Accolades Honoring Godsey Soar in Final Days as President

As the final days of June 2006 were bringing to a close the 27-year presidency of R. Kirby Godsey, the Mercer senior administrator was the recipient of several honors bestowed upon him in the past months. These recognitions were not only from within the Mercer community, but also from Georgia’s State Capitol in Atlanta.

At its April meeting, Mercer’s Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to appoint President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey to the position of chancellor and university professor, effective July 1. The term of the appointment is five years.

“I have been asked by Trustees what happens after five years,” said David Hudson, chairman of the Board. “Well, I would like there to be five more. But, this is all [Godsey] would agree to right now.”

“Dr. Godsey himself epitomizes the Mercer Experience. He has brought to Mercer a place that only he envisioned, and he has transformed this institution into an outstanding university as only he could have done. We are profoundly grateful to him their most effective, unselfish and dedicated service to the citizens of this state and nation and extend to him our most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.”

When Godsey became president of Mercer in 1979, the University was composed of four schools — two in Macon and two in Atlanta — and had an enrollment of 3,800 students, an endowment of $16.5 million, and a budget of $21.3 million. Mercer today enrolls more than 7,300 students in 10 colleges and schools and has a budget of $175 million and an endowment close to $200 million, with more than $200 million expected from planned gifts.

Godsey is the longest-serving president among the public and private

— Continued on page 5

Leavell and Godsey Highlight Macon Undergraduate Commencement

By Nancy Fullbright

commencement 2006 marked both firsts and lasts for many Mercerians. On May 13, more than 460 students from four schools and colleges gathered in the University Center for commencement exercises.

The ceremony also marked one of the last undergraduate ceremonies presided over by President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey, the longest serving president in the University’s history, who steps down as president on June 30 after more than 27 years of service.

President Godsey also celebrated a first. Out of the 250 ceremonies over which he has presided throughout his tenure, the May 13 commencement — which included the School of Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts, the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics and the 10th College of Education — was the first one in which he delivered the commencement address.

He opened with a joke: “I have some good news for you and some bad news for you,” Godsey said. “The good news is I am your commencement speaker. The bad news is I am your commencement speaker.”

Godbay continued by reiterating a common theme of his presidency: the power that only individual students, deemed by Godsey as “unduplicated gifts to the world,” can make: “The most important part of my 27-year journey at Mercer has not been the buildings

we have built or the schools we have begun or even the endowment we have raised,” Godsey said. “The most important part of my Mercer journey is the difference that you will make. That difference is all that ultimately matters.”

During his address, Godsey introduced Chuck Leavell, keyboardist for the Rolling Stones and noted forest conservationist, who performed a stirring rendition of “Georgia on My Mind.” Leavell was also honored with an honorary doctor of music degree, a moment he called “extraordinary.”

“I cannot hold this podium and not make some comments on the remarkable man that has led this

— Continued on page 5
Mercer poised to provide leadership in uniting Baptists

Mercer joined former United States President Jimmy Carter in bringing together the leaders of Baptist conventions and organizations from throughout North America to explore opportunities for establishing a unified voice. The meeting was held this spring at The Carter Center in Atlanta, with participants representing more than 20 Baptist conventions in the United States and Canada.

“The meeting was historic. It was historic because of the diversity of Baptists represented. North and South. Black and white. Conservative, moderate, and progressive. Canadian and U.S. and it was historic because of the resolve of the participants to create a new Baptist witness for Christ in North America,” observed Mercer President-Elect Bill Underwood.

The gathering was the first time Baptist organizations representing such diversity of race, culture, geography and convention affiliation had joined together to explore additional opportunities for fellowship and cooperation. While discussions at the meeting covered a wide range of topics, the leaders focused on the major issues facing their organizations as well as the commonalities of their faith.

Out of their deliberations came a statement called “A North American Baptist Covenant,” which affirmed their desire “to speak and work together to create an authentic and genuine prophetic Baptist voice.” It was signed by all 18 participants.

The covenant reaffirms their “commitment to traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality.” It also commits them to “their obligations as Christians to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, welcome the strangers among us, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.”

The historic meeting developed from conversations that started in January among Carter and Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey and President-Elect Bill Underwood on issues and concerns facing Baptists today. The former U.S. President expressed an eagerness to bring Baptists together and invited Underwood to assist in recruiting the participants.

In January, Mercer called together some 200 Baptist church and lay leaders to begin a dialogue concerning how best to sustain the University’s Baptist identity in the wake of ending its 172-year relationship with the Georgia Baptist Convention last November. Carter had wanted to participate in the summit, but had a previous commitment out of the country.

Baptist Initiative Participants Meet at the Carter Center — Participants in a historic meeting of Baptists gathered at the Carter Center in Atlanta last February. From left to right: John Underwood, executive secretary, General Association of Virginia Baptists; Charles Wade, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Texas; Rodney Carter, Former United States President Jimmy Carter; Samuel G. Tolbert, National Baptist Convention of America Inc.; and Walter “Buddy” Busby, director, Mercer University Callaway Center for Baptist Studies. Back row, left to right: J.Michael Sanders, president, Lott Carey Mission Society; the Rev. Dr. Major Lewis Jemison, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention; and Dr. Major Lewis Jemison, Jr., executive director, American Baptist Churches. Center with Carter and Underwood at the meeting at The Carter Center evidences Mercer’s emergence as a truly national Baptist university that will continue exploring opportunities to relate to a wide diversity of Baptist groups and organizations.

— BILL UNDERWOOD

Hilton Garden Inn to be Constructed on Campus

Last spring, the University signed a letter of intent to construct a 101-room Hilton Garden Inn on the Macon campus off Mercer University Drive near I-75. The construction is the first step in the University’s redevelopment efforts to have Mercer University Drive become the main entrance to the campus.

“The developers have pledged to make Hilton’s available to business and leisure travelers as well as provide housing for alumni and visitors attending special programs and athletic events and for parents of current and prospective students,” said Underwood.

Underwood sees an increasing number of prospective developers, Mercer selected PHD Hotels, formerly known as The Hotel Group, of Auburn, Ala., for the $10 million project. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer, with the inn expected to open in 2007. The upscale hotel will offer a restaurant and a small conference area. After construction, PHD Hotels will operate and manage the inn, with the University being an equity partner.

“We are thrilled to be involved with the University in building this hotel on campus and we look forward to being part of the redevelopment plans for the campus,” said Tom Hunt, president and CEO of PHD Hotels. “Being on campus is going to be a real benefit for the hotel as well as the University.”

The Mercer project is the fourth Hilton Garden Inn and the ninth hotel that PHD Hotels has constructed and operated. The company’s other Hilton Garden Inn sites are in Auburn, Montgomery and Huntsville, Ala. There are 270 Hilton Garden Inns across the nation.

