Business School Receives AACSB Accreditation

By Jenny Butkus

The Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics of Mercer University has been inducted into an elite group of business schools worldwide who have received accreditation from AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Mercer School of Business received an official certificate marking its accreditation at a special ceremony in Montreal, Canada, on April 18. Of the 15 universities to receive initial accreditation at this year’s AACSB International annual conference, only six are in the United States, with Mercer being one of them.

“Achieving AACSB International accreditation is a testament to the high caliber of the Business School’s faculty, staff and students,” said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. “Mercer University is committed to providing the highest quality education possible to its students, and this accreditation is another indicator that we are accomplishing that.”

Only 418 business schools out of more than 1,500 in the United States have this prestigious accreditation. Among the other institutions with business schools having AACSB International accreditation are Harvard University, Vanderbilt University, Baylor University, Wake Forest University and University of California Berkeley.

AACSB International accreditation means the Stetson School of Business and Economics meets quality standards relating to strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students in the educational process and achievement of learning goals. The application process for accreditation takes a minimum of five years.

Mercer business professor Walt Austin, Ph.D., who coordinated Mercer’s AACSB International accreditation efforts, said the School used the extensive application process as an opportunity to review and further strengthen its curriculum and programs.

“Achieving AACSB accreditation means that the Stetson School of Business and Economics not only has high quality to achieve accreditation, but also that it has demonstrated over the five-year candidacy period that it has effective quality control processes that will ensure that we provide a high-quality education in the future,” Austin said.

During the candidacy period, the Business School reaffirmed its mission as student education. The School reduced faculty teaching loads, enriching the classroom experience, and overlaid the business curriculum to provide education tailored to the needs of the student and the workplace. Business faculty strengthened their commitment to conducting research in the field and interacting with other practitioners.

At the end of the candidacy period, a team of deans from other AACSB International accredited business schools visited and evaluated all aspects of the School, talking with trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni. This peer review team then submitted a recommendation to the Board of Directors for AACSB International, who voted to grant accreditation to Mercer.

Among the strengths that the peer review team noted in its report was the School’s faculty, which they stated “collectively and individually demonstrates attention to continuous improvement and innovation in teaching.” The report also said that “interviews with students demonstrated a high degree of satisfaction with the faculty and with facility availability outside the classroom.”

Regarding the learning environment, the team stated that “the University provided a strong sense of ‘family’ culture on both the Atlanta and the Macon campus and credited its religious heritage and orientation in helping ‘inculcate values of respect, collegiality and mutual support.’”

Mercer was commended for its innovative Managed Academic Path to Success (MAPS) undergraduate curriculum for the bachelor of business administration degree. This interdisciplinary program, offered on Mercer’s Macon campus, allows students to identify their interests and, together with their faculty adviser, develop a personalized program of study. The report stated, “MAPS builds on the close academic advisement relationship between student and faculty to provide a person-alized approach to shaping an individual student’s academic program.”

The peer review team also noted the strengths of the MBA and Executive MBA programs at Mercer, finding both meeting AACSB International standards.

When learning of the accreditation, Mercer University Trustee Robert Hatcher, Georgia chairwoman of BB&T and President and CEO of MidCountry Financial Corp., said, “AACSB International is the most prestigious accreditation that a business school can receive. It represents a strong commitment to quality in the classroom and to the overall learning experience that goes far beyond the typical. “Throughout my long association with Mercer, the University has always been dedicated to preparing students with the highest quality education possible,” he added. “This accreditation simply re-affirms the University’s efforts. I am pleased to have my grandfather’s name on a school that is so committed to the highest standards in educating tomorrow’s business leaders.”

“Receiving AACSB International accreditation reaffirms what I’ve known for a long time — the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business at Mercer University is an outstanding leader in business education. I congratulate the University, especially the School of Business, for reaching this milestone in its long history of excellence.”

— GEORGE ISRAEL
President and CEO
Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Commencement Speakers Inspire More than 1,600 Graduates

Throughout the month of May, more than 1,600 students from Mercer’s 10 schools and colleges were rewarded for all their hard work, long hours and lessons learned as they received their well earned degrees in graduation ceremonies. The University held a total of nine commencements in Macon and Atlanta, and graduates heard from an array of distinguished speakers.

Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey presented three honorary degrees. Larry Braden, president of Lacy Drug Company, was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree on May 1 at the Southern School of Pharmacy commencement. At the Macon commencement on May 9, Joseph Hillman Harvey, vice chairman emeritus of Harvey’s super markets, received an honorary doctor of commerce degree, and David Shi, president of Furman University, was granted an honorary doctor of laws degree. Braden and Shi also gave commencement addresses.

Larry Braden, a 1965 graduate of the Pharmacy School and chairman of the Board of Trustees for the United States Pharmacopeia, advised graduates of the professionalism required in the field of pharmacy.

“Today you enter a profession in which all parties, physicians, patients and the standards of the courts fully expect you to exercise your complete judgment in assuring the best possible outcome of therapy and the highest level of safety for the patient,” Braden told the estimated 2,000 pharmacy graduates and guests. “Treat every person you encounter with dignity and respect; respect yourself and project yourself by your deeds in a manner that earns the respect of others.”

David Shi, who has written several books, two of which were nominated — Continued on page 7
University Offers Tuition Pre-Pay

At its annual meeting, the Mercer National Alumni Board voted unanimously to support the Independent 529 Plan and to encourage alumni to participate in the program when planning for college for their children or grandchildren.
**New University Center Buzzes with Activity**  
*By Rachel Garza*

Mercer's Macon campus has reached a new level of energy and excitement with the opening of the new, state-of-the-art University Center on March 15. The $40 million facility, commonly referred to as the "UC," is becoming the focal point of campus life.

Along an indoor tree-lined "street" is a variety of offerings, including a coffeehouse, food court, indoor track, aerobics room, indoor pool and weight and exercise room. The "street" leads to an arena that seats some 3,200 for athletic events and close to 5,000 for concerts, with display cases just outside the doors exhibiting historic university memorabilia. The facility is also home to Mercer's athletic offices and facilities, including team locker and meeting rooms, a varsity weight room, and physical therapy center.

The UC also includes the new Presidents Dining Room, featuring portraits of all of Mercer's presidents since its founding, and the elegantly appointed Griffin B. Bell Trustee Board Room.

In January, the Mercer community had a sneak peek of the facility as the arena opened to host the Homecoming basketball games. Students, faculty, staff and friends were amazed at the sight of the spectacular new facility. 

More than 3,000 excited fans packed the arena as the Bears delivered victory to the Bears.

On the day of the grand opening, hundreds of students gathered outside of the Center's entrance, hoping to be one of the first through its doors. There was a wide variety of activities for students to participate in as they opened a new chapter in Mercer's history. Students sampled the food being offered by the food court's four restaurants. Basketball games were organized as students wandered down to the three intramural courts. Many took advantage of the cardiovascular equipment, including stair climbers, stationary bikes, treadmills and cross trainers. Others pumped iron on the weight machines. From taking a kayak-rolling lesson in the pool to sharing a latte in Java City, there was something for everyone at the grand opening.

"We couldn't have made this happen without the incredible support of the Mercer community and cross trainers. Others pumped iron on the weight machines. From taking a kayak-rolling lesson in the pool to sharing a latte in Java City, there was something for everyone at the grand opening."

"Mercer Idols" competition.

There are plans in the works to make the University Center a venue for exciting events, such as concerts by national recording artists, comedians, performances and much more.

**Griffin B. Bell Board Room Dedicated**

Judge Griffin B. Bell, LLB '48, LLD '87, and his wife Nancy stand in front of the Judge's portrait hanging in the University Center. The Griffin B. Bell Board Room and the UC were dedicated April 15 following the Mercer University Board of Trustees meeting. More than 300 faculty, staff and students attended the ceremony. President Godsey led those in attendance through a dedication litany declaring the University Center a "powerful and tangible monument to Mercer's rich heritage as an institution of higher learning." The Griffin B. Bell Board Room was also dedicated during the same ceremony in honor of the 1948 Mercer Law School alumnus for his loyalty to Mercer and his outstanding leadership to the nation.

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McDuffie, Distinguished University Professor

World-renowned violinist and Macon native, Robert McDuffie, has joined Mercer as Distinguished University Professor of Music. The Grammy-nominated artist is considered one of the top violinists in the world, regularly performing with major orchestras in the U.S., Europe, Asia and Australia, in solo recital, and in chamber music collaboration with other musicians.

