer student through the phone-a-thon asking for your support. Your positive response is critical. These gifts, no matter how small, allow us to make up the shortfall in the amount of tuition paid. It allows us to heat and cool the buildings, and provide equipment for the classrooms. Another way to give is to establish endowed scholarships. This allows us to attract the best and brightest students to Mercer. Some scholarships are based solely on academic performance, while others are based on financial need. Many of you believe as we do that no qualified student should ever miss the opportunity to attend Mercer because of financial need.

Other donors choose to support our infrastructure by giving to building projects. These types of gifts allow us to support the classrooms and laboratories, whether in an academic environment or as a health care professional. Students will be paired with experienced faculty members and will become involved in classroom and clinical responsibilities in their area of interest.

The track for acute/critical care nursing of the adult will prepare the adult student to work in intensive care units in their nursing careers. The program involves clinical experiences that encompass all areas of adult health. Classroom instruction and work in the off-campus learning lab, where clinical care simulations are stimulated through state-of-the-art technology, will supplement the off-site learning experience.

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HARRISONS USE CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST TO BENEFIT MERCER

By Claude Smith

A s the calendar year comes to a close, it is a good time to take a personal inventory of our financial goals. Some key questions to ask are:

1. Have I made provisions for my family if I die in the next 10 years?
2. What steps can I take to lower or eliminate all that credit card debt?
3. Have I started a steady and consistent retirement plan?
4. How can I best support the charity or educational institution of my choice?

At least 50 percent of adults in this country do not have a will at all. This means that the state and federal government will decide how your estate is divided and who will administer that estate. Plus, if you have children under 18, the state determines their guardian. By simply executing a will or living trust allows your loved ones to be the guardian. By simply executing a will or living trust allows your loved ones to

By Claude Smith, Advancement Office

Harrisons Use Charitable Remainder Unitrust to Benefit Mercer

By Claude Smith

Harrison, a retired estate planning attorney in Decatur, well understands the mutual benefits of a charitable remainder trust.

“In this situation, Loretta and I, as well as Mercer, benefit,” he said. “Since we receive an income for life from the trust, we get a large gift now which will endow a larger scholarship later. We also receive a nice tax deduction for our gift, which doesn’t hurt. “ However, he added, “our main interest is helping some deserving young student afford to attend law school.”

The Harrisons are enjoying their retirement in Grayson. Knowing that their gifts to Mercer will help future generations of Mercers make live just a little bit sweeter.
berries to such popular movies as Platoon, Saving Private Ryan and Black Hawk Down, the common perception of Army ROTC is of basic training, demanding drill sergeants, camouflage uniforms, weapons and combat.

The reality, however, is quite different from that perception. Over the past two years, Mercer’s 55-year-old Army ROTC program has focused less on specific military skills and more on leadership training.

“The entire understanding of the Army is shaped by Hollywood,” said Maj. Mark D. Fox, assistant professor of military science. “Hollywood depictions tend to focus on an injustice, the action of warfare, movie heroism, etc. Students are surprised when they get here. They are expecting some drill sergeant to be waiting for them, and they expect to be treated harshly, but the Army does not encourage that. That’s not how it is. We are here to mentor, teach, train and motivate.”

While cadets do get some minimal combat training, the ultimate mission of Mercer’s Army ROTC program is to commit the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army, as well as motivate young people to be better citizens.

“ROTC provides opportunities for young men and women to develop their leadership, planning and professional skills before beginning their service in the Army,” said cadet Kelley Nalley, a senior from Stockbridge double majoring in international business and Spanish. “Also, the program allows the Army to observe the performance of each cadet within the program. It allows them to see who’s weak or strong, who’s active in the program and who’s not.

Basically, ROTC is important for the development and evaluation of upcoming officers.”

Currently, 90 percent of Mercer’s ROTC cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants into the U.S. Army, Army National Guard or U.S. Army Reserve.

“The Army could not function without the officers produced from ROTC,” Fox said. “ROTC produces approximately 60 percent of the officer needs of the Army. Because the Army is such a people-oriented organization, leaders are needed to motivate, mentor, counsel and lead individual units so those units reach their optimal potential. At the sharp edge of the Army, the combat arms, the need for young people of exceptional leadership has not changed since conflicts began.

Along with the Hollywood perceptions of the Army, there are other misconceptions surrounding Army ROTC programs. Students mistakenly think taking ROTC classes will automatically enlist them in the Army, or they will automatically go into combat after completing an ROTC program. According to Fox, there is no obligation to the Army unless the student is on a scholarship or the student becomes a commissioned officer.

“When you do receive a scholarship, then you must serve four years active duty in the Army or eight years in the U.S. Army Reserves,” said cadet Curtis Armstrong, a senior from Waycross, who is on scholarship and majoring in computer science.

Many typically think Army ROTC is only for males. Last year, however, Mercer’s Army ROTC program has twice as many females than males in its junior class.

“We look for qualified candidates to be potential officers,” said Fox, adding that the average grade point average (GPA) for a cadet at Mercer is above a 3.0. “We look for the best and brightest. We look for the scholar-athlete who has leadership abilities and who will demonstrate excellence.”

Established in 1947, Mercer’s Army ROTC program is thriving with 54 cadets. While it may seem that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have increased ROTC enrollment, Fox says that’s not the case.

“The attacks on Sept. 11 have had zero impact on the growth of our program, because so far the U.S. response has mostly been with special operations,” Fox said.

“It’s the quality of cadets that is the reason for the increase. By their own example, they are breaking the stereotypes and selling themselves.”

With the numbers of cadets increasing every semester, the future for Mercer’s Army ROTC program looks prosperous.

“Young people today appear to be searching for organizations that fulfill their desire to be a part of something greater than themselves,” Fox said.

“Military officership meets that criterion, and Mercer University is a place that fosters those types of thoughts, as well as encourages each student to give something in service to others.”
Liberal Arts News

Broadway:
28

Mercer Theatre:
16

Mercer Wind Ensemble:
16

Mercer Singers:
Lessons & Carols,
5

New Shanghai Circus,
6-7

Kiwanis Travelogue: Bali,
14

John Berry,
17

Nutcracker of Middle Georgia,
8:00 p.m., Grand Opera House, $30

Mercer Wind Ensemble,
8:00 p.m., Grand Opera House, FREE

Mercer Singers & Macon Singa forma:
8:00 p.m., Grand Opera House, $15

This is such a wonderful learning experience that goes beyond the classroom — a mutual sharing of gifts, talents and dedication.

Politicale Science Studies Abroad

The trip was led by Domini and Political Science faculty members Dr. Eimad Houry and Dr. Jessica Perez-Monforti. Each member of the faculty lectured on the area of her expertise, allowing the trip to cross several Political Science disciplines. The study abroad experience covered politics and American governance, security, political theory, international relations, modern political thought and American government—essential for students and faculty members alike.

World Notes

The trip was funded by a grant from University Commons, reducing the costs to the students. Political Science hopes to make study abroad an annual part of its summer offerings. Domini said tentative plans are being made for a 2003 trip to Central America, including stops in Mexico, Costa Rica and Honduras.
Senior Design Project Becomes Technology Showcase for TSI

For their senior design project, Mercer engineering students Monterey Ellis, Adam Wolford and Brian Anderson accomplished the unthinkably — they designed and built a fully-automated manufacturing leather coaster press that is both practical and cool to watch.

Tackling a project for TSI Solutions of Stone Mountain, a company that specializes in the sale and distribution of automated pneumatic components, meant the student team had not only to design a machine that would make a product, but do it in a way that would demonstrate the pneumatic technology the company sells.

“This is a show machine,” said recent engineering graduate Monterey Ellis of Decatur. “This is something TSI wouldn’t have been able to do if we hadn’t taken this on for them.”

Pneumatics and the closely related field of hydraulics involve using a gas or a liquid to create pressure and ultimately force. Many devices utilizing pneumatic or hydraulic technology are used for tasks that require a great deal of force in a small amount of space. The dragons Mercer students were challenged to build used pneumatic and hydro-pneumatic technology.

The students put their mechanical, electrical and computer engineering knowledge to the test to build the automatic coaster press. The device required that they build a robotic arm to move the coasters into position for the pneumatic press to stamp an image into the leather. The whole operation had to be fully automated and show observers how pneumatics can be used in industry.

The project called for students to demonstrate their understanding of this technical skill, and also to develop a marketing strategy for the product.

