Mercer's Legacy Expands Worldwide

A life-sized bronze of Jesse Mercer sits on a bench on the quad of the Macon campus, where students, faculty, staff and alumni seldom pass by without giving a slight nod of acknowledgement — some out of respect, most out of affection. When he founded Mercer Institute in 1833, Jesse Mercer did so with a deep-rooted commitment to education and "intellectual preparation" and 39 students.

Mercer University has continued to advance the vision of its founder by attracting some of the most talented college freshmen in the country, adding new programs that build on its already solid academic foundation, and building state-of-the-art facilities that provide the optimum learning environment for its students.

The freshman class of 2003 has the highest average SAT score of any Mercer class to date with an average of 1210. The 620 students that make up this year’s freshman class also have a record-high grade-point average of 3.6. “Our freshman SAT average has increased 98 points since fall 2000," said Allen London, vice president of University Admissions. “These students come from strong high school academic programs and have taken many advanced placement and honors courses. They are students we want to have at Mercer.”

Mercer's Health Sciences Center, which includes the Southern School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine and Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, began the fall with three strong new classes as well.

In August, the University opened the doors to its newest regional academic center, a 50,000-square-foot facility in Henry County. The Center, which is designed to accommodate an enrollment of 1,000 students, allowed the University to consolidate the students from its two smaller centers in Griffin and Corington. It will provide many opportunities for individuals in the area to continue their education with evening classes scheduled around their workdays.

The University also continues to hold classes at regional academic centers in Douglas County and Eastman. On Mercer's Macon campus, University spirit is escalating as the much-anticipated University Center is nearing completion. This 230,000-square-foot facility will be completed spring semester. The impressive structure will become the hub of student activity with amenities including a food court, coffee shop, fitness and recreation rooms and an arena that seats up to 5,500 for athletic events and 4,500 for special events.

Mercer's advances aren't going unnoticed. The University's reputation as a premier university is no longer known only in the Southeast, but also across the nation. For the 14th consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report ranked Mercer among the leading institutions in the South, and for the 10th year, Barron's named Mercer as a “Best Buy.” In addition, the popular college guide, Peterson's, has listed Mercer in its Competitive Colleges Guide for the past two years.

This year the University garnered two new prestigious rankings. The Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA recognized Mercer as a "highly selective" university. And, in July, The Princeton Review included Mercer in its popular publication, the Best 351 Colleges in North America. With 3.50 four-year colleges in the United States, that puts Mercer among the top 10 percent.

The Princeton Review and the National Association of Colleges and Employers recently released their annual rankings. Mercer is included in both ranking systems, which is a testament to the University's efforts to provide a quality education.
Mercer OPENs Regional Academic Center in Henry County

Mercer University opened the doors to its newest regional academic center in mid-August, providing opportunities for adult learners in Henry County and surrounding areas to advance their education close to home.

Located off exit 218 of I-75 in Henry County, the 50,000-square-foot facility is the result of a public/private partnership of the Henry County Development Authority, Henry County Board of Commissioners and Mercer University.

“This facility represents a unique partnership between Mercer University and Henry County,” said Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey. “We are looking forward to providing men and women throughout this area with educational programs of quality and breadth that competently prepares them both personally and professionally.”

Located at 160 Henry Parkway, adjacent to the Henry County Administration Building, the new regional academic center is designed specifically for adult learners.

The one-story building borders the Cotton Fields Golf Course and has numerous windows to bring the wooded outdoors into the classrooms. The building’s entrance opens into a spacious lounge adjacent to offices of full-time faculty members and student support professionals.

“Our students are valued members of Mercer’s learning community, and the building’s open design is intended to encourage them to see education as their gateway to limitless possibilities,” said Dr. Thomas Kaid, associate provost and dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Dr. Richard V. Swindle

Dr. Richard V. Swindle, who spent 17 years as an administrative career at Mercer, returned to the University on June 1 to serve as senior vice president — Atlanta. Before his appointment, Swindle was serving as senior vice president for Institutional Advancement for Franklin College in Franklin, Ind., where he was responsible for development, public affairs, corporate and foundation relations, alumni services and church relations.

Prior to joining Franklin College in 1996, he was at Mercer, serving his last three years as senior associate vice president for University Advancement.

“We are extremely pleased that Dr. Swindle has returned to the University,” said President R. Kirby Godsey. “He is an outstanding leader and administrator, who has a talent for building community and collaboration.”

Swindle is responsible for the coordination of all campus activity of the University’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta. The 2,200-student campus includes the Southern School of Pharmacy, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and McAfee School of Theology, and programs of Tift College of Education, Stetson School of Business and Economics, the School of Engineering, and the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Swindle also has an active role in expanding Mercer’s involvement in the Atlanta community and increasing the University’s presence and visibility through relationships building with Atlanta’s corporate and community leaders.

While at Franklin College, Swindle planned and directed the successful completion of a $48.5 million capital campaign, which exceeded its goal by more than 21 percent. He also directed the college’s multi-year marketing initiative, which significantly increased the awareness of the college.

Swindle began his career in higher education in 1971 as director of Admissions at Samford University and, in 1973, became associate dean of Admissions.

In 1979, he joined Mercer University as director of admissions for the University’s Atlanta campus. He designed and implemented a student recruitment program that resulted in a 40 percent increase in enrollment over a 10-year period.

He became associate provost in 1987, and was responsible for all administrative services on the Atlanta campus. Two years later, he was named special assistant to the president, serving as the chief administrator for the Atlanta campus. In 1990, he joined the University Advancement staff as assistant vice president for development and later served two years as associate vice president for University Relations, Alumni Services and Development. From 1992 to 1994, he was a member of the University’s self-study team for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools re-accreditation.

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Students Teach Professors in New Program

From creating Web pages to designing a simulated archaeological dig, Mercer students are helping faculty members utilize technology to its fullest.

Mercer students can now teach professors through the new Student Technology Advisors (STARS) program. By assisting faculty members in bringing technology into their classes, the STARS program allows students to learn the latest media applications and use their expertise in creating valuable resources for the Mercer community.

Through the pilot program, which began in fall 2002, five students received two months of extensive training in new media, instructional technology and professional communication. After completing workshops, which included training on numerous software programs, such as Digital Storytelling, Flash, Dreamweaver, Web Development, HTML and WebCT, the STARS students teamed up with Mercer faculty to complete the technology projects.

"In the Center for Teaching and Learning, we develop programs to help students learn better and become more engaged in the learning process," said Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, director of Mercer’s Center for Teaching and Learning. "For those members of the faculty who have not had a chance to experiment with interactive technology in the classroom, STARS students are able to offer them one-on-one time to learn how."

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M
ercy MBA Grad Develops Mercer Village

Mercer University has purchased the Baptist Center located at 2130 Flowers Road South, previously owned by the Georgia Baptist Convention and adjacent to the University’s Atlanta campus.

Officials from the University and the Convention signed papers on Aug. 21, transferring the ownership of the 25 acres and five-story facility at a purchase price of $12 million.

As part of the agreement, the Convention will remain in the building for up to three years while the Convention's new facility is completed in Gwinnett County. The University will conduct a study on the best future usage of the facility.

"The University’s Board of Trustees determined the property was an important purchase to maintain the integrity of Mercer’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus," said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey.

Mercer University has outgrown its current location, and the Convention was seeking a site to begin a new facilities project. The new building will serve as a home for Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts, College of Health and Human Sciences, and School of Business.

"This strategic undertaking is critically important to the future of our great university, most especially to the continued vitality and prominence of our highly successful Atlanta campus," said Godsey.

Pat Conroy Receives Honorary Degree

One of South's most beloved writers is now one of the University's honorary alumni. Best-selling author Pat Conroy, below center, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree at the 14th annual Authors Luncheon.

"Students are already enjoying the fountain in the new Mercer Village.

Mercer Purchases Baptist Center from Georgia Baptist Convention

"This strategic undertaking is critically important to the future of our great university, most especially to the continued vitality and prominence of our highly successful Atlanta campus."

"We are happy that Mercer acquired the property for its future use and expansion. The sale also provides resources to assist the Convention in securing the property and facilities for our site at Sugar Hill Boulevard," said J. Robert satin, Georgia Baptist Convention.
Silver Named Georgia Professor of the Year

By Jenny Budrewicz

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced in November that Dr. Andrew Silver, assistant professor of English at Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, has been named the 2003 Georgia Professor of the Year. The announcement was made at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

“Dr. Silver represents the finest Mercer has to offer. He demonstrates the University’s commitment to being a teaching institution of the highest caliber,” said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. “All of us within the University applaud his accomplishments and his dedication to his students.”

Silver has taught at Mercer since 1998. He earned his undergraduate degree in religion at George Washington University and his doctorate in English literature at Emory University. Prior to coming to Mercer, he served as a visiting assistant professor at Emory University and a dean’s teaching fellow at Oxford College of Emory University.

Dr. Richard Falls, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Priscilla Bushner, associate provost and interim vice president for Student Life, nominated Silver for the award.