“We are delighted to establish this arrangement with Robert McDuffie, which we hope will endure for many years to come,” said University President R. Kirby Godsey. “Mercer is extremely fortunate to have Mr. McDuffie on campus to share his enormous talent and wealth of experience with our young, gifted musicians here. Robert’s interest in becoming a faculty member at the University is a tribute to Mercer’s music program and his participation will underscore Mercer’s ongoing commitment to excellence in every area of its endeavors.”

As Distinguished University Professor of Music, McDuffie will make regular visits to the Music Department of the University. During each visit, he will conduct master classes in violin and chamber music and offer other instructional activities to a select group of promising young musicians. He will also perform one major concert at the University each year.

McDuffie has appeared as soloist with many of the major orchestras of the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra. McDuffie’s acclaimed recordings for Telarc include the violin concertos of Mendelssohn, Bruch, Adams, Glass, Barber and Rozsa, as well as Viennese favorites. He plays a 1735 Guarneri del Gesù violin, known as the “ex-Ladiesburg,” which has been played by some of the world’s greatest violinists, including Niccolò Paganini during the last year of his life.

McDuffie began his study of the violin in Macon with Robert Schwarzenberger. His father, William, is a Georgia native and his two children, Eliza and Will, have been nurturing his love for writing, however, since high school. And to a certain degree, he did study English at Mercer. “I read a lot of texts on the reading lists of Mercer’s English classes,” he recalled. “I used to borrow books from all my friends who were English majors.”

Franklin Awarded Stegner Fellowship

Dr. Russ Franklin, CLA ’88, was recently awarded one of Stanford University’s 10 coveted Wallace Stegner Fellowships for emerging writers. Franklin, who was teaching fiction-writing to Florida State University English majors, was a huge surprise, and since new money is always good for the imagination, I can’t wait to get to California to see what happens next,” he said.

Franklin has been nurturing his love for writing, however, since high school. And to a certain degree, he did study English at Mercer. “I read a lot of texts on the reading lists of Mercer’s English classes,” he recalled. “I used to borrow books from all my friends who were English majors.”

Franklin received his doctorate in English from FSU in 2000, attending on a Kingsbury Fellowship. He won the 1999 Quarterly West Novella contest for a tale titled “String Like Johnny Weissmüller.” Current projects include a book of short stories.

“Winning the Stegner Fellowship was a huge surprise, and since new money is always good for the imagination I can’t wait to get to California where I can continue to focus on my writing,” he said.

Bluestone Wins Merton Poetry Award

Stephen Bluestone, professor of English and film, has been awarded the 2004 Thomas Merton Prize for Poetry of the Sacred. His poem, “The Rug Maker,” was selected from 819 entries submitted from 22 countries. The poem can be read by visiting the Thomas Merton Foundation Web site at www.mertonfoundation.org. It will appear in The Merton Seasonal, a publication of the International Thomas Merton Society.

A Mercer Connection Alumni and Friends Event could be coming to your community!

Visit Mercer’s calendar on the web at www.mercer.edu/calendar for future event details!

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McDuffie, Distinguished University Professor

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Dr. Sallie Carter: ‘Pediatrician Hits the Road’

The following story describes events in the past year for Dr. Sallie Carter, a 1971 graduate of Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts. It has been adapted and reprinted from three stories that originally appeared in the Anderson Independent-Mail in Anderson, S.C.

July 31, 2003

Anderson County families will be able to avoid some of the headaches associated with pediatric care with the help of Anderson physician Dr. Sallie Carter, who has decided to leave her practice for a mobile office that will tour schools all year.

Dr. Carter, president of the Anderson County Medical Association, will visit the 10 Anderson School District 5 elementary schools and the West Market Family Education Center with her 45-foot refitted recreational vehicle. She also will visit the office on wheels to the Jockey Lot on Saturday every week.

When kids are too sick to be in class, parents often must miss work while they wait for their child to get the care they need. Dr. Carter said. She hopes to help them avoid those situations, keep kids in school, make sure they have the medicine they need, and identify any chronic illnesses earlier in the child’s life. “I won’t be at every school every day, but if I know a child from experience from previous visits, then I know the next time around I’ll be able to see that child as a follow-up,” she said.

Kids without insurance or their own primary care physician will likely benefit the most from her care, but all children will have access to her office.

Calloway Street Elementary physical education teacher Donna Smith visited the trailer Wednesday at her school. “There are so many children who can’t get medical care or won’t get medical care, but this will be so comforting for them,” she said as her two sons explored the office and tried out the doctor’s stethoscope.

Dr. Carter is still working out a schedule with District 5 officials, but she said she is likely to begin school visits in late August and be at each school every three weeks.

She is paying for the trailer, the truck that pulls it and the high-tech records and billing system inside, and will make less than she would in a normal practice. But she brushed that aside: “This style of practice is something I really want to do,” she said. That attitude went over well with District 5 principals who toured the trailer last week. “I’m not only impressed with the idea, but I’m just so impressed with her.”

Dr. Carter has seen more than 1,000 patients since she first took her health care van on the road in August, and she said, “We’ve had a very positive response from people;” she said. She has administered more than 700 flu vaccinations, for instance.

However, she said, she believes the practice can grow. So she has made her first trips to Iva Elementary and Starr Elementary in District 3. “I think this is going to be very worthwhile,” said Hugh Smith, District 3 superintendent.

Dr. Carter will begin by visiting each of the District 5 schools once a month, similar to her schedule in District 5. A board-certified pediatrician who has worked in Anderson for more than 14 years, she provides diagnosis and treatment of non-emergency medical conditions as well as routine medical evaluations for healthy children.

The billing for the practice is based on the Medicaid fee schedule, and school districts do not financially support the work.

March 20, 2003

Sallie Carter is making even more rounds with her mobile medical practice by expanding it to Anderson School District 3 elementary schools.

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‘Carl Vinson: Patriarch of the Armed Forces’

New biography reminds Georgians of great legislator

By Wes Griffith

“Carl Vinson dedicated his life to America’s strength, security and free time, he was the principal architect of our nation’s modern defense system.” Without his efforts toward strengthening U.S. naval forces in the 1920s and 1930s, a time when America was more committed to disarmament and isolationism, World War II may have resulted in a much different scenario.

Cook and Mercer University Press teamed up to tell the life story of this one individual who played such an important role in our nation’s history in the recently published Carl Vinson: Patriarch of the Armed Forces. Surprisingly, Cook’s work is the first full-length biography of this master legislator responsible for transforming the Armed Forces through Congress.

Vinson’s great nephew, Georgia’s longtime U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, is one of several of Vinson’s family members that have been vocal about the book being written. Having followed in Vinson’s footsteps by chairing the Armed Services Committee, Nunn knows as well as anyone the significance of Vinson’s achievements.

“Carl Vinson dedicated his life to America’s strength, security and freedom,” wrote Nunn in a statement regarding the book. “He also inspired me, and I am sure many others, to serve our nation in the U.S. Congress. Carl Vinson was a great American patriot that devoted his life to public service, that he considered it a noble calling, and that his efforts paid off in the results he achieved in improving our military and national security.”

When Vinson joined the House of Representatives in 1914, he was the youngest ever to do so. When he retired in 1964 after 50 years of service, it was, at the time, the longest anyone had ever served in the House. Though still quite capable at 80 years of age, he left his duty had been served.

At the last of several retirement ceremonies held on his honor, Vinson rose and said, “I have received my award, and you have made my day in this Congress of the United States a complete fulfillment of what I have sought in life.”

Always reluctant of fanfare, Vinson quietly went to Union Station and boarded a train and returned to Milledgeville, Ga., where he lived out the rest of his years on his 600-acre farm.

Mercer University Press

Mercer University Press, now in its 25th year, has published more than 1,000 books. The press publishes more than 40 books annually, primarily on subjects of history, philosophy, religion and Southern studies.

Join the MEP in celebrating 25 years of publishing excellence at the fifteenth annual Authors Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Westin Buckhead Atlanta (formerly Settles), adjacent to Lenox Square.

Authors in attendance will be Rick Allen, Steve Berry, David Bottums, Ron Chernow, James Cook, Larry Corts, Louise Dodd, Hollis Gillespie, Terry Kay, Buck Melton Sr., William Rawlings Jr., Haywood Smith and Michael Thurmond. Authors will meet, greet and autograph copies of their latest and previous works.

For information on this year’s Authors Luncheon, call (478) 301-2880 (Macon) or (800) 342-0841, 2880 (in Ga.), or online at www.mupress.org.
Business School Unveils New MBA Offerings

M
ercer’s Stetson School of Business and Economics has big plans for the start of the 2005 year. The School will introduce a new MBA program designed specifically for physicians on the Macon campus in January. The School also will extend its successful Executive MBA (EMBA) program, which is currently offered on the Atlanta campus, to the Regional Academic Center in Henry County.