“People don’t get to see machines like this in their daily lives...This allows us to take technology out of the factory and to our customers to showcase what our products can do,” said senior Brian Anderson of Warner Robins.

The students needed to design a machine that would stamp out aluminum coins or tokens, but instead shifted to leather drink coasters as a way to give people a useful item they were more likely to keep.

“We stumbled onto the idea of the doing leather coasters,” Ellis said. “That brought the project to a whole new level. Leather has a lot of variables to account for.”

Ellis and his fellow team members had to find out which companies supplied leather, what impacts climate could have on the product, inconveniences in the surface of the material and even which part of the cow the leather came from.

“The deeper we got into it, the more complicated it got,” said senior Brian Anderson of Warner Robbins.

The team was also required to custom build 45 parts on the device, putting their limited machining training to good use. And because the machine was going to be used in sales calls and trade shows, it had to look like a finished product.

The team built an aluminum frame with a Lexan covering that had to incorporate safety shut-offs in case the protective case was opened during production. The device also had to run at variable speeds, allowing disks to be turned into coasters faster or slower.

The remaining challenge was to build it so that it was portable. When Mercer engineering faculty members questioned the students about the design in the Critical Design Review, one of the most important concerns was whether or not the machine would tip over.

With a few minor modifications, the team assured their professors that it wouldn’t tip over.

“We have accomplished is far beyond what I would have believed we were capable of when we started,” said Wolford, a senior from Calhoun. “It turned out better than we imagined, too.”

“It’s got to think this has been an excellent education for the students,” Post said. “Monterey had been an intern for us, and he was a known quantity in terms of his capabilities. We had a need and he and his team were able to do something we couldn’t do for ourselves.”
As Summer Fellows, faculty members contribute to space research at NASA facilities throughout the country.

For three faculty members in the School of Engineering, this past summer provided them with unique opportunities to further their research activities while assisting the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Dr. Behnam Kamali, Dr. Loren Sumner and Dr. Renee Rogge spent 10 weeks as summer faculty fellows of the American Society of Engineering Education and NASA. Each worked on special projects related to their individual areas of expertise.

Controlling Errors in Digital Transmissions

For Kamali, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, it was his second summer as a faculty fellow. When he arrived at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) at the California Institute of Technology this year, he was offered a project involving Reed-Solomon codes. This class of codes is widely used to correct errors in digital data transmission and storage systems—from compact disc players and high-definition television, to satellite and wireless communications.

“For years, NASA has used a particular Reed-Solomon code in its spacecraft, including the Hubble Telescope and space probes, such as Voyager II and Pathfinder,” said Kamali. “Because some of these spacecraft are now millions of miles away, the signals received at earth stations are getting weaker.”

To improve the quality of pictures and sounds being transmitted back to Earth, Kamali’s job was to develop a new decoding algorithm for Reed-Solomon codes. “If successful, this would not only improve transmissions, but could also prolong the usefulness of these coding schemes,” said Kamali.

What Kamali discovered was that a decoding algorithm traditionally used for another class of codes, known as low density parity-check (LDPC) codes, may be the key to the problem. “This decoding technique has been applied to LDPC codes, but no one had applied it to Reed-Solomon codes,” said Kamali. “Because Reed-Solomon code is word-oriented and LDPC is bit-oriented, changes need to be made on the decoding procedure to make it work. That is the subject of further study.”

Kamali presented his findings to the JPL coding group at NASA before returning to Macom. His report has been peer-reviewed and recently approved for publication as a NASA/JPL document.

Microgravity Fluid Physics Problem

Sumner spent his summer at NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked on the theoretical analysis of Newtonian droplets. Although he had not conducted research in this particular area, he developed a proposal for a project that he thought would contribute to the field of microgravity fluid physics.

In earlier studies, researchers had found that a liquid droplet coating a flat, solid surface would remain separate while supporting a load from an opposing solid boundary. His goal was to help explain that phenomenon.

Using an asymptotic analysis, Sumner predicted the shape of the droplet and then went to work to explain the necessary physics contributing to this shape. “I already knew that a lubricating layer prevented it from touching,” said Sumner.

The big question was: Can the deformed droplet shape be purely a viscous effect?

He was surprised to find that the shape of the droplet was caused by inertia. “That was not expected because you normally don’t associate inertia with lubrication theory,” said Sumner.

Understanding the physics inside this layer may enable NASA scientists to use nonwetting droplets more effectively in space: “It can certainly support small loads associated with microgravity,” said Sumner, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering. “It also has potential applications for such things as heat pipes and fuel cells used on Earth.”

Sumner presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society, Division of Fluid Dynamics, on Nov. 25.

Biomechanics in Space

Rogge, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering, was based at the Anthropometry and Biomechanics Facility (ABF) at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for her fellowship. As part of NASA’s Space Human Factors Branch, the ABF explores research and evaluates flight equipment, procedures and systems from the perspective of biomechanics, human performance and ergonomics.

“For years, NASA has had body measurements on all of the astronauts and candidates in the space program. Based on that data, they had created a three-dimensional model that is used when designing space hardware. Although the model is three-dimensional, it is a stick figure that doesn’t show body surfaces at all,” said Rogge.

Over the past few years, complete body scans were taken of all the astronauts and those in training. Her job was to figure out a way to merge the data from the stick figure model with data from the body scans—so the original anthropometric data could continue to be used.

“It was fascinating work,” said Rogge. “This type of data is used to make sure astronauts can fit through hatches and get into various positions so they can work on equipment or projects in space. It’s not only about size and space limitations, but also where restraints should be placed so excessive force or pressure is not felt on the body.”

During her 10 weeks at NASA, Rogge tested various software to see what would best merge the two sets of data. One of the programs she wrote was successful.

“I ended up with a stick figure wrapped in contours that represented body surfaces,” said Rogge. “It was an exciting process because I began with a cloud of data that didn’t resemble anything. Piece by piece, it came together on my computer screen. I could see that the data from the two programs were colliding and that our stick figure now had a body.”

Combining Teaching with Research

All three faculty members agree that research enhances teaching, and that the summer faculty fellowships are excellent ways to combine the two. Sumner was influential in getting a student involved in one of NASA’s summer research programs, and Rogge hopes to take a student with her when she returns for the second year of her fellowship.

“It’s wonderful to show students that there is more to their studies than the theoretical aspects of engineering,” said Rogge. “By taking part in the fellowship, I can share with students the practical aspects of our work, and encourage them to follow in our footsteps and pursue their own research.”

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By Roban Johnson

Student Graduates from NASA Academy

W hat most students spent their summer recovering from the rigors of classes, senior biomedical engineering student, Wendy Krauser, spent 10 weeks at NASA’s Astronaut Academy working on the research project, “Cellular Effects of Hypogravity and Mechanical Substrate Deformation on Bone Osteoblast Cultures.”

Krauser was one of 13 student nations wide, and the only one from a school in the state of Georgia, to be chosen for this highly selective opportunity.

“I first heard about the NASA Academy during my sophomore year from my professor,” Dr. Phillip Olster, who is a member of the Georgia NASA Space Grant Consortium, she explained. “Unlike other internships, it was not just about research. We were introduced to all aspects of NASA, including the management, projects, facilities, and leaders of the organization.”

The management and technical courses Krauser completed at Mercer proved helpful, as she was the managing editor of the group project. “No one else at the academy had taken courses to prepare them for writing big documents and organizing large teams except for me,” she said.

Braking the trend of doing something scientific for their group project, they instead decided to produce a document identifying reasons for the necessity of a human mission to Mars.

“The United States has been suffering from a decrease in students studying engineering and science since the Apollo era,” said Krauser. “If something is not done to toggle the decrease, then other countries will surpass the U.S. in technology.” Their final document establishes political and scientific benefits of such a mission, including stimulating interest in these fields. It has been sent to members of Congress across the country.

While much of their research occurred at the Ames Research Center, at Moffett Field, Calif., their work also took them to locations such as Lake Tahoe, Monterey, Santa Cruz, all in Calif., and Washington, D.C.

“My father would ask, ‘Where are you calling from this time?’ because we traveled so often and to so many places.” Additionally, the “academites,” as they called themselves, experienced what research and facilities atNASA and its affiliate facilities. “We saw the Mars 2003 rover, huge telescopes, stealth fighters and more.”