Falls said he couldn’t be happier that Silver was selected for this honor. “Dr. Silver is an engaged, sympathetic and demanding teacher and mentor,” Falls said. “He knows — and lives out — the belief that the teacher’s responsibilities do not stop at the classroom door or the campus fence.”

One example of Silver’s commitment to engaging students in meaningful learning experiences outside the classroom was his creation of the documentary film *Combateable/Burn*, performed at Mercer’s Backdoor Theatre in fall of 2001. This play was the result of an intensive project, funded by a grant from University Commons, in which four Mercer students helped him interview a total of 120 people active in the early civil rights movement in Macon. Nearly every word of the play comes directly from 90 of the interviews and research Silver and the students conducted in Mercer’s Jack Tarver Library.

“We weaved what we learned in the interviews together to make a quilted narrative,” he said. “It was a great learning experience for the students. They were able to apply the abstract concepts we discussed in class to the concrete form of theatre. They realized the power of art upon people’s lives.”

The New Jersey native said he enjoys teaching because it enables him to be creative and also influence the way people look at the world. “I see students come in as freshmen and watch them transform from a relatively unthinking person to a largely involved, thinking person. To serve as a guide as students consider the great questions is a great privilege,” he said.

Students say Silver has impacted them tremendously.

One Mercer student said, “Andrew Silver has forever changed my life. I came to Mercer simply looking for a degree, and now I am leaving with a burning passion for activism, a love of constant learning and a better sense that the world needs me as much as I need the world.”

McDuffie Concert Benefits Students

By Elizabeth Flader

Grammy-nominated violinist Robert McDuffie returned to his hometown of Macon to perform a special concert benefiting violin students at Mercer University on April 5 at the Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building.

“McDuffie is committed to giving his students a solid foundation to reach their highest aspirations — just as Robert McDuffie has fulfilled,” said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. “This performance is an opportunity for us to support future violinists here at Mercer.”

The concert which included works by Beethoven, Copland and Dvorák, formally recognized the Robert McDuffie Endowed Scholarship in Violin established by Mercer Board of Trustees member and chairman of the Executive Committee, Benjy Griffin, CLA ’77, and his wife, Teresa Griffin.

The seminar will also teach ecology to graduate students at the National University of Comahue in Northwestern Patagonia. His wife and fellow biologist, Rebecca Ditgen, will join him on the trip.

Dr. Andrew Silver

Robert McDuffie, center, with Benjy and Teresa Griffin at a special concert to recognize and raise money for the Robert McDuffie Endowed Scholarship in Violin, established by the Griffins.
Pharmacy School admissions getting tough

By Sonal Patel

Pharmacy is one of today’s hottest professions, and Mercer University has one of the best pharmacy schools in the nation. This year, a record 1,347 applicants to pharmacy schools in the United States — vied for the 130 applicants to any pharmacy school in the nation. This year, a record 1,347 applicants — the largest number of applicants to any pharmacy school in the nation. This year, a record 1,347 applicants — the largest number of applicants to any pharmacy school in the nation. This year, a record 1,347 applicants — the largest number of applicants to any pharmacy school in the nation.

According to Hugdahl, students also have an easier time adjusting to the rigorous curriculum at the School of Pharmacy. Mercer’s strong foundation of science courses in Macoy also gives College of Liberal Arts students a definite edge on success. “I think [the students’ success] is a testament to the preparation that the students receive here on the Macon campus,” Hugdahl said. “It’s something I attribute to both our teaching and the students’ academic maturation.”

Currently, 10 percent of Pharmacy School students are Mercer graduates or former College of Liberal Arts students. The success of College of Liberal Arts students in the School of Pharmacy only continues to grow through the partnership between both Mercer schools.

“The College of Liberal Arts continues to be Southern School of Macoy’s strongest feeder school, in terms of both numbers and quality of students,” said Bartling. “My expectation is that one day soon, the Southern School of Pharmacy’s percentage of students from the College of Liberal Arts will double.”

A longtime friend of the performing arts in Georgia, Fickling has performed as a guest soloist with the Macon, Utah, Florida and Italy. She has performed as a guest soloist with the Macon, Utah, and Benevento, Italy, symphony orchestras.

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Hall Named for Neva Langley Fickling

By Elizabeth Eklund

After an evening of music from the “Piano Mania” concert, featuring Neva Langley Fickling, Edward Eklund, Jean Roberts, John Roberts and Joan Godsey, Mercer University dedicated the McCorkle Music Building recital hall in Fickling’s honor, naming it the Neva Langley Fickling Hall on March 29.

“It is most appropriate that the hall where Mercer’s music students practice and perform be named for someone who has dedicated her life to the passion, practice and performance of music and to the performing arts in Central Georgia,” said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey.

Fickling began playing the piano when she was 7 years old. Her talent as a pianist helped her win the coveted title of Miss America in 1953. The only Miss Georgia to wear the Miss America crown, she is also the only contestant to win all three preliminary contests in the national pageant.

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A Mercer ROTC cadet was recently sought out to participate in one of the U.S. Army’s highly selective programs.

By Judith Lunsford

For Davis, a 22-year-old finance major from Macon, the Finance Corps seemed like the perfect fit. “I’m not completely sure I want to serve in the military for my entire career. So I wanted to get some skills that would be transferable in the civilian world.”

As a part of his ROTC scholarship, Davis is required to serve eight years in the military — four years of active duty and four years in the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

The summer before his senior year Davis was asked to fill out paperwork listing his top three choices of branches he’d like to enter after college. He made sure the Finance Corps was at the top of the list. With a 3.56 GPA, Isaiah knew he was qualified to enter the branch. But he didn’t set his hopes too high. “I knew it was a really selective field.”

The Mercer senior was elated to learn he got his #1 pick. And not only did he get his top choice, he also was selected to enter the Finance Corps right away. Often, ROTC cadets are accepted to the Finance Corps, but they then are required to do two years of work in a separate field before they actually serve in the Finance Corps.

“For a brand new second lieutenant to be picked up right out of college is really a testament to the quality of his education and leadership ability,” said Allan Pitchford, assistant director of admissions, Army ROTC liaison at Mercer and a 24-year veteran of the United States Army.

Davis credits Mercer for his success. He said the education he received at Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics taught him to “think outside of the box” and “read between the lines,” and that will equip him to serve as a quality military leader.
**Students Benefit from Internship Program**

By Jimmy Budau

From devising a marketing plan for a jazz series at their hometown amphitheater to reporting on national sports stories to working hand-in-hand with corporate lawyers, Mercer business students are getting great work experience before they graduate.

Students in the innovative Managed Academic Path to Success (MAPS) undergraduate curriculum at Eugene W. Seton School of Business and Economics are required to fulfill an experiential component. The most popular requirement students meet is through an internship.

Beginning in their sophomore year, students work closely with Mary Roberts, assistant director of Career Services at Mercer, to create a résumé and pinpoint internship opportunities in their fields of choice. Most students complete the 90-hour internship during their junior or senior year of study. Roberts said the internships are a crucial part of the students’ education.

“Employers are looking more and more for internships on résumés because they go much deeper than part-time jobs. By interning with these companies, students get to participate in meetings and get a real feel for the business.”

Mercer senior Eileen Pascual of Clarkston worked as a production intern at Cox Media in Macon fall semester. She assisted producers and videographers in the Cox studio and learned about the day-to-day operations of a television business. The highlight of her internship was working and producing her own commercial for Mercer’s Baptist Student Union Dinner Theatre.

“It was a very hands-on learning experience.” Pascual said of her work with Cox. “I believe I have gained from this internship will give me a better chance of landing a job after I graduate.”

Not only are internship programs great ways for students to gain experience in their chosen career field, but they are also great opportunities for students to evaluate whether the career they’re working toward is really the best fit for them.

“Internships help students see what they can and cannot do, what they do and do not enjoy,” Roberts said. “Some students realize after their internships that they want to change their focus. It’s great they’re learning this while they’re still in school, rather than when they’re 35 or 40.”

Senior Kristin Fields of Carrollton thought she wanted to become a personal finance planner prior to her internship. But two weeks into her internship, she was certain it was not the right fit for her. She worked with her supervisor and career services and switched to another department within Merrill Lynch, and she happily completed her internship. She’s now working with her adviser to find a new focus and plans to do a second internship at a bank in the spring.

“I’m grateful I learned personal finance planning wasn’t for me when I did. Now I have time to work toward a new goal before I graduate,” she said.

In conjunction with the internship, students take a course called MAPS 305. The course is designed to allow students to reflect on their internship experience while developing their understanding of the industry.

Dr. Andrew Delie, associate professor of management, taught the fall MAPS 305 course. In this course, he assigned various Wall Street Journal readings to the students, and he provided time for the students to discuss what was happening in the workplace.

Students receive a grade based on two evaluations given by their employer. He said he’s seen great results from the internship program.

“In addition to providing students with work experience, these internships allow them to get networking before they graduate,” Beille said.

He recently learned that one of his former students who had interned with American Cancer Society is now working for them full-time.