The School is breaking new ground with these two programs. The new MBA for Physicians is the only program of its kind in Central Georgia and the EMBA program is the first graduate-level business degree to be offered on the south side of Atlanta.

The MBA for Physicians, a dream frequently discussed by the School of Medicine alumni Board of Directors, is designed to equip medical doctors with managerial skills to help them effective-ly operate their practices. The curricu-lum will focus on managing different aspects of a physician’s business, start- ing with foundations in business and the business environment, and continu-ing to address managing human and financial resources and planning for the future. Special seminars will address topics such as medical informatics, negotiations and investments.

With the program especially designed to fit into the busy schedules of physi-cians, participants will attend classes on Friday evenings and all-day Saturdays on alternating weekends over a two-year period. So classes will be held in July.

“One of the challenges for physi-cians is that they are taught how to do medicine — but they also end up run-ning a business,” said Dr. Linda Brennan, associate professor of man-agement and director of graduate pro-grams on the Macon campus. “Even doctors whose practices have business managers want to better understand the implications of the decisions they make. This program is designed to specifically address these needs.”

The EMBA program, which will be offered at the University’s Regional Academic Center in January, is for business professionals with at least seven years of work experience. The program focuses on the growing interna-tional competition that managers face, while training them to use their skills to become global in perspective, improve the total quality of their firms, maximize ethical standards and imple-ment effective leadership.

EMBA students attend class every other weekend on Friday evenings and all-day Saturdays for 21 months. Mid-way through the program, students take a 10-day trip to Europe, South America or Asia, where they visit com-panies and talk with corporate execu-tives to learn how business is conduct-ed in a different area of the world.

For more information on these programs, visit www.mercer.edu/business or call (800) 837-2905.

Commencement

— Continued from page 1

for the Pulitzer Prize, addressed an estimated 6,000 graduates and guests at the Macon Coliseum.

“I share your joy in what this day represents, and I cherish your potential, for you are our future, our hope, our promise,” he said. “You have chosen the perfect pro-fession to do your work well, you exit different than you were when you entered.

‘Always seek a mission in life that is grounded in a higher good and service to others.’

On May 8, the Walter E. George School of Law commencement speaker was Col. James P. Terry, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Legislative Affairs (United States) and a 1973 Mercer Law School graduate. “The Mercer rule, ‘Let me urge you to do your part to restore and build trust in the greatest system and society in the world. We need it today more than anytime in at least the last 35 years.’ “Christopher said in his com-mencement address. “Trust begins with our leaders. It is a form of capital that is priceless. You need to honor it and protect it as your best asset. In the process, it will free your minds — and those of your future col-leagues and associates — to create the products and services, and to provide the inspiration, to build our country to even greater heights.”

Dr. C. Randy Gregg, founder and CEO of Corporate Performance Resources, gave the commencement address for the College of Continuing and Professional Studies Atlanta gradua-tion ceremony on May 15. “Write your own story … use your own material,” Gregg told the graduates. “Pick and choose carefully what you want to include. … Don’t write your story like everyone else. Use bright colors. It will take courage. … You will need to be creative … Write … with honor. … Help us remember to laugh … Include service … Remember to march to the beat of your own drum. Our world needs you to be non-traditional. Wear your badge with honor. Wear it with pride.”

For more information, visit www.mercer.edu/business or call (800) 837-2905.

President R. Kirby Godsey presents an honorary Doctor of Science degree to pharmacy commencement speaker Larry Breden, president of Lacey Drug Company, at W. Tad Matthews, dean of the Southern School of Pharmacy and vice president of the health sciences, looks on.
Budding Lebanese Pop Star Studying at Mercer

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer MBA student Ramzi Bou Hamdan isn’t your average graduate student. The 22-year-old is a pop star sensation in his homeland of Lebanon. Before opting to move to Atlanta to earn his MBA, Hamdan won second place in a popular musical talent contest back home. He was a winner in “Studio al Fan,” an Arabic TV show similar to the popular American Idol TV show in the United States. Hamdan has always had a flair for music. He began singing at the age of eight. A fan of opera and jazz, his formal training is in classical music. He studied at the National Lebanese Conservatoire and sang in the choir with the National Lebanese Orchestra.

Hamdan said becoming a pop star was not always a goal of his. He planned to pursue a career in law. A lover of Shakespearean literature, he was not always a goal of his. He planned to pursue a career in law. A lover of Shakespearean literature, he was interested in a musical career, but the young man decided last summer to end his studies with the TV station and to move to the United States pursue his MBA. He said it was a tough decision, but it was what he felt he needed to do. “I was pretty famous, but I wanted to be a full-time student,” he said. “I’m still young, after I finish school, I will take a few years and see if I can really be a star, but right now I need to focus on my education.” Hamdan has been at Mercer since August, and he said he has enjoyed his life as a student of the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics on the Atlanta campus. “I like the system at Mercer. The professors are very helpful,” he said. He still works on his music when he can. He practices singing with a student he knows from Georgia Tech who plays the keyboard. When he returned home for winter break, he gave a New Year’s Eve concert, and he plans to return home this summer to give a few concerts and produce a new song before returning to Mercer to finish his MBA. “I think earning my MBA will help me get a good deal both in a possible music career and in the business world,” he said. “I can make better decisions now that I know more about contracts and marketing. I’ve always been good at math.”

Court TV’s Nancy Grace Returns Home to Speak at Executive Forum

By Jenny Butkus

Court TV anchor and frequent Larry King Live guest host Nancy Grace, CLA ‘81, JD ’84, returned home in April to speak at Mercer’s Executive Forum. The Macom native gave presentations on both the Atlanta and Macon campuses.

“It’s really great to be back home, not just in Georgia, but also at Mercer University,” said Grace, who moved to New York seven years ago to work on Court TV.

Grace told The Executive Forum audience she had originally planned to pursue a career in law. A lover of Shakespearean literature, she had planned to become an English professor. This dream was derailed by the random murder of her fiancé, while she was still a student in Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts.

“When Keith’s world ended, my world exploded,” she said. “That strikes me as your duty is greater. Don’t you, who? If not now, when?” Grace encouraged the audience to transform themselves from “ordinary to extraordinary.”

“Believe with all your heart that one person can make a difference. Look at you, all your education, your good looks, your talent,” she said with a smile. “Your duty is greater because your gifts are greater. As leaders and winners in this community, you have a duty to not turn away. As a leader, you have a duty to do all the good you can, wherever you can, whenever you can.”
Elementary Students Become Published Authors

By Jenny Buddus

More than 600 Gwinnett County students will soon have the thrill of seeing their work published in a hardback book, thanks to Mercer’s Budding Authors summer writing enrichment workshops.

A joint effort of the Tift College of Education and Mercer’s College for Kids, Budding Authors is a program in which kindergarteners through fifth-grade students try their hand at writing in a variety of formats. The students attend “college” on the Cecil B. Day Atlanta Campus for one week and work with Mercer graduate education students and alumni to hone their writing skills. Then, at the end of the workshop, they select one piece of their work for publication.

In the fall, the students will return to Mercer for a special graduation ceremony. At the event, they will receive a hardback book featuring one piece of writing from each of the participants. A copy of the book will also be sent to the library of each of the participating students’ schools.

As the result of a partnership agreement with Gwinnett County Schools, Gwinnett students are nominated for Budding Authors by their teachers based on their writing talent and interest. This is the third year the program has been offered on the Atlanta Campus.

Through innovative writing exercises, the Mercer graduate students and alumni help students sharpen their reading and writing skills. For example, one of the teachers takes pictures from teachers and work on instructional programs to close the racial and economic achievement gaps.

“I think the campus always needs to be looking for ways to be involved in the community,” said Dr. Richard V. Swindell, senior vice president - Atlanta. “This new partnership is a way we can be true to Mercer’s mission.”

“I’m excited about a chance to connect. A school cannot live apart from its community,” said Dr. Allison Gilmore, associate dean for university/university partnerships liaison.

“We’re excited about a chance to connect. A school cannot live apart from its community,” he said. “We can connect with the community and learn from them.”

Swindell said. “We can connect with the community and learn from them.”

Dr. Chris McCormick, assistant professor of education, said the College will pool its faculty resources and assist Cross Keys faculty with whatever challenges they would like to tackle.

For example, if a social studies teacher has a student who is having difficulty reading the textbook, he or she can come up with an intervention plan to assist the struggling student.

