Mercer Board of Trustees Chairman David Hudson, who also headed the presidential search committee, gives Underwood high marks for his inaugural year. “We are extraordinarily fortunate in President Underwood to have someone who has mastered the nuts and bolts of management and don’t have vision and vice versa. But Bill Underwood can do both extraordinarily well. Mercer has hit a home run in persuading him to come and serve as our president.”

The Potential of the University
One of Underwood’s first initiatives was to meet with the faculty and administrators of each of the 11 colleges and schools to learn about their specific strengths and goals of their programs. The more Underwood has learned about the University, the more pleased he says he has become.

Boosting Enrollment
Throughout the year, Underwood stated that the University’s peers should be Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, Duke and Emory. Explaining that Mercer’s students, faculty, schools and programs are similar to those institutions, he focused on continuing the University’s move to the national arena. “I don’t necessarily want to grow the University, but instead increase the level of demand — allowing us to be more selective,” said Underwood. “Most of our effort will be in telling the Mercer story to more prospective students, especially high school sophomores and juniors, because that is when students begin to choose a college.”

The President provided additional financial resources to enhance the marketing for undergraduate admissions on the Macon campus. In January, a senior vice president of Enrollment Management, Terry E. Whittam, previously with Seton University in Florida, was hired to direct undergraduate admissions and financial aid and to provide overall coordination for retention. The academic programs for “working adults” offered through the University’s four regional academic centers also received a major boost. A consulting team headed focus groups of students, faculty and alumni and developed a marketing campaign with the slogan of “The Next Chapter of Your Story Begins NOW! Higher Education for Working Adults.” The study also resulted in locating two new undergraduate programs on the Atlanta campus: Information Systems and Criminal Justice.

Medical School in Savannah Positively Impacts All Georgians
The new President also worked on expanding Mercer’s professional programs. On June 20, Underwood stood with Bob Cobin, president and CEO of Memorial Health in Savannah, to announce the creation of the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Savannah.

Service-Learning Project Leads Macon to Establish Commission

By Mark Vanderhoek

A service-learning project by four Mercer seniors creates a development plan for the area around Mercer but the city of Macon to establish a new commission to study and implement the plan. On April 27, Mayor Jack Ellis announced the creation of the College Hill Corridor Commission to implement the students’ plan for the development of the corridor.

Students’ yearlong effort to develop a plan for a “college town” corridor connecting the University with downtown Macon was part of two service-learning courses at Mercer.

During a press conference, Ellis commended the efforts of the “bright, committed and innovative and enthusiastic” students who hatched the plan. All four students — Kimberly Humphries, Veronica Allen, Matt Wetherington and Alex Morrison — attended the announcement, along with Mercer President William D. Underwood, and his professor, Peter Brown, senior vice president for the University.

Allen, a political science major from Rittenhouse, Morrison, a philosophy major from Pike County, and Wetherington, a political science major from Macon, graduated in the spring. Humphries, a senior communication major from Warner Robins, will graduate in the fall.

Underwood praised the students for their efforts and voiced his support, noting that the University has been working to bring in new businesses to a retail area it owns near campus. “We’re excited about this project here at Mercer and proud to be a part of it,” Underwood said, “and I’m especially proud to say it was Mercer students who developed the plan.”

The College Hill Corridor plan originated as a project for a senior capstone course, titled “Self & World: The Fate of the City,” taught by Brown.

In class, 17 students spent the fall semester developing a plan to further Macon’s economic development efforts and connect the University to the city, in order to attract and retain young, college-educated professionals. The work was based on the ideas of Richard Florida, author of The Rise of the Creative Class. The plan that the class developed inspired four of its members to continue last spring to try to implement it. Brown devised another service-learning course, “The Philosophy of Persuasion,” to help the foursome develop the tools to persuade potential stakeholders in the plan to come on board.

With the successful announcement of the College Hill Corridor Commission, the students have learned the art of persuasion while succeeding in serving their community, said Brown.
Mercer On Mission Offers Life Changing Experiences

A new initiative offered to Mercer students this summer is allowing for “life changing” experiences while earning academic credit. The program, Mercer On Mission, has sent three teams to Kenya, Guatemala and Brazil to engage in service-learning. The five-week program, which is designed for undergraduate students on the Macon campus, includes two weeks of study on the Macon campus and three weeks abroad.

Mercer President William D. Underwood said, “Working with partner organizations, such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, American Baptist Churches USA and Buckner Orphan Care International, this program allows students to earn six hours of academic credit while helping meet the needs of people in other cultures.”

The program in Kenya is led by Professor Randy Hardberger and Dr. Robert Hargrove. The six hours of academic credit will include “History and Culture of Modern Kenya” and “Women in Africa: Agents of Environmental Change.”

While in Kenya, students will assist with the Change for Children Project, which meets the needs of vulnerable children, and will perform volunteer work in an Integrated Child Survival (SBC). The Society voted to become the opportunity to come to Mercer and learn about Baptist history for our organization, and we would like to thank Mercer University for its invitation,” said Society Executive Director Charles Deweese.

The Baptist History and Heritage Society’s move comes on the heels of the American Baptist Historical Society’s decision last September to consolidate and relocate its vast archival collections to the University’s Administration and Conference Center, located on the Atlanta campus. Both relocations are major steps in the University’s aspiration to become a national center for Baptist scholarship.

“Dr. Craig McMahan, university minister and dean of the chapel, is heading the Mercer On Mission project. Travel and in-country living expenses are covered by the University, while the students will be responsible for tuition and fees associated with the courses they take, as well as living expenses and meals while they are on campus for the week prior to and the week following the field experience.

By Mark Vanderhoek

The Baptist History and Heritage Society announced in February that Society offices will relocate to Mercer’s Atlanta campus this summer. The Society’s Board of Directors approved the move in a unanimous vote.

“The Baptist History and Heritage Society’s move comes on the heels of the American Baptist Historical Society’s decision last September to consolidate and relocate its vast archival collections to the University’s Administration and Conference Center, located on the Atlanta campus. Both relocations are major steps in the University’s aspiration to become a national center for Baptist scholarship.”

“The Society has a rich tradition of educating Baptists and non-Baptists on the denomination’s heritage and contributions to our country and our world. Their presence on our campus will further strengthen Mercer’s Baptist identity.”

Founded in 1938, the Society is currently located in the Baptist Center of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, Tenn. The Society has more than 800 members throughout the United States and in 15 foreign countries. Dedicated to helping “Baptists discover, conserve, assess and share their history,” the Society focuses on publishing information on Baptist history. The organization produces a journal, newsletter, pamphlet and booklet series, books, and other resources.

The Society began as the Southern Baptist Historical Society, an auxiliary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The Society voted to become an independent Baptist history organization when the SBC decided in 1995 to eliminate the Commission. The Society changed its name in 2001 to reflect its expanded purpose as a resource for all Baptists. The mission of the Society is to help Baptists discover, conserve, assess, and share their history.

Deweese says the prospect of working on Mercer’s Atlanta campus — already home to the University’s McAfee School of Theology, the national office of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and, soon, the American Baptist Historical Society — is very exciting.

“President Underwood is creating on Mercer’s Atlanta campus what will likely become the center for the intellectual study of Baptists in the world,” Deweese said. “In addition, the opportunity to come to Mercer and learn from the other entities that are there has extraordinary appeal to our board, our members and the staff. We are looking forward to the move.”

Baptist Heritage Society to Relocate to Mercer’s Atlanta Campus

M Mercer students were involved in life changing experiences this summer while exchanging cultures and values with students in Kenya, Guatemala and Brazil.
Mercer University School of Medicine is partnering with Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta to offer its Master of Family Therapy (MFT) degree program in Atlanta, beginning this fall. Recipients of the Master of Family Therapy degree will be eligible to apply to the state of Georgia for licensure for the independent practice of family therapy.

Atlanta is one of the few major metropolitan areas without a master’s level family therapy degree accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). Concerned about this deficit, the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy made establishing such a program into the Atlanta area one of its major goals for several years, according to Dr. Martin Dalton, Dean of the Mercer School of Medicine. “Our partnership with Piedmont Healthcare through the Center for Family Therapy, a master’s degree in Counseling and Human Systems and a bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Florida State University. Classes will begin on September 18. To be considered for admission, applicants should hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 system. Applicants must have completed one course each in Personality Theory and Psychopathology (Abnormal Psychology) and must have satisfac- torily results on either the GRE or MAT. 

MercerUniversity School of Medicine in Atlanta is developing a Physician Assistant Program in conjunction with its educational partnership — Piedmont Healthcare of Atlanta. The graduate program is recruiting its inaugural class for January 2008 while working toward provisional accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. “Mercer University has a proud history of developing professional education programs to address the work force needs of Georgia, including the establishment of its medical school and engineering school,” said Brad Schwartz, M.S., PA-C, the director of the College’s Physician Assistant Program. “We are continuing that tradition by helping to develop this important program.”

“Since the U.S. population ages, there will be fewer health care providers and greater patient care needs,” he explained. “This program will help meet the medical needs of our state and our nation by providing highly qualified physician assistants over the ensuing years.”

The master’s degree program is part of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, formerly known as the School of Pharmacy, which is home to a nationally ranked Doctor of Pharmacy program and a growing Ph.D. program in pharmaceutics. The new Physician Assistant Program was a catalyst to changing the name of Mercer’s 104-year-old phar- macy school on July 1, 2006. The 28-month physician assistant program will be based on Mercer’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Colleges in Atlanta and will eventually enroll up to 50 graduate candidates per year. “The initial class will be 26 students followed by a steady growth of the next four years,” said Schwartz, who joined Mercer in October 2006 following a national search. He previously served as the associate director at the Emory University Physician Assistant Program.

The program is designed with 13 months of initial classroom instruction, followed by 15 months of professional didactics and clinical rotations. “The clinical rotations will consist of nine core and two elective five-week clinical experiences, interspersed with a series of professional didactic sessions,” Schwartz said. “By the conclusion of the summer, students’ clinical rotations, they will return to the campus for a final three-week capstone experience prior to graduation.”