Tom Shott, a senior MAPS student from London, interacted in the fall with HGTV-TV, the Atlanta CBS affiliate. He said he knows he’s a step ahead of most seniors with this internship under his belt.

“The internship is invaluable in the field of broadcasting. I have met some influential people who have been very willing to offer guidance and advice,” he said. “This internship will without a doubt add on my chances of finding work post-Mercer.”

Companies interested in developing an internship opportunity with Mercer should contact Mary Roberts at (478) 301-2157.

“Give More, Get More” — Mercer’s Gift Annuity Program

By John P. Cole

Give more to Mercer, get more income in return. By creating a gift annuity with Mercer University, you can increase the rate of return on your cash, stock, bond or other investments while making an unrestricted or designated gift.

For example, if you are 65 years old, your gift annuity can boost your rate of return to 6%, fixed, guaranteed for life. If you are 75, the rate goes up to 7.1%. If you are only 50 years old, the guaranteed, fixed rate is still relatively high at 5.5%.

Beyond the increase in rate of return, your gift annuity can cut your taxes. A portion of the gift annuity’s payout is treated as tax-free, giving you an increase in net income.**

How can a Mercer gift annuity provide more income than your other investments? A gift annuity is a simple agreement between you and the University by which you make a gift and Mercer in turn pays you guaranteed income for life. You give the principal to Mercer and keep the guaranteed income for yourself.

The gift you make takes advantage of Mercer’s long-term prospects to boost your income now. The tax laws assume that charities will “outlive” their donors and can afford to take a longer look at return on principal. Your return is backed by the full measure of Mercer University’s assets while your gift annuity provides you with a source of income for life.

By creating a gift annuity with Mercer University, you can increase the rate of return on your cash, stock, bond or other investments while making an unrestricted or designated gift.

**Tax-free treatment of income is based on Internal Revenue Service life expectancy tables and deductions on your state of the gift annuity.

Please contact John at (478) 301-2570 or cole_jp@mercer.edu.

**Calculations based on December 2003 rates set by the Internal Revenue Service and the American Council on Gift Income. Rates vary based on the age of the gift annuitant(s). The donor can designate one or two annuitants, including him- or herself.

**Note: These calculations are for illustrations only and should not be considered part of your personal, financial or professional advice. May not apply depending on the timing of the gift.

**A tax deduction is based on Internal Revenue Service life expectancy tables and deduction rates on your state of the gift annuity.

Mercer Alumni Online to Launch Soon

The Mercer Alumni Association has announced the launching of Mercer Alumni Online. It is free and accessible only by Mercer alumni from the University’s home page via a secure personal password and user ID. Users do not have to be computer experts — it is easy to set and will provide fast communication of a variety of features.

Online Directory
A password-protected directory that one can update and use to search for alumni.

Message Board
Read and post notes to classmates.

Permanent Email Forwarding Address
A “lifetime” e-mail address that will automatically forward e-mail messages to any existing e-mail account.

Class Notes
Post birthday updates about one’s family, career and interests.

Broadcast Email
This features information about alumni events in communities and on campus.

Polls and Surveys
Polls and surveys give the Alumni Office a fast communication of a variety of features.

**Annual alumni directory will begin to contact alumni soon to update for the coming Hardback Directory. Mercer will also make available for sale a 2004 directory and do not enjoy.”

**A tax deduction of income is based on Internal Revenue Service life expectancy tables and deduction rates in the state of the gift annuity.

**Note: These calculations are for illustrations only and should not be considered part of your personal, financial or professional advice. May not apply depending on the timing of the gift.
Teaching Methods Inspire Children to Read


With literacy being the cornerstone of a child's education, students and teachers in Mercer University's Tift College of Education are learning how to creatively bring the excitement of reading to the kids in their classrooms.

Last spring in Dr. Mary Willingham's Children's Literature class, graduate education students explored the various ways to teach an appreciation for the written word to young students. Willingham imparted to her students the urgency of making literature an important part of a child's life so reading can become a tool for lifelong learning.

"My basic objectives for this class were to expose our teachers to the vast body of children's literature," said Willingham, a Mercer professor for 22 years. "I helped to inspire them to create exciting questions and activities that will engender a love of reading in their students and to increase their own love of reading and knowledge of literature."

The course culminated in a Children's Book and Storytelling Festival, with each student directed to bring at least one book to the program. The Festival was one of Willingham's ideas for generating interest in reading among children, while allowing her students to showcase what they had learned over the semester.

Wynetta Scott-Simmons of Fayetteville found that children who enjoy the stories or poetry they performed are more likely to pick up a book and try to find more. "The Festival presented different types of literature in order to broaden the children's exposure to books and increase their desire to read," said the Fayetteville educator, who recently completed her specialist in education degree at Mercer.

The third grade teacher at Peeples Elementary School in Atlanta has used many of Willingham's ideas with her own students. "In my classroom, reading aloud has been very effective as my students have become interested in different types of books or in books they thought they wouldn't like. Now, they are more open to all kinds of stories and read the more challenging books that they wouldn't have picked up before," said Scott-Simmons, who also earned her master's degree in education at Mercer's Y'lle College of Education in Atlanta.

One of Willingham's tips for getting kids to read is to create a connection between the child and a book. Semia Flowers of Atlanta, who is pursuing her certificate in teacher education, uses this technique in her classroom.

"A good idea is to see what kind of child you are trying to get excited about reading," said Flowers, a 5th grade teacher at Fountain Elementary School. "If the child is interested in sports, I find a book about sports to get them started. The key is to find out what the kids like and keep a big, diverse class library in which every student can find a book that relates to him or her."

Teachers can also help students by continually researching new books to share with their students. Graduate education student Tish Brownlee of Powder Springs reads different types of children's literature on her own so she can choose the best material for her students.

"We've learned in class to read an extra book each week," said Brownlee, who teaches in the Cobb County School System. "Since I work in kindergartens, reading all types of children's books has helped me get into books I wouldn't have always read. Teachers doing this can share what they've read or used in their classrooms to help [teachers and parents] pick the right material for their kids."

While reading continues to be a child's foundation for education, finding unique and active ways to engage a classroom remains important. Through ideas like acting out poems and stories, building a diverse classroom library, finding connections between students and books, and reading regularly to be able to recommend material to students, teachers in Willingham's class have had success.

"I have taken these ideas immediately from this class to my third-graders," said Scott-Simmons. "Anyone can do these things to encourage kids to read, and though some of it may be hard work, it's work that you don't mind doing."

Graduate Program Focuses on Diversity

Mercer offers new program in Macon and Eastman.

Educators can now learn how to diversify their teaching methods and better communicate with today's various types of students.

Through the innovative Holistic Educator graduate program in Mercer University's Y'lle College of Education, teachers, health educators and family specialists all have the opportunity to maximize their skills by developing themselves on both personal and professional levels.

Classes are currently being offered on Mercer's main campus in Macon and regional academic center in Eastman.

"The Holistic Educator provides a pathway for professionals seeking advanced knowledge and growth," said Associate Professor Margaret Morris.

"Teachers today, whether they be certified public school teachers or health educators, need the skills to differentiate instruction, effectively manage diversity among students and understand best practices in teaching pedagogy."

The new program allows professionals to earn a master's degree in education specialized to equip educators with the tools they need for working with students of all backgrounds and abilities. By offering a unique development program geared toward those working with children or families, candidates may come from a wide range of careers and will learn to address the needs within their own professions.

The formation of the program is an emphasis on teachers learning skills of empowerment and the ability to build partnerships. By creating educators that understand themselves, and also understand their students, Mercer's program aims to produce professionals who can teach in the most effective method to reach every type of student.

With the Holistic Educator program having completed its first semester on Mercer's main campus in Macon and its regional academic center in Eastman, interest continues to grow. New candidates may begin the program this fall and students in the program will take two courses for each of four, 16-week semesters.

"The Holistic Educator recognizes the importance of schools or related agencies meeting the educational, psychological and social needs of students and families in a well-planned holistic manner," said Morris. "It's not just teachers that benefit from this advanced degree, it's individuals in various professional settings."
Carl R. Martray, Ph.D., began serving as dean of Tift College of Education in July. “Mercer is deeply committed to educating men and women who can meet the challenges of the highly-complex, vitally-important role of education,” said Mercer President R. Kirby Gosselin. “Dr. Martray brings outstanding academic leadership and credentials to this position. Our students and our programs will greatly benefit from having him here at Tift College of Education.”

With more than 1,400 students in undergraduate and graduate studies, Mercer University’s Tift College of Education prepares more teachers than any other private institution in Georgia. The College offers programs on Mercer’s Macon and Atlanta campuses as well as at the University’s three regional academic centers in Douglas County, Henry County and Eastman.

Martray previously served as dean of the College of Education and Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), a position he held since 1998. Prior to joining USM, he spent 27 years at Western Kentucky University where he served his last eight years as dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Both institutions are the largest preparer of professional educators in their respective states.