Such interaction between Mercer faculty and Cross Keys teachers and students is a win-win for both the College and the high school.

Cross Keys has a high number of students who speak English as a second language, and Rose Prejean-Harris, the college/university partnership liaison for Cross Keys, says she believes Mercer professors and students will benefit greatly from seeing the issues that arise while teaching a diverse classroom with students who don’t speak English as their first language.

“I believe this partnership will bring positive changes in the curriculum for new educators,” Prejean-Harris said.

Dr. Allison Gilmore, associate dean of the Tift College of Education, agreed.

“‘The Tift College of Education faculty will become more immersed in the challenges teachers are facing in our community, and in turn, they’ll be better able to prepare our students,” said Gilmore.

In addition, the partnership will provide avenues for both the high school teachers and Mercer faculty to do research and participate in staff development.

Alumni Student Recruitment Referral

If you know an outstanding prospective student, please complete and mail this form to Mercer’s Office of University Admissions, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207. You may also call in your submission at (800) 840-4577 or e-mail us at admissions@mercer.edu.

Your Name ____________________________________________

Student Name _________________________________________

Hometown _____________________________________________

High School ____________________________________________

Year of graduation ___________   SAT/ACT ___________

GPA ________

Activities ______________________________________________

Home telephone number _________________________________

Address _______________________________________________

E-mail address __________________________________________

This shows we’re all learners,” Swindell said. “We don’t want to be an ivory tower.”

Mercer Partners with Cross Keys to Bridge Racial, Economic Achievement Gaps

Mercer has entered a partnership with Cross Keys High School that will allow the Tift College of Education’s Atlanta campus students to gain insight into the challenges that educators face with today’s diverse populations. The partnership will also allow high school teachers and students to draw from the Tift College of Education’s faculty and students for assistance in research and tutoring.

This is part of a larger initiative DeKalb County Schools has entered with 17 Georgia institutions called “Student & Teacher Support Initiative: A Collaborative Effort.” Institutions are paired with DeKalb high schools to provide support to the students and teachers and work on instructional programs to close the racial and economic achievement gaps.

“‘We’re excited about a chance to connect. A school cannot live apart from its community,’” he said.

The Half Century Club will meet Friday, October 1, 2004, at the new University Center for the reception and dinner. Bobby Wilder, EDU ‘52 (Mercer basketball legend), will be presiding at the annual event. Also, the Golden Anniversary of the Class of 1954 will have their reunion and special program on Saturday, October 2. Invitations including complete event details will be mailed in late August. If you have questions or for more information, call Jennifer Joyner at (800) 857-2911.

Half Century Club to Convene in the University Center on October 1
UNDERRGATEAWDS 2004

Students Honored for Leadership

In nine commencements over a two-week period in May, Mercer graduated more than 1,600 students from the University’s 10 schools and colleges. The graduation ceremonies provided the University opportunities to honor several students who had made significant contributions to Mercer through their academic and community leadership.

Those awards presented during the commencement programs of the University’s six undergraduate and graduate programs are listed below:

Tara Jameson
Algeron Sydney Sullivan Award
College of Liberal Arts

Tara Jameson, a biology major, was honored with the Algeron Sydney Sullivan award, one of the two top undergraduate awards at the Macon commencement ceremony. This is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community and a commitment to spiritual values.

Jameson overcame a life-threatening illness during her sophomore year, and was so committed to her studies that she missed only half a semester of classes, yet managed to graduate on time.

She served as president of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and vice president of the American Red Cross Club. She also worked as a research assistant at the University of Kentucky’s Stollery Children’s Hospital in the Pediatric Cardiology division.

Leigh Ann Glosson
Aprile M. Holland Outstanding Student Award

Leigh Ann Hendricks Glosson received the Aprile M. Holland Outstanding Student award from the Eugene W. Stoner School of Business and Economics of Mercer University. The Aprile M. Holland award is the highest scholastic honor offered by the Eugene W. Stoner School of Business and Economics in Atlanta and is given in honor of the founding dean of the School.

Glosson exhibited an exceptionally high level of academic achievement throughout her studies at the Stoner School of Business and Economics. Her consistent placement on the Dean’s List or the President’s List every semester for which she was eligible is even more impressive in light of the demands of a full-time job and a family.

She and her husband have two teenage daughters.

Cassandra Shular
Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal

Cassandra Shular, a double major in psychology and English in the College of Liberal Arts, was the recipient of the Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal, the second of the two top honors. The medal is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies scholastic achievement through personal integrity and character, service to the campus community and a commitment to spiritual values.

A student on the Great Books track and a member of the cross-country team, Shular excelled in balancing academics with athletics. She often impressed her professors with original and creative work and energized class discussions through her passion for learning. She often volunteered her time around campus serving as a preceptor, including serving as an orientation assistant, an officer of Psi Chi and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies, a Mercer Ambassador and an English and psychology tutor in Mercer’s Academic Resource Center.

Leigh Ann Glosson

Nancy Vitoria
Outstanding Specialist in Education Student Award

Nancy Vitoria received the Outstanding Specialist in Education Student award from the Tift College of Education. Vitoria brings an exemplary commitment to her work as a graduate student and as a teacher. She is an outstanding role model for her students and completed her specialist in education degree at Mercer with a 4.0 grade point average.

She has taught science and gifted education at Alton C. Crews Middle School in Oconee County since 1999 and was one of three finalists for Teacher of the Year for the 2003-2004 school year. Vitoria serves in many leadership roles within her school, including science chairperson, mentor to new teachers and sponsor of the Beta Club. In 1995, she served on the United States Olympic Festival Track and Field Team and was the 1997 SEC Track and Field 10K champion. She continues to use her athletic skills with students by coaching the running club and serving as the cheerleading sponsor.

Lisa Misky
Outstanding Master of Education Student Award

Lisa Misky was the recipient of the Outstanding Middle Grades Education Student award from the Tift College of Education. She completed her master of education degree in reading with a 4.0 grade point average.

She taught elementary school in Fulton County for two years and has taught third grade at the Davis Academy since 2001, where she serves as chairwoman for the Reading and Writing Task Force. She also serves as Cluster leader for kindergarten through third grade students, and is the grade level chair for third grade. Her love of learning is an inspiration to her fellow graduate students as well as the students she teaches.
Six Faculty Awarded for Academic Excellence

Six of Mercer University’s finest undergraduate professors were honored at a special awards ceremony spring semester for their commitment to providing the highest quality education to their students.

Helen Grady
The Vulcan Award for Teaching Excellence
This year’s recipient of the Vulcan Award for Teaching Excellence was Dr. Helen M. Grady, associate professor of technical communication in the School of Engineering. Each year, the Southeast Division of the Vulcan Materials company presents this award to a member of the Mercer University faculty who has made outstanding contributions to undergraduate education, student learning and campus life.

Grady joined the faculty of Mercer School of Engineering in 1992 with more than a decade of industry experience leading a technical communication unit. Her teaching exemplifies the very best in engaging students in active, real-world learning experiences through imaginative and challenging collaborative projects. From freshmen to graduate students, all praise her depth of knowledge and caring for their personal and professional growth. Grady also is the founder and director of the Center for Excellence in Engineering Education at Mercer, and has focused faculty attention on ways to improve teaching and learning in engineering.

Mary Ann Drake
The Spencer B. King Jr. Distinguished Professor Award — College of Liberal Arts
This year’s recipient of the Spencer B. King Jr. Distinguished Professor Award — College of Liberal Arts was Dr. Mary Ann Drake, professor and chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department, with the Spencer B. King Jr. Distinguished Professor Award. This award commemorates the career of Spencer B. King Jr., a distinguished Southern historian and beloved teacher in the College of Liberal Arts for more than 50 years.

Drake joined the Mercer faculty in 1982 and has taken on many roles over the past 22 years. She has taught programs in psychology, education and interdisciplinary studies, and has provided leadership in forming and developing the Great Books, Freshman Year Seminar and Women’s and Gender Studies programs. Drake has a notable gift for sensing how to frame the issues of today for students and colleagues alike. She has advocated tirelessly for the idea that everyone in the Mercer community, regardless of race, class, or sexual orientation, should have a seat at the table. Whether in a Capstone class on Death and Dying or a conversation with a student, she has a gift for dealing with critical issues with sensitivity and principles.

Allen Lynch
Distinguished Faculty Award — Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics
Dr. Allen Kenneth Lynch, associate professor of economics and quantitative methods, was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award by the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. Lynch joined the Mercer faculty in 2000. Prior to Mercer, he worked as a senior demographic research analyst for the Blockbuster Entertainment Group.