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The time required clinical ‘core’ rotations include: family practice, pediatrics, women’s health, emergency medicine, surgery, internal medicine-outpatient, internal medicine-inpatient, behavioral medicine and orthopedics. Students will also be allowed to take two elective clinical rotations. “The University is moving steadily toward securing provisional accreditation,” Schwartz said. The expected outcome of the program’s application for provisional accreditation will be announced in September. 

Schwartz has hired one full-time faculty member and one staff member and recently hired a part-time Medical Director — Dr. Philip Brachman. Dr. Brachman is an internal medicine/infectious disease specialist on staff at Piedmont Hospital and is the president-elect to the medical staff.

“Mercer is pleased to be part of meeting this community need by providing a training environment for students in the Marriage and Family Therapy program,” said Michele M. Moulder, executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Piedmont Healthcare. “Our Center for Health and Learning partnership with Mercer University aims to further the education of students interested in pursuing healthcare-related degrees and to supplement the workforce of the future.”

For more information about the MFT program, visit medicine.mercer.edu/Academics/Degree/20Programs/mft
The Mercerian Experience, Research Areas Add Flavor to SSBE Faculty

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The Professional MBA is also educating directors, including several from Memorial. Medical doctors are also business owners, points out MBA candidate Dr. Michael Osmondson, FACEP, who is one of the biggest gaps in physician training. Osmondson is the president and managing partner of Georgia Emergency Physician Specialists LLC, which contracts with Memorial.

“As a physician, my training in business matters was very thin. I am now the managing partner of a 19-physician emergency medicine group and find that I have a real need for formal business training,” Osmondson said. “I chose to pursue my MBA in the hope that it would better prepare me to meet the challenges that practice management creates. I have found that Mercer’s Professional MBA program has exceeded my expectations and I know that I will leave this program armed with the skills necessary to properly manage my business into the future.”

Experience, Research Areas Add Flavor to SSBE Faculty

By Mark Vanderpool

Business School Takes Professional MBA to Savannah

By Mark Vanderpool

“We’ve received a great response to this program, and we’re preparing for our second cohort now,” said Dr. William Mourn, interim dean of the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. “We began this program with the idea that it would meet the needs of Savannah’s rapidly growing economy. Fast-growing companies must have well-trained, visionary managers and executors, and we believe this program is designed to train those leaders.”

The 16-month Professional MBA is aimed at business professionals with at least four years of experience looking for a degree that will help them advance their careers. Classes are held on Friday afternoons and all day Saturday every other week. Periodic retreats provide for concentrated study on specific business topics, including a weeklong Best Practices Field Residency, where students meet with top executives of companies successfully operating in today’s competitive market.

The program is designed with cross-functional, thematically based courses that are taught by teams of professors. Unlike the traditional MBA model, which offers separate courses in such areas as accounting, finance, management, and marketing, the Professional MBA curriculum emphasizes how these areas interact and function together in order for candidates to gain the broad perspective needed for effective decision making. Because all candidates are experienced professionals, the classroom becomes an interactive learning environment with the candidates bringing their experience to the dialogue with the faculty team.

MBA candidates learn through classroom discussions, presentations, team projects, research and technology-based interaction. Throughout the program, candidates interact with visiting business leaders. These executives will bring their insights and experience to the classroom as they discuss how their companies and how they address the demands of competition in today’s marketplace and that is making an impact with candidates.

“The program has given me the opportunity to develop the necessary business skills to advance my career in the dynamic global environment,” said Robert O’Dell, EOG ‘94, an MBA candidate and electrical systems engineer at Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. “Working with multiple faculty at each class session has provided added depth to discussion topics, and the multi-disciplinary classroom setting has proven to be an effective approach to graduate education.”

The Professional MBA is the second program Mercer offers in the Savannah area. Since 1996, Mercer University’s School of Medicine has partnered with Memorial Health University Medical Center to educate future doctors. Half of the third- and fourth-year students in the School of Medicine complete their doctor of medicine studies at the award-winning medical center, with many continuing there in their residencies. The program will be expanded further to include a full Medical School campus in Savannah next fall.

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Tift Takes Lead in Early Care, Education

By Tiffany McIntosh, Mercer Student

Tift is leading the way as the first university in Georgia to offer a bachelor of science in education degree in early care and education. Mercer’s Tift College of Education also is the leader for the state’s efforts to develop curricula to meet certification standards for birth through five programs. The program started,” says Elkins. “Tift holds a doctor of education in human resources from The George Washington University, going to school part-time while maintaining her career as a human resource and organizational effectiveness, including nearly 18 years of experience in the field, is one of the nation’s foremost economic experts on China. In the area of international economics, Prise is an oil-cited source on Asia and China, having established the China Research Center. Prine has studied the country and studied in the

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“My goal at Mercer is to help internationalize the curriculum and expose people to Asia and China,” she said.

The new faculty complement our diverse and engaged faculty who are already here, making for a great educational experience for our students,” Lynch said. “I chose to pursue my MBA in the hope that it would better prepare me to meet the challenges that practice management creates. I have found that Mercer’s Professional MBA program has exceeded my expectations and I know that I will leave this program armed with the skills necessary to properly manage my business into the future.”

sor. Dr. Allen Lynch, associate professor of economics, spent part of March on the radio in Georgia speaking about two statistical models he created with a colleague in the Economics department. The models were used to successfully predict the results of individual tournament games.

“The community is great, the educational experience for our students,” Lynch said. “I chose to pursue my MBA in the hope that it would better prepare me to meet the challenges that practice management creates. I have found that Mercer’s Professional MBA program has exceeded my expectations and I know that I will leave this program armed with the skills necessary to properly manage my business into the future.”

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**Engineering Professors Continue to Lead the Way**

By Bradley Bodiford, Mercer Student

During this academic year, three professors from the School of Engineering have raised the profile of the School and Mercer. Electrical Engineering Professor Clayton Paul won the highest teaching honor in his field, while Associate Dean Michael Leonard served as a keynote speaker for an international management conference in Thailand, and Associate Professor Philip McCreanor promoted the freshman engineering design project at the international Frontiers in Education Conference.

Dean M. Duane Aldridge was pleased with the recognition bestowed on his professors. “We are honored to have faculty members who receive such recognition at international, national and regional levels,” Aldridge said.

Clayton Paul received the prestigious IEEE 2007 Undergraduate Teaching Award, marking him as the world’s best electrical engineering teacher.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the largest electrical engineering society in the world, honored Paul for his “outstanding excellence and creativity in the preparation of instructional material and inspirational teaching of undergraduate engineering students.”

After being nominated by Dean Aldridge, Paul was selected to be the only recipient of the award among 350,000 other IEEE members.

Paul’s passion for teaching ignited as a graduate assistant and has now transformed into over 40 years of teaching experience. “I thoroughly enjoy phrasing an explanation in a way that no one else can, and then watching the students faces light up when they understand, what I call the ‘aha principle,’” Paul said.

In June, Paul attended the 2007 IEEE Symposium of Electromagnetic Compatibility in Hawaii to accept his award. “I’m real proud of the award, it recognizes my teaching, which means the most to me,” Paul said.

Paul is more excited about what the award will do for the engineering school’s recruitment. The award highlights Mercer’s School of Engineering’s advantage as a leader among teaching-oriented engineering schools.

“We can’t buy publicity like that,” Paul said.

In December, Leonard traveled to Thailand to speak to more than 400 industrial management experts assembled from more than 20 countries.

“He was invited to be the keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering and Management System Conference held in Bangkok,” Leonard said.

Leonard also spoke at several Thai universities, including Chiang Mai University, Mahidol University, and the Asian Institute of Technology, where he emphasized the trend of engineering education to focus more on the school’s outcomes instead of the school’s process and structure.

“When judging engineering schools, we ask ourselves, what do the students know how to do when they graduate?” Leonard said.

Leonard spoke on how the most effective engineering schools focus on realistic examples and relevant experience. Mercer has been represented statewise as well. In October, McCreanor conducted a workshop demonstrating Mercer’s freshman design project in San Diego, Calif., at the Frontiers in Education Conference, which hosted all types of engineers from around the world.

“McCreanor, the leader of Mercer’s freshman design sequence, was chosen to attend because Mercer’s program encompasses the entire engineering process and has served as an example to other schools,” Leonard said.

“The conference allowed engineers to share intellectual knowledge, which provides the opportunity to improve and adapt through peer review, and it validates what you’re doing as well,” McCreanor said.

Each year, first-year engineering students break into small teams to participate in a highly involved project in which they design and build a vehicle with K’Nex building kits.

The groups are challenged to create a vehicle to compete in one of several categories, includingambitious and tug-of-war challenges, as well as several other categories. The sequence helps to involve first-year students in a simulated, but realistic, engineering experience and serves as a building block for their education, preparing them for the real world.

**Ph.D. Program Adds Higher Education Leadership Track**

By Mark Vanderhoek

Building on the momentum of the success with its Educational Leadership programs for school leaders, the 7th College of Education will add a Higher Education Leadership track to its Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Program. The new program began this fall, with 20 candidates, split between the Macon and Atlanta campuses.

The new higher education leadership track is the second in the college’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, with the first being a P-12 School Leadership track, launched in 2006. That program has been exceptionally successful, attracting many more applicants than spots in the first cohort in both Macon and Atlanta, said Penny Eflax, associate dean and the Fred L. Miles Chair in Educational Leadership at the College.

“We’ve developed this program in response to a growing need for college and university leadership in the state,” Eflax said. “This program is unique in that it is specifically designed for college and university leaders who wish to use research-based leadership skills in the academic community. Candidates will experience the rigor and demands of a Ph.D. program while translating that knowledge into practical aspects of leadership in college and university settings.”

While the application deadline for both tracks of the Ph.D. program this fall was July 1, the prospects for highly qualified cohorts is already assured, Eflax noted. The Higher Education Leadership track attracted numerous applicants in both locations, with an anticipated cohort of 10 to 12 in each location.

The 12-track will also begin its next cohort with a similar number of students. That program has done extremely well, Eflax noted, drawing many school leaders.

“One of the things I’m most proud about is that these candidates are already school leaders,” Eflax said.

The current cohort is comprised of state and regional educational leaders, school system leaders from major Georgia counties, building level principals and assistant principals, and a number of teacher leaders. Those leaders are already taking what they are learning and putting it to use in their work, making sustained and substantial impact on education.”