Krauser also worked on an independent research project that ended successfully. “The automated Centrifuge Fixation Unit I worked on performed wonderfully and the scientific impact it will have in the field of gravitational molecular biology is quite large,” she said. The results from this device may help to predict what causes astronaut bone loss in space.

When she receives her bachelor of science degree in May 2003, Krauser plans to enter graduate school and “definitely continue to work for NASA.” While she has settled back into life at Mercer, her summer experience has left a lasting impression.

“Working with students from other states and countries was a great learning experience,” indicated Krauser. “The contacts and friends I made this summer have impacted my graduate school decisions and the way I approach life.”

By Elizabeth Flader

By Roban Johnson

By Elizabeth Flader

By Roban Johnson

By Elizabeth Flader
Crossfire Duo Reunites at Executive Forum

A fter a spectacular speaker series last year, The Executive Forum is once again off to a fantastic start with the most sought-after speakers coming to Mercer for the 2002-2003 speaker series, including a special presentation of CNN's Crossfire in October.

After economist Todd Buchholz, a former award-winning economics professor at Harvard and co-founder and managing director of ESNO Capital Management, kicked off the series in September with a presentation titled "Is the Economy Headed Up or Off a Cliff?" Mercer welcomed former Crossfire co-host Tucker Carlson and Bill Press in October.

Carlson, current co-host of Crossfire, CNN’s popular and lively political debate program, and Press, former co-host of Crossfire and now co-host of MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow and Press, covered a broad range of issues, including the mid-term elections, potential war with Iraq, the war on terrorism and the Bush presidency.

The fall series concluded Nov. 19 with Pete Balbo, vice president and general manager of the Atlanta Hawks.

He gave a breakfast presentation at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon and a lunch presentation on the Atlanta campus.

The spring series will include Porsche Cars North America Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Fred Schwab on Tuesday, March 18; AGL Resources Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Pasha Biceps, Tuesday, April 29, and Southern Company Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Allen Franklin in May.

Last year, The Executive Forum brought in former Senator Bob Dole, who was the 1996 Republican presidential candidate; Soledad O’Brien, co-anchor of NBC’s “Weekend Today”; Roger Dow, senior vice president of Marriott International; and Tucker Carlson, current co-host of Crossfire, CNN’s popular and lively political debate program, and Press, former co-host of Crossfire and now co-host of MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow and Press, covered a broad range of issues, including the mid-term elections, potential war with Iraq, the war on terrorism and the Bush presidency.

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The Forum serves as a resource for professionals in Macon and Atlanta and provides an opportunity for executives to hear from some of the country’s best speakers.

Rebecca Paul, president and CEO of the Georgia Lottery Corp., Philip Huemann, president and CEO of SunTrust Banks Inc.; and Pat Mitchell, president and CEO of Public Broadcasting Service.

The Executive Forum, established in 1979, is a membership-based speaker series designed to link the business community to Mercer’s Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. The Executive Forum serves as a resource for working professionals in Macon and Atlanta and provides an opportunity for executives to hear from some of the country’s best speakers, while interacting with other business leaders. A total of six speakers are heard throughout the year, with two in the fall series and three in the spring series.

Anyone interested in becoming a member can call the Office of University Advancement at (478) 303-2724.
Footprints of Leadership
— Continued from page 1

December, Hatcher reflects on his time as chairman as being one of support.

“When Kirby [Godsey] asked me to be chairman, I told him I wanted to be the most supportive chairman he ever had,” said Hatcher. “When anyone calls up and says, ‘We need you to do something,’ then I say, ‘Put me in the coach. Let me see what I can do.’

That doesn’t leave footsteps in the sand, but that’s all about being part of the team.”

However, according to Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey, Hatcher has left many footsteps on Mercer’s campuses. “He wants the University to be all that it can be,” said Godsey. “Nothing seems impossible to Bob. He has a realistic side to him, but he is always pushing the envelope. His chairmanship will be remembered for that.”

Hatcher has been one of the primary voices behind the campus improvements the University has undergone in recent years. During his chairmanship, the University’s physical appearance has continued to be transformed on the Macon and Atlanta campuses with the addition of new buildings and the groundbreaking of the University Center.

“Bob looks at what will build the reputation of Stetson Hall, and building the School’s endowment. But, Dr. Carl Joiner, dean of Stetson School of Business, sees Hatcher’s impact on the School to be much more than financial support. “He deserves significant credit for the mission that we have as well as for our efforts to seek further accreditation by AACSB (American Association of Colleges and Schools of Business),” said the dean. Hatcher also stays connected to the students. The past two years, the bank executive invited all new freshmen of the School of Business to a reception and dinner at BB&T.

“The students loved it,” said Joiner. “They know the stature that he has, and the tales he has, he stood there talking with them and putting them on the back.

“But that’s what makes Bob Hatcher who he is,” he continued. “Bob is genuinely interested in people. He really cares about people.”

On the Stages

While Hatcher takes on many responsibilities, he manages to balance his personal and professional life. Family and friends are very important. Business success never preempts personal and professional relationships and respect.

One of the ways he has found balance is snow skiing. His love for “flying” over the snow developed 35 years ago, just after his son, Robbo, was born. Snow skiing is now a family affair including his two grandchildren, Felton, almost 5, and Janie, 3, to whom he brought miniature skis, poles and snow suits to the hospital only hours after each was born.

“You know when you’re on vacation how you still have business going through your mind,” he explained. “Well, if you go out West and strap two boards on your feet and jump off the side of a mountain, it is really hard to think about the bank.

“It is a physical exercise, but it is one that you have to pay attention to what you are doing,” said Hatcher, who competes in races down the mountains of Colorado. Last year winning two gold, eleven silver and four bronze medals. “I can get away from the business world faster and more completely up in the mountains.”

As 2002 draws to a close, Hatcher will step down from some of his volunteer responsibilities, including the chairmanship of Mercer’s Board of Trustees. The organizations and institutions he has led have benefited from his vision and leadership. While he would easily characterize his terms of leadership as being just a member of the team, he has left definite footprints of service across Mercer University, Macon and the state.

For the past two years, Bob Hatcher has hosted a reception at BB&T for the new Mercer business freshmen. He enjoys having the opportunity to stay connected with Mercer students.

The Stetson School of Business

In addition to his work with the entire University, Hatcher has a special interest in the School of Business, which bears his grandfather’s name. He and his family have financially supported the School, funding much of the renovation of Stetson Hall, and building the School’s endowment.

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University Honors Presented
— Continued from page 1

Kay said. “Poetically, that is what your degree declares — a permission to be as extraordinary as you used to be, before we began to educate you.”

Kay related that in his writing career he does not set out to tell stories, he attempts in writing to discover one. He called it a “sim- ple matter of letting imagination chase after questions of ‘What if?’”

“ ‘To simplify it, consider the child’s exercise of connecting the dots,’” Kay said. “Imagina- tion places the dots where they are, think- ing connects them. I believe the same is true in every enabling pursuit that any of us may elect to follow, from science to art, from civil service to spiritual search, and all the in between.”

In closing, Kay shared with the audience —

It is perfectly acceptable to reclaim your four-year-old mind, the mind that dazzled you with its power of exploration ... that made each moment inconceivably vibrant. Poetically, that is what your degree declares — a permis- sion to be as extraordinary as you used to be.

The ceremonies were also highly lighted by the presentations of the University’s most prestigious honorary degrees and student and faculty awards.

The University presented Kay with the honorary Doctor of Literature degree; Dr. Robert Seiter, First Baptist Church of Macon pastor, with the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Ken Taft of Manor received the Louise D. Newsom General Excellence Medal for his scholastic achievement, personal integrity and character, service to the campus community and commitment to spiritual values. A double major in economics and political science, Taft was frequently named to the Dean’s and President’s lists; was induced into such honorary societies as Omicron Delta Kappa, PhiEta Sigma and Pi Sigma Alpha; and served as an orientation assistant, Student Government Association parliamentarian and chief justice of the student judicial system.

Senal Patel of Rome received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for exemplifying excellence in character, leadership, service to the community and commitment to spiritual values. A double major in communications and theater arts and art history, Patel served as president of Chi Omega sorority, a Mercer cheerleader, and member of Pathenecian Council, the Student Government Association and the Up’id Dave philanthropic organi- zation benefitting the St. Jude’s Research Hospital. She was also a vol- unteer at numerous Macon-area non- profit organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Georgia Children’s Home and the Macon Children’s Hospital.