He has published a variety of journal articles, including “Identifying the NCAA Tournament Dance Card,” a statistical model which accurately predicted 94 percent of college basketball teams that earned At-Large bids for the NCAA Tournament over the last 10 years. This article prompted stories related to this research to appear in The New York Times, Investors’ Business Daily, and The Wall Street Journal, as well as several Associated Press outlets. Lynch’s elective economics courses are over subscribed, and students in both quantitative methods and economics courses give him superior marks. He also developed a graduate course that has received rave reviews from master’s degree students who are able to learn statistical tools by applying them in a course project to solve a problem for their current employer.

Kevin Barnett
School of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award
Dr. Kevin Barnett, assistant professor of electrical engineering, was awarded the School of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award. Barnett joined the faculty of Mercer School of Engineering in 1995.

At Mercer, he has taught 11 different undergraduate courses and nine graduate courses, many of which he developed. His primary area of emphasis is Digital Signal Processing. Barnett has been involved in the continued development of the University’s computer engineering program. He has also had a significant impact on both the undergraduate and graduate level programs in electrical engineering through the development of various courses. This was Barnett’s third time receiving the School of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award.

Catherine Gardner
The Excellence in Teaching Award — Tift College of Education
The Tift College of Education presented The Excellence in Teaching award to Dr. Catherine Gardner, associate professor of teacher education. Gardner joined the Tift College of Education as a full time faculty member in 1991.

A model educator, student advocate, lifelong learner and transforming practitioner, her passion for science and teaching endures within her students a love of discovery, inquiry and intellectual curiosity. She has consistently participated in professional development and research projects to improve her practice. She has attended workshops, conducted research, published articles, or presented papers and presentations every year since 1996. Her colleagues recognize her for her high academic standards for both herself but for her students. One student described her as “an extraordinary teacher who inspires students to gain new perspectives, to ask their own questions rather than respond only to those tendered, and to seek perpetually the slaking of their own innate thirst for knowledge.”

Timothy Craker
Teacher of the Year Award — College of Continuing and Professional Studies
Dr. Timothy Craker, associate professor of liberal studies, was this year’s recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award for the College of Continuing and Professional Studies. He joined the Mercer community in 1994.

Craker has brought to Mercer a vision and determination that have resulted in programs of foreign study, individualized opportunities for working adults to tailor their academic life to meet particular career and personal goals and the enhancement of writing as a basic component of the Mercer experience. Students point to his creativity, sensitivity and caring in the classroom while maintaining challenging standards for their performance. Col leagues value his friendship, seek his advice and trust his judgment. Ever concerned to keep Mercer true to its mission, he has been a consistent advocate for integrity in purpose and practice.
Students Learn Link Between Religion and Science

Traditionally people may not immediately see a strong link between the study of engineering and the study of theology. But Dr. Graham Walker, associate dean and associate professor of theology at McAfee, says it is extremely important for engineering students to understand that religion and engineering, or more broadly religion and science, are, in fact, interrelated.

Mercer School of Engineering Dean Dayne Aldridge agrees. That’s why he asked Walker to teach a one-day class to students as a part of the Engineering Freshman Honors Seminar. Since the engineering honors program’s inception three years ago, Walker has taught Freshman Honors students how people in both the theological realm and the engineering field can benefit from an understanding of how one affects the other.

The class is part of a series of discussions students partake in during the two-semester Freshman Honors Seminar, in which they design and construct self-governing, electro-mechanical devices. “Our study of autonomous robots raises ‘God questions,’” Aldridge said. “The course is designed to move from a systems description of a self-governing robot to a description of a human being as a self-governing entity with abilities, needs and limitations. Our quest to determine whether it may be possible to design a robot that exhibits human-like behavior opens doors for lots of interesting discussion.”

These are just the type of discussions Walker enjoys having. He was awarded a grant a few years ago from the John Templeton Foundation to create and teach course at Mercer titled “Science, Religion and the Sacred Self.” He has studied the relationship between science and religion intensively, including having spent time at the Center for Theology and Natural Science, an affiliate of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

“Without a doubt, science and religion have always had a close relationship” Walker said. Unfortunately however, too often people see the fields as separate. We need desperately not to do this. The two fields need each other.”

As a case in point, Walker notes that as students they are creators, just as God is Creator. “We discuss how humanity has been given a gift to create things, and we explore for what purposes we create things. Can we be co-creators with God and create in the ‘image of God?’”

“Students learn they have to try to appreciate the ingenuity of others.”

Robots Face Off in Botball Competition at Mercer

A new sport is becoming all the rage. It’s called Botball, and it takes smarts, rather than physical stamina, to win.

To become a Botball champion, students must build and program robots to perform a series of tasks. The students then bring their robots to a competition to see who built the “bot” — meaning which team performed best.

In the recent Georgia regional Botball tournament at Mercer in April, a group of students from Buford High School in Buford, Ga., won first place and are now preparing to go to the national competition this summer. As this new sport, sponsored by the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, sweeps the nation, Mercer is playing a lead role. Mercer hosted the first-ever Georgia high school Botball tournament in 2002. And this spring Mercer brought the Botball regional tournament back for the third straight year to the Macon campus. Mercer hosted nine teams purchased a kit provided by the KISS Institute, located on the back of this address label, located on the back of this Mercerian. This number is located at the top of your address label, located on the back of this Mercerian.

“Robots are fun. Learning is hard work,” Olivier said. “It’s nice to have fun with it occasionally.”

To participate, student teams purchased a kit provided by the KISS Institute. Six weeks before the competition, Mercer held a workshop for teachers from participating high schools to go over the rules and regulations. The students are then given their robot kits — giving them six weeks to build and program their robots and to prepare for Botball.

Dr. Dayne Aldridge, dean of the School of Engineering, said once the students arrive at the Botball competition, they learn some more important lessons that will later transfer to their engineering careers. “Students learn they have to try to anticipate what the competition will do. Sometimes you can become enamored with your own idea,” he said with a smile. “But in this competition, as well as in the industry, it’s important to remember that others could have come up with a very similar idea or even a better idea. Through Botball, students learn to appreciate the ingenuity of others.”

We discuss how humanity has been given a gift to create things, and we explore for what purposes we create things. Can we be co-creators with God and create in the ‘image of God?’”

“Students learn they have to try to appreciate the ingenuity of others.”

Mercer University Alumni Online Directory

Debuting Aug. 17

Coming Soon ... A new service will be available for all alumni at no cost to the alumni user! An easy and convenient way to reconnect with your alma mater and fellow Mercerians with the Alumni Online Directory.

The Online Community will enable registered alumni to:

- Search for Mercer Alumni
- Update your Alumni Information
- Post interesting facts about your life since Mercer
- Read interesting facts about other Mercer Alumni
- Have access to permanent email address

To register for the Online Directory, you must have an identification number from Mercer. This number is located at the top of your address label, located on the back of this Mercerian.

To register for the Alumni Online Directory on or after Aug. 17, please visit the Mercer website at www.mercer.edu. Questions? Please call Kristi Dobbins at (800) 837-2911.
Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey and Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WR-ALC) Commander Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collins recently reaffirmed a long-standing partnership between the University and the Base.

"By educating young men and women to become highly qualified engineers, Mercer is enabling Robins to accomplish its critical work of defending and securing our nation."

Mercer University School of Engineering now provides the largest percentage of engineers to Robins of any educational institution in the nation, with an estimated 40 percent of the new engineers hired by the Base this fiscal year being Mercer graduates.

"The University values its partnership with Warner Robins Air Logistics Center," Godsey said. "We have an institutional commitment to strengthening the communities we serve as well as our state and our nation through quality education. By educating young men and women to become highly qualified engineers, Mercer is enabling Robins to accomplish its critical work of defending and securing our nation."

The partnership agreement provides a win-win situation between WR-ALC and Mercer in the area of research and development. In part, the Center benefits from attaining extra assistance and a new perspective in research and development areas of interest to its work, and Mercer students, faculty and staff have access to resources, such as unique, state-of-the-art equipment and expert knowledge, along with the opportunity to work on practical problems of the Department of Defense and the aerospace industry.

"This partnership enables us to prepare engineering students with a level of expertise that would not be available only in the classroom setting," said School of Engineering Dean Darne Aldridge. "Our students have a more in-depth knowledge of translating theory into practice so they can better address the important engineering needs of the Base and Air Logistics Center when they graduate. And our faculty and staff benefit from opportunities to continue important research in their fields of expertise."

