Building an Academic Health Center

Mercer Dedicates Journalism Center

Expanding into Brazil
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THE MERCERIAN, FALL 2012

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President William D. Underwood, far right, leads the ribbon cutting for Mercer’s Center for Collaborative Journalism during dedication ceremonies on Sept. 28. Others participating in the ribbon cutting were — from left — Mercer Board of Trustees Chairman David Hudson; Macon Telegraph President and Publisher George McCanless; Mercer Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey; Knight Foundation board member and Macon resident Beverly Knight Olson; Knight Foundation Senior Adviser to the President Eric Newton; Knight Foundation Macon Program Director Beverly Blake; Peyton Anderson Foundation President Karen Lambert; GPB President and Executive Director Teya Ryan; and Center for Collaborative Journalism Director Tim Regan-Porter.
REGARDLESS OF HOW health care reform in this country is implemented over the next few years, one thing is certain. We must find ways to deliver patient care more effectively and efficiently.

Georgia currently ranks 41st in physicians per capita and is projected to face even greater challenges in providing its population with access to health care in the years ahead. Our medical schools are responding by educating more physicians, including the Mercer University School of Medicine, which over the past decade has expanded the number of physicians it is preparing. But educating more doctors will not alone suffice to meet the challenge. To meet the growing demand for access to health care as our population grows and ages, our health care professionals — physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, physical therapists, researchers and other health practitioners — must learn to work together more effectively as a team.

On July 1 of this year, Mercer University — which has been preparing health care professionals for decades — organized its wide-ranging health-related educational and research programs into a multi-campus academic health center. Organizing our School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, College of Nursing, and beginning on July 1, 2013, a new College of Health Professions — under the umbrella of the Mercer University Health Sciences Center will enable the University to accomplish three important objectives.

First, we will enhance inter-professional education by blurring traditional academic and professional silos. Teaching future physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, physical therapists and other health care professionals how to work effectively as a team will equip them to practice this holistic approach in our hospitals and clinics. This is critical to achieving greater efficiency and generating more satisfied patients. For example, better coordination and a greater understanding of each health professional’s role in patient care can mitigate the problem of discharging people from hospitals with inadequate information about how to stay out of the hospital. This has the potential to save billions of dollars. It can also extend the reach of each physician. Mercer students are being taught how to appreciate the strengths and roles of the various team members and how to value what the other health care professionals bring to the table. Through the Mercer Health Sciences Center we are making a concerted effort to integrate professional education in a more formal fashion — to break down the silos.

Second, by creating a unified academic health sciences center we will be able to educate more health professionals for our growing — and aging — population. For example, we will be able to bring our public health program, which currently is offered only in Macon, to Atlanta. Mercer’s nationally acclaimed physician assistant program, currently offered only on our Atlanta campus, may be expanded to Macon. Other health professions programs may come to Savannah and Columbus. Having our health sciences program organized within an academic health sciences center facilitates these kinds of expansions, and that means greater access to health care for Georgians.

Finally, the Mercer Health Sciences Center will produce greater collaboration on research to find cures and effective treatments for diseases that diminish our quality of life and drive up health care costs. Important research is taking place on Mercer’s Macon, Atlanta and Savannah campuses. We already are seeing benefits of Mercer’s pharmaceutical scientists in Atlanta and cancer scientists in Savannah working together on improvements in targeted drug delivery and determining appropriate regimens for individual patients. Mercer researchers in Macon and Savannah are also working on promising new treatments for diabetes. With the alignment of our programs through the Mercer Health Sciences Center, we expect even more progress on the research front.

Improving the accessibility, affordability and quality of health care depends on greater team work and collaboration among various health care professionals. Few institutions in the Southeast match the breadth of health care programs and professionals found at Mercer. With the formation of the Mercer Health Sciences Center, the University is even better positioned to make important contributions in this arena.

— Bill Underwood
The University welcomed its first five Stamps Leadership Scholars as part of the University’s participation in the prestigious Stamps Scholars Program, funded by the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation Inc. The five students are Cory Zeller of Lawrenceville; Min Hyun Oh of Tucker; Braeden Brettin of Peachtree City; Utkarsh Parwal of Suwanee; and Joshua Wildes of Valdosta. This opportunity will be life-changing for this group of bright and talented students.

Among the five recipients are students who participate in more than 100 clubs and honor societies, as well as leaders, scholars and athletes. Zeller was an AP scholar and student body president at Dacula High School and plans to major in political science in the pre-law track at Mercer. Oh, a bilingual speaker who has spent time in Korea working as a translator and was named outstanding student of the year at Tallulah Falls School, plans to major in secondary education. Brettin, an AP scholar and Eagle Scout, graduated from McIntosh High School and will major in Christianity. Parwal was an AP scholar with distinction at Northview High School and plans to study medical technology in the pre-med track. Wildes was a very involved leader who graduated second in his class from Lowndes High School and will major in history in the pre-law track.

“I am excited to welcome Mercer as a partner university for the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation,” said Randy McDow, executive director of the foundation. “Mercer’s history, breadth and mission are exciting qualities that attracted us to work with the University, and we are proud it shares our vision for this program to be an amazing, campus-challenging force to help attract and enroll outstanding young people.

The scholarship covers the full cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, room, board and books. In addition, Stamps Leadership Scholars will each receive a $16,000 stipend over four years for enrichment activities, such as study abroad or undergraduate research. When the program is fully implemented, up to 10 members of each Mercer freshman class will be designated as Stamps Leadership Scholars.

In addition, students benefit from the program by being part of a national network of talented students, McDow said. Mercer is one of only 25 universities in the country to participate in the program. In all, nearly 300 students will be enrolled as Stamps Scholars this fall at institutions such as the University of Chicago, University of Michigan, California Institute of Technology, UCLA, Purdue and the University of Miami.

E. Roe Stamps IV, who was raised in Macon and is a graduate of Stratford Academy, and his wife Penny established the foundation in part to help exceptional students realize their dream of achieving a college education. Among the alumni of the Stamps Scholars Program are a Rhodes Scholar; graduate students at Emory, Georgia Tech, Harvard, Kansas, the Manhattan School of Music, Michigan, MIT, Oxford, UC-Berkeley and Vanderbilt; and employees at several top consulting firms, BP, Deutsche Bank, GE, Teach For America and the Department of Homeland Security.
Dr. David Keith Appointed Interim Dean of Music

Dr. David Keith, director of graduate studies and associate professor in Townsend School of Music, was named interim dean of the School, effective July 1, and a search committee was formed to assist with the recruitment of a permanent leader.

Dr. John H. Dickson announced in February that he was stepping down at the end of the academic year to accept the position of director of choral studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Appointed as director of Mercer’s Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Studies in Church Music on Aug. 1, 2010, Dr. Keith for 27 years served as professor of conducting and church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s School of Church Music. Immediately prior to joining the Mercer music faculty, he served as director of music and worship at Brentwood United Methodist Church, Dr. Keith has also worked as an adjunct professor of music at Belmont University, chorus director for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and director of choral activities at Howard Payne University.

“I am excited about the opportunity to work with an extremely competent faculty and excellent students during this time of transition,” Dr. Keith said. “John Dickson has done a marvelous job as dean, and I see no reason that we will not continue to move along the path of establishing the Townsend School of Music as one of the leading places for musical education in the country.”