Those school leaders are also proud to be a part of the Mercer program.

“The total program is awesome,” said Navella Jean Walker, executive director of Academic Achievement for Gwinnett County Schools.

“Mercer has a reputation for quality and to have the opportunity to be in the charter cohort of the Educational Leadership Ph.D. program is not only an awesome opportunity, it is also an awesome responsibility.”

The Higher Education Leadership track is a three-year, 63-semester-hour program designed to be completed in cohorts while candidates continue to work. Classes are held in the evenings and on Saturdays during the school year and include summer courses.

The program also has four support features for candidates: The Leadership Academy, a once per semester Saturday session to bring candidates together to meet with education experts; The Leadership Portfolio, an electronic portfolio each candidate will maintain to showcase his or her work and experience through the program; The Online Leadership Network, which will enable candidates to communicate with other members of the cohort.

“This program is unique in that it is specifically designed for college and university leaders who wish to use research-based leadership skills in the academic community.”

Eflax said.

“educational Leadership candidates attend a seminar during the Spring 2007 Elites Leadership Academy in Atlanta. The Educational Leadership program Ph.D. has been very successful and will add a Higher Education Leadership Track this fall.**
International Rising Star Credits Mercer with Shaping His Career

By Denise Cook

On May 12, music performance major Keitaro Harada received his Mercer diploma with the rest of the inaugural graduating class of Townsend School of Music. For most seniors, this day is the highlight of their year. For Harada, this was just another appearance on his busy calendar.

In addition to his accomplishments as a saxophone, Harada is quickly developing a distinguished reputation around the world as a gifted conductor. In the first half of 2007 alone, he has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments for a professional musician, all the while being a full-time college student.

"It is such a beautiful collaboration between Mercer and the Macon Symphony Orchestra that attracts conductors from around the world," Harada said.

"I was invited by the Conductors Guild to participate as a student conductor in three sessions of the newly-created Mercer/ Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra (MMYSO). I hope to continue to work with MMYSO and to collaborate with more conductors in the future," Harada explained.

In April, Harada gave two saxophone performances at Little Carnegie of the South in Macon, and, in May, he successfully completed his first season as a conductor for the newly-created Mercer/Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra (MMYSO).

"It was a lot of fun spending last summer recruiting students from all over middle-Georgia," Harada said.

The orchestra ended its season with 40 members and performed five concerts, including a collaboration with the Mercer University Orchestra, first Presbyterian Day School Choir and the Macon Symphony Orchestra (MSO).

Along the way, Harada was promoted from an apprentice conductor to assistant conductor of the MSO. Somehow, he also found time to go to class and graduate college. But all of that is just gravy. Harada considers the greatest highlight of his young career to be his conducting experiences in Russia.

In 2006, Harada was one of 14 conductors from 11 countries invited to participate in the International Masterclasses for Orchestral Conducting under the direction of world-renowned maestro Vladimir Ponkin. Ponkin is principal conductor at the Helikon Opera Moscow and the State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Philharmonic, professor of conducting at Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, Moscow, and artistic director and principal conductor of the National Academic Felix Orchestra of Russia.

"We spent the first week with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra under the tutelage of maestro Ponkin. All of us gave a final concert at the end of the week," said Harada, who was then chosen by Ponkin to travel to Krassnodar to conduct the Kuban Symphony Orchestra with the maestro.

"That concert was sold out, televised and broadcast on the radio," Harada explained. "We also did magazine photo shoots."

Additionally, the young conductor was chosen as the best participant of the master class and was invited to guest conduct during the Moscow Symphony Orchestra’s 2006-07 season.

In October, he returned to conduct the Moscow Symphony Orchestra and secured yet another engagement as a guest conductor for the 2007-08 season. Born in Tokyo, Japan, he came to the U.S. in 2002 to attend Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. He studied orchestral conducting and majored in saxophone, graduating in 2004. In the summer of 2004, Harada was invited to participate as a student conductor at the Spoleto Opera Festival and the Conductors Institute in South Carolina. That fall, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, pursuing a double-major in saxophone performance and music history.

In January of 2005, Harada met Maestro Adrian Gnam, artist-in-residence at Mercer and music director and conductor for the MSO, at Mercer’s International Conductors Workshop, and they became friends immediately. Harada enjoyed Guarni’s mentorship immensely and instantly decided to move to Macon to continue studying under him at Mercer.

"Without my encounter with maestro Adrian Guarni at the 2005 International Conductors Workshop and again in St. Petersburg, Russia, that summer, none of my music accomplishments and development would have happened," the humble artist explained. "It is such a beautiful collaboration between Mercer and the MSO that attracts conductors from around the world. Without it, I would not be at Mercer."

The new Mercer graduate had a short break before traveling to Guanajuato, Mexico, in July to participate in the 2007 Chopin Festival and the Conductors Institute at the Townsend School of Music. While in Guanajuato, Harada was invited to participate as a student conductor during the 2007-08 season of the Guanajuato Symphony. He then traveled to Canada for the International Music and Arts Festival in July for the APEI Arts Competition. In August, Harada returned to Macon in August to conduct his second season with the MSO and the MMYSO. He will also be completing his master’s degree at Townsend School of Music.

A complete listing of Harada’s accomplishments and performances is available at www.kharada.com.

Graduate’s Internship Takes Her 3,000 Miles Away

By Mac Hill

Since graduating in 2005, Carla Paschke has redesigned the School of Engineering Web site, won an award for it and earned a position in a prestigious post-graduate internship program in London.

The technical communication graduate is finishing her year-long internship at UBS Investment Bank in London, England. Paschke earned her position through the Mountbatten Internship Programme, which provides American university graduates with opportunities for London work experience. Graduates from across the United States compete to win one of the 100 available placements through a rigorous application and interview process.

Working as a global education project analyst, Paschke began her internship as part of the operations staff of the Fixed Income, Foreign Exchange, and Cash and Collateral Trading division. "I have been especially proactive in Web initiatives," Paschke said. "Including the launch of a new team intranet site three months after assuming my role."

She recently transitioned into a global talent role in Operations Learning and Development and is now collaborating on the redesign of a second team intranet site.

By applying her engineering and technical communication education, she said she added value to both of her teams at UBS.

"The strong technical foundation I gained through my courses at Mercer allowed me to quickly become fluent in the bank’s Web-based content management system," Paschke said.

She has succeeded by capitalizing on her strengths in instructional design, presentation and project management while working to overcome her inexperience in finance.

Paschke developed her initiative and strong work ethic during her undergraduate study at Mercer. Marjorie Dans, former chair of the Technical Communication Department, said that Paschke always produced high-quality work.

"Carla is a dear friend, a former student, a colleague and an excellent technical communicator," Dans said. "We’ve had, over 14 years of graduates, exceptional students, but Carla set a new high."

After graduation and before working at UBS, Paschke worked for her alma mater. As part of her job at the School of Engineering, Paschke redesigned print and online literature for both the undergraduate and graduate Technical Communication program. Setting the quality of her work, Dean Dean D. Aldridge called on her to redesign the School’s Web site.

The new site earned Paschke an award for Publication Excellence (APEX) design award. Of the nearly 5,000 entries in APEX 2006, 105 Grand Carla, ’07, and JenniferPaschke, ’07, toured the canals of Venice recently. Carla was on an International Internship in London. Award Winners were selected; 15 of the awards were in the Web and Intranet Sites category — placing Paschke among a select few.

"Superbly crafted college site displays crisp professional visuals with excellent type and photographs, clean, fast navigation and persuasive copywriting. Not much more to ask for in an education Web site," wrote one APEX judge.

While working in London, Paschke has found time to travel around Europe, including such famous cities as Venice, Rome, Dublin, Paris, Split, Graz, and Barcelona. She plans to visit Germany, Poland, Sweden, and the Czech Republic by the end of the summer.

"Each experience has made me better appreciate the rich histories and cultures belonging to other regions of the globe and has instilled in me a desire to do more traveling while further developing my place in the world," Paschke said.

THE MERCERIAN SUMMER 2007
Singers Provide More than Entertainment on Japanese Tour

By Jacqueline Johnson, Mercer Student

The Mercer Singers traveled to Japan to perform a total of five concerts over 11 days at the end of May. The 35-member auditioned choir, founded in 1977, was invited by Seinan Jo Gaukin, Mercer’s sister school and women’s junior college in Fukuoka, Japan, to perform for the college’s 85th anniversary tour since 2000.

While the Mercer Singers shared their vocal talent with the Japanese, the Japanese students also shared their culture with the Mercer Singers. The singers participated in an English camp where Seinan Jo Gaukin students taught classes about specific aspects of the Japanese culture, such as ceremonial tea and origami. In exchange, the singers performed string quartet studies and a participant in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop in Carnegie Hall as well as the Intensive String Quartet Seminars at the Cleveland Institute. Earlier studies were with Suzuki pedagogue Joanne Underwood. Their vision, along with their energy and commitment, is quickly making this center one of the ground-breaking stages is exciting life. To be involved with something at such an early age, appearing with the Mercer Singers and in, the singers learned to say Japanese phrases.

In the past, we have strictly done concert tours. This time, we are more interactive with the culture and the people," Roberts said. “This trip is more of a cultural exchange.”

“I’m hoping to experience some of the culture, enjoy the food, and catch a glimpse of life in another country,” recent graduate Nicholas Beige said. Beige is from Harlem, Ga., and majored in vocal performance. Sophomore business major Janey Broyer, from Dalton, Ga., was also excited about experiencing Japanese culture. “Singing is just out the door,” she explained.

Moretti Joins Mercer as Director of McDuffie Center

By Denise Cook

Internationally renowned violinist Robert McDuffie announced last fall the establishment of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University in Macon and named as director Amy Schwartz Moretti, former Concertmaster of the Oregon Symphony in Portland.

Moretti joined the University in January to prepare for the incoming fall 2007 class. In addition to her role as director of the Center, she holds the academic rank of associate professor as well as the Caroline Paul King Chair in Strings.

“The Center is incredibly fortunate to have Amy as its director and to have her in a major role in developing this elite program,” said McDuffie, who has served as Distinguished University Professor of Music at Mercer since 2004. “In addition to being one of America’s top young violinists, she is an inspiring teacher. She will change lives through her teaching. I never for one moment had anyone else in mind for this role.”