Godsey and Collins recently signed a modified educational partnership agreement between the WR-ALC and the University. The University established the School of Engineering in 1985 as a commitment to assist WR-ALC in fulfilling its mission by providing well-rounded, highly educated engineers in the Central Georgia area.

An estimated 120 engineering students put their designs to test during Freshman Design Competition Field Day spring semester. Students enrolled in EGR 107 – Introduction to Engineering Design – began the semester in April. Using K’Nex building kits, which are plastic building pieces similar to old Erector sets, student teams crafted vehicles to perform specific tasks. The course culminated with the competition field day, and students competed in various events, including boat, amphibious, dragster, cable car, rampster and tug-o-war.

Alumni... Commemorate Your Time at Mercer.

Mercer University is in the process of designing and building a brick-lined plaza that will serve as the campus entryway to the new University Center. Alumni, students, parents and friends of Mercer have the unique opportunity to preserve their memories by purchasing a brick that will help line this pathway.

Your $100, tax deductible gift secures a personalized brick that can include your name, year of graduation, and even your primary student organization, such as a fraternity, sorority, BSU or SGA — up to three lines on the face of the brick.

As part of this offer, Mercer University will send a written acknowledgment of your gift, including the wording as it will appear on the brick.

YES, I want to participate in this unique opportunity!

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.

Like 1

Like 2

Like 3

Abbreviations for Colleges & Schools

CLA College of Liberal Arts
BIS Strayer School of Business & Economics
ENS School of Engineering
LAW Walter F. George School of Law
MD School of Medicine
EDU Titus College of Education
MDS School of Medicine

The Mercerian / Summer 2004

Please return this form with your check, payable to Mercer University, to The Office of Alumni Services, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, Georgia 31207. Questions? Please call Kristi Dobbins at (800) 837-2911 for more information.
Basketball Legends Named to Conference Anniversary Team

By Joel Lamp
Sports Information Director

(Note: Atlantic Sun Conference (A-Sun) was known as the Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) before 2001. For this story, everything is referred to as A-Sun.)

Sam Mitchell, Class of '93, and Andrea Congreaves, Class of '94, had legendary careers at Mercer during the 1980s. And their legend continues to grow as both were named to the Atlantic Sun Conference's 14th Anniversary Team.

Mitchell played for Mercer from 1982 to 1985 and led the Bears to the NCAA Tournament in 1985, where Mercer lost to Georgia Tech in Atlanta. During those four years, Mitchell retooled the record book, becoming the University’s all-time leading scorer with 1,986 points. But Mitchell made his impact on the conference as well as he is second on the all-time scoring list in the A-Sun, behind only Centenary’s Willie Jackson. He was named A-Sun “Player of the Year” in 1985 and was a two-time all-conference and all-tournament selection. On top of that, he was named MVP of the A-Sun Tournament in 1985 after leading Mercer to the title. On the women’s side, Congreaves transformed women’s basketball at Mercer, becoming the University’s only All-America honoree. In her four seasons at Mercer, Congreaves piled up a school record 2,796 points, averaging 25.9 points per game. Her point total is also the highest in A-Sun history, with Florida International’s Alysia Brannavan coming in second with 2,515. During her stint as a Bear, Congreaves led Mercer to two A-Sun regular season titles, going 10-2 in 1990-91 and 1991-92. She was a three-time all-conference selection and was named A-Sun “Player of the Year” all three times. On top of that, she was named “Player of the Week” 10 times and is also second all-time in the A-Sun in rebounding.

“This is a great honor for two of the greatest players ever to wear the Mercer uniform,” said Sam Mitchell. “This is a great honor for two of the greatest players ever to wear the Mercer uniform,” said Sam Mitchell. “This is a great honor for two of the greatest players ever to wear the Mercer uniform,” said Sam Mitchell.

Mitchell hopes to replicate the success of first-year Milwaukee coach Terry Potter, whose team surprised many by holding the fourth playoff position in the East until the final day of the regular season. Potter was an assistant for just one year before becoming a head coach.

“We had a goal to shock everybody in the NBA by making the playoffs. Whether that’s going to happen here, I don’t know, but we’re going to try to be a playoff team,” Mitchell said.

Associated Press. Reprinted from The Macon Telegraph, June 30, 2004
I was early in the third quarter, and Mercer graduate Ledon Green had a prolonged conversation with a basketball referee during his professional game in Hungary's top league.

Green was whistled for a foul, and he gently pleaded his case with the man with the whistle and the black and white shirt.

There is nothing unusual about a basketball player debating such calls. But in this instance Green was speaking in Hungarian, considered one of the world's most difficult languages to learn for a non-native speaker.

"I am about 95 percent fluent. I can understand everything," said Green, after leading Debrecon to a close win in late November in tiny Szolnok, Hungary. Green played for Mercer from 1992-96, and averaged 18.8 points and 5.2 rebounds per game in his final season.

He is the only former Mercer player with a pro team hoop tour overseas, according to the website usbasket.com.

Last season he was named to the Eurobasket.com All-Hungarian first-league team, and this season he was averaging about 17 points per game in November.

Green, 30, was born in Jacksonville, Fla., grew up in Columbus, Ga., and spent his summers in Atlanta. But this southerner is getting more comfortable in Hungary, a town of 175,000 where he has been there a lot of different customs you have to learn."

"I am real comfortable. There are a lot of different customs you have to learn," the 6-7 forward said of Hungary, which is about the size of Indiana.

So what was the biggest challenge of moving to a different country? "Getting adjusted to the customs. You just can't go to a normal store and buy something without learning some of the language," he said.

Green has a degree in business from Mercer, and credits his college education for his success on and off the court in Europe.

"I had a great education at Mercer. I had a great experience," he said.

Green averaged 28.1 points per game for Falco in his first pro season in Hungary, in 1996-97. He then averaged 25.7 points per contest for Corpus Christi in the United States, and 21.7 points an outing for a team in France the next season.

But he returned to Hungary for the 1998-99 season, and has been there ever since as a player. "Anybody who loves basketball, you are going to continue to play as long as you can," he said.

Each Hungarian team is allowed two non-Europeans, and Green's fellow American teammate the past two seasons has been Patrick Lee. A guard, Lee grew up near Charlotte and played in college at College of Charleston.

Americans are generally the top-paid players on European teams, but Green said Debrecon does not allow him to comment on his salary. He is also provided a car, apartment and one meal per day for a regular-season that runs from early October to early April.

Green said he is not sure how long he plans to play overseas. He said he evaluates his future after each season.

The quality of play in Hungary is not as good as Italy, France or Spain, which pays some top Americans at least $300,000 per year. But Hungary is ahead of some eastern European countries, and this season former college players from major conferences, such as the Big 12, Big 10 and Atlantic 10, are in the league.

Most Hungarian games draw about 2,000 to 3,000 fans in arenas that do not hold much more than that. But most of the fans are loud, and some bang on drums throughout the game.

After Debrecon went to Szolnok in November, Green led his teammates to one side of the court after the game and saluted about 100 of their fans who traveled for the road game.

"It is kind of like shouting respect. We would have (also) done (a salute) if we would have lost," Green said. But Debrecon came back to win that game, and perhaps Green's priding with the referees made a small difference.

So, exactly what does Green say, in Hungarian, of course, to the whistle blowers?

"Did you see it? Did you see it?"

He said.

Editor's note: David Driver, a five-lense journalist, has covered basketball for the Associated Press, Eastern Basketball and major daily newspapers. He is a native of Virginia and is spending this year in Szeged, Hungary, where his wife is a visiting English literature professor.

New Women's Golf Coach

Sally Hammel, who was a four-year starter for the Bears from 1996-2000, has been named the new women's golf coach by Director of Athletics Bobby Pope. Following her graduation from Mercer in 2000 with degrees in marketing and management, Hammel served as an assistant coach for the men's and women's golf teams at East Carolina & ECU. She helped launch the women's golf program that advanced to the NCAA regional tournament in its third year. This past year, she worked as an assistant professional at the Greystone Golf and Country Club in Birmingham, Ala.

Student-Athletes Honored for Athletic, Academic Accomplishments

By Joel Lamp

Each year, the Mercer Athletics Department hands out its awards to several student-athletes who excelled both on and off the field.

Senior Roger Shaw of Lake Worth, Fla., won the Doyle E. Watson Leadership Award, which is presented annually to the baseball player displaying outstanding leadership. Shaw started as shortstop for the Bears this season. Canovas led the men's soccer team to their first A-Sun Championship in 2003. Despite being hampered by injuries, Emerson led the Bears in scoring, averaging 15.3 points and 8.2 rebounds per game.