Members of the search committee include Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, associate dean and the Arthur Lowndes Rich Professor of Choral Conducting; Amy Schwartz Moretti, director of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings and holder of the Caroline Paul King Chair in Violin; Dr. Carol S. Goff, Helen Wall Rich Professor of Keyboard Performance, chair of keyboard studies and coordinator of the collaborative piano program; Elizabeth Pridgen, assistant professor of music and holder of the G. Leslie Fabian Chair; and Dr. Douglas Hill, professor of music, director of instrumental ensembles, director of undergraduate studies and coordinator of the music education program. Dr. Roberts will chair the search committee.

“I am grateful that Dr. Keith has agreed to serve as interim dean of the Townsend School of Music,” Provost Dr. Scott Davis said. “David has worked tirelessly to advance the School of Music, and I am confident he will provide great leadership and continue to move the School forward as we search for a permanent dean.”

Mercer Instructor Mitcham Named Georgia Poet Laureate

Gov. Nathan Deal named Mercer writing instructor Judson C. Mitcham as Georgia Poet Laureate in May. Mitcham succeeds Mercer College of Liberal Arts graduate David Bottoms, who had held the post for 12 years. Mitcham lives in Macon and teaches in the University’s creative writing program.

“Judson has been among my favorite poets ever since I met him at a reading 20 years ago,” said Dr. Gordon Johnston, professor of English and head of the creative writing major. “His poems were so warm and human and so true to the lives of the kind of people I grew up with here in Georgia that I felt a kinship to him. Word that he is poet laureate makes me proud to be a Georgia native.”

Mitcham’s work has been published in literary journals including Georgia Review, Poetry, Hudson Review and Harper’s Magazine. He has published three collections of poems, including This April Day (2002) and A Little Salvation (2007). Mitcham’s first collection, Somewhere in Ecclesiastes, earned him the Devins Award and Georgia Author of the Year in 1991. His novel The Sweet Everlasting was published in 1996 and was awarded the Townsend 1 Prize for Fiction, as well as his second Georgia Author of the Year award. His novel, Sabbath Creek, published in 2004, also won the Townsend Prize for Fiction, making Mitcham the first author to receive the award twice. He is also a recipient of the Pushcart Prize for his work.

Mitcham has held fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Georgia Council for the Arts. He retired in 2004 from Fort Valley State University, where he taught psychology and served as department chairman. Following his retirement, he has served as adjunct professor of creative writing at the University of Georgia and at Emory University. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he completed multiple degrees, his final being a doctorate in psychology.
Macon has taken its next step in revitalizing the College Hill Corridor with a new effort to boost entrepreneurship and attract homegrown businesses to the city’s downtown.

The College Hill Alliance will work to create an “Innovation Corridor” to attract talent and keep Macon’s college graduates in town with help from Jumpstart America, a nationally recognized non-profit that accelerates the success of entrepreneurs and their companies, and creates a business climate that supports them.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is providing $2.3 million for the effort that includes continuing the College Hill Alliance’s successful work in promoting a sense of place for the Corridor that connects Mercer University with the city’s downtown. Local leaders announced the initiative Sept. 21 in Mercer Village, a symbol of the Alliance’s efforts to reshape the city’s first neighborhoods.

“Over the past few years, the synergy between Mercer, Knight Foundation, and our public and private partners has fueled a transformation of the historic neighborhoods between campus and downtown,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “College Hill has become a national model for urban revitalization, but there is more work to be done. With this latest grant, we will build on our past success in implementing the College Hill master plan while joining with Jumpstart America to ramp up the job creation component of the initiative’s mission. At the end of the next three years, we fully expect this economic development and lifestyle enhancement endeavor to be locally sustainable.”

“The biggest lesson from the past few years is that the answers to Macon’s challenges, and the key to our future, comes from within our own community,” said Beverly Blake, Macon program director for Knight Foundation. “As we worked together to build a stronger sense of place in Macon, and more local graduates wanted to stay in this vibrant college town, the focus naturally expanded to creating the jobs they need to build their lives and community.”

Jumpstart America, also supported by Knight Foundation, has been highly successful in Northeast Ohio, where the initiative has led to $20 million in economic benefit to the region involving 12 high-growth companies. More than 2,500 jobs have been created and retained more than $470 million in risk capital has been raised since 2004. The organization will work with partners including the College Hill Alliance, regional development organizations and residents to link area colleges and universities with opportunities to foster entrepreneurship and technology commercialization.

Since Knight made its initial $2 million investment in the College Hill Alliance in 2009, another $25 million in residential and commercial development in the Corridor has been leveraged from public and private sources, a recent independent evaluation commissioned by the foundation concluded. The continued revitalization of the Beall’s Hill neighborhood, improvements to Tattnall Square Park and the development of Mercer Village are among the most visible outcomes of the College Hill initiative. The Alliance also has coordinated 42 events in the Corridor, attracting more than 17,000 attendees over the past three years.

“Nurturing local entrepreneurial talent and accelerating the development of knowledge-based local companies are essential to advancing our community as a great place to live, work, play and now innovate,” said Patrick Madison, executive director of College Hill Alliance. “The association with JumpStart America is a wonderful opportunity for us to accelerate our efforts to build the Innovation Corridor using the advice and experience of an already successful, nationally recognized regional entrepreneurial initiative.”

Another key component to College Hill’s renaissance is the Knight Neighborhood Challenge grant program, which solicits ideas from residents for grassroots projects that improve the area. So far, the program has provided nearly $1.3 million in grants for 88 projects led by local organizations and individuals. Administered by the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, the program will continue as scheduled through 2014.
Teachers from Across U.S. Study at NEH Institute

Mercer’s Southern Studies Department held its second National Endowment for the Humanities Institute this summer for 24 selected teachers who traveled from New York, Washington, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina and Alabama. The five-week institute, titled “Cotton Culture in the U.S. South, 1865-1965,” was funded by a $185,000 NEH grant and held June 24 – July 27 on Mercer’s Macon campus.

The NEH grant is part of its Landmarks of American History and Culture: Summer Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers, which supports national faculty development programs in the humanities for school teachers.

“The teachers learned two important lessons,” said co-director Dr. David A. Davis, assistant professor of English. “First, cultural products, such as literature, art and music, are immediately embedded in the economic, social and ideological structures of their time and place. In this institute, we attempted to expose those connections so that history teachers would understand the importance of, say, music, and that economics teachers would understand the role of literature. Second, the South’s commitment to growing cotton with exploitive, extractive and short-sighted practices created a unique and complicated set of social problems, and we are still living with the legacy of cotton culture.”

The teachers participated in various classes, workshops and discussions in addition to day trips to Jarrell Plantation, King Center, Atlanta History Center, Eatonton and Milledgeville, as well as an overnight trip to Savannah. Participants were given a stipend to assist with housing, food and travel expenses.

The institute was directed by Dr. Sarah Gardner, professor of history and director of Southern Studies; Dr. Doug Thompson, associate professor of Southern Studies; and Dr. Davis. The institute also included a number of guest faculty who are experts in southern history and culture. Mercer also received a grant and held an institute in 2010.

Allen Smith, a 2003 Mercer graduate, attended the 2010 NEH Institute and came back to serve on staff this year. He is a teacher at Mary Persons High School in Monroe County, teaching honors American literature and serving as director of the school’s Georgia History Studies Program.