Faculty honorees went to business professor Dr. Harold Jones as the recipient of the Vulcan Award for Teaching Excellence, Dr. Scott Nash as the recipient of the Spencer B. King Jr. Distinguished Professor Award in the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Allen Lynch served as the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award in the School of Busi- ness. Dr. Kent Barnett as the recipient of the School of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award and Dr. Billy Staton as the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award in the College of Education.

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Man of the Century

Judge William A. Bootle Celebrates 100th Birthday

Judge William Augustus “Gus” Bootle, AB ’24, LLB ’25, LLD ’85, whose distinguished career of landmark decisions led to the naming of the federal courthouse in Macon in his honor, was the recipient of a 100th birthday celebration June 28 at the historic Fox Theatre in Midtown Atlanta. The event was sponsored by the Mercer University President’s Club, whose members gather annually for a weekend event.

Judge Griffin B. Bell, LLB ’48, LLD ’67, senior partner with King & Spalding in Atlanta and chairman of the Mercer Advancing the Vision capital campaign, introduced Judge Bootle. Judge Bell said that even though he is 83 years old himself, Judge Bootle still calls him “son.”

Judge Bell, in his introduction, said, “I’m not going to say much, because introducing Judge Bootle would almost be a violation of a protocol. They say, if you introduce the President of the United States, you are just supposed to say, ‘Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.’ Judge Bootle is almost in that same category.”

Judge Bell called Judge Bootle “a wise man, a wise judge and a great American.”

When Judge Bootle was introduced, he made his way to a platform chair, and with assistance was seated and wired for sound. But, he then promptly stood and walked to the podium. As he hooked his cane on the side of the podium and began to speak, those in attendance gave him a standing ovation.

Referring to his 1960 ruling that desegregated the University of Georgia (UGA), Judge Bootle said, “It wasn’t hard to do. It’s never hard to do what’s right.” His ruling led to the admission of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter on the UGA campus in 1961.

“In my office, I have a plaque that says I was a ‘barrier breaker.’ Race should be no barrier to admission to a university. We’ve had a whole century of change. Barriers must be broken and removed,” he said.

Distinguished Alumnus

In June 1998, the federal courthouse in Macon was officially named the William Augustus Bootle Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

The Mercer University Board of Trustees voted to endow a teaching chair, focused on professionalism and ethics in the practice of law, after Judge Bootle.

Judge Bootle’s many contributions to the University include serving as a law school professor and then dean from 1933-37. He is a lifetime Mercer Trustee, after serving five terms on the Board.

He played a leading role in the decision to locate the Mercer Law School to the building that resembles Independence Hall atop Coleman Hill in Macon.
One Year Anniversary of September 11, 2001

By Dr. R. Kirby Godsey

September 11, or 9/11 as we have come to call it, has become a watermark for America, imprinted indelibly, though not always visibly, upon everything that we do. This startling moment, this moment in which we all fell silent, has changed our nation forever.

The courage to pursue justice and the courage to embody grace will give us light that will never come from the blazing light of bombs and bullets. The relentless pursuit of justice and learning to live with grace will be the lamps of light that bring us hope.

Our life together must reach for a wider embrace. Let us remember: God is not a Christian. God is not a Muslim. And God is not a Jew. God is above all our little gods. God is with us all. God is in us all. God is for us all. The tragedy of human evil is that in our fear, our human insecurity, we cannot find a way to be present in the world for one another. It will take great courage to pursue justice and to embody grace, ultimately far more courage than bear weapons. But I believe that it is the only way to become a civilized people. Pursue justice. Live with grace. It is the only way to become the people of God and a holy nation.
Fleming Calls on Educators for Leadership

By Lindsey Moss

The Tift College of Education hosted the Metro Atlanta Educators’ Conference titled “Sharing Best Classroom Technology Practices” on Mercer’s Atlanta campus. The conference focused on integrating technology in classroom activities, procedures and techniques, and provided teachers the opportunity to come together and share their “best practices” with one another.

Among the day’s agenda included classes titled “Technology & Teaching: How does Technology Fit into my Curriculum,” “PowerPoint Slides — How to put the zing and pow without the sugar and fat and hours of prep time into PowerPoint shows,” “Curricular Web Pages for Teachers” and “The Trials and Tribulations of Integrating Technology,” to name a few.

I’m learning that it’s not as diffic-
ult as I thought to create technology practices for the classroom,” said Sunny Williams, who teaches at Merodeck Elementary in Cobb County.

O n May 9, Kathy W. Finch-
er and her oldest daughter, Michelle A. Williams, shared one of their most meaningful mother-daughter experiences. Both of them graduated from Mercer’s Tift College of Education with a bachelor of science in education degree. While many parents look forward to the occasional call home from their children in college, Fincher was able to be a part of her daughter’s college experience.

The best thing about going to school with my daughter was being able to share this time in her life,” Fincher said. “We studied together and pulled each other through the hard times. You just can’t replace time spent with your children.”

For Williams, going to school with her mother was a wonderful and memorable experience.

“I really liked going to school with my mom — it is something not many people can say they did,” Williams said. “The best part was catching up together. We are both so busy that the car rides were our times to catch up on things.”

While Williams started college right out of high school, the decision for Fincher to go back to school occurred after working at her youngest daugh-
ter’s elementary school, Brooks Elementary in Fayette County. Wayne Stone, who is now on staff with Mercer, was the principal at the time.

“For me, the end of my first year working at Brooks, Dr. Stone was trying to convince me to return to school,” Fincher said. “I tried every excuse possible —

Mother, Daughter Share Experience

By Lindsey Moss

He graduated from the pharmacy school in 1950 and was instrumental in the beginning phases of the merging of Mercer and the Southern College of Pharmacy. His involvement made Mercer the top choice.

With their days as students over, both are excited about teach-
ing Williams is a fourth grade teacher at Willis Road Elementary, a brand new school in Sharpsburg. Fincher will be teaching first grade at Sara Harp Miner in Fayette County.

“I knew I wanted fourth grade because I feel that it is the perfect age group,” Williams said. “The children are still ‘children,’ but are gaining more and more independence.”

Even as Williams and Fincher begin their teaching profession, they will remember their shared experience as students at Mercer, and especially remember the night they graduated together.

“Graduating with my daughter was great,” Fincher said. “She was my moral support. She kept me going when I just wanted to quit.”

Williams added, “If I had the chance to do it all over again, I would. I enjoyed going to school with my mom. It was an experience we were able to share together.”
Mercer introduces a new teacher education program designed to prepare educators to better meet the diverse needs found in today's classrooms.

Prospective teachers at Mercer University can now learn how to understand the various types of children they will encounter in today's classrooms. With the H still College of Education's newest program, The Holistic Child, future education majors have the opportunity to maximize their teaching skills by studying diverse groups of students.

"This program is the first truly integrated program of its kind in the state," said Associate Professor Margaret Morris. "Most teachers in regular education classrooms don't have the skills to handle children with special needs, such as behavioral disorders, learning disabilities and mental or physical disabilities. We are offering a program of Early Childhood Education and Interrelated Special Education to enable teachers to reach every type of child.

Mercer students enter the new program as freshmen and follow a four-year track of classes and field experiences. Every class is team-taught by Morris for Early Childhood Education, and Assistant Professor Calandra Lockhart for Special Education. This approach provides a unique combination of instruction that allows students to become certified in two fields.

"Having a program with dual certification is definitely appealing," said Julie Gerbert of Warner Robins, one of the 12 students in The Holistic Child program. "By knowing more about special education, we will be more marketable as teachers.

Other types of special needs of children are also addressed in program courses. Spanish classes are required of students in order to assist with some of the language barriers they may later encounter in their classrooms as teachers.

"Class structures are changing, and more classrooms now hold diverse groups," said student Kristina Sapp of Cochran. "It is, therefore, important to be able to include children that struggle with English."

Students in Mercer's program even have the option to take summer classes and receive an endorsement on their certification that enables them to instruct children who use English as a second language. The English to Speakers of Other Languages program provides strategies for teachers to effectively work with non-native speakers of English in the regular classroom.

"Most teachers in regular education classrooms don't have the skills to handle children with special needs... We are offering a program... to enable teachers to reach every type of child."

"With The Holistic Child, the whole child is looked at, inclusive of the child's needs, strengths, and social and emotional skills. We will produce teachers that can work with all types of children entering mainstream classrooms. Each course involves a small group of students and works well because of peer support and the program's unique vision and process.