With a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Fairmont State College, West Virginia, Martray holds a master’s degree and a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Alabama. He began his career as principal and teacher at Collins Elementary School in Marion County Schools, Fairmont, W.Va. During his studies at the University of Alabama from 1969 to 1971, he served as instructor of Educational Psychology and Research Design at the University as well as program evaluator for the Title IV programs in Central and Northwest Alabama. He was also an instructor in the Psychology Department at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala. As a charter member of the Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board, Martray was involved in setting policy and determining direction for the education profession in Kentucky. He also served two terms on the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (AECT) Joint Governmental Relations Committee, where he helped influence national policy pertaining to teacher education.

A member of the editorial board of Psychology, A Journal of Human Behavior for more than 10 years, he served seven years on the editorial board of Journal of Human Behavior and Learning and three years as consulting editor for People and Education: The Human Side of Schools. He is a frequent presenter and panelist at educational conferences and the author of numerous publications and professional journals. Additionally, he has been a staff development consultant to teachers and administrators in more than 20 public and private school systems. He and his wife, Donna, who is a board certified operating room nurse, have two daughters: Lauri Turner of Bowling Green, Ky., and Nicole Talley of Birmingham, Ala. They also have a three-year-old grandson, Cole Turner.

PT3 Grant Provides Cutting-Edge Technology Training

Undergraduate education students now have the opportunity to receive intensive training on the best practices for integrating technology into the classroom. After completing this technology-infused teacher preparation program, students receive InTech certification, a state-approved certification that very few universities offer.

Mercer’s InTech program students two years ago using a grant received from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant was a part of government’s “Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology” (PT3) program.

The program was a tremendous success. While participating in InTech training was optional, only three students didn’t take advantage of the technology training last year, said Dr. Penny Elkins, co-director of the University’s PT3 project and an associate professor in Mercer’s Tift College of Education.

Obtaining InTech certification makes Mercer graduates more marketable, said Dr. Bruce Stiger, an associate professor of education in the College and co-director of the project. Elkins agreed. Federal law requires all teachers to have technology certification by 2006, so many school systems are scrambling to find money in their budgets to train their teachers.

“Principals have been told they have to spend money to train their teachers. So, not only does Mercer College of Education have first-hand experience on how to integrate technology into the classroom, how to teach with technology and how to improve test scores,” Elkins said.

The program also benefits Mercer faculty. Ninety percent of Tift College of Education faculty have received InTech training. And graduate education students are given the option of receiving InTech training at Mercer as well.

The initial grant funding for the InTech program ended at the end of last academic year. But, Mercer is able to continue this innovative technology training program this year because Tift College of Education received another PT3 grant in June. This $260,000 grant is allowing the University to continue to train professors and students on the latest in educational software programs.

The College of Education is also rewriting its curriculum to require all undergraduate education students to receive this important training.

Yvonne Hodgens, who graduated from Mercer with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education in May, said she’s grateful she was able to receive InTech certification while at Mercer.

“Technology is growing by leaps and bounds and will play a big part in the future of my students. InTech made me more aware of the many possibilities of integrating technology in the classroom,” she said. “I have found that technology is a great motivator for students. Using technology is an enjoyable way for students to learn.”

Alumni Student Recruitment Referral Form

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) 840-8577 or e-mail us at admissions@mercer.edu.

Your Name ___________________________

Student Name ___________________________

High School ___________________________

Year of graduation _______   SAT/ACT _____

GPA _______   Address ___________________________

Activities ___________________________

Home telephone number ___________________________

E-mail address ___________________________
Half Century Club
Reception and Reunion Dinner
October 3, 2003

Presidents of Half Century Club (Above):
Gladys Holder Giddens, CLA ’37 (1992 & 1997);
Orbin D. Howell, CLA ’42 (1994 & 1995);
George B. Culpepper, III, LAW ’43 (1998);
C. Cloud Morgan, Sr., CLA ’41, LAW ’48 (2000);
Dan D. Dunwoody, Jr., CLA ’49 (2001);
Preston C. Williams, Jr., CLA ’47 (2002); Sarah Ann Back, CLA ’51 (2003);

The Gabbling Godseys (pictured left) team against the Jabbering Jesses in a fun trivia quiz. L-R: Annie Mays Larmore, CLA ’31; C. Cloud Morgan, Preston C. Williams, Bobby Wilder, EDU ’52; Gladys Giddens.

(Mercer Madness, held in October coinciding with the first day of practice for the men’s and women’s basketball teams, featured a variety of activities for the last time in Porter Gym. Among the favorites were: introductions of the men’s and women’s teams, routines by the Mercer cheerleaders, faculty and staff basketball game and slam dunk contest (where the judges could not always agree on scores).
COMMENCEMENT

Mercer University Commencement 2003

Wayne E. Ward, retired senior professor of Christian Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was featured speaker at the McAfee School of Theology commencement.

U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal, A.B. ’64, J.D. ’66, gave the commencement address at the Walter F. George School of Law graduation ceremony.

Wyche Fowler Jr., chairman of the board of the Middle East Institute, was featured speaker at the Macon commencement. Fowler, right, is pictured with Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey.

Dr. Larry McSwain, senior fellow of Mercer University Commons, was featured speaker at the Tift College of Education, Division of Extended Education and College of Continuing and Professional Studies Atlanta Commencement.

Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, president and vice chancellor for health affairs at The Texas A&M System Health Science Center and past president of the American Medical Association, gave the commencement address for the School of Medicine.

Dr. Karen Jean Minyard, executive director for the Georgia Health Policy Center, delivered the commencement address for the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.

Michael L. Starr, executive vice president of Wachovia Bank, gave the commencement address at the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics Atlanta graduation ceremony.
I began in January 2003. Mercer biomedical engineering student Danielle Drury of Richmond Hill, Ga., was named Georgia Engineering Student of the Year by the Georgia Engineering Foundation.

“I was really excited and surprised by that,” said Drury, who was nominated by the Engineering Dean, Dante Maldridge. But, for the 22-year-old, this was just the beginning of a long list of recognitions she would receive her last semester at Mercer. While knee-deep in her senior design project, Drury learned she was one of 50 students in the country to receive a biomedical engineering graduate fellowship from the Whitaker Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to improving human health through the support of biomedical engineering.

With an estimated value of $111,000, the fellowship pays for Drury’s tuition and fees in the biomedical engineering graduate program of choice as well as an annual stipend for living expenses. Drury was the first Mercer graduate to receive a Whitaker Fellowship. Drury was the first Mercer graduate to receive this recognition.

Dr. Edward O’Brien, chair of the Biomedical Engineering Department, said he was surprised that Drury received the fellowship. “In terms of scholastic achievement, she has a perfect 4.0 GPA. In my classes she didn’t just get an A, but the highest A,” O’Brien said.

She maintained this perfect academic record while remaining active in a laundry list of groups outside the classroom. Drury played in Mercer’s flute choir, was a member of the Karate Club, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, served as a supplemental instruction leader and was on the University Special Events Team. And in clubs, she was not only a member, but also a leader. Drury served as the treasurer of the Biomedical Engineering Club, the vice president of Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, the treasurer of the Society of Women Engineers and the student vice president of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Drury enjoyed being active in activities outside of the classroom, particularly with the Flute Choir. She also served as a supplemental instructor for chemistry and calculus students, meeting with the students three times a week to review what they were working on in their classes.

“It’s great when you know you’ve helped someone out,” she said. Helping people out is why she has decided to become a biomedical engineer. Drury wants to go into tissue engineering to learn how to grow a tissue that will replicate a specific tissue of the human body. She took this career direction as a result of what a close friend endured when he had an artificial heart valve implanted as a child. Because the valve was made of artificial material, it outwore it every few years. This has meant a lot of expensive and dangerous surgery. If biomedical engineers were able to engineer tissues that could be shaped into a heart valve, then the tissue would just grow with the rest of the organs, she said, meaning no more surgery.

Drury got a taste of the fascinating field during her internship at Georgia Tech/Emory Center for the Engineering of Living Tissues in summer 2002. She is currently using the Whitaker Fellowship to attend Georgia Tech, where she is working toward earning a doctorate in biomedical engineering.

She was also awarded a fellowship from the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi. While she did not use the funds because Whitaker does not allow fellowship recipients to accept money from another source, she does get to keep the title.

Her commitment to excellence was also recognized by the University. Drury received the Dean’s Choice Award. At commencement, she received one of the highest honors given by Mercer University — the Louise B. Newton General Excellence Medal, which is based on a combination of academic scholarship and outstanding personal qualities.

Drury said this makes those “all-nighters” worthwhile, adding that she couldn’t have gotten this far without the support of the biomedical engineering faculty. She chose Mercer because she liked the small class sizes, but the professors’ helpfulness has surpassed her expectations.

“The professors were incredibly supportive,” said Drury, who has made trips back to Macon since graduation to visit her favorite professors. “They always had time to talk with me. And every time I got an award, I would go into the BME [biomedical engineering] suite and tell everybody. They always seemed just as excited as I was.”