In talking about leaving her position as Concertmaster with the Oregon Symphony, Moretti said, “I wasn’t prepared to leave so soon from this community that I absolutely adore, but the uniqueness of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings and my desire to do more chamber music and solo work has convinced me this is the right course to pursue at this time in my life. To be involved with something at the ground-breaking stages is exciting and intriguing.”

As director, Moretti is responsible for the overall management of the Center, coordinating the schedule of the distinguished artists, as well as the coaching, lessons and master classes, and the recruitment of students in coordination with the faculty. In addition to organizing and coaching chamber music groups, she gives private lessons to the Center’s violin students and a handful of selected high school students preparing to enter the Center. She performs with the Center’s faculty on a regular basis.

“This new position gives me direct involvement guiding and teaching gifted string students along with internationally renowned violinist Robert McDuffie and distinguished artists at the Center,” said Moretti. “I also have numerous opportunities to become personally involved in more solo and chamber music performances.”

“Mercer is fortunate to have Amy Schwartz Moretti working with Robert McDuffie to develop this conservatory,” level center at the University,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “Their vision, along with their energy and commitment, is quickly making this center one of the University’s nationally recognized programs. The University is very grateful to Mercer Trustee Dr. Spencer King and his family for providing the support that has helped in attracting Ms. Moretti to the McDuffie Center.”

Moretti brings to the Mercer position both immense talent and solid experience in the music world. The third generation of professional musicians in her family, Moretti began playing violin at age four, appearing with the Winston-Salem Symphony at 12 playing Kabalevsky.

In 1998, she made her Carnegie Hall debut and, since then, has performed across the United States as a soloist and chamber musician. She joined the Oregon Symphony as its concertmaster in 2004. She helped established and was first violinist of the Oregon Symphony String Quartet. Prior to 2004, Moretti served as concertmaster of The Florida Orchestra for five years, during which time she co-founded and continues to serve as artistic director of the Bay Area Music Summer Chamber Workshop for young musicians in Florida.

Winner of solo etudes in the Irving M. Klein International String Competition and the D’Angelico Young Artist Competition for Strings, Moretti holds bachelor’s and master’s of music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with founding first violinist of the Cleveland String Quartet Donald Weilerstein, graduated valedictorian, and in 2005, was honored with the Alumni Achievement Award. She was coached by some of today’s finest chamber musicians as a Fellow at the Aspen Center for Advanced School. In the Preparatory Division of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she studied with former concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra Zaren Melikian, who continues to be her mentor. Moretti’s many recent festival invitations include Chamber Music Northwest, Olympic, Martha’s Vineyard, Seattle, Ameika Island, and Rome, Italy. She has also performed at the Aspen, Margens of Switzerland, San Miguel de Allende, Hamakua in Hawaii, Colorado, and Sarasota music festivals; and in many venues as diverse as the Issei Museum, Edinburgh Castle, and the Crystal Cathedral.

The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings is a special institute within Townsend School of Music of Mercer on the Macon campus. The focus of the Center is to provide highly talented string students the opportunity to learn with some of the nation’s renowned string musicians, who hold the title of distinguished artist at the McDuffie Center.
Making an Influential University Even Better

— Continued from page 1

announce the expansion of the Mercer School of Medicine at Memorial Health University Medical Center from a two-year clinical program for third- and fourth-year students to a full four-year medical program, starting in 2008. Before a gathering of press, university and hospital officials, and Mercer medical students, Underwood expressed appreciation to Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and the state legislators for their support in making the new program possible and to his predecessor, Gov. Sonny Perdue, who had worked with Gov. Riley on the project for several years. The announcement was exciting news for Mercer, Memorial Health and the residents of Georgia, who will benefit from the additional physicians prepared through the Savannah program. Mercer now operates the only two full medical school programs in Georgia south of metro Atlanta.

A Billion Dollar Endowment for the University

One of the principal goals that the Mercer Board of Trustees has set for the new president is to continue the momentum in building a billion-dollar endowment for the University. With the University now in the final phase of its $350 million Advancing the Vision Campaign, Underwood has been actively engaged in meeting alumni and friends of Mercer, participating in fundraising initiatives and attracting more donors to the institution.

“A significant part of my job is raising funds for the University,” said Underwood. “Growing the endowment is a high priority.” During 2006-2007, the University experienced another outstanding fundraising year, resulting in a $30 million-plus increase in net assets. Mercer set an all-time record for the total number of donors — 9,469. Private gifts received, including new endowment gifts, topped $24 million, according to Emily P. Myers, senior vice president for University Advancement and External Affairs. The new pledges, including those to the endowment, reached $22.5 million, for a total of private gifts received and pledged of $46.5 million. In addition to Mercer’s fundraising efforts, the institution’s endowment performed very strongly, producing a revenue generated by more than a half billion dollars in endowment.

Service-Learning Priority

Mercer has a long tradition of tying service learning to in and out of the classroom, and Underwood has an intense interest in expanding and enhancing the University’s service-learning initiatives.

“Students attract very bright and very committed to using their talents to serve others,” said Underwood. “They want to find meaning in their life.” To expand on that tradition, last summer he asked faculty and administrators to develop a program that would take the service-learning experience to a new level, with a broader scope. “Mercer on Mission” was developed to give students a learning experience in helping those in need in other cultures. In June, three teams of 15 to 16 students traveled to areas of need around the globe and worked the inaugural speaker.

“Our country has become increasingly polarized on matters of science and religion,” said Underwood. “Against this backdrop, Dr. Collins offers a much-needed voice of reason and reconciliation.”

Addressing a standing-room-only audience on the Macon campus on April 4, Dr. Collins, author of the bestseller The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief and director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health, spoke on how the Human Genome Project strengthened his own faith in both God and science.

Committed to the Student-Athlete

Athletics is an area that Underwood feels has a direct impact on the visibility of the University. During 2006-2007, he became a familiar face in the crowd at many athletic events.

“One of Mercer’s most successful alumni were student athletes,” said the President. “They have built on the lessons they learned as athletes on the court or field. Last year our student-athletes had a cumulative grade-point average of 3.1. That represents what it means to be a student-athlete in the best sense of the word.” Athletic Director Bobby Pope agrees. “The President believes, and I do as well, that you can have an excellent athletic program in a rigorous academic institution, and they can work in concert with each other.”

The increased commitment to athletics begins with more revenue generated by fundraising. In the spring, the Mercer Athletic Foundation was established, with Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame member Jimmy Carnes serving as president. “I am interested in giving our coaches and athletes the tools to be more successful,” Underwood said. “The founding of the fundraising foundation is a step in that direction. The funds will be used to have a full-time strengthening and conditioning coach, to provide more academic support, better facilities and the finest coaches.”

The sharpened focus on athletics has already attracted a new average of 3.1. That represents what it means to be a student-athlete in the best sense of the world.”

Athletic Director Bobby Pope and President Underwood present a plaque to new Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Bertine Wade.

President Underwood (right), pauses for a photo with Dr. Arthur B. Laffer (center), a noted economist and inventor of the Laffer Curve, and William A. Pickett Jr., Mercer Trustee, following Laffer’s speech at the Executive Forum in the University Center on Oct. 24.
Virtual Science Fair Connects U.S. Colleges to Middle Schools Worldwide

By Short Perkins, Mercer Student

Mercer assistant professor Randy Spaid has spent the last several years piecing together the concept of virtual science fairs and, as the program expands, he continues to log frequent flier miles and travels to international conferences to conduct training workshops and share research analyses.

Most recently, the Till College of Education professor traveled to Greece to discuss the Near East and South Asia (NASA) Virtual Science Fair project, which has been gaining worldwide popularity since its creation in 2005. Over the past few years, the program has grown to include 660 international students with 420 U.S. members. The students come from 59 different countries and speak 65 different languages, with English as the common language used for communication. In the United States, 12 major universities are currently participating as well.

Of the schools involved in the project — American International Schools supported by the U.S. State Department — small teams of two or three middle school students participate in local science fair competitions. The students who attend these institutions come from numerous countries and are taught under a North American model. The winners go on to compete in the first round of the virtual competition and judges review videos, photos and reports posted by each team explaining their projects. Then the five best teams compete in the championship round where the winner is chosen. The judges never see the contestants or the projects in person.

Spaid’s colleague, Dr. Stuart Fleischer, formed the idea for the initiative in an attempt to provide an authentic science fair experience for students he teaches at the American International School in Israel. The two had kept in touch after going through the doctoral program at Florida State University. Spaid suggested using his college students as distance monitors for the science projects as a way to make the project more compelling and engaging for the middle school students. Two years ago, 26 middle school children in Tel Aviv, Israel, began using Blackboard interactive software to correspond with the 28 Mercer students in Spaid’s Science Education Methods course for future science teachers.

“Because they were learning to be science teachers, I thought it would be an opportunity for my students to communicate with real children doing science fair projects,” Spaid said.

The mentor from Mercer worked with the middle school students as they prepared for the competition. The middle school students posted pictures and videos for their mentors to review on a secure Web site. Meredith Manning, a junior special education major from Dallas’s top law firms, Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, also had a legal background.

“Becoming president was the unusual step for me,” he admits. “I agreed to do it at Baylor, and I found the position challenging, fast moving with lots of difficult problems to solve. After a pause, he added, ‘The only person who has given me grief about my decision is my daughter, Jessica. She wants me to become a lawyer and cannot imagine going up the courtroom to sit behind a desk.’

But, Underwood seldom stays behind his desk in the Godsey Administration Building. With a Starbucks cup in hand, he is often moving among the people, talking with faculty and students on walks across the campus and catching up on campus news while stopping for another cup of coffee. He has traveled the state, listening to alumni and friends at events, and has spoken about Mercer at Baptist churches across the South.

‘I have met hundreds of alumni,’ Underwood said. ‘They love Mercer. They appreciate what Mercer has done for them.’

‘I enjoy hearing stories about what Mercer was like and the teachers they had. Mercer has been an important part of the lives of people,’ he continued. ‘What is common among the alumni is they have a remarkable commitment to be leaders and in service. The community leadership and service to others is a real hallmark of the Mercer experience.’