Correction — David Hardison should be credited as the photographer of the photo used on the cover of the Summer 2005 Mercerian. His apologies for inadvertently failing to give credit for the photo.
The Allman Brothers Band to honor parents of Mercer Trustee Carolyn Townsend

Mercer’s Board of Trustees, in its spring meeting, approved unanimously the establishment of the eleventh school of the University — a school of music. The action came after President R. Kirby Godsey announced a significant gift from Carolyn Townsend McAfee and J. Thomas and Julie Crangle McAfee to endow the school.

“The University is grateful for the deep and enduring devotion that the Townsend family has for Mercer,” said Godsey. “This gift will enable Mercer to continue to develop a stellar music program.”

The new academic unit will be named the Townsend School of Music, in honor of Raymond Clay Townsend and Sophia Main Townsend, the parents of Mercer Trustee Carolyn Townsend McAfee. The faculty of the Department of Music in the College of liberal arts will become the founding faculty of the school on July 1, 2006. “Mercer has one of the most significant private music programs in the Southeast region,” said Dr. John Roberts, chair of the Department of Music. “Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution’s commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component.”

Roberts continued, “With the recent additions of The Townsend Institute-Graduate Programs in Church Music and the Robert McDiffie Program for Advanced String Studies, we are poised to make great strides in music education.”

With the establishment of the school “Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution’s commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component.” on July 1, the Townsend Institute will become known as The Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music.

“I’m extremely excited about the announcement,” said junior music performance major Ketarem Haruda, of Tokyo, Japan. “Since I plan to attend a conservatory for my graduate study the School of Music title on my Mercer diploma will definitely be a boost.”

Senior music major Ann Lentinger, of Knoxvile, Tenn., said, “Mercer’s music department already has exceptional faculty and staff that provide a challenging musical learning environment. With a new school of music, these qualities will only strengthen the music program at Mercer and make it more desirable for prospective students.”

Carolyn Townsend McAfee and her late husband, James T. McAfee, also provided the major gift to the University that established the School of Theology, which bears the McAfee name, on Mercer’s Atlanta campus.

**School of Music to Become University’s 11th Academic Unit**

The Townsend Institute—offering degrees in music education, music performance and music entrepreneurship — is moving to the new academic unit to be known as The Townsend—McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music. The new unit will offer graduate programs in church music and other music areas.

The Townsend School of Music will become the 11th academic unit at Mercer University.

**MUP’s Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits Wins Top Book Award**

Students to Benefit from Baptist Scholars Fund

M ercer’s Board of Trustees, in its spring meeting, approved unanimously the establishment of the eleventh school of the University — a school of music. The action came after President R. Kirby Godsey announced a significant gift from Carolyn Townsend McAfee and J. Thomas and Julie Crangle McAfee to endow the school.

“The University is grateful for the deep and enduring devotion that the Townsend family has for Mercer,” said Godsey. “This gift will enable Mercer to continue to develop a stellar music program.”

The new academic unit will be named the Townsend School of Music, in honor of Raymond Clay Townsend and Sophia Main Townsend, the parents of Mercer Trustee Carolyn Townsend McAfee. The faculty of the Department of Music in the College of liberal arts will become the founding faculty of the school on July 1, 2006. “Mercer has one of the most significant private music programs in the Southeast region,” said Dr. John Roberts, chair of the Department of Music. “Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution’s commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component.”

Roberts continued, “With the recent additions of The Townsend Institute-Graduate Programs in Church Music and the Robert McDiffie Program for Advanced String Studies, we are poised to make great strides in music education.”

With the establishment of the school “Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution’s commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component.” on July 1, the Townsend Institute will become known as The Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music.

“I’m extremely excited about the announcement,” said junior music performance major Ketarem Haruda, of Tokyo, Japan. “Since I plan to attend a conservatory for my graduate study the School of Music title on my Mercer diploma will definitely be a boost.”

Senior music major Ann Lentinger, of Knoxvile, Tenn., said, “Mercer’s music department already has exceptional faculty and staff that provide a challenging musical learning environment. With a new school of music, these qualities will only strengthen the music program at Mercer and make it more desirable for prospective students.”

Carolyn Townsend McAfee and her late husband, James T. McAfee, also provided the major gift to the University that established the School of Theology, which bears the McAfee name, on Mercer’s Atlanta campus.

**MUP’s Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits Wins Top Book Award**

Students to Benefit from Baptist Scholars Fund

M ercer’s Board of Trustees, in its spring meeting, approved unanimously the establishment of the eleventh school of the University — a school of music. The action came after President R. Kirby Godsey announced a significant gift from Carolyn Townsend McAfee and J. Thomas and Julie Crangle McAfee to endow the school.

“The University is grateful for the deep and enduring devotion that the Townsend family has for Mercer,” said Godsey. “This gift will enable Mercer to continue to develop a stellar music program.”

The new academic unit will be named the Townsend School of Music, in honor of Raymond Clay Townsend and Sophia Main Townsend, the parents of Mercer Trustee Carolyn Townsend McAfee. The faculty of the Department of Music in the College of liberal arts will become the founding faculty of the school on July 1, 2006. “Mercer has one of the most significant private music programs in the Southeast region,” said Dr. John Roberts, chair of the Department of Music. “Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution’s commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component.”

Roberts continued, “With the recent additions of The Townsend Institute-Graduate Programs in Church Music and the Robert McDiffie Program for Advanced String Studies, we are poised to make great strides in music education.”

With the establishment of the school “Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution’s commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component.” on July 1, the Townsend Institute will become known as The Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music.

“I’m extremely excited about the announcement,” said junior music performance major Ketarem Haruda, of Tokyo, Japan. “Since I plan to attend a conservatory for my graduate study the School of Music title on my Mercer diploma will definitely be a boost.”

Senior music major Ann Lentinger, of Knoxvile, Tenn., said, “Mercer’s music department already has exceptional faculty and staff that provide a challenging musical learning environment. With a new school of music, these qualities will only strengthen the music program at Mercer and make it more desirable for prospective students.”

Carolyn Townsend McAfee and her late husband, James T. McAfee, also provided the major gift to the University that established the School of Theology, which bears the McAfee name, on Mercer’s Atlanta campus.

**MUP’s Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits Wins Top Book Award**

**Students to Benefit from Baptist Scholars Fund**

**Mercer is committed to providing financial assistance for Baptist students.**

The new fund will have a 50-member advisory board comprised of pastors, alumni and friends of the University. Among the board members are Dr. Draper Sanders, CGA ’59, retired physician and chair of the Georgia Baptist Heritage Council; Jim Cowart, Mercer Trustee and real estate developer; Dr. James Elder, CGA ’77, Mercer Trustee and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Columbus; Dr. Sara Welther, CGA ’52, former Mercer Trustee and retired educator; and the Rev. Matthew Davail, CGA ’01, THED ’04, minister of Students and Young Adults at First Baptist Church of Athens.