The Sportmanship Award is given each year to the student-athlete who displays a strong team spirit on top of being an exemplary sportman. The award is voted on by the Mercer head coaches and administrative staff. Thang says that the men's soccer team and Bobby Hansson of Ocala, Fla., of the men's basketball team were both honored for their achievements both on and off the field.

NCAA Announces Certification of Mercer

Mercer was one of 10 colleges and universities who were fully certified by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The accreditation process was a nearly two-year process in which some 50 University faculty and staff members completed the athletics self-study process. Dr. Thomas G. Evers, senior vice president for Mercer, served as the chair of Mercer's 21-member Steering Committee that compiled the report. The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification announced the certifications in May of the 10 Division I member institutions that have undergone the Association's second cycle of athletics certification. The purpose of athletics certification is to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics program and to assist institutions in improving their athletics departments. NCAA legislation mandating athletics certification was adopted in 1993. A designation of certified means that an institution operates its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership.

The second round of athletics certifications is being completed on a 10-year cycle rather than the five-year cycle used during the initial certification process. All 325 active Division I members participate in the certification process.
**Achievements**

1945  
Dr. Malcolm Leon, AB, was presented a plaque Feb. 8 by the Davidson College Presbyterian Church as the oldest ruling elder in service and for his contributions to the life and governance of the church and to the larger Presbyterian Church.

1953  
Ethelene Dyer Jones, AB, continues to write a column for two newspapers and the quarterly altitude magazine. She wrote a drama for Lebanon Baptist Church in Ewphos, which was presented May 10-11 in the church’s Sesquicentennial Celebration. She and her husband, the Rev. Grover D. Jones, BA, ’52, reside in Middle Georgia.

1955  
A. Wayne Joiner, AB, M.Ed., reached his 50th year of perfect Sunday school attendance at Central Baptist Church in Sanford, Fla. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Longwood, Fla.

1956  
The Rev. Stephen Kryalska, AB, of Macon is retiring from the pulpit after 53 years in the ministry.

1957  
Elliott E. Brack, AB, retired as associate publisher of the Orange section of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and is now publishing an executive news digest of Georgia news on the Internet. GeorgiaClips, published each business day, is a compilation of the most significant news of the day compiled from state and national media about Georgia.

1958  
The Rev. Bradley D. Brown, AB, celebrated 50 years of ordination as a Baptist minister on April 7 after serving 37 years as a Southern Baptist missionary in Liberia, West Africa.

1962  
Brenda Storey Byrum, AB, was awarded the Hildrin Bistinguished Emeritus Fellowship for 2004-05 by Emory University College of Arts and Sciences.

1965  
Toni V. Sweeney, AB, had her fifth book, The Rose and the Dragon, accepted for publication in hardcover by PublishAmerica Inc. It is a fantastic romance and will be released at the end of the year. She also has an article, “The Life You Save,” concerning diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer published in The South, the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority magazine.

1966  
Charles L. Pritchard, BA, resigned as ambassador and special envoy for negotiations with the DPRK in the Bush Administration to join The Brookings Institution in September 2003.

1980  
Linda Hester Browne, BA, complet ed her chaplaincy residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in June and accepted the position of chaplain and director of Spiritual Life in Salem/Sowse Moravian Residential Community in Winston-Salem, N.C.

1981  
Chris J. Brantley, BA, was named managing director for IEEE-USA, the organization that promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 225,000 technology professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. Brantley is a 15-year veteran with the IEEE.

1982  
Ernest W. Lee II, BA, was presented with an award from the Atlanta chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators at the annual ABC/Atlanta Golden Flame Awards program Oct. 16, 2003, at the Fox Theater, Atlanta. He is a legal counsel and adviser at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

1991  
Jennifer Thomas Lindsey, BA, was recently named quality assurance coordinator for child welfare for the Marshall County Department of Human Resources. She also earned a master of arts degree from Jacksonville State University in April.

1992  
Cynthia Hall Chandler, BA, was recently promoted to director of development for the Gunnett Hospital System Foundation.

1994  
Mary Jo Kieve Hollis, BA, earned her master’s degree in chemical engineering in December 2003 from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. In February, she was promoted to environmental, health and safety site manager with GE-Energy Services, working at the Municipal Electrical Authority of Georgia in Roopville.

**Marriages & Births**

1950  

1962  
Dr. Edward A. Johnson III, AB, married his wife, Chumpa, in October 2001. They announce the birth of their son, Jetsula Kendrick, March 30. The family resides in Utah, Calif.

1991  
Elizabeth McLeod Bower, BA, JD, and her husband, James, announce the birth of their daughter, Tessa Delaney, March 29. Tessa joins her older sister Brynn, 3. The family resides in Evans.

1992  

1996  
Catherine Tutterow Flanders, BA, and her husband, Doug, announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Grace, Jan. 9, 2003.

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**Robert Parris Performs Famed Piece at Disney Hall**

By Wes Griffith

**Robert Parris, University Organist at Mercer, gave quite a performance at the 2004 National Convention for the American Guild of Organists on July 8.**

After being interviewed on National Public Radio’s Soundscapes earlier that day, Parris performs Leo Sowerby’s “Concerto for Organ and Orchestra,” a piece so difficult that only four people have ever performed it, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in the newly-constructed Disney Hall, one of the finest performance halls in the nation. It was the inaugural performance on the hall’s Manuel Rosales-designed pipe organ.

The 35-minute “Concerto for Organ and Orchestra” is shrouded in mystique. Many rumors have circulated in the music world as to who has or can perform it. Nonetheless, Parris, who performed the piece in 1996 (not in a major venue), is the only person still living to have publicly performed it with an orchestra.

This was quite a pleasant surprise to Frederic Swann, president of the American Guild of Organists. Last year, Parris had dinner with Swann, who was in Macon playing a recital. When conversation led to Sowerby’s “Concerto,” Swann was delighted to learn Parris could play the piece. Days later Parris received a call from Swann who offered Parris the prestigious job.

Parris took a sabbatical from his university responsibilities last semester to prepare for the performance. Though he had played it before, extensive practice was required to perfect it. Occurring every two years, the convention is the main event of the organ profession. Parris was one of three organists performing for the convention in the $274 million Disney Hall. Built by architect Frank Gehry, the hall opened in October 2003 to rare reviews for its elaborate architecture.

The Manuel Rosales-designed pipe organ was under construction until a few weeks before the convention. Gehry also designed the organ’s facade, including its distinctive pipes, which are 32 feet long and bent. They have garnered much attention and make the organ extremely unique.

‘Sowerby’s ‘Concerto’ was enthusiastically received at the Lincoln Center 40 years ago,’ said Parris. “It is fitting that it was the first piece played on the Disney Hall organ and the grand finale of the convention.”

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**Mercer Alumna Honored in Augusta**

Janet Kirely Hudson, BA ’68, was recently honored as the recipient of the James W. Bennett Advocate of the Child Award at the MCG Children’s Medical Center in Augusta. She was introduced by Advocate of the Child nominations committee member Rodger B. Murchison, right, of the First Baptist Church of Augusta. Ms. Hudson and her husband, Dave, BA ’68, are loyal supporters of the University.

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**College of Liberal Arts**

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Jeffrey J. Marshall, BA, and his wife, Candace Austin Marshall, BA '94, announce the birth of their daughter, Madelina Ruth, Sept. 25, 2003. She joins their son, Jackson. The family resides in Baltimore, Md.

Erica Khan Graus, BA, and her husband, Mike, of Surfside Beach, S.C., announce the birth of their daughter, Debra, of Decatur, Ga., March 27, 2003. She joins their son, Taner Rogers, Aug. 21, 2003.

1996
Christopher J. Lyons, BS, and his wife, Debra, announce the birth of their son, Quentin James, Jan. 1, 1997.

Rebecca Porter Bronnan, BA, and her husband, Peter, announce the birth of their son, Tanner Rogers, Sept. 21, 2003.

1998
Adrienne Harris-Hill, BA, and her husband, Jeffrey J. Marshall, of Lyons, Ga., announce the birth of their daughter, Christophor J. Lyons, BA, Sept. 20, 2003. She joins their son, Jackson. The family resides in Raleigh, N.C.

Douglas is in graduate school at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., pursuing a MM in choral conducting. The couple resides in Ridgeland, Miss.

1999
Athena Bolden Lock, BA, and her husband, Carlos A. Lock, Dec. 27, 2003. Both are captains in the U.S. Army. Carlos is stationed in Korea. Athena is enrolled in a clinical laboratory scientist program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Wendy Sellers Bennet, BA, and her husband, Christopher, of Bremen, Ga., announce the birth of their daughter, Kate, March 25, 2000.