"I like that I will be able to meet all of my students' needs and give each one my personalized attention," said student Jessica Harrell of Thomasville. "With this program, I know that I will be ready to give more to each child in my classroom."

Coweta Schools and Mercer Develop Partnership

Coweta County high school students interested in becoming teachers can gain a head start on their college course requirements, thanks to a new partnership agreement between the Coweta County Public School System and Mercer University.

On May 2, public school and university officials signed an agreement that Mercer will waive the required for students in order to assist with some of the language barriers they may later encounter in their classrooms, and education majors who will be drawn to our program," said Penny Smith, Ph.D., associate professor and site chair of Extended Teacher Education for Mercer's School of Education.

"However, what is most important is the University's commitment this agreement represents to the system's local school. Developing collaborative programs such as this one strengthens both educational institutions and enables them to enhance offerings to their students."

Seniors Continue Lifelong Learning at Mercer

Mercer University turns students into lifelong learners. At Mercer's Senior University on the Atlanta campus, seniors and retirees can tackle such subjects as Personal Money Management, Colorful Georgia, Political Figures, Art and Thought of the Middle Ages, Chinese Life and Astronomy. With a variety of courses to choose from, Seniors University keeps its students up-to-date with world affairs, as well as teaching them new and wonderful things. Other classes offered include Genealogy, U.S. Foreign Policy, Selected Plays of Shakespeare and Classical and Theatrical Music, as well as a variety of history, religion and philosophy classes.

"Senior University provides intellectual stimulation that is not really available for senior adults," said William Lockhart said. "We will produce teachers that can work with all types of children entering mainstream classrooms. Each course involves a small group of students and works well because of peer support and the program's unique vision and process.

"I like that I will be able to meet all of my students' needs and give each one my personalized attention," said student Jessica Harrell of Thomasville. "With this program, I know that I will be ready to give more to each child in my classroom."

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With Mercer University Press (MUP) located in the heart of the South, it's no surprise two books about the Southern classic, Gone With The Wind, made it on the MUP's top 20 all-time best seller list.

Herb Bridges’ books, The Filming of Gone With the Wind and Gone With The Three-day Premiere in Atlanta, are number seven and number 13, respectively, all the way to Understanding the Jewish Experience.

Bridges credits Gone With the Wind for the popularity of his books, saying everyone read Gone With the Wind when it came out in 1936 because it had all the elements that made a great story at that time: a beautiful love story, a war, reconstruction, death, a love triangle and a murder. He added he has been able to capitalize off the name.

“People are so fascinated by the film. Gone With The Wind,” Bridges said. “So, when I did the book about the filming of the movie, people were intrigued. It’s a picture book and easy to look at, and I think people were intrigued to learn things about the movie, like it was filmed in California, even though the movie was set in the South. Many people don’t know that.

“The Filming of Gone With the Wind was first published in 1984 and is a photographic essay complete with nearly 1,000 black-and-white photographs covering day-to-day activities of the classic film’s making. Gone With The Wind: The Three Day Premiere in Atlanta is also a photographic essay that reveals the three-day event from every perspective, including who attended the event and what they wore. It was published in 1999.

“The premiere book is fun because sometimes you find someone who really attended the premiere,” Bridges said. “A lot of people claim their mothers or grandparents attended the premiere, and sometimes someone is able to find their relative’s name on the list that is in the book and then they can see what they wore. It’s intriguing and fun.”

Another all-time MUP bestseller set in the South is Jacky White’s Whisper to the Black Cudgel. Voodoo, Murder, and the Case of Anjette Lyles is set in 1984 and is a photo-essay that reveals the three-day event from every perspective, including who attended the event and what they wore. It was published in 1999.

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The Atlanta event, which benefits MUP, opened with a reception and book signings by 14 national and regional authors, including best selling writers Carol Higgins Clark and James Grisham. Authors Jeane Brashen, Arnold M. Lushin and Frank T. Holson joined Clark and Grisham as featured speakers. Other authors signing books at the event included Ann Ugly Abrams, Judy Allison, Amelia James, R. Alan Galpepper, Milton M. Ferrell Jr., Tammy H. Galloway, William C. Harris Jr., Kathryn W. Kemp and Jacy W. White.

In honor of his support of Mercer University Press, Tom Watson-Brown, made a gift of $2 million to Mercer University Press which has sold more American after the book, was a great human tragedy and a loss, was, in effect, mandated for us. That was a great human tragedy and a loss, I think, for our country. One can be a patriotic Turkish-American or African-American just as easily as one can be a patriotic Irish-American. A number of readers have told me that they felt more American after reading the book, which is gratifying.”

Brown was honored for his sustaining support of Mercer University Press (MUP) at its 35th annual Authors Luncheon on Nov. 10. With more than 300 in attendance, Mercer unveiled a portrait of Brown, commissioned by the University to commemorate the occasion. As chairman of the Mercer University Press Board, said Mercer President R. Kirby Godey. “We appreciate his financial commitment to the Press, and his distinctive leadership in making it the success that it is today.”

In 2000, The Watson-Brown Foundation, at the recommendation of Brown, made a gift of $2 million to MUP for its endowment, which completed the Press’ capital campaign goal. The Atlanta event, which benefits MUP, opened with a reception and book signings by 14 national and regional authors, including best selling writers Carol Higgins Clark and James Grisham. Authors Jeanne Brashen, Arnold M. Lushin and Frank T. Holson joined Clark and Grisham as featured speakers. Other authors signing books at the event included Ann Ugly Abrams, Judy Allison, Amelia James, R. Alan Galpepper, Milton M. Ferrell Jr., Tammy H. Galloway, William C. Harris Jr., Kathryn W. Kemp and Jacy W. White. 

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Brown Honored at Authors Luncheon. By Sonal Patel
am Mitchell is living beyond his wildest dreams. Even when he became Mercer’s all-time leading scorer in 1985, a record be still holds today, Mitchell could not have imagined a long and successful career with the Minnesota Timberwolves in National Basketball Association (NBA). His dreams have been fulfilled by a 13-year NBA career and now an opportunity to serve as an assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks.

“Sam has a great respect for the game and what it’s about,” said Milwaukee head coach George Karl. “His team-first mentality and his people skills make him an asset not only to our players, but to the entire organization. I think everyone will benefit by having Sam around, and I look forward to working with him.”

Mitchell, the most successful athlete to come out of Mercer, attributes luck, hard work and his wife, Anita, for his longevity in the NBA. Luck, he says, of avoiding injuries and staying healthy, and the hard work of keeping in shape. He credits his wife, who he met in a first-aid class at Mercer, for the support and encouragement.

“I am lucky to have a wife who has allowed me to follow my dream and encouraged me to try,” Mitchell said. “If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t have made it. She basically kicked me out and made me go. She just laid down the law. She believed I could do it and didn’t want people to talk about the ‘what could’ve been of Sam Mitchell.’

“Her support has allowed me to follow my dream and I’m grateful for that.”

While his days in the NBA have given Mitchell great friends, a successful career and a greater quality of life, Mitchell, who has homes in Peachtree City and Minneapolis, Minn., will never forget the hard work it took to get there.

Out of college, the 6’7” forward was selected in the third round of the 1985 NBA draft by the Houston Rockets but was the last man cut before the season opened. Mitchell then played in the Continental Basketball Association for two years, leading the Rapid City Thrillers to a CBA title in 1987. Later that year, Mitchell headed to France for two years, where he played in a French league and emerged as the third leading scorer in the league.

“Never losing sight of his ultimate goal, Mitchell says he applied the lessons he learned while at Mercer to get to the NBA,” Mitchell told The Mercerian.

“Coach Bibb used to tell us, ‘Life’s not fair, you’ve got to work hard to make your dreams come true.’”

Mitchell said. “He would tell us, ‘If you did great and had not been playing, but was able to go and make a difference with a steal is memorable. It’s the little things like that, that make a difference.’

Most of all, though, what comes to mind when Mitchell is thinking about his time in the NBA, are the friendships he has made. Some of his closest friends include Reggie Miller and Dale Davis of the Indiana Pacers, and Todd Murphy of the Timberwolves.

“When you’re with guys seven to eight months of the year, and you’re all working hard to achieve the same goal, you do become friends with them,” Mitchell said. “They all have a place in my mind and heart.”