More information on this new scholarship fund will go out to Baptist churches this summer. Anyone wanting to apply to Mercer or to make a gift to the Baptist Scholars Fund at Mercer University should visit www.BaptistScholarsFund.org or contact Allen London at (800) 837-2911, ext. 4169, or london_a@mercer.edu.
M
cer will offer a number of new programs in
education, business, public safety, theology and
counseling in 2006 to 2007 in both undergraduate
and graduate studies. The new programs will include the
University’s second Ph.D. program.

The College of Education will accept
this fall the charter class for its Ph.D. in
Educational Leadership program for the
P-12 School Leadership Track in Macon
and Atlanta. The research degree is for
those serving as school and school system
leaders. A second track, one in higher education administration, is
scheduled to begin in fall 2007.

In addition to the Ph.D. program, the
College has developed two new programs and redesigned a third to
better meet critical education needs in Georgia. The new offerings include
a master of arts in teaching program in Atlanta for those seeking teacher
certification at the graduate level. Another new program at the Henry
County Regional Academic Center is
 titled Early Care and Education, which will allow students to receive a bachelor
of science in education degree with a specialization in birth-to-five-year-old
education. The College has also
redesigned its Specialist in Education
Degree program in Atlanta to have a
teacher leadership focus.

For college graduates who want to
direct their career to education, the new
master of arts in teaching program is
designed to assist the individual who holds a bachelor’s degree in a
certification field to earn a master’s degree in education as well as initial teacher
certification.

The early care and education program,
which focuses on education for children
between birth and kindergarten, will provide initial certification for current and
prospective childcare teachers and administrators. Mercer will be the first
university in the state to offer a bachelor’s degree leading to certification
in birth-to-five-year-old education.

Mercer’s Eugene W. Setson School
of Business and Economics has
modified its prestigious executive master of
business administration degree in
Atlanta into an accelerated 16-month
format. It will also offer, for the first
time, a professional MBA in Savannah
and south metro Atlanta.

The Business School developed the
new accelerated EMBA for corporate professionals who have a minimum of
five years of experience. Three retreats provide a concentrated study on specific
business topics, including a 10-day international residency where students are immersed in a different culture
while studying with top executives of companies successfully competing in the
global market.

The 16-month professional MBA is
aimed at business professionals with at
least three years of experience who want to advance their careers to the
leadership level in today’s corporate
world. Three retreats provide a
concentrated study on specific business topics, including a weekend Best
Practices Field Residency, where students meet with top executives of companies
successfully operating in today’s competitive market.

The College of Continuing and Professional
Studies (CPS) will introduce a master’s degree in public safety leadership program in
Atlanta. The degree is at the
leading edge of public safety education, according to Dr.
Billy Sloan, the coordinator of Mercer’s criminal justice degree
program. The program is designed to augment all public safety disciplines and
will include courses in terrorism, disaster response and budgeting.

The program is only one of its
kind in Georgia and is geared for public
safety professionals, including sheriff’s deputies, police officers and firefighters,
as well as officials from state agencies, such as the bureau of investigation, state
patrol, and department of corrections, among others. The schedule is designed for public safety practitioners, with
classes in the evening.

Beginning this fall, future ministers will
have the opportunity to specialize in pastoral counseling under a new
joint-degree program developed with
McClure School of Theology and CPS.
The new program is unique in the state of
Georgia.

Students graduate with a master of
degree in theology and a master of science
in community counseling degree, which
can be completed in four years. With
two degrees, graduates will be able to
integrate the knowledge of professional
counseling with the ministries of
pastoral care and counseling. The
degrees will give graduates the depth of
education they need to become certified pastoral counselors as well as licensed
counselors, said Dr. Denise Manney,
associate professor of the pastoral care and
counseling program at McClure.

Additional professional training is
required after graduation in order to
come the full counseling license and/or
certification process, she noted.

**Graduates Garner Awards for Excellence and Service**

**GRIFFIN B. BELL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**
(Named in Honor of the Honorable Griffin B. Bell, Mercer alumnus and
Trustee, the University’s most
prestigious award is the only one
awarded to a deserving student
chosen from among all of Mercer
University’s schools and colleges and
awarded to a deserving student
dedicated to community service.)

Hollie Benet Preston, a graduate of
the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing,
took home the honors as the recipient of the Griffin B. Bell Award for
Community Service. Preston entered the
College of Nursing as a first-generation
college student and excelled.

Preston made the Dean’s List and
Participated in mission trips abroad.

According to Dr. Stanley Roberts,
director of choral activities and
coordinator of master of music programs,
Geiger “demonstrated maturity beyond
his age and provided service and leadership. He has continued to exhibit
courage and further develop these skills of
leadership and service throughout his
university career.”

Geiger was involved in many facets
of student life. He served in the Student
Government Association as vice
president and senator-at-large, chair of the
Sigma Nu fraternity as chaplain,
candidate trainer and philanthropy
counselor, and as a Mercer Ambassador.
Additionally, he was active in Mu Phi
Epsilon and the American Choral
Directors Association, as well as a
member of Omicron Delta Kappa and
Theta Alpha Kappa honor societies.

Geiger has also been an active
performer and soloist in opera and
community musicals. He was invited
to study in Austria and served as a
scholarship soloist at First Baptist
Church in Macon.

Also receiving this award was
Rebekah Carol Duke, a student in the
McClure School of Theology. Duke is scheduled to graduate in 2007.

**JAMES CHRISTOPHER GEIGER JR.**
(3:45 PM)
Endowed Vision and Leadership
Scholarship Fund

James T. McAfee Jr. Endowed Vision and
Leadership Scholarship Fund were
Rebekah Carol Duke, McClure School of
Theology, and James “Jamie” Christopher
Geiger, Jr. College of Liberal Arts.

Geiger, who graduated magna cum
laude with a bachelor of music degree,
showcased his tremendous potential for
leadership almost from the moment he
set foot on campus.

According to Dr. Stanley Roberts,
director of choral activities and
coordinator of master of music programs,
Geiger “demonstrated maturity beyond
his age and provided service and leadership. He has continued to exhibit
courage and further develop these skills of
leadership and service throughout his
university career.”

Geiger was involved in many facets
of student life. He served in the Student
Government Association as vice
president and senator-at-large, in the Sigma Nu fraternity as chaplain,
candidate trainer and philanthropy
counselor, and as a Mercer Ambassador.
Additionally, he was active in Mu Phi
Epsilon and the American Choral
Directors Association, as well as a
member of Omicron Delta Kappa and
Theta Alpha Kappa honor societies.

Geiger has also been an active
performer and soloist in opera and
community musicals. He was invited
to study in Austria and served as a
scholarship soloist at First Baptist
Church in Macon.

Also receiving this award was
Rebekah Carol Duke, a student in the
McClure School of Theology. Duke is scheduled to graduate in 2007.