Family Matters

The schedule of a university president often requires the involvement of the whole family. Attending events, hosting guests and meeting visitors often reduces private family time. Yet, Underwood makes sure to carve out time for his family. With daughter Jessica in Texas last year completing her senior year of high school, his wife, Lois, split her time between Georgia and Texas. It left the President and their teenage son, William, to keep everything operating in Macon.

‘We developed a routine that worked very well,’ said the President. ‘After I get home, he will be waiting with the ball,’ said Underwood. ‘I’m still winning, but he is getting very good at blocking my shots.’

In a Day’s Work

Underwood freely admits he is not much of an early morning person. He enjoys working instead into the late evening hours when the quietness allows him to answer e-mails and review paperwork unimpeded. Staff members often come into their office the next morning with e-mails and voice messages waiting.

‘I look at each day as an opportunity to make Mercer a better place,’ said Underwood. ‘That is how I start every morning — wanting to make a difference here.’

Baptist Leaders Announce Plan for 2008 Celebration in Atlanta

Leaders of 40 Baptist organizations representing 20 million Baptists have announced plans for a Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant to be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2008. Joining in a meeting at The Center Carter Center in Atlanta in January to make the announcement were former U.S. Presidents and prominent Baptists Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton and Mercer University President William D. Underwood.

“This has been what may turn out to be one of the most historic events, at least in the history of Baptists in this country, and perhaps Christianity,” Carter said. “We believe it will bear fruits.”

Plans for the historic celebration, which is expected to draw more than 20,000 Baptist participants, grew out of the North American Baptist Covenant, a document that was signed by Baptist leaders following a meeting at The Carter Center last April.

The covenant — endorsed by a racially, geographically and theologically diverse assembly of Baptists — underscores the group’s desire to speak and act together to implement the principles of the new covenant and to address the needs and concerns of the future of the church.

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“All of a sudden, it’s more than science. It’s communication at a very high level.”

Aqeela Dano, a senior education major, found the project to be beneficial as well. Working with the students from a distance helped her enhance her virtual communication skills. “Without eye contact and body language, you can’t gauge their reaction and whether they’re getting it or not,” she said. “So I had to find other ways to connect with them.”

Spaid’s research found that Fleischer’s students became more outgoing in class and their classroom scores in mathematics and science rose.

“Since we had some success with it, we approached the U.S. State Department about including more schools,” Spaid said. The Department was impressed by the initial results of the project and gave Spaid and Fleischer a seed grant to expand the program. The funding is being used to train the participating teachers to a central location for training and other expenses.

The project has the potential to continue spreading to subjects beyond the field of science. “All of a sudden, it’s more than science. It’s communication at a very high level,” Spaid said. “The power of distance mentoring crosses disciplines, including math, science, language arts and culture.”

“Mercer has become a leader in distance communication and tele-mentoring in the sciences,” said Spaid. “It all began with Mercer students.”
Community Service Awards

By Anna Sandison

Harwell receives a number of awards from the University community, including the Stacey H. Harwell Award for service to the University as a Mercer Ambassador for Student Life during her final year of studies. She was a team leader for the Wesley Foundation of Macon, the campus ministry of the United Methodist Church, as well as the Wesley Foundation representative for Kononia, the collective body of the various campus religious ministries. As an active participant in Covenant United Methodist Church in Macon, she sang in the choir, volunteered at the Food Bank, and served on the Care Core Committee.

Her commitment to academic excellence was recognized by a number of honor societies. She was tapped for membership by Theta Alpha Kappa, the Christianity honor society, of which she served as president, Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honor society; Phi Kappa Phi, the national upper-classmen honor society; and Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

Several universities offered her scholarships for graduate studies. Next year, she will enter Candler School of Theology of Emory University on full scholarship to begin studies for the master of divinity degree. Upon completion of her degree, she plans to work in social justice ministry. The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership, service to the community, and commitment to spiritual values.

The prestigious medal is presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies scholarly achievement, personal integrity and character, service to the campus community and a commitment to spiritual values. The award is named in honor of Dr. Newton, who was a Mercer alumnus and professor, Christian journalist, distinguished pastor and renowned denominational leader.

Webb Honored with Louie D. Newton Award

By Anna Sandison

The University community, Webb served in after-school tutoring programs, was the community outreach coordinator for Baptist Student Union, and twice held the office of philanthropy chair for Phi Eta Sigma, a national freshman honor society.

With offers of fellowships and lectureships from three universities, she will begin her fellowship studies next fall at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, where she will pursue master’s and doctoral degrees in English.

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Recent Graduate Wetherington on Road Trip of a Lifetime

Matthew Wetherington, a 2007 Mercer University graduate, knows he wants to make a difference in the world. How? He’s not sure yet, but he’s taking a road trip to sort things out. Wetherington set off on his journey as part of the PBS documentary series, “Roadtrip Nation.” Together with friends Katherine Li, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Nick Newsom, of Macon, Wetherington will be asking some famous, and some not-so-famous, people around the country about their career choices and how they found their vocation in life. Confirmed interviews include the Naked Cowbowy in New York City; Weird Al Yankovic; Jamie Wyman of the Discovery Channel’s “Myth Busters”; Dr. Francis Collins, author and former director of the Human Genome Project; Dr. Larry Brilliant, executive director of Google.org, and Karen Mathis, president of the American Bar Association, as well as a number of workers and founders of nonprofit agencies.

“For me, the question has never been: ‘What do I want to do with my life?’” Wetherington said. “For me the question is: ‘What’s the right thing to do?’” He wants to make a difference, and he’ll be spending this trip trying to figure out how to make that difference.

Wetherington has already made a difference at Mercer, starting several student organizations, including Leadership ME, and working with the city of Macon and Mercer to create the College Hill Corner Commission, among other projects. He’s also been working full-time as a staff member to United States Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Macon. He’s set to enroll this fall in Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law.

The trip began in Cambridge, Mass., and will wind its way down the Atlantic coast, cut across the South, then through the Midwest, and end in California.

“We have an amazing itinerary of people lined up,” Wetherington said, “whom we hope will be able to provide some much-needed enlightenment to our search for vocation.” Roadtrip Nation will post some of Wetherington’s trip online at www.roaddtripnation.com, and the full series will air around the nation next fall on PBS.

Matthew Wetherington, second from right, spent his summer exploring the country interviewing people about how they chose their careers as part of a PBS series Road Trip Nation. Wetherington was joined in this post-interview photo, from left to right, Katherine Yi, producer-cameraman Mat McAvoy, Nick Newsom, Weird Al Yankovic, and cameraman Jon Hogstad.

The son of Quinn Wetherington, of Moultrie, and the late Carol Wetherington, Matthew Wetherington graduated from Bainbridge High School in 2003 Mercer University’s College of Liberal Arts in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

From the Office of Planned and Estate Gifts — Congress Allows a New Option for Charitable Giving

The Mercerian / Summer 2007

The Restrictions

The IRA rollover must be a direct gift to the qualified charity. It may not be used to fund a split interest gift such as a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Also, it is necessary to check with the laws of your state to determine if your state will allow charitable contribution deduction.

Example: John, age 72, has an adjusted gross income of $50,000. He wants to make a $100,000 gift to Mercer from his IRA to fund an endowed scholarship. The tax result would be:

- Increase his Adjusted Gross Income by $50,000
- Pay income tax on $50,000 of the Adjusted Gross Income
- Have a limited tax deduction

This, of course, is not the better option.

Option 2: Contribute the $100,000 directly from the IRA to Mercer using the IRA exclusion:

- Keep the Adjusted Gross Income at $50,000
- Avoid taxable required minimum distributions
- Generally reduces taxes

This is a much better option.

As of now, this provision ends as of Dec. 31, 2007. There is pending legislation in Congress that would not only extend the present law, but expand to allow the funds to be used for charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts which would provide lifetime income to the donors.

If you would like to learn more about gifts of an IRA, please visit our Web site at Mercer.edu/Planning
Two Senior Administrators Named; Search for Provost Continues

President James S. Netherton will become the University’s new chief academic officer, or no later than the near future. In January, Terry E. Whittum joined Mercer as senior vice president for finance and administration. He also is responsible for financial and operational support for the Macon campus and under-graduate and graduate admissions at the University’s Regional Academic Centers. Also he is responsible for financial and administrative matters on the Macon and Atlanta campuses and at the Regional Academic Centers, and will oversee Mercer’s stu-dent retention initiatives.

He came to Mercer from Stetson University in Deland, Fla., where he served as associate vice president and dean of admissions.

Over the past five years, Whittum successfully led Stetson’s efforts to sustain consistent new student growth, including the two largest first-year classes in the university’s history. Applications for admission doubled while the acceptance rate dropped significantly. The academic profile increased, the percentage of minority students enrolling more than doubled, and first- to second-year retention went up. Under Whittum’s direction, Stetson utilized a data-driven enroll-ment management model that is relationship-based and goal-driven.

Netherton to Join Mercer in October

Dr. James S. Netherton will become executive vice president for administra-tion and finance, effective Oct. 1. He succeeds Dr. Thomas G. Eastes Jr., who will retire as the University’s senior vice president for finance and administration on Sept. 30.

“Jim Netherton is an exceptionally talented individual. His intelligence and integrity, as well as his depth and breadth of experience in higher education, make him uniquely qualified for this leadership position. Rarely do you find an individual who has served as a teacher and scholar, a chief operating officer, a provost and a college president,” President Underwood said. “He brings an extraordinary understanding of, and commitment to, higher education, as well as a lengthy track record of managing financial operations in a university setting. I am pleased that Jim has accepted the challenge of joining us at Mercer at this exciting time in the University’s history.”

Netherton was named Carson-Newman’s 21st president on Feb. 1, 2000, following a four-year tenure at Samford University, where he was provost. During his tenure at Samford, the university implemented a new interdisciplinary core curriculum, received a $3 million grant from the Pew Foundation for work in problem-based learning, dramatically expanded its undergraduate research programs, implemented a new faculty governance system, opened an innovative new early childhood development center, renovated the campus library, planned a new science complex and expanded and obtained accreditation for the interior design program.