S tudent-athletes at Mercer not only compete at a top level on the playing field but also succeed competitively in the classroom.

Student-athletes finished runner-up to top-ranked Belmont for the Atlantic Sun Conference Academic Trophy for the 2001-02 academic year. For spring semester 2002, 18 student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade-point average. They included Bethany Lowrie and Andrea Shipley, women’s volleyball; Elizabeth Bolton, women’s tennis; Christen Carmell, Samantha Daniel, Kristin Lenoir, Karolynn Revay, women’s soccer; Angela Coleman, Leanna Dailey, Amanda Whaley, women’s cross country; Will Emmerson, men’s basketball; Michael Bates, tennis’ cross country; Oskar Modin, Jonathan Riley, Neil Zarac, men’s soccer; and Carla Patckie, cheerleader.

During their playing seasons for the spring semester, 42 of Mercer’s athletes were All-Academic. The cumulative grade-point average for athletics for spring semester was 3.075 and — for the entire academic year was 3.047. Mercer has twice previously — in 1992-93 and 1993-94 — won the conference All-Academic trophy.

Before going on to play pro ball, Sam Mitchell became Mercer’s all-time leading scorer — a record he still holds.

“Of course Mercer is special to me,” Mitchell said. “Just the idea of knowing I met my wife there makes it special. Mercer is a close knit school. I not only met my mate for the rest of my life, but I met some of my best friends there.”

And while the lessons from Coach Bill Bibb guided him through his career, Mitchell says the things he learned as a student, helped him in life.

“You have to learn what is important and make choices,” Mitchell said. “Mercer helps you do that.”

The future will undoubtedly hold many decisions for Mitchell to make, but for now, he is still living his dream.

“I am looking forward to taking on the challenge of a new career,” Mitchell said. “In this position, I couldn’t ask for anything more than a chance to work with a great organization and learn from one of the league’s most successful coaches.”

Mercer Athletics, Excellent Students

By Richard Cameron
1942
A scholarship fund has been established in the Dekalb County School System in honor of Wilma Sowell Cravey, AB, who had served as the first library supervisor. She resides in Atlanta.

1945
Henry A. Buchanan, AB, has published 17 books, on matters such as Southern humor, theology, love and marriage.

1948
Augustus M. Parker, AB, M.Ed., was installed as president of the National Exchange Club at the 84th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn. He resides in Macon.

By-Gone Days —
This photograph, submitted by Mercer Trustee Dr. James R. Hall III, was taken at Mercer sometime during the time of James R. “Red” Hall II, who is the first student on the right on the front row. He was a 1936 graduate of Mercer. He was also given the Gold Medal from the Florida Radiological Society. Redbook magazine named him one of the top specialists in breast cancer in the country in the October 2001 issue.

1954
Lamar Willis, AB, commemorated 50 years in the music ministry in May. He and his wife of 45 years, Evelyn, have four children and seven grandchildren and reside in Athens.

1956
Rev. Stephen Keysalva, AB, and his wife, Juanita, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 12. Keysalva is the pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church in Deepstep.

1957
Charles C. Poteet Jr., AB, has retired as a State Farm Insurance Company agent after 42 years of service. He resides in Norcross.

1959
Nancy Stone Little, AB, has retired from the Fairfax County Public Library, Va. She now resides in Lancaster, Ky.

1960
John J. Burt III, AB, published Louis XIV and the Parlements: the Assertor of Royal Authority and teaches history at the University of Delaware.

1961
Bob L. Godby, AB, works as a journalist and writes short stories. He resides in Louisville.

1962
Dr. Charles D. Williams, AB, of Tallahassee, Fla., has recently been named to the Board of Chancellors for the American College of Radiology and chairman of the Commission on Human Resources for the College. A dinner was held in the spring in his honor in Birmingham, Ala., by the American Society of Radiologic Technology. He was also given the Gold Medal from the Florida Radiological Society. Redbook magazine named him one of the top specialists in breast cancer in the country in the October 2001 issue.

1963

1964
S. Dean Asher, BA, announces the birth of his child, Breese Lee, on Feb. 11. The family resides in Orlando, Fla.

1965
Kathryn O’Brant Roper, BA, and her husband, Tracy, announce the birth of their fourth daughter, Jaynie Claire, on Feb. 22. The family resides in Meridan, Miss.

1966
Sonia Butts Vick, BA, and her husband, Kent, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Elizabeth and Mollie Catherine, on Nov. 8, 2001. The family resides in Thomasville.

1967
Ralph Gehrig Austin Jr., BSE, and his wife, Mia Brown Geiger, BA ’89, announce the adoption of their daughter, Madeline, in February. The family resides in Perry, Ga. John is an attorney with Geiger and Geiger, PC.

1968
Marylyn Landers Reynolds, BA, and her husband, Jeffrey, announce the birth of their son, Joshua Glenn, on Feb. 12, 2001.

1969
Anne Marie Erwin Stack, BS, and her husband, Donald, have adopted two daughters from Guatemala, Carolyn Gacriela (Carrie) and Anna Katerine (Anna Kate). They join brothers, Corey and Caleb. The family resides in Savannah.

1970
Ralph Gehrig Austin Jr., BSE, and his wife, Mia Brown Geiger, BA ’89, announce the adoption of their daughter, Madeline, in February. The family resides in Perry, Ga. John is an attorney with Geiger and Geiger, PC.

1971
Charles W. Davis announces the birth of his daughter, Anna Elizabeth and Mollie Catherine, on Nov. 8, 2001. The family resides in Thomasville.

1972
Jennifer High Barfield, BA, and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on June 18. The family resides in Warner Robins where Jackson is a Spanish teacher for Northside High School.

1973
Katherine Brown McDonald, BA, and her husband, Raymond A. McDonald, BS ’92, announce the birth of their son, Walker Alexander, on Dec. 22, 2001. He joins a brother, Barrett Gray. The family resides in Savannah.

1974
Dr. Ricardo Vargas, BS, and his wife, Julie, announce the birth of their second daughter, Elena Vargas, on March 23. Vargas was voted Physician of the Year at Montgomery Memorial Hospital where he works as a family physician. The family resides in West End, N.C.

1975
Jennifer Anneke Sherwood, BS, married Steve Bragg in August. Sherwood earned her degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1997 and now works as a dentist in Cumming. The couple live in Atlanta.

1976
O. Frank Whiten Jr., BA, and his wife, Carrie, announce the birth of their daughter, Macie Nicole, on May 17. She joins sisters, Erica and Callie. The family resides in Kingswood, Texas.

1977
Mitchell Beene, BA, married Robin Gray, BA ’80. The couple resides in Chattanooga, Tenn., where Mitchell is an agency owner with Allstate Insurance, as well as a registered representative with Allstate Financial Services, LLC. Robin is a flight attendant with Delta Airlines.

1978
Lisa Shadburn Lemon, BA, and her husband, Ron, announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on Feb. 16. He joins a brother, Matthew. The family resides in Macon.

1979
Joan Wilson, BS, married Morton Silberman on June 14. The couple resides in Ette, Colo.

1980
Donna Payne Fairman, BA, and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of their daughter, Penelope Ann, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry.

1981
S. Dean Asher, BA, announces the birth of his child, Breese Lee, on Feb. 11. The family resides in Orlando, Fla.

1982
Jennifer Anneke Sherwood, BS, married Steve Bragg in August. Sherwood earned her degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1997 and now works as a dentist in Cumming. The couple live in Atlanta.

1983

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John W. Geiger, BBA, and his wife, Mia Brown Geiger, BA ’89, announce the adoption of their daughter, Madeline, in February. The family resides in Perry, Ga. John is an attorney with Geiger and Geiger, PC.

1988
Marylyn Landers Reynolds, BA, and her husband, Jeffrey, announce the birth of their son, Joshua Glenn, on Feb. 12, 2001.

1989
Kathryn O’Brant Roper, BA, and her husband, Tracy, announce the birth of their fourth daughter, Jaynie Claire, on Feb. 22. The family resides in Meridian, Miss.

1990
Susan Lawton Copeland, BBA, married Allen Hodges on May 11. The couple resides in P. Pierce, Fla.

1991
Ralph Gehrig Austin Jr., BSE, and his wife, Rosemary, announce the birth of their son, Harley James, on Nov. 10, 2001. He joins a sister, Kate. The family resides in Wilmington, N.C., where Austin is a senior mechanical engineer for Carolina Power and Light.