**WALLACE ODELL DOULL Excellence in Leadership Award**
(Wallace Odeill Dovalu Excellence in Leadership Award, graduated from the College of
Liberal Arts magna cum laude with both a bachelor of science in physics and mathematics and a bachelor of
arts in economics. Abu has made numerous
presentations at conferences on his research and also worked as a
supplemental instruction leader at
the Academic Resources Center. He served as a
laboratory equipment assistant in

**SAMSON J. JULIUS ADU**
the Department of Physics and as a student assistant in the Learning Resources Center.

Adu was also active with the Student
Government Association, elected as a
senator from 2004 to 2005, and senator-at-large from 2005 to

--- Continued on page 11 ---
Graduate Lead Effort to Bring ‘Baby Noor’ to America for Care

Ross Remembered Through Establishment of Scholarship

The class. Now, he is in line for a promotion to captain.

Getting his degree has been a boon to his personal life as well. Morgan said, because it has encouraged his children to think about college.

“The Organization Leadership program helped me before I got to my unit, helped when I got to my unit, helped me when I got to Iraq and helped with Baby Noor,” he said. “It helped me to be bold enough to tell the system: ‘It can be done,’ even when the system is telling you, ‘You can’t be done.’” It helped me because I felt comfortable talking with senators and ambassadors and getting things done, which is what I did.”

Leavell and Godfrey Highlight Commencement — Continued from page 1

Leavell noted. “From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the deep love and passion you have shown not only for this institution, but for this community, this city and the state of Georgia.”

Another musical giant, Phil Walden, GA’62, was similarly honored at the Macon commencement. The late-founder of Capitol Records and Volocette Records was posthumously presented an honorary doctor of humanities degree. His son, Phil Walden Jr., accepted the award on behalf of his father, described by Godsey as a “legendary music pioneer, charismatic entrepreneur, true son of the South in preserving the notes and voices of Georgia’s musical artists, dedicated civic leader.”

In an interview with The Telegraph, Walden Jr. discussed the impact Mercer University made on his father’s life.

“Mercer was near and dear to his heart. That’s where he met my mom,” he said. “He was definitely a Maconite and a Mercer Bear before he was anything else.”

The University also recognized two outstanding student leaders. Nicole E. Nafhor, who received her bachelor of science in education at the ceremony, also received the Louise D. Newton General Excellence Medal, an award presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies scholastic achievement, personal integrity and character, service to the campus community and a commitment to spiritual values.

William L. Emerson received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, an honor presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community, and a commitment to spiritual values.

In addition to the main Macon commencement held May 13, the University coordinated nine other commencements. On May 6, students from Southern School of Pharmacy, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and the School of Medicine matriculated; Walter F. George School of Law students celebrated commencement on May 12, Macon, Eastman and Henry County students from College of Continuing and Professional Studies graduated on May 14; and professional students graduated on May 20 — College of Continuing and Professional Studies (Atlanta and Douglas County), James and Carolyn McKee School of Theology; Till College of Education, and Eugene W. Steen School of Business and Economics.
McDuffie and Mercer Offer Advanced String Instruction

The search for the nation’s best high school junior and senior string musicians is nearing completion, as many applications have been received, and 16 exceptional students will soon be chosen to participate in the Robert McDuffie and Friends Labor Day Festival for Strings at Mercer. The University’s new Townsend School of Music, to be established July 1, will host the second annual Festival Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

The program provides full scholarships covering tuition, housing and meals for four days of intense study of solo, chamber and orchestral repertoire. Eight violinists, four cellists and four violists will have the opportunity to participate in this exclusive strings immersion workshop with some of the nation’s foremost concert artists. The master faculty will include Robert McDuffie, world-renowned violinist and distinguished university professor of music at Mercer; and six visiting master string musicians: Andrés Díaz, renowned concert artist; David Halen, concertmaster, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra; Amy Schwartz Moretti, concertmaster, Oregon Symphony; Paul Murphy, associate principal violist, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; Christopher Rex, principal cellist, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; and Sabina Thletcher, principal violist, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

“The McDuffie Program will train musicians not for short-term glory, but for long-term artistry and curiosity. The students will not be trained just to win competitions, but to have rich, productive and satisfying careers.”

New Physician Assistant Program Provides Excellent Career Opportunities

By Nancy Faebright

The Center for Health and Learning, a partnership of Mercer and Piedmont Healthcare, announces the creation of a physician assistant program to begin in fall 2007. The initial class of 25 graduate candidates will earn a master of medical science degree from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences of Mercer, formerly known as Southern School of Pharmacy.

"The offering of a physician assistant program is an important first step that the University has taken to increase the number of health sciences programs available to its students,” said W. "Ted" Matthews, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and vice president for the health sciences at Mercer. "This program provides Mercer students another health care career option, especially for those who are interested in the practice of medicine. This field is in great demand and provides excellent career opportunities.”

The new physician assistant program is one of the reasons for the changing name of Mercer's 105-year-old pharmacy school, which officially becomes the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on July 1, 2006. “This change reflects the additional health science offerings that will be beneficial to our students and University in fostering interprofessional education,” Matthews added.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the physician assistant is among the fastest growing occupations in America, and is expected to grow faster than average than all other occupations through the year 2014. In May 2004, the median salary of physician assistants was nearly $70,000.

The 28-month program will be based on Mercer’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta and will eventually enroll 60 to 100 graduate candidates. Coursework will include studies in biology, physiology, anatomy and biochemistry, among others.

In addition to the master's degree-level program, Mercer will also introduce a bachelor's degree-level pre-physician assistant program on its Macon campus. Undergraduate students successfully completing 90 hours of coursework in the program, including all College of Liberal Arts general education requirements and a certain number of hours of patient care, will be guaranteed admission into the highly-competitive master's program in Atlanta.

"With the development of a three-year pre-physician assistant program on the Macon campus, we will address a critical need in health care while also providing a fantastic opportunity for our undergraduates,” said D. Scott Davis, associate executive vice president and vice provost for Mercer.

"Many of our students are interested in a career in a health-related area, and the development of this program allows a unique situation,” he explained. “Currently, a student at Mercer can prepare for medical or dental school, or pursue a pre-pharmacy or pre-physician assistant program, but will not be able to form the highly-competitive master's program in Atlanta. With the development of a three-year program, students will be able to complete pre-physician assistant program, and then pursue their master's degree in health science from the College of Liberal Arts at the completion of their first year in the graduate program in Atlanta.”

The physician assistant program will be conducted in coordination with Piedmont Healthcare. In June 2005, Piedmont Healthcare and Mercer announced the establishment of the Center for Health and Learning, a partnership that is creating a number of joint initiatives, including nursing, pharmacy, research and other medical and allied health education programs.

“ать, at Piedmont Healthcare, are pleased to be working with Mercer University as they develop their new physician assistant academic program,” noted Steve Taylor, M.D., executive vice president and chief medical officer of Piedmont Healthcare. “Physician assistants are a valuable professional resource for us at Piedmont, and anything we can do to facilitate the training of additional top-notch PAs will help us maintain and even further improve the high quality of patient care provided here.”