Mercer University and Robins Air Force Base recently celebrated a 20-year partnership—a pact that has spanned more than 1,000 engineering graduates and provided a large number of qualified engineers for the local military installation.

The partnership began in 1983 when Godsey approached the War College. “It was an opportunity to better train engineers,” he said. “That’s been one of our defining touchstones. The Engineering School is just one more example.”

As a result of Godsey and Nugteren’s conversation, Mercer School of Engineering was founded in 1985.

Nugteren approached various educational institutions, asking for help in establishing an engineering school in central Georgia. But he was rejected time and time again. Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey was the only individual willing to step forward and help Nugteren in this pinch.

Nugteren praised Godsey for his courage despite the potential for strong opposition. “Godsey said, ‘If you want an engineering school, Mercer will give you one.’ And that’s where it all started,” Nugteren said.

Godsey said it was just the right thing to do for the community. “One of Mercer’s strengths has been our connection with the community,” he said. “That’s been one of our defining touchstones. The Engineering School is just one more example.”

As a result of Godsey and Nugteren’s conversation, Mercer School of Engineering was founded in 1985. Two years later, the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) opened in Warner Robins. The Center has become the University’s formal research and development arm, and contracts with both government and commercial customers.

Today, both Mercer and Robins Air Force Base continue to benefit from the partnership formed decades years ago. Mercer provides the largest number of engineering graduates to the Robins Air Force Base, and nearly 300 Mercer engineering graduates live in central Georgia. The Engineering School is widely recognized as a top engineering program in the nation. And MERC provides hands-on experience to Mercer students by employing students as engineering assistants.

Many MERC engineers also volunteer their own time to consult and assist Mercer students with their senior design projects. Godsey said the benefits of the partnership don’t stop there. “This is an important partnership for this entire region,” he said. “It has made a very positive impact on the community and enabled us to make a greater difference in the region.”

Danielle Drury, BSE 03, works on a project in one of the Mercer engineering labs.

By Jenny Butkus

Martha & RAFB Celebrate Partnership

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer University’s Society for Technical Communication Chapter recently was honored with two awards at the STC international conference in Dallas.

The 23-member student chapter received the Student Chapter of Distinction Award, the highest honor given to a student chapter in this professional society. The award is only given to one student chapter in each of the STC’s two chapter size categories.

The Mercer STC chapter also was honored with the Chapter of Excellence Award for the second straight year. In order to achieve this honor, the students had to complete and document a series of activities and projects.

Denise Cook, who graduated from Mercer with a bachelor of science degree in technical communication in May, served as president of the STC chapter during the 2002-2003 academic year. She said the awards were the culmination of many months of hard work.

Members of Mercer’s STC chapter initiated a new technical document competition for senior engineering students at Mercer, published articles in both of the STC’s official publications, participated in several community service projects, published a monthly newsletter, co-sponsored a workshop with Mercer’s Technical Communication Department, held a welcome breakfast for new Technical Communication Department staff members and spearheaded several other activities throughout the year.

This award reflects the hard work put into the chapter by our members as well as our goals to excel in our career field,” said Cook. By Jenny Butkus

Wins National Awards

By Jenny Butkus

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This award reflects the hard work put into the chapter by our members as well as our goals to excel in our career field,” said Cook.
Mercer Students Help in Research for NASA

By Renee Martinez

Job Hilderbrand’s senior research project wasn’t rocket science, but it was pretty close. As an engineering student at Mercer University, Hilderbrand turned his love of science into a career that could have far-reaching effects.

Like most students, Hilderbrand, who graduated from Mercer School of Engineering in May 2003, didn’t choose a career until his senior year at Harris County High School. Growing up in rural Hamilton, Ga., he worked with his father in the family’s machine shop. When the time came for him to choose a career path, he fell back on what he knew: working with his hands.

“I just put two and two together,” said Hilderbrand. “I loved building and making, and math and science. So, I decided that engineering would be a good match for me.”

Hilderbrand was then faced with the difficult decision of choosing a college.

The oldest of four children, Hilderbrand was the first one in his family to pursue a college degree. When time came to choose the right college, he turned to his high school counselor for guidance. She helped him enter a competition for a scholarship to Mercer University, and he won.

“That was pretty much the deciding factor on where to go,” said Hilderbrand, who also received the HOPE Scholarship. During his four-year stay at Mercer, Hilderbrand had the opportunity to explore different avenues of engineering, and including working on a research project for NASA. In summer 2002, he worked for the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was tasked with researching heat transfer in a reduced gravity setting, a mission that could affect life at future space stations.

Jeff Allen, a staff scientist with the National Center for Microgravity Research, and one of the leaders of Hilderbrand’s project, explained the student’s work this way: when a person sweats, it cools him down. Engineers apply that principle of heat transfer to efficiently cool many things. In order for the object to cool, the water must evaporate from the surface of the object. On earth, that’s no problem, but in space, the condensation collects and doesn’t evaporate.

Hilderbrand, along with a team of five other senior engineering students at Mercer, studied a way to stop condensation collecting and not evaporating. Hilderbrand said he made the right decision in choosing Mercer University. “A nice aspect of the school is that because of its size, you can talk to the faculty one-on-one and find that they’re all down to earth,” said the student. “I’m more comfortable here than I would be at a larger school, and I feel like I’ve learned more.”

Allen also commented on the caliber of Mercer’s School of Engineering. “I get the opportunity to work with many students, and the level of program that Mercer has is not that common,” he said. “The education [students] get will be a fantastic resource for them in the future.”

During high school, Hilderbrand took classes in advanced math and sciences, which he said has helped him with his studies at Mercer. He said that trigonometry, calculus and physics were classes he enjoyed.

“When you put them together, you get engineering. But I’ve always been good at solving word problems,” he said. “And that’s really what engineering is, solving problems that have real meaning.”

Allen agreed. “The best part of being an engineer is really the creativity and problem solving. Even though there is a lot of math and science, little of it is ‘cookbook.’ You get to use your own creative process and, in many ways, he artistic.”

Hilderbrand is now continuing his studies in graduate school at Rensselaer University in Troy, N.Y. He is pursuing a master’s degree to help him focus on specific areas of engineering, but says that a master’s degree is not necessary to find a good job upon graduating.

For Hilderbrand, the next step after a master’s degree may be to pursue his doctoral degree.

“I haven’t decided about that yet,” he said. “Getting a Ph.D. opens doors, but it closes others. That degree really narrows down your field, and you may find that only two or three places in the country are looking for engineers with that specialty. Whatever I do, I hope to serve a real purpose by just doing what I enjoy.”

Editor’s Note: Since this article ran in Edge magazine, Hilderbrand and the rest of his design team were honored with a second place award in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Fluids Engineering Division Senior Design Report Contest.

TIGER TRAP!

Mercer alumna Bill Stapleton, ENG ’95, played gol with Tiger Woods in the “Tiger Trap” shootout in October. He was one of four amateurs to play in the closest-to-the-pin competition and walked away victorious with a new $38,000 Buick Rainier.

Mercer Attracts Women in Engineering

By Jenny Buddus

Mercer University School of Engineering in receiving national attention for its female-friendly atmosphere.

The School of Engineering is ranked eighth in the nation in percentage of female students earning bachelor degrees and second in the nation in percentage of women faculty tenured or on tenure-track in the latest edition of Profiles of Engineering and Engineering Technology Schools. This an annual publication of the American Society for Engineering Education.

The rankings represent data between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002, for degrees awarded and from fall 2002 for the number of faculty members. During that time frame, 37.9 percent of the degrees awarded from the School of Engineering were to women and 27.6 percent of the engineering faculty tenured or on tenure-track were women.

Burtner said she thinks the School’s emphasis on fieldwork and collaboration over competition are attractive to both male and female students.

“Tiger Woods shows many women are interested in service-oriented careers. Mercer provides various avenues for female students who are interested in engineering and who also want to give back to the community,” Burtner added.

Dr. Phillip Glover, a professor at the School of Engineering, feels having a diverse classroom environment is a good thing. Mercer provides a quality engineering education, he said, and the fact that male and female students alike are attracted to Mercer’s engineering program is a testament to the quality education Mercer provides.

Dr. Joan Bartner, an assistant professor at School of Engineering, earned her undergraduate degree at Mercer School of Engineering and has been teaching at the University for 12 years. Burtner said she thinks the School’s emphasis on fieldwork and collaboration over competition are attractive to both male and female students.

“Tiger Woods shows many women are interested in service-oriented careers. Mercer provides various avenues for female students who are interested in engineering and who also want to give back to the community,” Burtner added.

Dr. Renee Rogge, an assistant professor at Mercer and the adviser to the Society of Women Engineers, is excited about the School of Engineering’s recent rankings. “I think these rankings reflect well on Mercer University,” she said. “We are providing an environment capable of encouraging women to achieve their full potential in careers as engineers and leaders.”