“What I’ve learned the most from the institute is simply how cotton culture is truly an interdisciplinary topic that is not just something taught in a history or literature classroom,” Smith said. “It’s something that transcends all of those individualized content areas. When we’re talking about something as dynamic as cotton and how it affects a culture, it’s every aspect of life and every aspect of discipline, and I think that’s something that from day to day was reemphasized by the directors and the presenters that came in.”

Participating teachers are encouraged to use the information they learned throughout the institute to bring back to their school and incorporate into their classes.

Antwayn Patrick, a world history, American government and economics teacher from S.V. Marshall High School in Mississippi, said, “Cotton is key to society, and we can teach that there’s more to cotton. There’s historical concepts, the racism, the slavery, the reason why people left the South; it’s all connected to cotton.”

“The institute is important because it gives teachers the content they need to understand and explain the gaps in the school curriculum between slavery and the civil rights movement,” Dr. Davis said. “The South’s story is rich and complex and understanding its history and culture requires a nuanced comprehension of its past.”
Faculty Land More Than $577,000 in NSF Grants

Mercer faculty received three grants from the National Science Foundation in the latest award cycle, for a total of more than $577,000. The Chemistry Department of the College of Liberal Arts received $174,474 to establish a “studio lab,” while Dr. Sinjae Hyun of the School of Engineering’s Biomedical Engineering Department won two grants, one for $79,500 for equipment, and the other for $324,012, with a collaborator from North Carolina State University, to research particle uptake in human lung models.

The NSF made the grant to the Chemistry Department of the College of Liberal Arts through its program Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics. The three chemistry professors who will lead the project are Dr. Dale E. Moore, Dr. David R. Goode and Dr. Caryn S. Seney. The grant will pay for equipment and provide funds for six students to work as researchers using a “studio lab” approach over the next two summers. The grant will also pay for Mercer professors and students to present their research at regional and national conferences and for the professors to expand the learning approach to other top-flight undergraduate chemistry programs.

The majority of the grant will go to purchase an isothermal calorimetry instrument, which will help all three Mercer professors advance their research agendas, while also advancing student learning. The equipment will also be integrated into student research.

“A studio lab is an open format lab, so we, as mentors, rather than giving the students written, straightforward procedures to follow will give them springboard ideas with information from the literature and ask them to expound on the literature through experiments, conversation and shared problem solving,” Dr. Seney said. “This lab will build more successful students in terms of communicating, working as a team of scientists, performing research and to think more deeply at solving real-world problems. We are one of the few institutions that provide such an experience for our junior-level students in chemistry.”

Dr. Hyun’s research for inhaled aerosol transport and deposition in lung airways received a major boost from the grants he received. The NSF awarded the $79,500 grant to Hyun to purchase a Wide Range Particle Spectrometer, which will allow him to accurately measure the particulates in his inhalation experiments between five nanometers (five billionths of a meter) to 10 microns (10 millionths of a meter). The accurate measurements will give his research and that of the students in his lab the ability to produce research that is applicable to measuring the accurate delivery of inhaled aerosols, which will be applicable to drug dosing.

The second grant for Dr. Hyun’s research, $324,012 for three years, helps to fund Dr. Hyun’s experimental studies with the accurate particle measurements and will be integrated with the computational research his collaborator, Dr. Clement Kleinstreuer, will be developing at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Such research, said Dr. Hyun, will help create more effective inhalation drug delivery systems, such as those used to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, as well as those on the horizon, such as inhaled insulin to treat diabetes.

“If we can accurately predict the amount of inhaled aerosol particles that is taken into the lungs, we can use medicine more efficiently and control dosages,” Dr. Hyun said. “This research will benefit both the patients and the pharmaceutical companies.”

As part of the grant, Dr. Hyun will have to report back on his findings each year. The experiments will also help to create research projects that both he and his students will be able to present at national conferences, and his research may also lead to future NSF grants.

“I’ve already had more requests from students to join my lab,” Dr. Hyun said. “I would like engineering research to be more visible on campus and hope that the grants and gift will have a positive impact on my research with students.”

Two Professors Selected As Governor’s Teaching Fellows

Two Mercer faculty members are among a select group of educators from across the state chosen to participate in the prestigious Governor’s Teaching Fellows Program. Dr. McKinley Thomas, associate professor and director of the Community Medicine Program and Community Preceptor Network at the School of Medicine based in Savannah, was selected to participate in the prestigious Governor’s Teaching Fellows 2012 Summer Symposium. Dr. Ian Henderson, professor of communication in the Department of Liberal Studies of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies based in McDonough, has been named as a full academic year Fellow.

The Fellows program is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education and the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia and is designed to move faculty to the leading edge of instructional practice. Mercer is second in the state in the number of faculty who have participated in this program, with 26 Fellows since its inception in 1995.

Dr. Thomas has more than 20 years of academic and leadership experience in higher education, with many of his accomplishments in program and curriculum development, including six years with the School of Medicine. Dr. Thomas completed her Doctor of Education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1995 and earned a Master of Education from Georgia College and State University in 1989.

Dr. Henderson is based at the Henry County Regional Academic Center and teaches at the Douglas and Macon centers and the Atlanta campus as well. He has been a faculty member at Mercer since 1991 and chairs the College’s Curriculum Committee. He earned his Ph.D. in speech communication from Southern Illinois University in 1991 and his Master of Science there in 1986. Dr. Henderson completed his Bachelor of Arts, with honors, from Birmingham University in Birmingham, England, in 1980.

The Governor’s Teaching Fellows Program was established in 1995 by then-Gov. Zell Miller to provide Georgia’s higher education faculty with expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills, particularly those addressing how to use emerging technologies in the classroom. Criteria for selection into the program include excellence in teaching, interest in continuing to improve instruction, ability to have an impact on the home campus and the strong commitment of the home institution to the faculty member’s participation.
Taylor Named 2012 Griffith Scholar

Mercer named incoming freshman Andrew (AJ) Taylor, a 2012 graduate of Bibb County’s Westside High School, as the 2012 Griffith Scholar. The scholarship is funded by Mercer trustee, alumnus and Macon businessman Benjamin W. (Benji) Griffith III. The Griffith Scholars program enables gifted graduates from Bibb County high schools with demonstrated financial need to obtain the premier education available at Mercer.

Taylor is majoring in biology on the pre-medicine track. In high school, he excelled in academics while playing varsity tennis, serving as captain his senior year. He was also a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Beta Club, Math Team, National Honor Society and worked at the technology help desk. Taylor served as president of Mu Alpha Theta his senior year and was also Future Business Leaders of America committee leader.

“We are thrilled to have a great student, and a great person coming to study with us through this wonderful program,” said Dr. Penny Elkins, Mercer’s senior vice president for enrollment management. “We thank Benji Griffith for his generous support of these students and the University. We look forward to receiving many more talented young men and women as a result of this scholarship opportunity.”

The Griffith Scholars program was launched in 2010, with the inaugural recipient entering Mercer in fall 2011. As an investment in the students of Bibb County, the program was created to help eliminate the financial barrier to obtaining a Mercer education for talented and motivated young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. As part of the Griffith Scholars program, the University matches each scholarship dollar awarded from the fund. Given the match by the University, the ultimate effect of this partnership between Griffith and the University is the equivalent of a $5 million endowed scholarship fund.