For more information about Mercer’s physician assistant program, contact the Office of the Senior Vice President – Atlanta at Mercer University at (678) 547-697 or PAprogram@mercer.edu.
THE MERCERIAN

University Honors Music Giants with Honorary Degrees

By Nancy Falibright

A t the Macon commencement exercises on May 13 that awarded diplomas to students in the undergraduate schools and colleges of liberal arts, engineering, business and education, two musical giants were recognized with honorary degrees.

CHUCK LEAVELL
Doctor of Music

Chuck Leavell has been playing the ear of music fans for more than 50 years now. His piano and keyboard work has been heard on the works of Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones, the Black Crowes, George Harrison, the Allman Brothers Band, Indigo Girls, Blues Traveler and many more. His association with the Stones has been a long one, beginning in 1982, and is still going strong.

In addition to his musical expertise, he is now a respected author having penned a book on forestry and conservation called Forever Green: The History and Hope of the American Forest, 2nd edition (Mercer University Press). This book is now in its second printing in the U.S. and has been translated and released in Germany and Austria.

Leavell takes this passion to the streets by giving speeches and presentations to a variety of groups and also spends time in Washington, D.C., meeting and speaking to committees, environmental officials and high-level government officials to help shape policy and to promote sound forestry management practices in America.

This has resulted in Leavell being one of the most sought after keynote speakers around.

He and his wife, Rose Lane, were given the ultimate honor for their outstanding management of their own forestland, Charlane Plantation, by being named National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in 1999.

Leavell has made an indelible mark on the nation’s music history and has been a true son of the South in preserving the music and talent of the times, including renown artists of diverse races.

Leavell working in the woods, playing his piano and declaring “My family, my trees and my music,” he says. “I have no intentions of slowing down in music now! But one day I will hang up my rock ’n roll dimes and I hope it will be right here on a pine tree.”

PHILIP M. WALDEN
Doctor of Humanities (posthumously)

Music pioneer and savvy businessman Phil Walden (1940-2006) nurtured and gave voice to hundreds of musicians who have contributed to shaping America’s music history.

Born in Greenville, S.C., on Jan. 11, 1940, the second of three sons to Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Walden, Walden came to Macon at the age of three, planting his roots deep in the state’s red clay. After graduating from Lanier High School in 1958, he entered Mercer University and while a student, he began his legendary career in the music industry by booking emerging bands for fraternity parties around Georgia.

In 1960, he established the Phil Walden Artists and Promotions agency in the Robert E. Lee Building on Mulberry Street in Macon, signing on a young Georgia artist named Otis Redding, who would have one of the defining songs of the era, “(Sittin’ on) the Dock of the Bay,” and establishing Macon as the hub of Southern music.

Over the past four decades, Walden, through his Georgia-based recording companies, Capricorn Records and Velocirrto, represented and produced some of the hottest musical talent of the times, including renowned hit makers Sam and Dave, Percy Sledge, the Allman Brothers Band, the Marshall Tucker Band, the Doze Dregs, Wet Willie, Widespread Panic, Cake and 311, placing the state on the recording industry map.

Through his interest in and promotion of artists of diverse races, Walden broke down racial barriers during a time of segregation, allowing music to become a common ground for understanding and relationship building that has spanned generations of music fans.

A 1962 graduate of Mercer, Walden was generous in sharing his promotional insights and business acumen with his alma mater, having provided internships for Mercer students at his Capitol Records offices, recorded the Mercer University choir, and served on the board of Directors of Mercer University Press, in addition to having established two endowed scholarships, one benefiting minority students at Mercer’s School of Law named in memory of his friend, Otis Redding.

Valuing family and relationships, Walden and his wife, Peggy, were married for more than three decades, and his children, Phil Jr., a double graduate of Mercer University and Amutha, both work in their father’s company, Velocirrto Records. Phil Jr. accepted the honorary degree at commencement on behalf of his father, who died this spring.

With his lifelong passion for music, his uncanny ability to recognize talent, and his gift of promotion, Walden made an indelible mark on the nation’s music history and has been a true son of the South in preserving the music and voices of some of Georgia’s best artists, magazine to name him one of the “100 Georgians to shape the 20th Century” in 2000.

Engineering Professor Nominated for Major Technology Award

By Mark Vanderheuk

M anyone knows Davis, professor and chair of the technical communication department in the School of Engineering, was named a semi-finalist in the Non-Profit/Public Sector category of the Women In Technology Awards presented by the Technology Association of Georgia.

As a semi-finalist, Davis was invited to participate in the awards presentation and dinner in Atlanta on April 27. Among the many highly successful technology leaders that Davis competed against for the award were two finalists: Qadim Delano, deputy executive director of the Georgia Technology Authority; Barbara White, CEO and associate provost of the University of Georgia; and the winner: Janet Thomas, assistant general manager for technology and customer services delivery with the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority.

“T was delighted and honored that I was named a semifinalist,” Davis said. “That was such a talented group of professional women who are in leadership and executive roles around the state. I was honored to be a part of that.”

The nomination “came out of the blue,” the longtime Mercer professor said. “This was a total surprise to me.”

Davis said, “It was just a great experience, and it was wonderful to be recognized both within the University and outside of it.”

Davis has made numerous contributions to the University and has been on the faculty since 1972, when she began teaching in the English department. She served as associate provost at Mercer from 1984 to 1989, with various responsibilities including undergraduate admissions. In 1989, she became a faculty member in Mercer’s newly established School of Engineering and, in 1991, she developed the technical communication program. She is the only female chair in the School. During Davis’ tenure, the bachelor of science in technical communication program has received national recognition.

Additionally, she helped pioneer distance learning degree programs at Mercer by creating, along with the late Dr. David Leonard, the master of science in technical communication management degree.

Davis oversees the faculty of professionals who teach courses in technical communication, document and Web design, multimedia, communication in management, enabling instructional design, visual communication, technical editing and communication in high-tech environments. All students in the Mercer School of Engineering must take at least one course in technical communication before graduation, underscoring the importance placed on communication in the School’s innovative curriculum.

For Photo Reprints Please Visit
www.mercer.edu
Under “Department & Services;”
Click on “Community;”
Click on “University Advancement;”
Click on “University Relations & Marketing;”
Click on “UR&M Photos.”
Just select the event you would like to view!
In ten commencement ceremonies held over a three-week period in May, Mercer graduated nearly 1,500 students from the University’s 10 colleges and schools. President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey presided over the final commencements of his 27-year presidency.

Macon commencement exercises were held on campus in the University Center for the first time.

Blake Howard Tompkins of Tifton, Ga., smiles as he enter the University Center Arena.

Excited and anxious graduates await the beginning of commencement for the College of Continuing and Professional Studies on May 13.

Proud graduates at the Tift College of Education commencement display their new diplomas for family members in Atlanta on May 20.