This article was adapted from Edgie magazine with permission from Imedia Inc.
Bears Win Championship in Gym’s Last Season

In light of the construction of the $460-million, 230,000-square-foot University Center, which includes a state-of-the-art basketball arena, the 70-year tradition of Mercer athletics in Porter Gym had to come to a close. The promoted farewell event was a bittersweet one as the Bears took on the Stetson Hatters on March 1. (While awaiting construction completion of the University Center, the Bears played a few games in Porter Gym to begin the 2003-04 season.) Perhaps it was the nostalgia of the place, or maybe Mercer’s record-breaking season that drew the hundreds of alumni and student spectators to pay their respects.

The gym’s 500-person capacity was definitely put to the test as students, alumni, faculty and staff squeezed into the stands becoming a sea of orange and black. The Mercerians demonstrated relentless spirit.

Mercer led by a mere three points at halftime, but the Bears had come too far to let victory pass them by. From last season’s 6-23 record, Coach Mark Slonaker had led the team to an impressive 22-5 record marking the biggest turnaround in NCAA history. As the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read 101-84, tying Mercer for the number one seed in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. This 22-point victory tied the 1981 team record, while setting a new record for the number of straight wins and clinching the first regular-season conference championship in the University’s history.

Mercer’s former coaches, players and cheerleaders were invited to attend a celebration dinner before going to the game where they were each honored at halftime. In his welcoming speech, Bobby Wilder, a former player and coach from 1956-1970, recalled that Porter Gym used to be the biggest court in the area, widely regarded as the premier place to play basketball in the state of Georgia at the time.

“If we could have played every game in Porter Gym, we would have set world records,” he exclaimed. Jim Cogan, who coached from 1946-1951, likewise showed that he had not lost any of his Mercer spirit as he approached the podium, blew his whistle and announced that the first drill of the evening would be wind sprints. He enumerated some of his fondest memories from his coaching days. “Looking up in the stands and seeing my wife and daughters standing there watching me — with a white towel over my shoulder and a bunch of sweaty players lined up at my side — that’s about as close to heaven as you can get on this earth,” he concluded.

Among the attending alumni were some of the best players to step foot on Porter’s court. Tommy Moon, whose “7” jersey was retired upon his 1955 graduation, still holds the title of the second highest scorer in the history of Mercer basketball with 1,901 points. He remarked that despite its disadvantages, Porter Gym still has one of the better playing floors in the state of Georgia.

Jad Roberts, class of 1969, is hailed as Mercer’s fourth highest scorer with 1,690 points. He traveled from California to reunite with old friends and teammates and say goodbye to a piece of their past.

“I’ve got a lot of great memories in this gym, but it’s time for them to go,” he said. “This team has packed this place tonight; they need the new gym on-campus so all their fans can come to the games.”

After spending so many years on playing basketball in Porter Gym, from childhood all the way through college. “This is a very nostalgic time for me. My twin brother and I used to come in here and play on this floor, since the time we were eight years old playing in the grammar school playground. Hughes roared for his home team, encouraging each player by name and affectionately heckling the referee when the calls became too trivial, like any true orange-and-black Mercerian would. “Make those boys suck in their shirts one more time, Bill! I’m counting on you, Big Guy!” There was much to be learned about pride and sports spirit from the passion that exuded from the alumni section of the stands.

Most are thrilled about the pending expansion, but saying goodbye to a place housing so many fond memories is never easy. Dan Nymiez, coach from 1951-1953, commented, “This is the best home floor in the world because the fans are so close to the players and they can make so much noise! We will lose a little of that feel in the new facility, but so many more people will be able to come, which is great.”

Kali Bogden, a women’s player from the class of 1990, was very optimistic about the move. “Nobody likes to see anything with so much tradition go away, but I think Mercer has done a great job of bowing this gym out, and I know the tradition will carry on.”

As the electrication began to melt into order, the heads of each player, followed by Coach Slonaker, wet and freezing from his celebratory “icing,” emerged above the crowd to cut down the nets. The symbolic gesture showed respect for the past and excitement for the future of the Mercer Bears. The alumni began to shake hands and once again say their goodbyes, to each other and to Porter Gym.

“We may be the best of Mercer’s past, but this is Mercer’s future, and they need their own place to grow,” said Woody Richardson, a player from the class of 1988. “Our memories are here, but there are new ones to be made in the new gym. We wouldn’t have it any other way.”

After a night of nail-biting basketball and a blast from the past, the student body remembered what it means to “Herd orange.” School spirit has been rejuvenated and vows have been made to carry on Mercer’s sacred traditions. With new school records and a clearer understanding of what it is to be a Mercerian, the students and alumni are ready to head across the street to the new University Center with hope and pride, ready to leave their own mark.

Academic year 2002-2003 was not only an excellent one for the University in the areas of academics, fund raising, facility improvements and alumni support, but also in the world of athletics. Three Mercer coaches were named Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year after their squads successfully completed banner years in competitions.

In July, softball coach Toni Foti became the third Mercer coach to win the distinguished honor for the year after his Bears recorded the most wins in school history and finished at 51-23. The Bears also qualified for the A-Sun Tournament for the first time since 1997 and finished third overall. Also, six of Foti’s players earned All-Academic honors with a 3.0 or higher grade point average during the season.

Soccer coach Tom Melville launched Mercer Athletics Off to a good year in the fall by claiming his second A-Sun Coach of the Year honor. Melville’s squad finished with its third straight A-Sun regular season title.

Sandwiched between those honors was the remarkable feat of men’s basketball coach Mark Slonaker who, in addition to being named A-Sun Coach of the Year, was also named National Coach of the Year by CollegiateSport.com and the Naismith Georgia Coach of the Year. Slonaker led the Bears to the biggest turnaround in NCAA history with a 24-6 record in 2002-2003 after a 6-23 record the previous season. The Bears were the A-Sun regular season conference champions.

Three Mercer Coaches Named Best in the A-Sun for 2002-03

By Meghan Draughon

NYIMICZ, Slonaker named Coach of the Year after Mercer’s last championship win in Porter Gym.

Senior Steve Nyimicz cut the last string of the basketball net after Mercer’s last championship victory in Porter Gym.

After spending so many years on that court learning not just about the mechanics of basketball, but about comradery, sportsmanship, teamwork and loyalty, it is no wonder the alumni feel such affection for Mercer’s home court.

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Myers’ Retirement: A Celebration of Excellence

Since becoming the first intercollegiate sport to be played at Mercer, baseball has remained a very special part of the University. Starting in 1890, the Mercer baseball team lost only one game over its first seven seasons. So began a commitment to excellence that has always been required of Mercer’s baseball players both on and off the field.

Since 1977, Mercer has ensured its trust in Coach Barry Myers to uphold that excellence. Over those 26 years (five as an assistant to Coach Claude Smith), he became the winningest coach (649) in Mercer history.

Myers’ success on the field has been more than matched by the performance of his players in the classroom. One season, 24 of his 30 student-athletes were named to the conference’s All-Academic team.

“We always took it one game at a time and one win at a time, and we made sure our players were getting it done in the classroom as well,” he said.

Craig Gibson, Myers’ successor as head coach and longtime assistant, played for Myers in 1982. He, like many others, speaks of Myers as a great man before discussing his excellence as a baseball coach. “Once you played for him,” said Gibson, “he treated you like family. He’d go out on a limb for you; he’d do anything to help you, whatever it took to make sure you were successful.”

Myers was also a professor at Mercer. He taught a full load of physical education classes, as he did at all his coaching stops, until the P.E. program was dropped at Mercer in the late ’80s. In his early years at the University, he also functioned as the baseball team’s first assistant, second assistant, trainer and groundskeeper. Such was the norm during the years Myers was advancing through the ranks.

He talks of his coach at Marshall University, Bill Chambers, along with Florida State University’s Danny Litwhiler and Miami-Dade Community College’s Demie Maneiri, who are both in the College Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, as some of the great baseball minds to which he’s most indebted. Litwhiler was at Florida State when Myers signed on as a graduate assistant, gave Myers his first glimpse of “how a practice was supposed to be organized — guys in batting cages, three or four guys hitting ground balls to the outfielders, three or four hitting stations, various drills going on.”

Litwhiler had 16 years of major league experience, created hitting drills in which curve balls were simulated by a ball tied to piece of rope, pitching drills in which unbreakable mirrors were employed for pitchers to scrutinize their own mechanics, and he was the first to use a radar gun to calibrate the speed of pitches.

He and Demie Maneiri, who Myers coached under at Miami-Dade Community College, were among a group of coaches who played an integral role in the evolution of college baseball. “They were dedicated baseball men 365 days a year,” Myers said, “the first to create a great atmosphere with great facilities, batting cages and weight-training programs.”

When asked about coaching under Claude Smith, Myers said, “he was one of those guys that I was fortunate enough to be around back then. When baseball got going again after World War II, they were the true pioneers of the game during the ’40s, ’50s and into the ’60s.”

According to Myers’ contemporaries, he became quite the respected mentor and admired baseball figure during his own era. Georgia State University’s head baseball coach, Mike Hurst, talked of watching Myers with great admiration from afar.