Griffith, president of Southern Pine Plantations, is a 1977 graduate of Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts. His father, Benjamin Griffith II, of Macon, was a longtime, revered member of the University’s faculty.

Five Mercerians Selected for Teach For America

Five Mercer graduates accepted the challenge of Teach For America, the highly selective program that places graduates from the country’s best colleges in low-income schools. The students include Sarah Brown, Josh Coleman, Christina Kivi, Katie Matthews and Kyle Shook.

“I’m doing Teach For America because I wanted a chance to do something to close the achievement gap,” said Shook. “I wanted to be engaged at the ground level in bridging that gap. The disparity between what we spend on students in wealthier school districts and what we spend on students in poorer districts is often overlooked, but I believe it is the civil rights issue of our time.”

Shook, from Gainesville, was a double major in English and Women’s and Gender Studies. He is teaching in New York City. Shook said he is still undecided on a career, but he hopes it will involve education, particularly with regard to promoting the arts in the face of increasing pressure from standardized testing and budget challenges that threaten such programs.

Brown, a political science major from Stockbridge, is teaching secondary social studies next year in Alabama. Though she doesn’t plan to pursue a career in teaching, she said she wants to work to make a difference while she is in the program, and after. She has been on three Mercer On Mission trips and, each time, she said, she was struck by the role education played in alleviating poverty in the regions she visited. Brown said she hopes to make a difference in the lives of her students on the way to theology school — and a career in mission work — after her placement.

Coleman, of Guyton, was a double major in English and French and was placed in Charlotte, N.C., teaching high school English. He will also work toward a Master of Arts in Teaching, with a specialization in secondary English, at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Coleman said he hopes to study comparative literature and become a professor after he completes his assignment.

Kivi, an art major who is originally from Albuquerque, N.M., was placed in South Carolina. She said she will likely stay in education, perhaps becoming a principal. Teach For America is the perfect tool to help her decide if that is indeed the career she wants to pursue.

Matthews, of Thomaston, majored in comparative literature and was placed outside of Baton Rouge, La. She’ll be attending Louisiana State University, working on speech/language pathology, which she hopes will be her career.

“I think we all know going in that it’s going to be a challenge, but I think we can all agree that we want to make a difference in the world, to be challenged and to rise to that challenge,” Matthews said.
Mercer’s Third Oldest Bachelor’s Student Graduates

Retired surgeon and CEO Dr. Roy Vandiver graduated from Mercer on May 12, nearly 60 years after he first set foot on campus. Dr. Vandiver commuted back and forth from his home in Decatur over the academic year in order to complete the final three courses for his degree. During the spring commencement in Macon, Dr. Vandiver, who at the time of his graduation was 76, became the oldest student to receive a Bachelor of Science in Medicine from Mercer and the third oldest person ever to receive a bachelor’s degree from the University.

“I always said I was going to come back and finish my degree,” Dr. Vandiver said. “So when I retired in June of last year, I talked to Dr. Lake Lambert, and he helped me to get started again.”

After consulting with Dr. Lambert, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and the University’s registrars, it was determined that Dr. Vandiver needed to complete only three courses for his degree. He took Old Testament and New Testament in the fall, and concluded with his final lab class, geology.

Dr. Vandiver, a native of Edison, started at Mercer in 1953 and completed nearly all of his requirements in just two years. However, before receiving his bachelor’s degree, he left for the Medical College of Georgia, where he earned his Doctor of Medicine. After 31 years as a successful surgeon, he became the CEO and chairman of MAG Mutual Insurance Co., a malpractice insurance firm. He served there for 10 years, until his retirement. Even in retirement, his quest has inspired his old firm.

“Dr. Vandiver is a shining example of the commitment physicians make to continue their education throughout their life,” said Dr. Joseph S. Wilson Jr., current chairman and CEO of MagMutual. “Sir William Osler — often called the father of modern medicine — believed physicians should continue their education in all fields of learning, declaring that medical training was ‘not a college course, not a medical course, but a life course.’” Dr. Vandiver’s most recent achievement demonstrates a central principle behind the field of medicine — that physicians pursue a lifetime of learning. And we’re proud of him.”

Dr. Vandiver is not the first alumnus-physician to come back to complete his Bachelor of Science in Medicine. In 2010, Dr. Drayton M. Sanders, then 73, received his degree after completing his course work. He delivered the commencement address that year.

Mercer Ranked No. 3 in Placement of Peace Corps Volunteers

Mercer is ranked No. 3 in the Southeast for placement of Peace Corps volunteers among colleges and universities with fewer than 5,000 undergraduate students. In the most recent fiscal year, 11 Mercer graduates were serving in the Peace Corps around the world, putting Mercer in a third-place tie with Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.

“We are very proud of these students for their exceptional commitment to serve,” said Dr. Peter Brown, director of Mercer’s Office of National Fellowships and Scholarships. “It reflects Mercer’s signature focus on engaging students and graduates in service-learning. Mercer On Mission and ServiceFirst enable hundreds of Mercer students every year to gain hands-on experience as servant leaders abroad. The Mercer Honors Program and the Mercer Service Scholars Program both require international service from Mercer’s most elite undergraduates. The desire to represent our country abroad as leaders for change grows naturally out of these learning experiences.”

Bryant Harden, CLA ’10, is serving in Mongolia as an English teacher and said his interest in international work was sparked after his experience with a Mercer On Mission trip to South Africa in 2010.

“That trip helped me to realize how fortunate I have been throughout my life, and I wanted to share that fortune with people around the world. I applied to be a Peace Corps volunteer a few weeks after coming back from South Africa,” Harden said. “Mercer On Mission changed my path and beliefs completely. Before going to South Africa, I was planning to take the law school route. Instead, I found myself joining the Peace Corps and wanting to use my fortunes to help others. Peace Corps has further strengthened this new path, but has given me more experience to help determine how I can best make a difference.”

A native of Thomasville, he will complete his assignment in 2013 and hopes to earn his master’s degree in international affairs after he returns to the United States. As much as his experience with Mercer on Mission altered his career path, Harden recommends the Peace Corps experience as well.

“It’s a life-changing and life-strengthening experience that opens the eyes to different cultures and people,” Harden said. “I’ve gained many friends and a new family in the Peace Corps. My Mongolian host family has already become my second family.”

Top Schools in the Southeast in the small category:
1. Eckerd College, 16
2. Flagler College, 12
3. Mercer University, 11
4. Rhodes College, 11
5. Furman University, 9

The volunteer count above is for fiscal year 2011 and includes volunteers, trainees and Peace Corps response volunteers serving as of Sept. 30, 2011. Only self-reported data from volunteers was used to determine the rankings, according to the Peace Corps.
Two Graduates Selected for Fulbright Fellowships

Two Mercer graduates have earned Fulbright Fellowships to serve in Moldova. College of Liberal Arts graduates Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Bibb, a political science and journalism double major, and Donald Eugene (Gene) Mitchell Jr., a political science major, earned the prestigious fellowships through their strong academic achievement and extracurricular engagement. Both traveled to Moldova as part of Mercer On Mission in 2010.