As Carson-Newman’s president, Netherton led the Tennessee Baptist Convention to expand and renovate the residence hall system, construct a new building for family and consumer science and a new football stadium, begin construction of a new academic facility for business, renovate its leadership team, develop a campus master plan, and acquire key real estate adjacent to the campus for future expansion. He also implemented several new curricular programs complete with specialized accredi-tations, developed a strategic planning initiative, restricted admissions and recruiting to achieve a 50 percent improvement in academic reputation and surpassed its goal one year ahead of schedule. The two new aca-demic buildings are Carson-Newman’s first in over a quarter century.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to join President Whittum and Mercer University. Mercer has a great heritage, an excellent faculty and staff, and an important mission,” Netherton said.

As executive vice president for administration and finance, Netherton will oversee the treasurer’s office, compensation and benefits, human resources, budget analysis, information technology, physical plant, auxiliary services, the Mercer Engineering Research Center, Mercer Health Systems, health, safety and compliance, intercollegiate athletics, and the Mercer Police Department.

In 1981, Netherton was appointed executive assistant to the president at Baylor University and joined its faculty, teaching in mathematics and computer science. He has served as vice president for information systems and vice president for executive affairs. The Baylor Board of Regents named him senior vice president and chief operating officer in January 1988. Netherton also taught in Baylor’s honors program for 11 years and was a tenured professor.

Search Under Way for Provost

President Underwood has appoint-ed a 15-member search committee, chaired by Danie Floyd, dean of Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law, to assist with a national search for a provost to succeed Dr. Horace Fleming. Whittum applied for the position.

“Horace has continued to serve as provost. He is well respected on campus and off and has provided steady and effective leadership under two Mercer presidents. I have frequently relied on him for wise and timely counsel during my first six months as president. Moreover, whose academic field is political science, has twice served as a senior officer of the University. From 1992 to 1997, he was executive vice president and provost at Mercer, before being elected president of the University of Southern Mississippi. He returned to the Mercer administration in 2002 as executive vice president and provost, and has served as provost since July 1, 2006.

After 25 years in academic adminis-tration, it is time for me to return to teaching and research. It has always been my plan to spend the latter part of my academic career in the class-room and with my research interests. And now it is time to make this move,” Fleming said. “I am excited about Mercer’s future and the oppor-tunity I will have as a faculty member and colleague to continue to work with President Underwood. He is a dedi-cated, visionary, and energetic leader, and I appreciate his understanding and support of this career decision on my part.”

Other members of the Provost Search Advisory Committee include: Dr. Darre Aldridge, dean of the School of Engineering; Stuart Botchford, Naples, Fla., ’97 graduate and former president of the student body; Susan Broome, associate director for technical services in Tarver Library and chair of the Faculty House of Delegates; Dr. Lynn Clemmons, assistant professor of organization leadership in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies; Dr. Alan Gilgiever, dean of the James and Carolyn Meckie School of Theology; Dr. Penny Elkins, assistant dean of the Tift College of Education; Dr. Susan Gumpy, dean of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, Beth Hammond, dean of university libraries; Dr. David Mcintyre, assistant professor of accounting; Dr. JW. “Ted” Matthews, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Dr. Mary Alice Morgan, professor of English and director of Women’s and Gender Studies; Dr. Richard Reinhardt, dean and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in the School of Medicine; Dr. Stanley Roberts, interim dean of Townsend School of Music; and Dr. Walter B. Shurden, director of the Center for Baptist Studies. Larry D. Bradley, senior vice president and chief of staff, is coordinating the work of the committee.
Tift College of Education Honors Memory of Graduate

By Mark Vanderbrook

The Tift College of Education honored two educational leaders on March 2 during a dedication ceremony following the first ever meeting of its newly-established Board of Visitors.

The College honored the family of Fred L. Miles Sr., a committed educator and loyal Mercerian," said Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey during the dedication. "We also appreciate having this opportunity to thank Pauline Miles and her late husband, James, for their generous support of Tift College of Education and in motion to prepare generations of men and women to be educators."

The Miles family has given more than $750,000 to endow scholarships and a chair for the College of Education. The ceremony also included the presentation of the first Fred L. Miles Sr. Chair in Educational Leadership, which Jim and Pauline Miles endowed. Dean Carl Murray presented the award to Dr. Penny L. Elkins. B.Ed. ’90, M.Ed. ’92, associate dean of the College.

Elkins was touched by the award, and said she was inspired to be a part of the ceremony, because it honored the memory of an outstanding educator who had a position of educational leadership very early in life.

"Mr. Miles' story really resonated with me because he clearly was passionate about educating the youth in his community," said Elkins.

"Receiving this honor encourages me to continue the work that I have begun not only to benefit children and the educational community but also to pay tribute to the wonderful legacy of the Miles family."

Fred Miles graduated from Mercer in 1929 and returned to his hometown of Metter, Georgia, to begin his life's work in public service as a teacher, coach and principal in the Candler and Bulloch county school systems. In 1932 he was elected to be superintendent of Candler County Schools, where he served for 24 years. In 1956, he accepted a position with the State Department of Education to run the School Food Distribution System, which he held until his retirement in 1969. His wife, Alexa Stewart Miles, a native of Bulloch County also served as a teacher in Candler County, and later as a member of the School Board.

Fred Miles Sr. was prominent in the Candler County community. He served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist of Metter for more than 30 years, as a president of the Kiwanis Club of Metter and received a medal in recognition of his service to the American Heart Association.

After his retirement from education, he became a member of the Candler County Hospital Authority board. He passed away in 1985. Fred L. Miles Jr. and James Miles graduated from Mercer, with James graduating in 1959 from the College of Liberal Arts, and Fred Miles Jr. completing his master's degree in education just before his death in 1994.

James Miles established a scholarship in 1999 to honor his mother, father, brother and wife, called the Fred L. Miles Sr. Family Endowed Scholarship, to provide annual scholarships to residents of Candler and Bulloch counties who attend the Tift College of Education. Also in 1999, the couple established the James E. and Pauline F. Miles Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide annual scholarships to students from Candler County enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts.

James Miles, who passed away in 2006, served as an executive with Sears Co., where he retired after 34 years with the company at various locations, including Macon. He and Pauline retired in Macon. James was active in the Boy Scouts of America, a national youth organization and a Baptist leader, a member of Gilead, a life member of the National Eagle Scouts Association, as well as a member of various for- eign associations. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Mercer and on the Board of the Grand Opera House and the Greek Village Campaign. Pauline is an active member of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, the Gideons Auxiliary and Harrington Gardens Garden Club.

Law Institute and Judge Drake Establish Endowed Chair

The Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute Inc. (SBLI) and Judge Homer Drake have pledged a gift to establish the SBLI H. Homer Drake Jr. Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy Law at Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law.

The establishment of the endowed chair, formally announced Feb. 22 at a reception dinner in Atlanta, honors Mercer alumni, former United States Bankruptcy Judge Walter Homer Drake Jr., B.A. '54, LL.B. '56, of Newman. "We are thrilled that the SBLI and Judge Drake have established this endowed chair," said Law School Dean Danny Foley.

"Judge Drake has been for many years a national force in the area of bankruptcy law, and the endowed chair in his honor will greatly supplement our teaching resources in this increasingly important area of the law."

A United States bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Drake served as chief judge from 1968 to 1976. He is a former partner in the Atlanta law firm of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers. He is a founder of, and advisor to, the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, a former member of the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and a past president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

A loyal alumnus, Judge Drake is a past president of the Mercer Law School alumni association and past chairman of the Law School Board of Visitors. He currently serves on the Mercer Board of Trustees. The University honored him in 2002 with the Monroe F. Snydell Award for Christian Statesmanship and in 2003 with the Mercer Law School Outstanding Alumnus Award.

He has served as an adjunct professor of law at Emory University School of Law and the University of Georgia School of Law. The author of two books and numerous articles, he was recipient of the first David W. Poland Achievement Award presented in 1994 by the Atlanta Bar Association for contributions to bankruptcy law and practice.

Professor Michael Sabbath, a Law School faculty member of more than 28 years who has held the SBLI/Homer Drake Endowed Professorship, will be the holder of the endowed chair. Sabbath earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and holds the J.D. and LL.M. degrees from Emory University and Columbia University, respectively.

2008 Celebration in Atlanta

Work together to create an authentic and genuine prophetic Baptist voice in North America. It goes on to reaffirm traditional Baptist values, including sharing America. It goes on to reaffirm traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality. The group has specifically committed them- selves to their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginal- ized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

The celebration will begin on the evening of Jan. 30 with a keynote address by President Carter. The three- day program will feature speakers and presenters who will address these issues: Baptist commitments and explore other opportunities to work together as Christian partners.

Tentative themes for the four plenary sessions are: "Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, "Unity in Being Good News to the Poor," "Unity in Respecting Religious Diversity," "Unity in Seeking Peace with Justice," and "Unity in Welcoming the Stranger and Healing the Broken-Hearted." Keynote speakers confirmed to date include President Carter, Bill Moyers and Marian Wright Edelman.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the convocation will feature special-interest sessions dealing with topics such as racism, religious liberty, poverty, the AIDS pandemic, faith in public policy, stewardship of the earth, cooperation, financial stewardship, and prophetic preaching.

"The meeting held in January was a historic gathering of Baptists from the north and south, black, white and brown, theologically conservative, moderate and progressive," Underwood said. "All are committed to traditional Baptist values and all committed to our obligations as Christians to address poverty, health care, and religious liberty. I believe the convocation in January 2008 will be an important first step in mobilizing 20 million Baptists to find a unified voice in addressing these critical issues. I am greatly encouraged by the spirit and commitment of the Baptist leaders who gathered at The Carter Center."