Suzanne Jackson Newberry of Bishop, Ga., proudly displays her bachelor of business administration degree.
THE MERCERIAN / SUMMER 2006

SPECIAL PHOTO SECTION

MENT 2006

We commend you today for the study, for the critical thinking, and for the intellectual understanding that these degrees certify,” Godsey told the graduates. “Our challenge to you today as you embark on your life beyond the University is to face each day with the strength to be thoughtful, with the grace to be compassionate, and the courage to engage your work with integrity and respect for one another.”

Deepa ChandraKumar of Dalton, Ga., celebrates receiving her master of business administration degree at the Stetson School of Business and Economics commencement ceremony on May 20 in Atlanta.

Grading students line up as they enter the arena for commencement exercises on May 13.

Deepa ChandraKumar of Dalton, Ga., celebrates receiving her master of business administration degree at the Stetson School of Business and Economics commencement ceremony on May 20 in Atlanta.

Grading students line up as they enter the arena for commencement exercises on May 13.

New graduate Andilyn Kate Williamson (center) and her parents, Rev. Craig Williamson, CLA ’80, and Catherine Madben Williamson, CLA ’78, EDA ’80, pose with their diplomas signed by Dr. Godsey. The diplomas represent his first and last spring commencements during his 27 year tenure as University president.

Stephen Jay Spalding of Lookout Mountain, Ga., graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science in engineering.

Kimberly Shannon Billingsley of Carrollton, Ga., graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree.
**More Than One ‘Chip Off the Old Block’**

By Rachel Garza

For the Harwell family, Mercer is more than just a university. It is a tradition. Four consecutive generations of the Harwell family have received degrees from Mercer University, the youngest being Kelly Harwell who graduated this past May.

The Mercer tradition began with Horace Hoyt Harwell, who received his bachelor’s degree from the College of Liberal Arts in 1929. As a young man he graduated magna cum laude, too, but had better grades than I did!”

Kelly is working for the Alpha Delta

New Tax Law Changes Increase Benefits of Independent 529 Plan

Recent tax law changes have further enhanced the benefits of the Independent 529 Plan, a prepaid tuition college tuition plan for more than 250 private colleges, including Mercer.

Parental assets do not have as large an effect on the federal financial aid formula, according to Carol Williams, associate vice president for student financial planning at Mercer.

The head of Independent 529 Plan praised the changes to the law.

More than one million American families that currently own prepaid 529 accounts may be granted more financial aid than they would have before,” said Nancy Farmer, president and CEO, Tuition Plan Consortium, which administers Independent 529 Plan.

“Section 529 Plans, named for the IRS code that defines them, allow the two to be calculated equally in financial aid decisions. The new law takes effect July 1 and will mean that proceeds from prepaid tuition plans will no longer be considered student assets, which weigh more heavily in the federal financial aid formula.

Instead, prepaid 529 accounts will be considered as part of parents’ assets, as 529 savings plans are now.

In the past, the IRS considered student assets, which weigh more heavily in the federal financial aid formula. Instead, prepaid 529 assets will be considered student assets, which weigh more heavily in the federal financial aid formula.

**Gannett Makes Gift for Digital Storytelling Project** —

Gannett Foundation recently made a gift to Mercer to be used to purchase equipment for digital storytelling. Speedi Concello, president and general manager of LHM2 television in Mercer, presented the check to Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey.

For the Harwell family, Mercer is more than just a university. It is a tradition. Four consecutive generations of the Harwell family have received degrees from Mercer University, the youngest being Kelly Harwell who graduated this past May.

The Mercer tradition began with Horace Hoyt Harwell, who received his bachelor’s degree from the College of Liberal Arts in 1929. As a young man, he graduated magna cum laude, too, but had better grades than I did!”

Kelly is working for the Alpha Delta 

More than one ‘Chip Off the Old Block’"
Class of 1956 Encouraged to Attend Reunion

Dear Fellow Graduate of the Class of ’56,

Last fall, as soon as the letters about Red’s 50th Class Reunion started coming, we started planning. There were several reasons. For one, my dad (Mercer’s Class of ’29) always went to his class reunions, and I remembered how he enjoyed his 50th. We were curious, too, about seeing folks again. And some people contacted us to ask if we would be there. We put it on the calendar and made our hotel reservations. It was really a given from the start. We looked forward to it. We hope it is a “given” for you, too, and that you are looking forward to it. But just in case you are thinking of not coming... We really never expected to have so much fun! The Mercer folks, including the students who were our guides for the weekend, did a fantastic job. It was organized in a way that made it easy to get where we were supposed to be. (Clear directions are good for folks our age.) The food was good. The campus looked fabulous — different from “ours” but great, nevertheless. They had thought of everything. Maybe you know how they take a group picture and are able to identify everyone accurately, but I didn’t. It was so neat! The programs were well planned and entertaining... they even had gifts for everyone!

But you know what? All of that wasn’t what made it so much fun. It was the people who came back for the reunion. The sight you caught of someone you hadn’t seen in 10 or 20, or 50 years was so exciting! The conversations, whether it was about the years from ’52-’56 or the years that have followed, were wonderful. We were hugging, and laughing and talking the whole time. I sat by Dr. McLellan at the first dinner. It was a delight. I saw Dr. Johnson at the same dinner, and got to ask him if he remembered that he was one of the two ministers who performed our wedding ceremony. I just can’t tell you all the memories that flooded back as we would walk and talk to people. We even made friends with some we had not known all that well when we were in school. Red and I talked about it all the way home and for days afterwards. Even now, months later, we’ll remember a person or a conversation, and enjoy it all over again. I remember saying to him: “I expected to have a good time but I didn’t expect to have such a good time!”

So make your reservations now, call a few of your old roommates and friends, mark your calendar, and be there. Remember this was Red’s class reunion where I had so much fun. It would be awful if my own reunion wasn’t even more fun. It is entirely up to all of you. Remember it was the people who were there that made it so wonderful. They told us the Class of ’55 was one of the biggest groups to come to the 50th reunion. I would love to hear ours was the very biggest.

The bottom line is, don’t miss this. You will miss one of the great experiences of your life. You will come away with a new appreciation of Mercer, the years you spent there, and the people you spent them with. See you there.

Sincerely,

Joanne Wommack McDaniel
2312 Slate Drive, Columbus, GA 31906
(706) 324-3385, wommergm@aol.com

Grades Garner Awards for Excellence and Service

—Continued from page 4

2006. He chaired the SGA academic Affairs Committee in 2005 and Fiscal Affairs Committee from 2005 to 2006. In rounding out his Mercer experience, he served as a DJ for the new Mercer Radio Station in 2005, and as general manager in 2006. He was also captain of the Binary Bears, Mercer’s successful computer programming team. Also will attend Boston College this fall and begin work on his Ph.D. in economics.