Bibb, a native of Rome, graduated in May and had received an assistantship with the University of Georgia to pursue her master’s degree in political science, but has received a one-year deferal in order to take advantage of the Fellowship. Bibb was a awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship and will be teaching English 20 hours each week and will devote the remainder of her time to working with the Independent Journalism Center, which helps journalists in the emerging democracy. She will serve from September to May 2013.

“I’m such a cheerleader for the Mercer On Mission program. It helped me to discover a hidden part of the world and led me back there with a Fulbright,” Bibb said. “I’ll be spending time working with journalists, but I also hope to get back to help at the orphanages where we did service work as a part of Mercer On Mission.”

During her time at Mercer, Bibb was actively involved in The Cluster, Mercer’s student newspaper, where she served as managing editor her junior and senior years. She earned a BEAR Award for Outstanding Student Involvement, as well as the Outstanding Senior in Journalism and Media Studies. She earned her Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude. This summer, she also served as an intern for The Telegraph in Macon. She served as president of Mercer’s chapter of the Society for Collegiate Journalists, vice president of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society for political science and as vice president for the Georgia College Press Association. She was a 2011 Truman Scholar Representative for Mercer.

Mitchell, a Marine Corps veteran and native of Fitzgerald, has deferred his Fellowship in order to run for the Georgia State Senate in District 7, his home district. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts. He also served as president of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society for political science and Omicron Delta Kappa, the leadership honor society. He founded and served as president of the Mercer Veterans’ Association. Mitchell also served as a columnist for The Cluster, parliamentarian in the Student Government Association and as Honor Council investigating justice. He was also a 2011 Truman Scholar Representative for Mercer.

The Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange program and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Law School Roundup

AWLS Auction Raises $13,000 for Local Charities — The Association of Women Law Students hosted the 14th Annual Charity Auction and Ball at Macon’s Armory Ballroom in March. AWLS raised more than $13,000 to benefit two local charities — Jay’s Hope and the Ronald McDonald House. Over the past three years, AWLS has raised more than $40,000 to support local charities. Jay’s Hope helps improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families. The local Ronald McDonald House gives families of hospitalized children a place to live near their children.

26 Mercer Law Students Receive Stipends for Summer Internships — Twenty-six Mercer Law students received stipends to work in governmental or nonprofit law offices this past summer. The stipends, which totaled $102,000, were funded by a combination of endowment income, expendable gifts made for this purpose, and a grant from the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. The Law School’s Public Interest Committee selected the recipients out of dozens of applicants.

Law School Recognized by University Business Magazine as a ‘Model of Efficiency’ — Mercer Law School was one of 16 institutions recognized by University Business for innovation in streamlining higher education operations. The school replaced countless file boxes of copied invoices with an electronic storage system, which freed space, saved time and improved efficiency. According to the magazine, “Mercer University School of Law stands out for developing a very effective solution to a challenging situation.”
Mercer University Press Begins 33rd Year with 24 New Books Published

SINCE 1979, MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS has published more than 1,300 books in the genres of Southern Studies, History, Civil War History, African-American Studies, Appalachian Studies, Biography & Memoir, Fiction, Poetry, Religion, Biblical Studies and Philosophy.

The Press begins its 33rd year of publishing excellence with 24 new books in a variety of genres scheduled for the fall/winter season. Highlighted titles include *Prisoner of Southern Rock: A Memoir* by Michael Buffalo Smith and foreword by Billy Bob Thornton, which chronicles the life and times of a respected music historian known as the “Ambassador of Southern Rock”; *The Curious Vision of Sammy Levitt and Other Stories* by Cliff Graubart, who paints vivid and humorous fictional tales of Jewish life in 1950s New York City; *A Church for Rachel* by Charles E. Poole, well-known pastor and author of this short collection of discourses written for those who mourn, grieve, struggle and wonder; *Politics and Faith: Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich at Union Seminary in New York* by Ronald H. Stone, who as a young teaching assistant witnessed first-hand the relationship between two of the 20th century’s largest theological and cultural icons; *A Miracle of Grace: An Autobiography* by E. Glenn Hinson, that chronicles the remarkable life and story of this renowned professor of spirituality and church historian — a true seeker of faith; and the 2011 Adrienne Bond Award Winner in Poetry, *The House Began to Pitch: Poems* by Kelly Whiddon, who writes of the struggles of home and family through the lens of revisionist fairy tales.

Publishing authors from across the globe, Mercer University Press is ever mindful of its Georgia roots, and is proud to work with some of the finest southern writers in all genres. The reputation of the Press significantly enhances the academic environment of Mercer University and carries the name of Mercer and Macon throughout the world.

Books are available directly from the publisher, through your favorite online retailers (some in e-book format), or wherever fine books are sold. Visit mupress.org to see a complete listing of available titles. Call Mercer University Press toll free (866) 895-1472 or (478) 301-2880 to place your order and receive a 40 percent discount by using this code: MercerianFall2012. Taxes and shipping charges will apply.
Mercer University’s growing reputation as a major player in the preparation of health professionals for Georgia and the Southeast took a major leap forward on July 1 with the establishment of an academic health center.

The University’s Board of Trustees on April 20 approved the multi-campus academic health center encompassing the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.

An academic health center, as defined by the Association of Academic Health Centers, is an educational institution that includes a medical school and — Continue on page 14
Although Mercer does not own its own hospital, as some academic health centers and universities across the country do, the University benefits from strong partnerships with a number of hospitals and medical centers around Georgia.

The School of Medicine’s longest affiliation is with the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon, which since 1982 has served as a teaching hospital of the School of Medicine. In 1996, Mercer entered into an affiliation agreement with Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, which serves as the primary teaching hospital for the School of Medicine’s Savannah campus. Savannah became a full, four-year campus of the School of Medicine in 2006.

The University’s newest teaching hospitals are The Medical Center and St. Francis Hospital in Columbus. Last February, Mercer announced the establishment of a campus in Columbus for third- and fourth-year medical students, similar to the manner in which Mercer entered the Savannah market in 1996. This summer, 15 Mercer medical students began their clinical rotations at The Medical Center and St. Francis.

Mercer also enjoys a strong partnership with Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta. The Center for Health and Learning, which the two institutions formed in 2005 to enhance the future of health care delivery and education, is creating innovative solutions to challenging 21st century health dilemmas. These areas include addressing physician, nursing and other health professional shortages, increasing quality while reducing cost, and utilizing joint faculty, student and health professional research and design teams to further innovation and learning.

The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences have affiliation agreements with dozens of hospitals and clinical sites across the state that are central to preparing future nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants and physical therapists.

The School of Medicine’s medical education, public health and family therapy programs also work closely with health care institutions and organizations around Georgia to prepare professionals in those fields.

The breadth and depth of this statewide network of healthcare partners is unique to Mercer among Georgia institutions. It is an important reason why the University was in a position to create an academic health center that puts it on par with some of the most recognizable names in American higher education.
The Mercerian | Fall 2012

at least one additional health professions school (e.g. medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, allied health, dentistry or graduate school), and owns or is affiliated with a hospital or health system.

The Mercer University Health Sciences Center at its inception enrolls more than 1,700 students, employs more than 400 full-time faculty and staff, and each year will graduate more than 500 physicians, nurses and nurse educators, physician assistants, pharmacists, physical therapists, family therapists, public health professionals, and biomedical scientists.