For more information about the New Baptist Covenant, go to www.newbaptistcovenant.org.
when I was a seminary student in Louisville, Ky., I worked at the campus bookstore. One day while stocking textbooks, Judith Anne King, a colleague, walked up to me and said, “Here, you have to read this book.” Judith Anne was a great reader and was not easy to please, but this book had really made an impression. The book was Run with the Horses, by Ferrol Sams. If you have ever read Run with the Horses, then you know that it is a wonderful, hilarious, and poignant story of a boy named Porter Osborne Jr. The sequel, The Whisper of the River, is set at the mythical Willingham University, where Porter attends college. Of course, readers of this publication will know that Willingham University is Mercer University, and the stories therein are amazing. This book is still suggested reading for incoming freshmen at Mercer. The trilogy was completed with When All the World Run Young, Porter’s life during war time. When Judith Anne introduced me to Run with the Horses, she said the writer was an elderly physician in Georgia. That was 1985. Now, 22 years later, that same “elderly” physician is still at it. Many people have told me that they thought Sams was dead. One would expect to hear Sams say that he should quote Mark Twain in that his death is greatly exaggerated. Not only is Ferrol Sams alive, but he has written a new novel, Down Town. More than that, Mercer University Press is his new publisher. Twenty-two years ago I read Run with the Horses in a few days — I could not stop reading it. He has not lost his touch. Down Town is a romp. The story is told in the form of a journal written by the town’s lawyer James Aloysius Holzclaw Jr. Why he writes this journal is not clear until the final chapter. It is vintage Sams. The book was released on June 1. Another treasure of the South is the writer Terry Kay. Ever since To Dance with the White Dog, Kay has been recognized as a master storyteller. My personal favorites are The Valley of Light and The Runaway. I am sure you have your favorites. The things that awestruck me about Terry Kay is that his writing is like a smooth flowing river. His writing is mesmerizing. When I first saw the Hallmark production of To Dance with the White Dog I had no idea it was based on a book until the film was over. My wife and I bought the book and, of course, realized how superior the book was to the film. A few years ago, Terry Kay appeared at the Mercer University Authors Luncheon and the crowd was astounded by his words. Since that time, I have had the great fortune to talk with him on several occasions. Nonetheless, I was floored when he called wanting to know if Mercer University Press would be interested in publishing his next novel. He asked, humbly, if it would seem right to consider him. So, in September of 2007, Mercer University Press will publish Terry Kay’s new novel The Book of Marie. This is my new favorite Kay novel. If, as Rammy O’Connor said, every good story is about redemption, then both of these novels are great books. You can order these books online at www.mupress.org. Down Town, now available, is $25 and The Book of Marie, available in September, is $23. VISA and MasterCard are accepted, in addition to cash and checks.

Mercer University Press is producing a new hymnal. The book will be available in hardback and digital collections. The full team of church musicians, collegiate scholars, pastors, and lay leaders in the PSLI in February for the first series of official committee meetings. A preview of the hymnal will be presented to select groups later this year, and the completed hymnal will be published in 2009.

"By developing this new hymnal, we are embracing our heritage and creating a church music resource for congregations to use for worship and ministry." According to Sams, the hymnal will include great hymns of faith, new hymns, spiritual songs, worship music from other cultures, service music, worship readings, creative worship medleys and worship planning tools. As a worship resource, the hymnal will include online updates, CD-ROM database information, production downloads, orchestrations and instrumental charts. It will be church-friendly and available in both hardback and digital collections.

Library of Late Trustee Tom Watson Brown Gifted to MUP

The late Tom Watson Brown, Atlanta attorney and Mercer Life Trustee, gifted his personal 10,000-volume personal library to Mercer University Press (MUP) prior to his death on Jan. 13. The Press will house the eclectic collection at the Jack Tower Library on Mercer’s Macon campus. His library has an extensive focus on the Civil War and Southern history. The avid historian and scholar, who was chairman of the Board of Directors of MUP for more than 25 years, was honored at the 17th Annual Mercer University Authors Luncheon on Nov. 11, 2006, for his years of generous support and leadership to MUP. During the event, the University unveiled a new logo recognizing the contributions of Tom Watson Brown and the Watson-Brown Foundation. The new logo will be printed in all future books published by MUP. Since its establishment in 1979, MUP has published more than 1,150 volumes, with another 34 new titles scheduled to be released this year.

Public Safety Leadership Institute Graduates Fourth Cohort

By Anna Sandison

Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts in 1960 and his LL.B. from the School of Law in 1962. His son, Stacey L. Cotton, is chief of police in Covington, Ga., coordinator of the Mercer Public Safety Leadership Institute and a 1999 Mercer graduate. The Institute is designed to examine current leadership models and practices and to create an awareness of the knowledge, skills and attributes of a successful leader in the public safety environment. The unique PSI curriculum emphasizes collaboration. Unlike other public safety leadership programs that are geared toward law enforcement officers, Mercer’s PSI is applicable to people in all areas of public safety — from police chiefs to parole officers to fire fighters to paramedics. The 16-month program originated in January 2002 and graduated an inaugural class of 15 the next year. Approximately 70 public safety leaders have completed the program and at least 10 have gone on to complete Mercer’s degree program in criminal justice.

Sgt. Chris Cain of the Covington Police Department, an original graduate of the PSI program, was one such student. “The PSI program was really the catalyst I needed to finish my degree,” he said, “and the training that I received certainly has served me well.” After completing the program in 2003, Cain enrolled in Mercer’s criminal justice program and graduated last fall with a bachelor of science in social science degree.

“We are lucky to have a chief that understands the value of higher education,” Cain continues. “The city of Covington also offers educational incentives for its police officers, so we not only have the support of Chief Cotton, but also the city as a whole.”
More Undergraduate Programs Coming to the Atlanta Campus

By Leo Nicholas, Mercer Student

Mercer’s Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta will soon offer more learning opportunities for adult learners. The College of Continuing and Professional Studies will bring three of its programs to the campus this fall.

Beginning in August, Atlanta students can work toward a bachelor of science degree in information systems, a bachelor of social science degree in criminal justice and a bachelor of applied science degree in organization leadership. The degrees will be geared toward working adults, with classes held in the evenings and Saturdays in eight-week sessions. All three will be degree completion programs requiring applicants to have some prior college work. Students will need to attend classes only once a week, which allows them flexibility to meet family and work needs and still pursue their education.

The Atlanta campus focuses primarily on graduate and professional studies and currently has only two undergraduate degree programs: the College of Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing degree and the Strayer School of Business and Economics offers a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

Thomas Kal, dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, said the addition of the degree programs is a part of Mercer’s long commitment to adult learners. “We’ve been serving them for nearly two decades at the Regional Academic Centers,” said Kal. “Now we are bringing those programs to the Atlanta campus.”

Kal believes the programs will be beneficial for adult students seeking career advancement. “Many of the people in the labor market need more education,” he said. “Most of the jobs available today are knowledge-based, so workers need a higher level of education to be competitive.”

Law enforcement agencies are now expecting their officers to have at least a bachelor’s degree and higher positions require more advanced degrees.

“Training isn’t enough,” Kal says. “Officers need to develop critical-thinking skills, and they also need to have an understanding of psychology and sociology.”

“I believe the program will be well received by the community,” said Kal. “We have an understanding of psychology and sociology.”

Future Educators Applaud Use of Video Technology

By Anna Sandison

For spring semester, Tift College of Education implemented a new video conferencing system in the Macon and Eastman Regional Academic Centers. The system allows students at each location to enroll in the same course, meet at the same time and learn from the same professor, despite the 60-mile distance.

The video system setup is simple. Utilizing classrooms already equipped with projection screens, the College needed only to purchase laptops outfitted with cameras, microphones and speakers. Although the technical support staff is always on call, the students have no trouble operating the system themselves.

Currently, only the Early Childhood/Special Education undergraduate program employs the video conferencing system. Previously independent study tracks, “the combination of these two programs — Special Education and Early Childhood — is a relatively new,” according to Dr. Margaret Morris, chair of Teacher Education for the Macon and Eastman Centers. “We thought the video system was a unique way to deliver the courses and attract students to the program.”

The video link between the Centers also ensures that more courses will be available to students at the smaller Eastman location. Six Macon students and five Eastman students were enrolled in EDUC 403, not enough to hold a class at each center, but an ideal number for a combination class.

The new system also reduces the need for adjunct professors. “The professors rotate weekly between the two Centers, ensuring that all students receive what they call ‘the flesh time,’” says Morris. The decrease in travel time also means that more full-time professors are staying to teach the evening classes.

The low-cost, low-tech video conferencing system has not only allowed the Center to expand the Early Childhood/Special Education program, but has generated enthusiasm among students.

“The technology is wonderful,” says senior Ellen Goguen, of Gray. “It is like we are sitting in the classroom together. In fact, sometimes you even forget that we are sitting in the classroom together.”

Students in Macon and Eastman gather in front of the video camera to participate in EDUC 403, Early Childhood Education.

Mercer Educates Addiction Counselors to Assist in Combating Meth Epidemic

By Anna Sandison

The College of Continuing and Professional Studies joined forces with the Georgia Department of Corrections to address the need for certified addiction counselors. Under the new Georgia Addictions Counselors Association guidelines for Addiction Counseling certification, counselors must undergo classroom instruction, clinical supervision and program delivery, as well as both oral and written examinations.

“We’re facing an explosive meth epidemic across the state, and there is a huge shortage of certified addiction counselors across Georgia and nationwide,” Corrections Commissioner James E. Donald stated in a news release. “This joint effort helps us equip our staff with specialized skills and ensures we have access to well-trained professionals who can address an increasing population of offenders with substance abuse problems.”

This cooperative program is intended to benefit the Department of Corrections’ Day Reporting Centers. These centers are low cost and offer offenders a daytime alternative to prison. Offenders report to the centers daily to receive drug treatment while brushing up on their job skills.

The inaugural group of 25 counselors comprises the first class of the Addiction Counseling certification program in January with a graduation ceremony held on Mercer’s Macon Campus. Dr. Billy Slaton, associate professor of counseling and human services and program coordinator for criminal justice at GPS, taught in the seven classroom components of the program.

The program was so successful, the Department of Corrections has now enrolled 90 more individuals involved with corrections and probation,” says Slaton. Classes are presently underway.

The program is currently under the direction of Dr. David Lane and Dr. Brenda Callahan of the community Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Inaugural President’s Lecture — A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief

Dr. Francis Collins presented the inaugural lecture of the President’s Series on April 4. The President’s Lecture Series brings leading thinkers to Mercer whose ideas and viewpoints interact with the University’s mission as a faith-based institution of higher learning. Collins, author of the best-seller The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief, spoke to a crowd of nearly 2,000 about his faith in God and in science. Collins is director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.
Four Athletes Inducted into Prestigious Athletic Hall of Fame

Four new members were inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 16 in a ceremony at the University Center. The new inductees included: basketball player Jack Pool, basketball player Benton Wade, women’s basketball coach Peggy Jones and the late trackster David Rowe.