1992
Renet Lucas Jackson, BA, and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of their daughter, Penelope Ann, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry.

1993
Jennifer High Barfield, BA, and her husband, Ron, announce the birth of their son, Carter Reid, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry.

1994
Sonia Butts Vick, BA, and her husband, Kent, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Elizabeth and Mollie Catherine, on Nov. 8, 2001. The family resides in Thomasville.

1995
Jennifer High Barfield, BA, and her husband, Ron, announce the birth of their son, Carter Reid, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry.

1996
Jennifer High Barfield, BA, and her husband, Ron, announce the birth of their son, Carter Reid, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry. Dana Payne Fairman, BA, and her husband, Michael, reside in Brunswick.

1997
Julie Carney Hall, BA, and her husband, Andy, announce the birth of their son, Patrick Thomas, on March 28. Hall is a speech-language pathologist for Chatham County Schools. The family resides in Savannah, N.C.

1998
Sonia Butts Vick, BA, and her husband, Kent, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Elizabeth and Mollie Catherine, on Nov. 8, 2001. The family resides in Thomasville.

1999
Jennifer High Barfield, BA, and her husband, Ron, announce the birth of their son, Carter Reid, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry.

2000
Dana Payne Fairman, BA, and her husband, Michael, reside in Brunswick.

2001
Julie Carney Hall, BA, and her husband, Andy, announce the birth of their son, Patrick Thomas, on March 28. Hall is a speech-language pathologist for Chatham County Schools. The family resides in Savannah, N.C.

2002
Sonia Butts Vick, BA, and her husband, Kent, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Elizabeth and Mollie Catherine, on Nov. 8, 2001. The family resides in Thomasville.

2003
Jennifer High Barfield, BA, and her husband, Ron, announce the birth of their son, Carter Reid, on June 16. Barfield works in University Advancement for Mercer University and the family resides in Perry.

2004
Dana Payne Fairman, BA, and her husband, Michael, reside in Brunswick.
Marriages & Births

Mandy Horne, BA, married J. Kendall Ely, on June 9, 2001. The couple resides in Milledgeville, where she teaches kindergarten at Middle City Academy.

Karen Williams Minnick, MBA, and her husband, James, announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren, on April 12, 2001. Minnick is a principal and chief financial officer of WestAlhambra Alliance in Marietta.


Samantha Culf Baumgardner, BA, and her husband, Bryan, announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Noel, on Feb. 17, 2002. The family resides in Clermont.

Ben R. Buckelew, BA, married Brooke Elrod, BS, on Dec. 1, 2001. The couple resides in Covington, where he is the executive director of Rockdale/Newnan Counties for Boy Scouts of America. She is a flight attendant with Delta Air Lines, Inc.

LeAnna Rensi Casey, BA, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of their son, Eden Ramsey, on May 9. The family resides in Cumming.

Laura Sowers Duffy, BA, and her husband, Wayne, announce the birth of their second son, Troy Samuel, on June 19, 2001. He joins a brother, Ethan Grant. The family resides in Covington where Duffy works as a medical specialist.


Tina Marie Blassingame Wilson, BBA, announces the birth of her son, Christopher Lee Wilson Jr., on April 25. Wilson is a financial systems analyst for E/M Coatings. The family resides in Fayetteville.

Matthew C. Veager, BSE, and his wife, Angela, announce the birth of their daughter, Tera Ann, on June 8. The family resides in Cortland, Ohio.

Matt Akus, BIS, and his wife, Kimberly, were married on Sept. 8, 2001. The couple resides in Thomasville.

Carey Martin, BS, and his wife, Claire, announce the birth of their son, David Bradford, on June 5. The family resides in Panama City, Fla.

David Curley, BBA, and his wife, Lisa Curley, BBA, announce the birth of their son, Bratlyn Thomas, on April 17. The family resides in Augusta.

Kimberly Marshall Emenner, BBA, and her husband, Scott William Emenner, BBA, announce the birth of their son, Mason Marshall, on June 1. The family resides in Macon.

Angela Scott Girdley, BA, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Louise, on April 27. The family resides in Perimeter, Ga.

Zachary T. Lewis, BS, MD '01, married Ashley T. Peery on June 8. He is a pathology resident at Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Rebecca Porter, BA, married Peter Brummon on April 1, 2000. She works as a teacher at Collins Hill High School in Atlanta and has recently completed her master's degree in education.

Stephanie Sullens, BA, married Nathan Long on Aug. 31. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a master of arts degree in marriage and family therapy. The couple resides in Macon.

Kate Bosma Welch, BA, and her husband, Jeffrey Welch, BBA '96, announce the birth of her first child, Samuel Jeffrey, on Dec. 21, 2001. She works as a physical therapist, and the family resides in Poolesville.


Tyson Douglas Long, BS, married April Lewandowski on March 9. He is a project engineer for Underwater's Laboratory. The couple resides in Morrisville, N.C.

Dorothy E. Harris, BSE, married Adam Jaffe on May 17, and graduated from Vermont Law School on May 18. She is an associate attorney for a national law firm in Phoenix, Ariz.

Terri Newham, BA, married Jeremy Seth Massey, class of 2003, on May 18. The couple resides in Macon.


Kelly Franks Hoehstrom, BA, and her husband, Christopher, announce the birth of their daughter, Shelly Nicole, on Sept. 16, 2001. The family resides in Warner Robins.

Taber King Saunders, BA, and her husband, Ray, have a daughter, Britane Tafate, and the family resides in Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Kimberly Moss Hayes, BS, was married on Sept. 8, 2001. She is the council registrar for the Girl Scouts of Pine Valley Council Inc. in Griffin.

Jody McCraw McCord, MBA, was married David Alan Tabor on June 10, 2000. The couple resides in Marietta.

Shirinjanga Miller Gates, BSSS, was married on Sept. 7. The couple resides in Elizabeth.
Class of ’60 Alumnae Maintain Close Connection

An annual round-robin letter among Mercerians Ilie Kidd Tribble, Temple Hill Oliver; Kay Hatcher Norton, Ruth Kilpatrick Pearse, Betty Ann Echols, Martha Clark Almand, Emmalyn Phillips Wilson, Mary Phail Boyd and Beverly Bloodworth Presley has helped maintained friendships for more than 40 years.

All graduated from Mercer in 1960, and began circulating the letter not long after graduation. Now, the friends-for-life have a reunion each year. This year, they met at the home of Pearse, who lives in Ocean County.

Tribble now calls Anderson, S.C., home and Olivia lives in Jonesboro. Norton lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.; Echols in Jacksonville, Fla.; Almand in Macon; Wilson in Lake Jackson, Texas; Boyd in Copperas Cove, Texas; and Presley in Statesboro. Only Presley was unable to be at the September reunion in Ocean County.

Joel L. Tolbert, BSE, is pursuing a master of divinity degree through Columbia Throlopaic Seminary in Decatur, where he lives with his wife, Jill, and their three sons, Adam, Daniel and Michael.

1991

James S. Skesavage Jr., MBA, is the vice president/director of marketing for Atlanta Capital Management Company, LLC.

1992

Drew Tomlin, MBA, is a commercial lender with First Bank of Gwinnett and has been selected as a member of this year’s “Leadership Gwinnett” class. He and his wife, Lisa, and their four sons reside in Suwanee.

Eddie Wilson, MBA, was elected president and chief executive officer of SunTrust Bank, Northwest Georgia in June. He resides in Rome.

1996

Rallie D. Copburn received his bachelor of science degree in physician assistant studies from the Medical College of Georgia in 2000. He works in internal medicine with a Veteran’s Administration outpatient clinic in Macon.

Jon E. Coriell, MBA, is the vice president of finance with C.A. Murren and Sons Co. in Grayson.

Shannon Diane Dunn, BA, was named “Teacher of the Year” at Brewster Elementary in Columbus. She was also honored by Columbus State University as Outstanding Ed.S. student in early childhood education.

Karen Christian Mizell, BS, is the 2002 Georgia Middle School Science Teacher of the Year for District V. She resides in Griffin.

1997

Matthew Crouch, EMBA, is the chief executive officer of Peachlind Hospital in Atlanta.

Reginald D. Lewis, BS, has been named Mr. Nubian Gentleman America 2002. He is a business analyst with Atlanta Life Insurance Company and also an adjunct instructor at the Art Institute of Atlanta.