In addition to the three current health sciences units — medicine, pharmacy and nursing — the new Center will open a fourth academic unit on July 1, 2013. The new College of Health Professions will incorporate the master’s-level physician assistant and the doctoral-level physical therapy programs, which currently are housed within the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the master’s-level public health program, which is currently offered in the School of Medicine. The new college will also allow for the addition of future health sciences programs, such as occupational therapy, as well as expansion of existing programs on multiple Mercer campuses.

“Mercer University has long been recognized as a leader in preparing health care professionals for our state,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “Through the establishment of the Mercer Health Sciences Center, the University will be better positioned to meet the rapidly growing demand for health care professionals in Georgia. “Improving the accessibility, affordability and quality of health care depends on greater teamwork and collaboration among various health care professionals, and few institutions in the Southeast match the breadth of health care programs and professionals found at Mercer,” President Underwood said.

Dr. Hewitt W. (Ted) Matthews, longtime dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and vice president for health affairs at the University, moves into the new role of senior vice president for health sciences and will oversee the new Center.

“Establishment of the Mercer Health Sciences Center will enable the University to expand and enhance clinical education opportunities with health systems across the state, align the academic units to increase collaboration on basic, clinical and translational research, as well as educational programs, and attract additional external research funding,” Dr. Matthews said. “It will also allow the University to bring new health sciences programs to communities it serves across the state and provide benefits to undergraduate health sciences programs in Macon, such as biomedical engineering, global health and pre-professional programs.”

The Health Sciences Center has joined the 100-member Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC). Some of the nation’s most prominent universities are represented in this organization, including all of the University’s aspirant peers. Membership in AAHC will raise Mercer’s national visibility and help strengthen its health sciences programs.

“The Mercer Health Sciences Center will provide a needed focus for development of interprofessional education in our medical school and health profession colleges,” said Dr. William F. Bina III, dean of the Mercer School of Medicine. “I look forward to greater collaboration among our University investi-

MERGER PROGRAMS OUTSIDE THE HSC

While the majority of Mercer’s health-related programs will fall within the four colleges of the Health Sciences Center, the University also offers a number of other academic initiatives that will remain within their respective colleges and schools.

The undergraduate global health concentration will continue to be offered through the College of Liberal Arts, along with its pre-health professions programs. The School of Engineering’s successful biomedical engineering undergraduate and master’s specializations will also remain within the School.

The largest group of programs that fall outside of the Center belong to the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, which emphasizes college-to-career programs for working adults. Nowhere in the state are there more opportunities for the students the college serves to find career opportunities than in health care. So to meet demand for those careers, the College has launched a number of degree programs, as well as several non-degree certificates.

“I think we are another example of how — even in the University’s programs for working adults — there is an emphasis on offering programs related to health care,” said Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies. “Improving health care in Georgia is an idea permeating the offerings of the University — even in our evening, weekend, and online programs. In the College, we are committed to producing graduates equipped to provide the leadership that will make the health care system in our state more efficient, coordinated and more patient-centered.”

Through the years, the College of Continuing and Professional Studies has launched new programs and added health-focused programs within existing degree programs. Among the additions are a concentration in health information technology through the Bachelor of Science in informatics, a concentration in emergency services through the Bachelor of Science in public safety leadership program and a leadership for the health care professional track as part of the graduate program in organizational leadership. The College also offers a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling and a Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision.

The College has also built a significant group of non-credit certificate programs related to health care. Among them are the College’s executive leadership training program for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its substance abuse and addictions counseling certificate offered to address the shortage of certified addiction counselors in the state of Georgia. The College also offers a number of certificates through the Center for Health and Learning to Piedmont Healthcare employees, including leadership for the medical practice and health coaching.
Longtime Mercer academic administrator Dr. Hewitt W. (Ted) Matthews has been appointed senior vice president for health sciences and will provide leadership with the newly formed Mercer Health Sciences Center. He will continue to serve as dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

“Throughout his long tenure with the University, Ted Matthews has provided extraordinary and visionary leadership for our pharmacy and health sciences programs,” President William D. Underwood said. “His passion for excellence in teaching and research, his skill in the area of strategic planning, and the respect and recognition he has earned from his peers across the nation make him well suited to lead the Mercer University Health Sciences Center. I am grateful for his willingness to assume this additional responsibility.”

Dr. Matthews began his association with Mercer as a student. After earning a degree in chemistry from Clark Atlanta University in 1966, he enrolled in Mercer’s Southern School of Pharmacy, graduating in 1968 with a bachelor of science in pharmacy degree. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in pharmaceutical biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he was a National Institutes of Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow and a Fellow of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. He completed postdoctoral work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the hospital infectious disease program.

He joined the faculty of Mercer’s School of Pharmacy in 1973. His commitment to teaching excellence earned him the Outstanding Teacher Award, and he was named the Hood-Meyer Alumni Professor in 1982. Prior to becoming dean, he held a number of administrative as well as faculty positions, including associate dean for the School of Pharmacy and assistant provost of the University. He was named dean of the School of Pharmacy in 1990 and vice president for the health sciences in 2004.

Under Dr. Matthews’ deanship, the School of Pharmacy moved from its downtown Atlanta location to new facilities on Mercer’s 300-acre Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta, awarded its first Ph.D. degree, made clinical research a major initiative, and has enhanced its reputation on a national level.

He is a recipient of the Dean’s Award from the American College of Apothecaries for outstanding service to community pharmacy practice and the V. Carlton Henderson Award from Mercer’s Pharmacy Alumni Association in recognition of outstanding personal and professional achievements that have added distinction to the practice of pharmacy in Georgia. Dr. Matthews also has received the Wendell T. Hill Award from the Association of Black Health-Systems Pharmacists, and the Chaucey I. Cooper Award from the National Pharmaceutical Association, both of which are the highest honors given by the associations. In March, Dr. Matthews was presented with the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists’ Outstanding Dean Award.
Mercer Dedicates Center for Collaborative Journalism

Mercer University on Sept. 28 dedicated what The New York Times in a front-page story earlier in the month called “one of the nation’s boldest journalism experiments.” The Center for Collaborative Journalism brings a medical school-model to journalism education while aspiring to use that journalism to better meet Central Georgia’s information needs.

The Collaborative, funded by $4.6 million in grants from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and a $1 million grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation, is composed of Mercer’s Journalism and Media Studies Department; The Telegraph, Georgia’s third-largest daily newspaper; and Georgia Public Broadcasting, the nation’s third-largest public broadcasting organization.

The dedication coincided with a meeting of Mercer’s National Journalism Advisory Board, which convened a panel discussion that afternoon to focus on the topic “Enhancing Local Journalism in the Digital Age: How You Do It and Why It’s Important.”