Bobby Pope introduced the two-time national Coach of the Year Janell Jones as the head women’s basketball coach in a news conference April 9 in Heritage Hall at the University Center. Jones comes to Mercer from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

Former Mercer Associate Athletic Administrator Sybil Blalock, who served as interim coach for the 2006-07 season, led the Tritons to the NCAA Division II national championships and was named California Collegiate Athletic Association Coach of the Year.

Prior to her arrival at UCSD, Jones compiled a 50-10 record and was named to the Conference All-Star Team in 1981 and 1982 and was named to the Conference All-Star Team in 1981 and 1982.

In 1985, leading the Bears to their first NCAA Division I Tournament. Wade was Conference Player of the Year in 1985 after leading the Bears to the NCAA Division II Tournament. Wade was Conference Player of the Year in 1985 after leading the Bears to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Former Mercer men’s basketball freshman point guard James Mitchell was named 2007 NBA Coach of the Year. Mitchell went on to get drafted in the third round (54th overall) of the 2005 NBA Draft by the Houston Rockets.

Former Mercer men’s basketball standout Sam Mitchell was named the 2007 NBA Coach of the Year after leading the Toronto Raptors to a franchise-record tying 72 victories and their first-ever Atlantic Division title.

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FSU Residence Hall Named for Tift Alumna

O n Nov. 3, 2006, Florida State University paid a fitting tribute to a former director of University Housing and top administrator in R.E.S.T.’s Student Affairs division when it named one of its newest residence halls in honor of Tift College alumna Sherrill Ragans. Ragans dedicated more than four decades to higher education and received the award for her service as administrative director of Student Housing at Florida State University.

In 1986, she became assistant vice president for Student Affairs and was promoted to associate vice president in 1996. A strong advocate for fostering smaller communities within the growing university, Ragans worked diligently to create nurturing social and learning spaces where students could flourish.

Ragans retired in 2003 as associate vice president for Student Affairs after more than 42 years at FSU. The residence hall, which was completed in 2005 as the first student housing facility on campus, had in bulk more than 20 years, had been known simply as “New Hall.” The four-building complex houses more than 950 students in apartment-style accommodations.

The Jacksonville, Ga., native remained involved with her alma mater. She was the Tifton Alumni Association President from 1976 to 1978 and received the 1999 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the College. She also served on the Tifton College Alumni Board of Directors and the Tifton College Board of Trustees. After the college merged with Mercer in 1996, she became active with the University of Georgia’s Alumni Association and served as the chair of its Alumni Board of Directors. She delivered the commencement address at the Tifton College of Education Commencement ceremony in May 2007 and was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the University of Georgia in 2006.

Victor “Zeke” Garcia, of Macon, was named as one of the 2006 “Five Under Forty” community leaders by the Mercerian Alumni News. The book was published in April 2005 by The Dance of Restoration: An African-American life in Liberia. It won the silver medal at the 2006 U.S. National Book Festival for its portrayal of a social worker and community leader who created the P.D.B. Girls’ School.

Ragans dedicated more than 40 years to the college and was active with the Tifton College Alumni Association, the University of Georgia Alumni Association, and the University of Georgia Alumni Association.

The residence hall is named for Sherrill Ragans, a former director of University Housing and top administrator in R.E.S.T.’s Student Affairs division when it named one of its newest residence halls in honor of Tift College alumna Sherrill Ragans. Ragans dedicated more than four decades to higher education and received the award for her service as administrative director of Student Housing at Florida State University.

Remained involved with her alma mater. She was the Tifton Alumni Association President from 1976 to 1978 and received the 1999 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the College. She also served on the University of Georgia Alumni Board of Directors and the Tifton College Board of Trustees.
MARRIAGES, BIRTHS & ANNIVERSARIES

David L. Hartwell and his wife, Garrel M. Madison, announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, on June 20, 2005, their 25th anniversary.

1998

Debra Hawk Gosney, BS, and her husband, Bruce, BA, of Warner Robins, announce the birth and adoption of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, on June 20, 2005, their 25th anniversary.

1999

Chandravani Tutt, BA, and her husband, Charlie, BS, of Atlanta, announce the birth of their third child, Sarell Christine, on July 27, 2006, their 15th anniversary.

1999

Patrick Michaels, BS, and his wife, Angel, of Dothan, AL, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Carol, on October 12, 2006, Patrick worked in the Emergency room at the Duke University Medical Center. He also won the Excellence in Patient Care Award.

Mike Randolph, BA, BS, and his wife, Holly, BA, of Macon, announce the birth of their daughter, Ruth, on July 6, 2006.

Angel, of Dothan, AL, announces the birth of her son, Garrison Hart, on Feb. 10, 2006. Patrick and Holly, of Brunswick, announced the birth of their daughter, Lucy (Lucy) Grace, on June 7, 2006. Sunny is a physical therapist and clinic director at PhysicalSynergy Associates.

Matthew R. Hall, BS, BA, and his wife, Alene, BA, of Macon, announce the birth of their daughter, Margaret (Maggie) Ruth, on March 3, 2006. Rebecca is a teacher at Paulding High School in Lithum.

Karin Willis Boneso, BS, and her husband, Joe, of Chives, MS, announce the birth of their son, Jason, on Nov. 10, 2006. Karin is employed by Bank of America.

Rebecca Porter Breare, BA, and her husband, Peter, of Lawrenceville, announce the birth of their daughter, Margaret (Maggie) Ruth, on March 3, 2006. Rebecca is a teacher at Paulding High School in Lithum.

Karen Williams Benado, BS, and her husband, Joseph, of Macon, announce the birth of their son, Jordan Andrew, on Aug. 12, 2006. Joseph is the director of Events and Contracts at Mercer University.


In 1997

Kathleen B. Herndon, BS, and her husband, Martin, of Warner Robins, died Feb. 27, 2006.

1998

Kristi Boughner Latzak, BA, and her husband, Jonathan, BSE, married Mary Charles Hayes, BSE, and her husband, David, of Macon, who attended Mercer, died March 15, 2007.

Jonathan A. Strunk, BA, 92, of Macon, who attended Mercer, died May 27, 2006. He served a term on the Stetson School of Business Board of Directors.

Dien Nguyen, BA, of Atlanta, who attended Mercer, died Aug. 16, 2006.

1999

William R. Waters, Jr., BS, of Eastman, friend of the University and National Engineering Advisory Board, died July 2, 2006.

2000

Mark W. Wescott, 72, of Augusta, former faculty member and Fort Valley physician, died Feb. 17, 2007.

Charles M. Reeves Jr., BS, of Valdosta, GA, friend of the University, died Nov. 18, 2006.

Walter W. Sassa, 72, of Macon, friend of the University and National Engineering Advisory Board, died June 13, 2006.

2001


Tom Watson Brown Sr., 73, of Marietta, died Aug. 10, 2007. An attorney, scholar and writer, he was a Life Trustee at Mercer, as well as long-time chair and benefactor of the Mercer University Press Board of Directors.


Mary Ann Johnson, 91, of Macon, died May 27, 2006. She was a member of The President’s Club.

2002

Kathy C. Lynn, 93, of Atlanta, friend of the University, died Jan. 18, 2007.

Xavier Young, 19, of Warner Robins, died Feb. 27, 2006.

2003

1934

William H. Williams, 88, of Macon, died Aug. 6, 1934.

Elise Segura, 98, of Macon, died Aug. 6, 1934.

Katherine M. Ameley, 90, of Macon, died Aug. 6, 1934.

Spartanburg, S.C., friend of the University, died Aug. 16, 2006.

1937

Dr. Daniel E. Nathan, 82, of Macon, died July 19, 2006.

Laurie Ann Durant, 94, of Macon, died May 27, 2006. She was a member of The President’s Club.

Lawrence A. Rosen, 93, of Macon, died May 27, 2006. He served a term on the Stetson School of Business Board of Directors.

2004

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships

2006

President’s Club Sponsorships
Physician Assistant Program
— Continued from page 3
A master of education degree from Northern Illinois University, a master of pharmaceutical degree from Ball State University and a master of medical science degree from Emory University. Laura Baumgarner, LPN, is the program specialist. Baumgarner most recently worked for the North Georgia United Methodist Foundation in its marketing department and financial department and was an LPN with Pha Care.

A clinical coordinator faculty member joined the PA faculty in June. In addition to the graduate program, the University will have a bachelor’s degree pre-physician assistant program on the Macon campus, home to Mercer’s traditional undergraduate schools and colleges. Undergraduate students successfully completing a minimum of 90 hours of pre-requisite coursework in the program, including all College of Liberal Arts general education requirements and the designated number of hours of direct patient care experience, will be considered for admission into the highly-competitive master’s program in Atlanta.

Claire E. Sams, MD, 82, of Newnan, died March 20, 2006.


Dr. Charles F. Pearson, of Atlanta, died Jan. 28, 2006.

M. Dayne Aldridge, 48, of Alpharetta, died July 4, 2006.


Dr. David G. Hooker, BS, 51, of Evans, died June 25, 2006.


Sara Jane Fraizer, BA, of Atlanta, died May 25, 2006.

Sarah McMurray Harrison, BS, 51, of Dallas, died July 6, 2006.

Susan Jackson Moore, BA, 49, of Byron, died Nov. 25, 2006.

Frankie Lee Barrow, BBA, 52, of Macon, died Oct. 8, 2006.

James W. Donley, Jr., BA, 48, of McComb, Miss., died May 23, 2006.


Thomas R. Speir, BS, 45, of Atlanta, died April 24, 2006.

Jason D. Dugger, M.D., BA '95, 95, of Centerville, Ohio, died 2002.


Share Your Latest News!

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

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E-mail _____________________________________________________
Business Name ______________________________________________
Title ______________________________________________________
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"Chip Off the Old Block" — Please list any family members who are Mercer alumni.

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Mercer University alumni, students and friends have an opportunity to proudly display their school loyalty by purchasing a Mercer University commemorative tag.

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Mercerian: The Life Changing Experiences for Students in Mercer On Mission Program
President's initiative among new service-learning projects
Story on page 2

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