LOUIE D. NEWTON GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
(The Louie D. Newton General Excellence Award is named in honor of the former Mercer professor, Christian journalist, distinguished pastor and renowned denominational leader.)

Nicole E. Nather, a summa cum laude graduate of the 57th College of Education, won the Louie D. Newton General Excellence award for her outstanding work in preparation to become a teacher and for her campus leadership.

Nather served as a workshop leader for Chemistry 111, a resident assistant, a student admissions team member, president of the Til Scholars Association, an active member and worship leader for Reformed University Fellowship and the resident director for the freshmen women’s dormitory. She was also a member of Kappa Delta Kappa Honor Society. Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society.

A graduate of the Holistic Child program, with certifications in both early childhood education and special education, Nather will take on a new challenge this fall, serving in Teach for America, a prestigious national program that places the best and brightest young teachers in inner city schools.

The foundation for her success can be found in her commitment to the profession of teaching and her creative ability to solve problems and be a part of a team. She presented with members of the 57th College of Education faculty at two national conferences about programming and partnering within and outside the College.

ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARD
(The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award was established at Mercer in 1926 in memory of Mr. Sullivan, a great humanitarian and philanthropist. It is presented to the graduate who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community and a commitment to spiritual values.)

William L. Emerson, a summa cum laude graduate of the College of Liberal Arts was the consummate student athlete in winning one of the two top undergraduate honors when he was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award. He won because of his exemplary leadership to the Mercer community, as an athlete, as a student and as a leader. Emerson excelled as an athlete, playing for four years on the men’s basketball team and serving as captain during his senior year. He was twice recognized as a first-team Academic All American by ESPN The Magazine, the premiere academic All-American team in the United States. Emerson was a four-time Atlantic Sun Academic All-Conference honoree and was named the conference’s Male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2006.

Emerson maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average as a biology major. In the fall, he will attend the Medical College of Georgia on a full scholarship. Emerson swept the awards for all three yearling scholarship sequences required for entry into medical school. Professors praised Emerson’s work ethic, intellectual gifts and ability to manage his time as an athlete and a scholar. Emerson served as a Student Government Association senator for three years and as senior class president this year. He also served as a leader in the community, volunteering with several organizations and agencies.

Human Resources Offers Alumni Online Employment Opportunities

A as a response from alumni regarding interest in employment opportunities at Mercer, the Human Resources Office is implementing an alumni employment e-mail distribution list. Weekly announcements will be sent to those alumni interested in receiving information regarding current position vacancies at the University.

The new online application system allows alumni to apply for vacant positions from any computer with an Internet connection. With this system, alumni can easily apply for multiple positions, attach a résumé and cover letter online and continue to monitor the progress of the application throughout the process.

To complete an online application and to view the current list of openings with job descriptions, access the online system at www.mercer.edu/hr.

To subscribe to the e-mail distribution list, contact Human Resources at jobinfo@mercer.edu or (800) MERCER-1 (ext. 2796). We look forward to hearing from you.
Nomination Deadline Aug. 15 for Athletic Hall of Fame

Mercer alumni, faculty staff, students and friends are urged to nominate former student-athletes, coaches or contributors whom they deem viable candidates for the Athletic Hall of Fame. Mercer now inducts members into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

The dean of athletic directors in the Atlantic Sun Conference, Pope is in his 17th year at the helm of Mercer University Athletics. During his tenure at Mercer, he has seen the growth of the program to 14 sports, as well as the addition of the first full-time coaches for men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s tennis and cross country.

Facility upgrades have been a priority since he became athletics director, as evidenced by the state-of-the-art University Center, home to the men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball. The building houses all coaches’ offices as well as locker rooms for all teams. Claude Smith Field, the home field for football, received a facelift in the fall of 2003. A new softball facility is on the drawing board and is scheduled to be complete in the very near future.

Pope is also active in the A-Sun, having served two years as president in the late 1990s. He has served on numerous committees and currently is a member of the sports policy committee.

For nearly two decades, he was a member of the sports policy committee. His current tasks include serving on the Mercer Bears Foundation Board and the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board. He is a member of the sports policy committee.

For nearly two decades, he was a member of the sports policy committee. His current tasks include serving on the Mercer Bears Foundation Board and the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board. He is a member of the sports policy committee.

For nearly two decades, he was a member of the sports policy committee. His current tasks include serving on the Mercer Bears Foundation Board and the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board. He is a member of the sports policy committee.

For nearly two decades, he was a member of the sports policy committee. His current tasks include serving on the Mercer Bears Foundation Board and the Mercer Athletic Foundation Board. He is a member of the sports policy committee.
I n February, T. Raleigh Mann, senior associate vice president of alumni services and university special events, received an unusual package. The return address listed only a post office in Worcester, Mass. The package contained a Mercer class ring, engraved with the year 1971, but with no accompanying note of explanation. Inside the ring, Mann noticed two faded engravings. One was the name of the manufacturer, which has since gone out of business. Luckily, the other turned out to be “CFL.” Armed with these initials, Mann determined to return the ring to its rightful owner.

A quick flip through a 1971 yearbook revealed only one student with those initials: Charles F. Thornton of the College of Liberal Arts. Unfortunately, Thornton, like his ring, was classified as “lost” in the alumni database, leaving Mann with no address, phone number and no way to contact him. According to Mann, a required “several days of ‘Columbo’ work” to track down possible contact information. Turning to past alumni directories, he discovered that Thornton was a teacher whose last known address was Wakalla County, Fla. After fruitless Internet searches — there are almost 300 “Charles Thornhoms” in America according to the online white pages, 20 in Florida alone — Mann searched the Wakalla County School District Webpage. Mann e-mailed an inquiry, appropriately titled, “Charles F. Thornton of Mercer University?”; to Frank Thornton, a computer applications teacher at Wakalla Middle School in Crawfordville, Fla. “When I received the initial e-mail from Mr. Mann,” said Thornton, “I almost disregarded it as junk mail. I was not sure what made me change my mind.”

Concerned that it was an e-mail scam or solicitation, Thornton was still skeptical after opening the message. After Mann explained that he was trying to find the 1971 Mercer graduate who was missing a piece of jewelry, Thornton admitted that he had indeed lost his class ring. “I am delighted that I finally did trust my instincts and had faith in the innate goodness of people,” said Thornton, who discovered the ring, missing more than 10 years.

There is no explanation as to how the ring ended up in Massachusetts or who eventually returned the ring to Mercer. Of Mann, Thornton said, “I am delighted to find that there are still people who are willing to go the extra mile to put a smile on another person’s face.”

After traveling almost 1,400 miles from Massachusetts, the ring finally made its way to Frank Thornton’s hands. “I have always been proud of my Mercer heritage,” he said, “and was elated to once again possess my long-lost symbol of those formative and happy years on the Mercer campus.”

\[image of a ring and text about the ring and its return to the owner\]

The Class Ring Finds Its Way Home 10 Years Later

By Anna Sandison
ACHIEVEMENTS

1950

The Rev. Claudia L. Ashby, QA of Ellicott City, Md., earned the distinction of Physician of the Day and participated in various community service activities. He is an alum of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He received his MD degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1950 and has been practicing medicine in Baltimore, Md., since that time.