For more photos and video, visit ccj.mercer.edu/center-dedication

Clockwise from top left: Joaquin Alvarado, chief strategy officer for The Center for Investigative Journalism, makes a point during the afternoon panel discussion; George McCanless, president and publisher of The Telegraph, addresses the dedication audience; Beverly Blake, Macon program director for Knight Foundation, left, and Karen Lambert, president of the Peyton Anderson Foundation; President William D. Underwood greets Mercer trustee Robert F. Hatcher, Macon City Council member Larry Schlesinger, and Blake prior to the dedication.
Clockwise from top left: Mercer Board of Trustees Chairman David Hudson, Telegraph Executive Editor Sherrie Marshall, and Eric Newton, senior adviser to the president at Knight Foundation, pose in the lobby of the Center for Collaborative Journalism following the dedication; members of the public had an opportunity to tour the newsroom and talk to reporters and editors following the ribbon cutting; and Hudson addresses the several hundred people who gathered for the dedication.
Once a hidden gem of South America, Brazil has grown into the world’s fifth largest economy and is now among the top 10 in many important categories of economic and human development. In part as a sign of its progress, as well as an affirmation of it, Brazil will take center stage for two of the world’s greatest sporting events as Rio de Janero hosts the World Cup of soccer in 2014 and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

In April, the Brazilian Ministry of Education invited Mercer, along with 12 other leading American universities, including Purdue University and Penn State, to publicly sign letters of agreement with Brazil’s Science Without Borders program at a formal ceremony at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Through the agreements, the Brazilian government will provide students from its elite universities with full tuition, room, board and a stipend to come to U.S. universities, including Mercer, to study for up to a full academic year. This year, four students are on the Macon campus to study for the full academic year. Through the Science
Without Borders program, there could be many more students over the next three years, with Brazil slating up to 25,000 student placements in the U.S.

“As a university, it’s important for us to align with nations like Brazil,” said Dr. Penny Elkins, senior vice president for enrollment management. “They have similar goals: they are a democratic society and are developing in science and technology. Not only will we help them, but they will help us, through scholarly exchange and through student exchange programs. It will give both our faculty and our students great opportunities to learn from another culture.”

Brazil is first in the acronym, but is not often the first “BRIC” people can name in the group of nations poised to become world powers in this century — a group that includes the more visible Russia, India and China. While it is part of Latin America, Brazil is separated by its roots as a Portuguese colony. The country is quickly moving from third world to first after shedding a military dictatorship in 1985. However, as Brazil has grown more modern, more industrial and more technologically advanced, it is reaching beyond its borders looking for willing partners to help educate its citizens.

ADMISSIONS TRIP

In the lead-up to the signing ceremony, a number of Mercer faculty and administrators made a trip to Brazil. The visit was sponsored by International Education Partners, a company owned by Wayne C. Johnson, CLA ’74. Johnson has had business interests in Brazil and a number of other South American countries for many years. He wanted to help his alma mater make connections to the growing area, particularly Brazil, which with a larger resource base and more industrialization, is the strongest South American economy.

The group made connections with universities and secondary schools, as well as government agencies. Meetings with government officials, specifically the Ministry of Education, led to discussions about the Science Without Borders program and the invitation to Washington, Dr. Elkins said.

“It was my way to give back to the University,” Johnson said. “I wanted to give something of sustained benefit to the University, to help with the internationalization of the University.”

In Brazil, the federal universities are world class, but private universities are less rigorous. This disparity is part of the reason for the Science without Borders initiative. The disparity also means a potential for more freshman
admissions as Mercer offers an alternative for highly qualified students who did not get into the federal university of their choice.

**BRAZIL CONNECTIONS**

The trip solidified Mercer’s existing connections, which already included formal and informal ties to the nation. While Brazil is a fast-industrializing country, it also is one of the most unequal in income distribution.

We began our three-week adventure to Brazil unsure about exactly what we would see. I personally had never been out of the country and was not entirely sure what to expect of Brazil. When we arrived, the airport was very similar to America and, besides the language barrier, we did not notice much of a difference at first.

Our first big shock came from our drive from the airport to our hotel in Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro. We passed through poverty like I had never seen before. Rio de Janeiro is a very beautiful city with rich areas and poor areas. Unfortunately, even the nicer areas are covered in graffiti and the poor areas are a kind of living I can hardly imagine. The homes are mostly open and we were able to see right into their living areas simply by driving down the street. Many do not have electricity and big blue tubs of water can be seen on their roofs, which they use to run clean water into their homes.

When we began our service project in a nearby favela called La deira de Tabajaras, we witnessed the drastic difference between life on the asphalt and life in the hills. Our hotel on the asphalt, or city, was very nice and clean. Those who live in the nearby favela and work in the city must walk up hundreds of stairs to get back and forth from their home and work. The weather is scorching hot, even in the winter, and we could not imagine how difficult the commute would be in the summer months of Brazil. The favela and the city are separated by the numerous stories of stairs. They serve as a barrier and the minute one steps off of the last step to the asphalt, it’s like night and day.

The homes on the hill, in La deira de Tabajaras, were small and built by their owners. We would watch young teenagers carry bags of sand to make cement up and down the stairs to take to their homes and work on the structure.

The middle and upper class people we met in the city are frightened of being in the favelas, particularly at night. However, the crime and drug gangs have been noticeably contained and our group never felt threatened to be in the favela. In fact, we were welcomed with open arms and treated with hospitality and respect. We even attended a resident’s birthday party. We learned that for the most part, the people in the favelas are good hard-working people. We were grateful to have spent our time with them and treated with such hospitality.

— Katherine Manson, CLA ’13 (top left in photo)
Mercer On Mission has sent several teams to Brazil, including one of three inaugural teams in 2007. Many of the Mercer On Mission trips have focused on working with missionary groups in the favelas, or slums, in the country’s cities.

This summer, a Mercer On Mission team went to Rio under the leadership of two professors who share a more personal connection — Christianity Associate Professor Dr. Paul Lewis, who is married to the daughter of former Baptist missionaries to Brazil, and Dr. Bryan Williams, assistant professor of political science, who is married to a Brazilian native.

During his frequent visits, Dr. Lewis has noticed an increasing sense of safety in Rio, which is currently under a pacification plan to root out drug dealers in the city’s favelas ahead of the World Cup and Olympics. It is an effort that has worked, he said.

“Our middle class friends who live outside the favelas are so much more relaxed now,” Dr. Lewis said. “On another visit, one of our friends would have insisted on driving us if we had to drive three or four blocks. This time, we were able to walk and take the train.”

(Katherine Manson, a senior journalism major, went on her first Mercer On Mission to Rio this summer; see her reflections in the sidebar.)

In addition to the Mercer On Mission work, Dr. David Ritchie, professor of law and philosophy at the Mercer Law School, has also worked extensively in Brazil and for the past several years has hosted dozens of federal judges from Brazil in intercultural exchanges where they observe legal proceedings in Georgia and legal education at Mercer.

**BRAZIL INSTITUTE AT MERCER**

One of the many organizations at Mercer that will solidify ties to Brazil is a new research initiative, the Brazil Institute at Mercer (BRIM). The institute was launched this summer by Dr. Eric Spears, director of international programs and assistant professor of geography in the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Spears studied favelas for his Ph.D. dissertation and is married to a Brazil native.

The institute will focus on collaborative research in a number of areas of interest to Brazil and the United States, Dr. Spears said. Among the first areas is an effort to study the political economy of international higher education. That effort came about through the institute’s first scholar exchange. It hosted a Brazilian higher education scholar, Dr. Joao dos Reis Silva Jr., who has a thriving research program at the Federal University of Sao Carlos. Through Reis Silva and his colleagues, the University’s higher education leadership program will be able to study alongside some of the leading researchers in Brazil. And, Dr. Spears said, that is just the beginning.

“The goal is to try to expand the Brazil Institute, to create relationships with doctoral programs, and through research and research appointments we can help push graduate education here,” Dr. Spears said. “Through our service and exchange programs we can also increase our undergraduates’ interactions as well.”