Myers had just become a head coach during Hurst’s college years. Hurst would later coach against Myers, often outworking their teams. Hurst said, “it was easier for him to find great baseball players, and it’s a little harder to find them when they must be outstanding students as well. But I think we’ve managed to do that, and I think we’ve competed well, which is really a testament to the parents and players’ sacrifices.”

Mercer was founded in 1837, so much of himself to others is an attribute of the game,” added Gibson, “and an incredible ability to communicate with players of all ages, to get his point across in a positive way.”

Mike Martin, head baseball coach at Florida State, first met Coach Myers when he was a graduate assistant at FSU. As a player, Martin saw something special in Myers’ coaching and followed him to Jacksonville and Mercer. “Coach was a guy who always put the player first,” he said. “In everything he did, he made the player the focal point. We will miss his approach to the game; he made it fun for everyone, and he never tried to win the game through intimidation, but by outthinking you.”

Coach Jay Bergmann, head baseball coach at University of Central Florida, has known Coach Myers since 1967 and has competed against him as a conference rival the last 10 years. He is quick to note how well the Bean plays at home. “Barry’s players always played very well at home. When you went to Mercer, it always seemed like you were in a dogfight.”

Myers’ coaching accolades at Mercer include three conference championships and three divisional titles. He was named Conference Coach of the Year in 1979, 1981, 1983, and 1994.

“It’s been a tremendous challenge,” said Myers, “to compete in Division I with a small private university that has such strong academics. It’s not easy finding great baseball players, and it’s a little harder to find them when they must be outstanding students as well. But I think we’ve managed to do that, and I think we’ve competed well, which is really a testament to the parents and players’ sacrifices. Mercer was founded as a degree-granting institution, not a baseball school. I’d always tell the players, ‘don’t forget your priorities. Number one, get your degree, too; be the best player you can be; third, have a good college life.’”

During Myers’ years at Florida State University and Miami-Dade Community College, three fields were needed to accommodate all of the players that tried out for the team. Myers, who feels players improve more by playing than practicing, misses the days when he could watch six teams play throughout the fall, evaluate them and then choose the players that would comprise the one team competing in spring. “We played a whole season in the fall,” he said, “before the regular season even began.” For several years now, the NCAA has forbidden any baseball season, including practice, to last more than 22 weeks. During a 20-21 week season, there is no time for Fall League. This has been a disadvantage to Mercer teams that have, in past years under Myers, often outworked their opponents to achieve success.

Coach Joe Pettini, another of Coach’s former players, played several years in the majors and is currently an assistant coach for the St. Louis Cardinals. He was the first player to sign with Coach Myers at Mercer. Myers originally signed him while coaching at Jacksonville but was able to bring the promising talent with him to Mercer. Pettini said, “I am very grateful to Coach Myers. He brought me down from West Virginia and gave me the opportunity to play a 55-game schedule against the best schools in the South. He really prepared me for my professional career, and he turned Mercer into a force in the Southeast.”

After graduating from Marshall University, where he played football and baseball, coach Myers coached three years at Magnolia High School in New Martinsville, W.Va. He got his college-coaching start in 1962 when Florida State hired him as a graduate assistant and promptly asked him to handle the pitching staff. FSU went on to compete in the College World Series that year and finished the season ranked 6th in the country.

The next season, after being hired as an assistant coach at Miami-Dade Community College, Myers handled recruiting and a pitching staff that beat Hall of Fame pitcher and Atlanta Braves announcer Don Sutton 2-1 to win the Florida Junior College State Champion.

Pick up your Mercer baseball game or stadium spirit. Whether enjoying a blanket today by visiting www.mercer.edu/athletics/onlinestore.htm.
Buckner F. Melton Jr. is Mercer Writer-in-Residence, University Press Fellow

Nationally acclaimed historical and political writer Buckner F. Melton Jr. has returned home to serve as Mercer University’s writer-in-residence for the next five years. He is also serving as a Mercer University Press fellow.

A 1984 Mercer graduate, Melton has published three major books as well as numerous scholarly publications. His first book, The First Impression: The Constitution’s Founders and the Case of Senator William Blount (Mercer, 1988), won him national recognition, as its publication in 1998 coincided with the impeachment hearings of President Bill Clinton. During the Clinton impeachment, Melton was called upon to advise various members of Congress and give expert commentary on MSNBC, various members of Congress and to William Blount Case of Senator Impeachment: The books as well as University’s writer-in-residence for the written national and regional news agencies.

More recently, Melton, who has also written, Aaron Beau: Conspiracy in treason (Wiley, 2002), has occasionally been called upon by Minnesota Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Radio to discuss treason and national security law in the wake of September 11 and in relation to the John Walker Lindh episode. Melton also writes guest columns in Raleigh, North Carolina’s The News & Observer and in The Macon Telegraph.

His most recent book, A Hanging Offense: The Strange Aflair of the Warship Somers (Free Press, 2003), hit bookstores last April. Melton describes this historical account of mutiny aboard a U.S. Navy training ship in the mid 1800s as “Murtable on the Bounty meets Lord of the Flies.” The book was met with much praise. Publishers Weekly called it “coherent and absorbing,” while the Wall Street Journal described it as “swashbuckling” and praised Melton’s analysis of the court-martial that followed the mutiny. As a Mercer University Press fellow, Melton assists faculty members in their writing endeavors. Melton also teaches some history and law courses at Mercer. Buckner’s primary job is to write...

“Mercer is a fine university,” Melton said. “I’m excited about returning home.”

After graduating magna cum laude from Mercer with a degree in history and political science in 1984, Melton attended Duke University, where he received his master’s degree in history in 1986 and Ph.D. in history in 1990. He earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996. Melton served as a history instructor at Duke University in 1989, a visiting assistant professor of history at Georgia Southern University in 1990 and 1991, and an assistant professor of history at Elon College between 1991 and 1996. He also served as a clinical associate professor of law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mended Grad Named to S.C. Tennis Hall of Fame

By Jenny Butkus

He has held numerous offices and committee positions with the South Carolina Tennis Association. As founder and president of Transcon Trading Company — an export management company — Smith brought a business-mindedness to the SCTA. Thanks to his leadership, the Adult Southern Sectional Championships, which was the largest tennis tournament in the world at the time, were held in Columbia, S.C., in 1989.

Smith served as Chairman of the South Carolina Tennis Foundation in 1989 and 1990, and he initiated the state senior and mixed doubles leagues in South Carolina. The Mercer graduate also set up the first Sectional Mixed Doubles championships between South Carolina and Georgia.

CLASS NOTES

1975 Scott E Kilgoe, BA, and his wife, Lanna, announce the birth of their son, William Clayton, on Nov. 22, 2002. They join two sisters, Cate and Meredith. The family resides in Bowling Green, Ky.


1983 Patrice Outler, BA, see J. Bryan Fobbus, BA ’82.

1986 Laura Player Bonner, BA, and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Marie, on Oct. 5, 2002. They join two brothers, Jordan and Jonathan. The family resides in Albany.

1989 Peter T. Mullady, BA, and his wife, Mary Ann, announce the birth of their daughter, Mary Emily, on Jan. 25, 2003. The family resides in Grayson.


1992 Sheila Scobey Thompson, BA, and her husband, Ricardo Thompson, BA, announce the birth of their son, Tanner Chase, on Sept. 28, 2002. She joins a sister, Scoey, and a brother, Trinity. The family resides in Miami Springs, Fla.

1993 Keith Black Berger, BA, and his wife, Ray Berger, BBa, announce the birth of their son, Joshua Frank, on Sept. 7, 2002. He joins a brother, Zachary. The family resides in Dunwoody.

James Bond, BBa, and his wife, Nichole, announce the birth of their daughter, Mallory Hope, on Nov. 15, 2002. She joins a sister, Marah, and the family resides in Lexington, S.C.


Dawn Foster, BA, and her husband, Ric, announce the birth of their daughter, Kennedy Moore, on June 14, 2002. She joins a sister, Brylee. The family resides in Tampa, Fla.

Jennifer Richardson Goblyn, BBa, MBA ’90, married Daniel Goblyn Jr. in Maui, Hawaii on Sept. 25, 2002. The couple resides in Columbus, Ga.

Robert Guest, BBa, announces the birth of his daughter, Darklin, on Nov. 16, 2002.

Michael Lake, BS, and his wife, Susan, announce the birth of their son, Robert Samuel, on Nov. 7, 2002. The family resides in Atlanta.

Tolliver (Tony) Rivers, BBa, and his wife, Kathryn Preston Rivers, BA ’93, announce the birth of their daughter, Quinn Marie, on Nov. 16, 2002. The family resides in Mooresville, N.C., in 1989.

Michael Way, BS, and his wife, Deandre, announce the birth of their son, Robert Samuel, on Sept. 15, 2002. The family resides in Bartlett, Tenn.

1994 Chad Bogdan, BSME, and his wife, Deandre, announce the birth of their son, Cade Labelle Bogdan, on Sept. 15, 2002. They join a sister, Nina, and the family resides in Newtown, Conn.