1956

Dr. Daniel Roberts, QA of Rockledge, Fla., has made annual contributions to the American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association. He is an alumnus of the University of Florida and received his MD degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1956.

1957

James E. Worrell, ED, of Perry, Ga., was re-elected mayor of Perry for a sixth term. A recipient of the prestigious Georgia Municipal Association Leadership Hall of Fame award, Worrell is in his 16th year as mayor.

1971

Susie L. Trinkle, TIF, QA of Alachua, Fla., completed a Ph.D. in education and organization. She is currently employed as a professor of psychology at the University of Florida.

1986

Christopher W. Yokom, BSk, LL.B, of Atlanta, is an attorney at the law firm of Moseman & Staley and is a past president of the National Bar Association. He is a former member of the state Bar and has been practicing law for over 25 years.

1987

Joe L. Allen, QA of Martinsville, was recently named executive director of the City of Martinsville Community Improvement District. He previously served as chief of police for the City of Martinsville and has been involved in various community service activities.

1988

Henry C. Whitleforth, QA of Athens, was recently named executive director of the University of Georgia's Center for Student Affairs. He is a former alumnus of the University of Georgia and has been involved in various community service activities.

1993

Joni L. Smith, QA of Social Circle, was re-elected to the board of directors of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

1999

Bryant G. Finley, QA of LaGrange, GA, completed the first half of the Ironman triathlon in Lake Placid, NY, and has been involved in various community service activities.

2000

Parkinson. B, QA of Athens, was re-elected to the board of directors of the University of Georgia Foundation.

2004

Dr. Charles Wesley Easom, QA, of Peachtree City, GA, recently retired from the state Department of Juvenile Justice. He is a former alumnus of the University of Georgia and has been involved in various community service activities.

2005

Ruth J. Beerman, QA, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, is her article, "Agency for Whom?" published in the Iowa Journal of Women. She is a former alumnus of the University of Iowa and has been involved in various community service activities.

2006

Angela Fields Fox, QA, and her husband, Jerry, announce the birth of their son, Ben, on Sept. 15, 2005. The family resides in Franklin, Tenn.

MARRIAGES, ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHS

1945

Anita Stephens Ball Harrison, TIF, QA of Atlanta, welcomed her third grandchild, Mary Kate Gilley of Waco, Texas.

1986

Mary Eva Tredway, QA, and her husband, Craig, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Tandy, on Nov. 21, 2005. They have another child, Mary Janell, 4. The family resides in Norcross.

1990

Lisa A. Nelson, QA, and her husband, Dave, announce the birth of their son, Zachary Turner, on Aug. 2, 2004. The family resides in Lawrenceville.

1992

Julie M. King, QA, and her husband, Don, announce the birth of their son, Spencer Ray, on Nov. 11, 2005. They have another son, Mason, 5. The family resides in Franklin, Tenn.

1993

Stacy Adams, BS, and his wife, Kathleen Chaffin-Adams, QA, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Ray, on Oct. 12, 2005. The family resides in Suwanee.

1994

Anita Stephens Ball Harrison, TIF, QA of Atlanta, welcomed her third grandchild, Mary Kate Gilley of Waco, Texas.

2005

Ricky L. Haney, QA, of Tallahassee, graduated in May from Pensacola State University with a master of science degree in engineering science, computer design option.

MARRIAGES

1945

Anita Stephens Ball Harrison, TIF, QA of Atlanta, welcomed her third grandchild, Mary Kate Gilley of Waco, Texas.

1986

Mary Eva Tredway, QA, and her husband, Craig, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Tandy, on Nov. 21, 2005. They have another child, Mary Janell, 4. The family resides in Norcross.

1990

Lisa A. Nelson, QA, and her husband, Dave, announce the birth of their son, Zachary Turner, on Aug. 2, 2004. The family resides in Lawrenceville.

1992

Julie M. King, QA, and her husband, Don, announce the birth of their son, Spencer Ray, on Nov. 11, 2005. They have another son, Mason, 5. The family resides in Franklin, Tenn.

1993

Stacy Adams, BS, and his wife, Kathleen Chaffin-Adams, QA, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Ray, on Oct. 12, 2005. The family resides in Suwanee.

1994

Anita Stephens Ball Harrison, TIF, QA of Atlanta, welcomed her third grandchild, Mary Kate Gilley of Waco, Texas.

2005

Ricky L. Haney, QA, of Tallahassee, graduated in May from Pensacola State University with a master of science degree in engineering science, computer design option.
In SYMPATHY

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Dr. George C. Backer, of Macon, died Dec. 21, 2005. He was associate professor and dean of the School of Engineering.

Christopher Foster, 40, of Savannah, who attended Mercer, died Aug. 25, 2005.

Austin Guinn Jr., 84, of Butler, who attended Mercer, died Jan. 9.

Nancy Johnston, 80, of Macon, died July 27, 2005. She was a former member of Mercer Faculty Wives. Her husband, Dr. Edwin Johnston Sr., formerly served on the Mercer faculty.

Joanne D. Mason, 69, of Macon, died Feb. 18. She was retired from Mercer, having served many years as the administrative assistant to the senior vice president of Development.

Dr. William Starr Miller, 84, of Newnan, former Till College faculty member, died Jan. 26.

Paul Resseu Jr., 56, of Macon, director of transportation for Mercer Athletics, died May 23, 2005.

Jennifer Lucsemborg Ross, 19, of Savannah, who was a student at Mercer, died Jan. 1. (Scholarship story on page 5)

Glenna Taylor, 83, of Atlanta, longtime friend of the university, died May 1.

Catherine P. Glass, TIFT, 99, of Newnan, died Feb. 15.


Clyde F. Hinley, TIFT, 96, of Gayton, died March 7, 2005.
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.

(Please print)

Name ____________________________________________________

Maiden Name _______________________________________________

Class Year __________________________________________________

School or College _____________________________________________

Degree _____________________________________________________

Fraternity/Sorority ____________________________________________

Street or Box Number __________________________________________

City/State/Zip ________________________________________________

Home Phone ( _____ ) ... Name ________________________________________

Title ________________________________________________________

Business Address _____________________________________________

City/State/Zip ________________________________________________

Business Phone ( _____ ) ______________________________________

E-mail _______________________________________________________

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

News to Share _______________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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

Summer 2006 • Vol. 16, No. 2

The End

of an Era

After serving at the helm of Mercer for the past 27 years, Dr. R. Kirby Godsey steps down from the office of President and Chief Executive Officer on June 30. Mercer has grown and prospered more under his leadership than at any other time in the University's history. On July 1, he will begin serving as Chancellor and University Professor.

Story on page 1.