Jason Walraven, BA, and his wife, Elizabeth Highsmith, of Athens, announce the birth of their son, Luke Isaac, was born in 2002 and Nicholas Asher was born in 2004. The family resides in Gainesville, Fla.

Lizella died March 27, 2003.


1999

The couple resides in Warner Robins.

Ralph L. Conner, AB, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., died May 9, 2003.


Douglas died June 2.


Margaret Zeigler Winship, AB, of Bainbridge died May 29, 2003.


H. Rogers Nelson, BA, of Macon died in August 2001.


Dr. Millard E. Agerton, AB, of Macon died May 23, 2003.


W. Ellis Birch, AB, of Macon died May 9, 2003.


Dr. Irvin L. Northcutt, AB, of Macon died June 7, 2003.


Thomas A. White Jr., BA, of Macon died April 19, 1949.


Helen Williams Wynn, AB, of Macon died May 17, 2003.


Paul R. Oxley Jr., of Atlanta died April 5, 1957.

Doris Stutts Waters, AB, of Macon died June 2.

Doris Reeves, AB, of Macon died June 2.


Dr. Irvin L. Northcutt, AB, of Macon died May 17, 2003.


Joe W. Andrews Jr., AB, of Macon died June 2.


M. Royce Gordon, AB, of Macon died April 4, 1956.


Margaret Zeigler Winship, AB, of Bainbridge died May 29, 2003.


H. Rogers Nelson, BA, of Macon died in August 2001.
**ACHIEVEMENTS**

1983
Alan L. Wilkinson, BBA, was promoted when Marmon/Keystone Corporation announced management changes. His additional responsibilities include the Houston and Denver/Kansas City operations. He presently oversees the Eastern region, including Atlanta, Orlando, Charlotte, Birmingham, New Castle, Southampton and Butler.

1984
Layne Graham Hadaway, BBA, was promoted to director of employee relations at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. She resides in Milledgeville.

1986
Jeanne DiAngelo Adam, BBA, has been appointed director of alliance marketing for Orlando Regional Healthcare. She has more than 13 years experience in the healthcare marketing industry. She has served as marketing manager for women’s services, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Orlando.

1990
Todd S. Duffy, BBA, joined SunTrust Securities Inc. as an investment consultant. Duffy will serve SunTrust’s regional brokerage firm by providing investment solutions and services to high net worth consumers. He previously worked for Morgan Stanley of Atlanta where he was an associate vice president of retail investments.

1991
Gary Vip, BBA/MBA, began his real estate company in March. He and his wife, Hsiao, MBA ‘92, reside in Duluth.

1993
Donald J. Humphrey, MBA, has been the president and CEO of a consulting firm specializing in business brokerage, business appraisals and general consulting since 2001. He currently resides in Canton.

1997
Reginald D. Lewis, BS, was named Outstanding Young Man of America in 1998, Mr. Georgia-America in 2002, Mr. Black America Achievement in 2003 and Mr. African Gentlemen America in 2002. He is a business analyst and adjunct professor at the Art Institute of Atlanta. He resides in Fairburn.

1999
Elise Hudgin Hertweck, BBA, received her juris doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law in May. The couple resides in Stockbridge.

2000
Jeffrey L. Williamson, BBA, received his MBA from Emory University in May 2003. The couple resides in Atlanta.

2003
Amy Lynn, MSHA, was married on May 22. The couple resides in Dunwoody.

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**2004-2005 Broadway Series at The Grand Opera House**

**A Season So Good... We’ll Have Standing Room Only!**

**October 2-3, 7:30 p.m.**

The Gershwin musical drama *Porgy and Bess* tells the moving story of the crippled Porgy and the residents of Charleston’s fabled Catfish Row. Supported by: [Sponsorship Information]

**November 20, 7:30 p.m.**

Without our traditions, our lives would be as empty as a *Fiddler on the Roof*! Join the humble millworker Teyve for his journey through secular love, forbidden betrothals, weddings, divorce and forgiveness, tempered by religious oppression and imminent revolution. Supported by: [Sponsorship Information]

**November 21, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.**

Crammed with standards like ‘I’ve Got Rhythm,’ ‘Eminence’ and “Someone To Watch Over Me,” *Crazy For You* is a hilarious tale of romance, mistaken identities, and show-stopping musical numbers that add up to irresistible fun. Supported by: [Sponsorship Information]

**February 22-23, 7:30 p.m.**

*STOMP* is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, saucy, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. Supported by: [Sponsorship Information]

**April 7-8, 7:30 p.m.**

For more information, call (478) 301-5470 or visit thegrand.mercer.edu

The Grand Opera House is a performing arts center of Mercer University.---
Mercer Alumni Get Connected

Marietta Mercer alumni enjoyed an evening of conversation and refreshments at the Mercer Connection held at the Gone With the Wind Museum in Marietta. Sponsors for the spring event were, left to right, Matthew A. Getz, BBS '91, Melissa McMath Nober, BBSM '93, Thomas E. Cauthorn III, LL.M '72, Alene Conley, NLQ '84, Pamela Smith Marqueses, PHA '95, Sharan Mills Sherrer, PHA '84, John T. Sherrer, PHA '77, Michelle Hicks, Robert E. Hicks, CLA '50, LW '51, Martha Ware Curtis, CLA '65, and Alvin C. Curtis Jr., CLA '64, LW '66. Check out the Mercer Connections for 2004-2005 by visiting the Mercer's website at www.mercer.edu and clicking on “Calendar” on the top bar.

The first class of students in the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program at the Mid-South School of Theology will begin their studies in July 2004. The School will initially accept 15 students into the program each year.

Daisy Herl Vliez became the new Dean of the Walter F. School of Law on July 1. Dean Floyed comes to the Mercer Law School from Texas Tech University. During her 13-year career at Texas Tech, she served two terms as an associate dean for academic affairs. A member of the State Bar of Georgia and Texas, and the American Bar Association she is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation.

The School of Medicine, which only accepts Georgia residents into its doctor of medicine program, received 634 applications for its 60 seats. The entering class of 2005 represents 41 Georgia counties.

This year, the Southern School of Pharmacy’s applicant pool for the entering class of 2004 had a record 1,222 applicants, an increase of 35 percent from last year. The School continues to have one of the highest applicant pools in the nation.

The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing has a record full enrollment of more than 400 students. Up 25 percent from last year, the College also received a record number of applications.

The School of Engineering’s Chapter of Society for Technical Communication (STC) was honored with two awards at the Society’s international conference in May. For the second straight year, the chapter received the Student Chapter of Distinction Award, the highest honor given to a student chapter in this professional society. The chapter also was honored with the Award of Excellence in the STC Newsletter Competition.

The woodruff house during the holidays!

Make the Woodruff House a Holiday Tradition!

Tuesday Nov. 30 – Thursday, Dec. 2 6 – 9 p.m.

Tour this wonderful antibellum home on Coleman Hill in Macon decorated for the holidays! Live music by Mercer students, readings and refreshments. Free to everyone!

Christmas in Olde Macon

Friday, Dec. 3 6 – 9 p.m.

Visit four beautifully decorated historic homes in downtown Macon: Woodruff House, Hay House, Cannon Ball House and Sidney Lanier Cottage. Adults $10; Children $2.

For more information, call Jennifer Jopner at (800) 837-2911 or (478) 381-2131.

Please complete the form, detach and mail to Mercer University:

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS will celebrate its 25th anniversary of publishing excellence at the 19th annual Author’s Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Westin Buckhead Atlanta.

Authors in attendance will be Rick Atten, Ron Cheo, Bob, David Bobbitts, James Cook, Larry Com, Louise Dobbs, Hulls Gillespie, Tim Kay, Rick Melton Sr., William Rawlings Jr., Haywood Smith and Michael Thurmond. Those authors and more will be in attendance to meet, greet and autograph copies of their latest and previous works.

The Tift College of Education is in the process of developing a master’s program in educational leadership for school administrators.
Share Your Latest News!

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

Name ____________________________________________________
Maiden Name _______________________________________________
Class Year __________________________________________________
School or College _____________________________________________
Degree _____________________________________________________
Fraternity/Sorority ____________________________________________
Street or Box Number __________________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________________________
Home Phone ( _____ ) ________________________________________
E-mail _____________________________________________________
Business Name ______________________________________________
Title ______________________________________________________
Business Address _____________________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________________________
Business Phone ( _____ ) ______________________________________
E-mail _____________________________________________________

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

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News to Share _______________________________________________
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__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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