Cherie Blizzard Bennett, BA, and her husband, Glen, announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Gordhan Bennett, on Oct. 9, 2002. The family resides in Atlanta.

Christopher Donnelly, BA, and his wife, Rohyn, announce the birth of their son, Ryan Patrick, on Sept. 16, 2002. The family resides in Newtown, Conn.

Laura Parrott Hightower, BA, and her husband, Nathan, announce...
1937
Louise W. Marsh, AB, was crowned queen of the Peanut Festival of Rooper, N.C., on Sept. 14, 2002.

1953
Jim Murray Walker, AB, and his wife, Joan, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on December 21, 2002, with a renewal of their vows. Walker is a Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Eastern Kentucky University. The couple resides in Lexington, Ky.

1955
Clausl (Mick) Kicklighter, AB, has been named the director of operations, security and preparedness of human security for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. He and his wife, Betty, reside in McLean, Va.

1958
Frank Byington, AB, has retired as president of Wakefield Pharmaceuticals, which he founded in 1991 as president of Wakefield Pharmaceuticals with his wife, Betty, reside in Midleville and St. Luke in Hawkinsville.

1960
Charlotte Marlow Anderson, AB, MEd '87, retired on Jan. 1 as a media specialist from Dry Branch Elementary School in Twigs County.

Shirley Randall, AB, and her husband, Maurice Randall, AB '91, have retired from international missions after 30 years of overseas service. The couple resides in Cedartown.

1969
Gary Abbott, BS, was ordained as a deacon to the transitional diaconate of the Episcopal Church of Georgia on Aug. 3, 2002, serving St. Stephen in Midleville and St. Luke in Hawkinsville.

Hollis Lewis, BA, retired as district attorney for Miller County, Texas, in 2001 after 11 years of practice. Lewis is now a sole practitioner in private practice in Cameron, Texas.

1970
Timothy A. Pape, BS, has been re-elected to his fifth term as the Floyd County Juvenile Court Judge, a position he has served in for 20 years. He and his wife, Jane, reside in Rome.

1979

Christopher Lyons, BS, married Debra Dion on Dec. 21, 2002. Lyons is Chief of Police in the Abbeville Police Department in Abbeville, N.H. The couple resides in Marlow, N.H.


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William S. Veesy, BS, married Katherine Kerns Veesy, BA '96.

1997
Penny Berry Cliff, BA, and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of their daughter, Nikki, on Oct. 2, 2002. Cliff was voted County Employee of the Year for 2002 at Thomaston-Upson Archives.

Susen Cluster Hamilton, BA, married Chris Hamilton on Sept. 15, 2001. Hamilton completed a master degree of education degree in French in December 1998 at the University of Georgia and is now attending Brenau University to add a third teaching certificate. The couple resides in Lawrenceville.

Heather Liggi, BA, and her husband, Elran, announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail, on Aug. 10, 2002. The couple resides in Lawrenceville.

1998
Oluwunmi Hassan Bello, III, married Saadia Adebola Bello on June 16, 2001. The couple has a daughter, Faith Oluwunmi-Eniwe, and resides in Dallas, Texas. Lolo is a nurse in accounting for JP Morgan Chase.

1999
Louis Abbott, BA, and his wife, Jana, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Abercrombie, on Aug. 12, 2002. The family resides in Macon where Abbott is an assistant director of admissions for Mercer University.

Alia Franklin, BS, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of their son, Dylan Ray, on Aug. 12, 2002. The family resides in Ellenwood where Franklin is an assistant operations manager for TRC Staffing Services.

2000
Derrell W. Anglin III, BA, married Heather Rose on Sept. 21, 2002. The couple resides in McDonough. Joy Williams Brotherhood, BA '01, married Mike Brotherhood, BA '01, on Aug. 16, 2002. They are both pursuing master's degrees and will graduate from the Univeristy of Denver in 2004.

Courtney Jones Dalton, BBA, announces the birth of her son, Walker Cole, on Oct. 19, 2002. He is the son of Caroline Elizabeth. The family resides in Newnan.

2001
Rachel Hopkins Garza, BA, married Jose Garza on September 15, 2001. She is the Director of University Relations and Marketing for Mercer University. The couple resides in Warner Robins.

2002
Casey Lorette McBeth, BA, married John Roland McBeth Jr. on June 22, 2002. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in English literature at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. The couple resides in Macon.
Mercer Graduate’s Opera Career Reaches Higher Octaves

By Elizabeth Flader

Leah Partridge Hunt, CLA ’97, remembers fondly her Mercer portrayal of Laetitia in Menotti’s The Old Maid and the Thief, where her character elopes with Bob, the tramp, and the two end up stealing most of Miss Todd’s belongings. These days, however, the only “stealing” in Leah’s career is that of hearts of patrons who see her perform.

Having graduated with a bachelor of music in voice performance from Mercer and her master of music in voice performance from Indiana University, Hunt believes that all of her hard work is finally paying off dividends. After winning the Palm Beach International Voice competition in April 2002, she was cast in the title role of Lucia in Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor performed by the Palm Beach Opera in January 2003. The reviewer for South Florida’s Sun-Sentinel said her performance “showed why there is such a buzz about this gifted young singer.” He also indicated that Hunt “clearly has a great future ahead of her.”

“IF I make it to the Met [The Metropolitan Opera in New York],” Hunt said, “I’m going to sing on his doctorate in voice performance, pedagogy and song literature with a minor in stage directing at Indiana University. He plans to sing professionally and have a teaching career.

Husband Jeremy Hunt, CLA ’97, also graduated with a bachelor of music in voice performance is currently working on his doctorate in voice performance, pedagogy and song literature with a minor in stage directing at Indiana University.

Victoria Mell Newton, M.Ed., of Macon, died Nov. 9, 2002.

Robert L. Stevens of Thomson, died May 12, 2002.

Leanita B. Dorsey, AB, of Atlanta, died Sept. 25, 2002.

William H. Gray, AB, of Lake City, Fla., died Sept. 9, 2002.


Barbara Dodd Duckworth of Macon, died July 22, 2002.


Reginald Trice of Macon, died Dec. 4, 2002.


Wallace Cole Hogan Sr., AB, of Macon, died Dec. 18, 2002.


Michael J. White of Atlanta, died Jan. 17, 1920.

Elbert L. Coleman of Macon, died Nov. 9, 2002.

Claude Joiner Jr. of Bulongbroke, died Oct. 5, 1929.

Alvah E. Joiner, AB, of Dawson, died Nov. 10, 1902.


Mildred A. Mallory of LaGrange, died Feb. 19, 1944.

E. Anne Horton of Rock Falls, Ill., died May 17, 1947.

Sam L. Whitmire, AB, of Barnesville, died Nov. 10, 1920.


Barbara Dodd Duckworth of Macon, died July 22, 2002.


Jerry L. Myers, AB, of Panama City, Fla., died Dec. 29, 2001.

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Class Notes
adviser for Barr-Drescher LLC, and was recognized as the top producer in 2002 for adding 32 new clients. He and his wife, Donna, reside in Woodstock.

1983
Ernestine C. Doscher, MBA, is the director of business development for Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Charlottesville, Va.

1986
Suzanne White Witt, BA, M.Ed, '91, has been named the 2002-2003 Teacher of the Year for the Social Circle City School System after 19 years of teaching.

1991
Vickie Cox Edmundson, MBA, was named an associate professor of management in the School of Business at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2002.

1992
Lauryn Byington, BA, received an award for Academic Excellence in the Associate in Commercial Underwriting program in November 2002 from the Insurance Institute of America (IIA) for naming one of the highest grade averages on the national examination for the IIA program. Byington is an account executive for the Excess and Special Risk Department of Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company in Alpharetta.

1995
Robert Twsley, BA, works for Jupiter Entertainment as the producer of the AE network show City Confidential. He returned to Marion in November 2002 to film an episode on the 1958 case of Anjette Donovan Lyles, the first white woman in Georgia sentenced to the electric chair. Twsley resides in Knoxville, Tenn.

1996
Karen Romaine Thomas, EMBA, has been named vice president and chief financial officer of Ms. Smith’s Bakeries.

1997
Curtis Bellamy, BS, has been recognized as a senior southeast sales representative as well as a joint compound sales manager for the Southeast. He and his wife, Lisa, and their four children reside in Esley, S.C.

2001

Y E S, 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.)—Green letters may be used—are allowed per block and a maximum of 14 characters per line.

Line 1 ____________________________
Line 2 ____________________________
Line 3 ____________________________

Abbreviations for Colleges & Schools

CLA College of Liberal Arts
BUS Eastern School of Business and Economics
EDU Erikson College of Education
ENG School of Engineering
LAW Walter F. George School of Law
MD School of Medicine
MBA Southern School of Pharmacy
TFT TFL 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 (800) 837-2919 for more information.

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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: _____________________________________________________
Street or Box Number _________________________________________
City/State/Zip _______________________________________________
Phone (_____ ) ______________________________________________
E-mail _______________________________________________________

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

News to Share _______________________________________________
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