Andrea Claire Miller, BBA, is the human resources manager for HCA Shared Services in Nashville, Tenn. She resides in Antioch, Tenn.

1998

Brandy C. Bragg, BS, graduated from the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine on May 4. She is a practicing veterinarian in Rincon.

Kim Lyn Day, BA, graduated with a master of arts degree in college student development from Appalachian State University in May. She is the director of student activities and leadership development at Spartanburg Methodist College in Spartanburg, S.C.

Sharon Renee Edwards, BA, was promoted to academic advisor/coordinator of student services for the Office of Alumni Services, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207. Questions? Please call Jennifer Thompson at (800) 837-2911 or (478) 301-2186.

Alumni Needed to Assist with Student Career Counseling

Dear Alumni —

Do you remember when you were at Mercer and trying to determine what you wanted to do in life? What profession or career path you should take? Do you remember how difficult it was to plan your educational journey when you really didn’t know what you wanted to do?

Our students still wrestle with the same problem. A few arrive at Mercer knowing exactly what they want to do but have little understanding of the workplace. Some wait until their last year before they are able to identify their calling in life. Some do not know what they will be doing the day after graduation. This wastes time and money and causes much parental grief.

Several years ago we began to discuss how we as alumni, parents, friends of Mercer and as one-time pilgrims along this same route, could somehow help today’s students find their niche. After a lot of hard work, our Office of Career Services developed a program to encourage alumni and parents to join with them in an Internet mentor program for students and graduates. This program is called the Alumni and Parent Career Network.

The process is quick and easy to access and tailored to specific professions or career paths. It is manageable without creating the need for additional internal resources. It is affordable, and it will be an enjoyable aid in helping our students.

What is involved? We are glad you asked. The program is NOT a job-seeking, résumé-sharing process. It is an advisory and experience-sharing process where alumni and parents share their experiences, the problems they encountered in preparing for and getting started in a career, the realities of the workplace and those things students should be thinking about as they pursue their educational goals.

How does it work? The alumni/parent user goes to the Mercer Web page, www.mercer.edu, and clicks onto Departments and Services, then Students, then Career Services. The alumni user then completes the registration process following simple instructions. You can specify how frequently you wish to be contacted by a student whose goals match your profession. This can be as infrequent as once a month.

You define the frequency of contact, which is usually by telephone or e-mail. The goal is to make available to a student someone they can trust, someone they can ask honest questions of and someone they can learn from. Won’t you consider joining us as we promote this very valuable program? You will be glad you did.

Questions? Contact Steve Brown or Gene Wells in the Office of Career Services at (910) 857-2941, ext. 2063, or (478) 301-2065.

Sincerely,

Mike Creek, CLA ’59
Stella Patterson, CLA ’93
Clayton Jolley, EDB ’94

YES, I want to participate in this unique opportunity!

Your Name __________________________ Class Year __________
Address __________________________________________________ Phone __________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________________________________________________

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on the brick. (One character including letters, spaces, punctuation marks, etc. — Greek letters may be used) per block and a maximum of 14 characters per line.

List 1
List 2
List 3

Abbreviations for Colleges & Schools
CLA College of Liberal Arts
BBS Stetson School of Business and Economics
EDU Tru College of Education
ENG School of Engineering
LAW Walter F. George School of Law

MO School of Medicine
PFA Southern School of Pharmacy
THEO McAfee School of Theology
FTT Tru College

Please return this form with your check, payable to Mercer University, to The Office of Alumni Services, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207. Questions? Please call Jennifer Thompson at (800) 837-2911 or (478) 301-2186.

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School of Technology at Kent State University. She resides in Akron, Ohio.

Erin “Michelle” Hitt, BA, is a communications director for the Saddy Chambliss Senate campaign and now resides in Atlanta.

Eli Beauder Oates, BA, BBA, earned his JD degree from Wake Forest University School of Law in 2001, and is now an associate for Adams PLLC. He resides in Greensboro, N.C.

Kleemeier Hannah & Fouts, LLC. is now an associate for Adams PLLC. He resides in Greensboro, N.C.

John Vannderbilt comes from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., in April. He currently serves as a second lieutenant and has been assigned to the 317th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., where he will fly the C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft.

2000

Susan Dawkins Patton, BS, graduated with a master of science degree in community counseling in May. She also received the Most Outstanding C.C. Award from Columbus State University. Patton resides in Zebulon.

Meredith Stallings, BA, will graduate with dual master’s degrees in family and marriage therapy and school counseling from Boston University in DeLand, Fla., on Dec. 14.

Jeanie R. Summer, BS, is a sales representative for Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals. She manages a large area in south Georgia and resides in Valdosta.

Liz Vailly, BA, earned her master of science in broadcast journalism from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism in 2001 and received a grant from the Lilly Foundation to spend the summer learning to cover religion. She now works as a free-lance reporter at WGN-TV in Chicago.

Peter Wilson, BBA, is a senior software engineer with Motient Corporation. He resides in Reston, Va.

Matthew W. Younce, BS, was named a Graduate Fellow by the National Science Foundation and the University of Southern Mississippi. He resides in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Memory of 67 Grad Lives On through Dedication of School Building

The Cobb County School System is taking steps to recognize the legacy of a Mercer alumnus with the dedication of a $1.5 million building. The building, which will house the school office, will be dedicated on May 25, 2001.

“The positive characteristics that defined Mr. Coker are too many to describe, but if I could only choose one, it would be dedication,” said Gregg Farmer, magnet coordinator at Wheeler High School. “Dedication to this profession, dedication to his students, dedication to this institution.”

Everett Coker, a 1967 Mercer graduate, was a mathematics teacher for more than 30 years at Wheeler High School. A former state teacher of the Year, Coker died suddenly of heart disease in December 1997. Yet, his commitment to excellence in teaching is remembered.

“Mr. Coker’s influence on the lives of his students was profound,” said George Deese, superintendent of the Cobb County School System. “He was a teacher of teachers and a role model for all who knew him.”

The building, which will be named the Everett Coker Magnet Academy, will house the school’s magnet program, which focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In Sympathy

1925


1926

Rev. King Israel Evans, AB, died July 4, in Macon.

1928


1929


1930

Rev. George Hugh Dozier, AB, died May 5.

1931

Wellborn “Bill” Chaudoin Carlton Jr., AB, died Feb. 3.

G. Clyde Dekle Jr., AB, died March 2000.

Housek Bacon Gilbert, BSC, died May 6, in Perry.

1933

Joseph Ransom Clisby, AB, died April 1.


1943


1944

Margaret Elizabeth Smith, AB, died March 13.

1945

E. Anne Horton, AB, died May 17.

Anne Dumas Rankin, M.D., died June 26.

1948


1949

Dr. Norman H. McCrummen, AB, died March 6.

Dr. Samuel W. Popejoy Jr. died March 21.

1951


J. Val Sheridan, AB, died Sept. 15, in Macon.

1954


1965

Pamela P. Fulmer, AB, died May 14, in Macon.

1967

James M. Hambick, BS, died in February.

1969

Dr. Richard M. Fie, AB, died Feb. 10.


1971

Dr. Richard M. Fix,

1974


1977

Jerry A. Ray, BA, died May 3.

1981

Elder William Greene Jr., BA, died June 21.

1983

William L. Copeland Jr., BBA, died June 1.

1987

Susan L. Finley, MBA, died March 9, in Tucker. She had served on the Mercer Alumni Executive Committee.

1988

Dianne Harris Land, BS, died March 12.

1989

Annie Archer Waldrop, BA, died on May 25, 2001.

1990

Shirley Reynolds Cray, M.Ed., died August 28, in Lizella.

Donald Hooper II, BA, died March 14.

1996

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 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.

Name ____________________________________________________
Maiden Name _______________________________________________
Class Year ___________________________________________________
School or College _____________________________________________
Degree _____________________________________________________
Street or Box Number _________________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________________________
Home Phone ( _____ ) _________________________________________
E-mail _____________________________________________________
Business Name ______________________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________________________
Business Phone ( _____ ) ______________________________________
E-mail _____________________________________________________

"Chip Off the Old Block" — Please list any family members who are Mercer alumni.
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

News to Share _______________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE RETURN TO: Office of Alumni Services, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207 • Fax: (478) 301-4124
Or visit our Web site at www.mercer.edu