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Townsend’s musical forces of the McDuffie Center for Strings and Mercer Singers join Robert McDuffie, violinist, for a festive musical celebration. Recorded by Georgia Public Television for national broadcast in 2013, these performances will be the musical highlight of the holiday season.

The Grand Opera House  •  Free Event, Ticket Required  •  [www.thegrandmacon.com/christmas](http://www.thegrandmacon.com/christmas)

The tapings and concerts are made possible in part by generous gifts from Carolyn Townsend McAfee and Tom and Julie McAfee.
This year’s Homecoming promises to be the largest, best-attended, and most exciting Homecoming yet!

All-Class Party with Live Band!

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For registration assistance, call 478-301-5675, or 1-800-MERCER-U, ext.5675.
Mercer Receives $1 Million Commitment for Basketball Program

A $1 million gift from Macon cardiologist Dr. Chuck Hawkins and his wife, Kathy, to benefit the Mercer basketball program was recognized with the naming of the arena housed within a portion of the University Center.

Mercer President William D. Underwood announced at the Big Bear Event — an annual athletic department fundraiser and student-athlete recognition ceremony — that the generous gift from the Hawkins family is being recognized with the naming of the UC arena as Hawkins Arena, in honor of Dr. Hawkins’ late father, effective immediately. The gift will be used to enhance Mercer athletic facilities.

Dr. Hawkins’ father, J.B. Hawkins, was the longtime boys and girls basketball coach at Crawford County High School and was the fourth-winningest high school basketball coach in Georgia history.

“The generous investment in our basketball facilities by Chuck and Kathy Hawkins is a tremendous boost for our players, coaches and fans and will ensure that Mercer basketball continues its path toward competing at the highest levels,” Underwood said. “These funds will enable us to make one of the finest venues in the country for watching college basketball even better.”

Dr. Hawkins said he had the good fortune to meet President Underwood about three years ago and immediately realized they had in common a passion for quality basketball and academic excellence. “When my dad coached the girls,” Hawkins jokingly said, “he had the three ‘Bs’ to abide by — books first, basketball second and boys third.”

On a serious note, Dr. Hawkins said he and his wife, Kathy, could not think of a better way to honor his dad’s legacy than to have the family name on a basketball arena at an institution where academics are so strongly emphasized. “I have been to almost every home game the last couple of years, and I have come to love the University, the coaching staff and the players,” he said.

“On behalf of our student-athletes and the athletic administration, I want to thank Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins for their generous gift,” Mercer Athletic Director Jim Cole said. “Their generosity will help Mercer Athletics take the next step in becoming a consistent winner in all our endeavors. Personally, it has been a pleasure getting to know them, and to have the Hawkins name associated with our athletic program is a true honor indeed.”

A formal presentation for the renaming of the arena will be observed at Homecoming 2012.

Dr. Chuck Hawkins and his wife Kathy (center) made the announcement of their $1 million gift to the basketball program at the annual Big Bear Event in the spring. With the couple at the announcement are men’s head coach Bob Hoffman, left, and President William D. Underwood.
After a 70-year hiatus, a new era of Mercer football has officially begun after head coach Bobby Lamb’s first official recruits arrived on campus in mid-August. Lamb’s first class is composed of 103 student-athletes, the majority of whom hail from the state of Georgia. Lamb and his 11-member coaching staff moved into the new state-of-the-art Drake Field House in the Tony and Nancy Moye Family Football and Lacrosse Complex in early September, and began practices on Aug. 27.

The players also received a little more incentive in late August when they learned that, starting in 2013, the Pioneer Football League — Mercer’s conference for football — will gain access to the Division I Football Championship through an automatic bid awarded to the conference champion.

More than 2,500 season tickets have already been sold for the 2013 season. The next opportunity to purchase season tickets will come next spring.

More than 800 Mercer football fans attended the first Meet the Bears event on Sept. 6. Those in attendance had a chance to check out the new Drake Field House and walk out on the Anderson Family Field to have pictures made with and secure signatures from the first Mercer football team since 1941. Also, the fans had a chance, for the first time, to view the new game uniforms in which the Bears will take the field on Aug. 31, 2013.
New Additions to Athletic Staff Announced

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t was a busy summer for the Mercer Athletic Department, as a number of key hires were made in several areas. Brian Gerrity was named executive director of the Mercer Athletic Foundation in June, taking over leadership of the fundraising efforts for the athletic department. Prior to joining the Mercer staff, Gerrity served as an assistant athletic director for external relations at the University of Hartford. In that capacity, Gerrity provided direct oversight of the marketing department and ticket operations while boosting corporate sponsorship revenue by 31 percent over a two-year period.

The Athletic Media Relations Department also underwent some changes in late July, providing an influx of stability and familiarity into the unit. Andy Stabell was promoted from his assistant media relations director position that he has held for the past three years to director of media relations. Jeff Graham, a former assistant media relations director, was appointed the director of new media. Lastly, Jason Farhadi, who served as the director of media relations and operations for the baseball and men’s soccer teams last year, was promoted to the role of assistant media relations director. The trio of Stabell, Graham and Farhadi has been working together at Mercer for three years and will spearhead the media coverage of all 16 Division I sports.

Director of Athletics Jim Cole named Kyle Hannan as head men’s lacrosse coach in early August. Hannan had previously been head coach at Division III Goucher College in Maryland for 12 years, where he compiled an impressive 179-122 record with the Eagles. Mercer also hired David Jadin as the new men’s lacrosse assistant coach. Jadin will serve as the Bears’ defensive coordinator, a position he previously held at Goucher College for two years.

Finally, women’s soccer head coach Tony Economopoulos named Brenton Saylor as his first full-time assistant coach. Saylor comes to Mercer by way of Eastern Kentucky, where he served as an assistant coach for the past two years. Before he got into coaching, Saylor was the starting goalkeeper at Lambuth University in Tennessee from 2004-07 where he was an NAIA All-American honorable mention selection as a senior.

The men’s basketball team received the fruit of its labors as each player, coach and staff member was rewarded for the landmark 2012 CollegeInsider.com Tournament run with a championship ring.

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each ring was personally fitted for size and included the recipient’s name along with CIT and Mercer logos. The face of the ring, shown here, features a black, textured surface with the block Mercer logo, surrounded by the words “Mercer Basketball” and bordered by stones. This fall, the team will be formally presented with the rings during a congratulatory ceremony as part of Homecoming Weekend.
Two pillars of the Mercer athletic family reaffirmed their commitment to the University over the summer by agreeing to contract amendments that will keep them in Orange and Black through the 2017 academic year.

Mercer Director of Athletics Jim Cole announced on July 24 that head baseball coach Craig Gibson agreed to terms on a two-year contract extension, keeping him as the club’s skipper through the 2017 season.

Two days later, Cole announced that head men’s basketball head coach Bob Hoffman was rewarded with a new contract in the wake of the team’s record-breaking 2011-12 season.

“I am excited to get this deal done with Craig because he exemplifies the commitment to academic and athletic excellence that Mercer stands for,” Cole said. “Craig is the ideal leader of our baseball program for the future, and I would be proud to have my own son play for someone of his character.”

Gibson completed his ninth season as the Bears’ head coach in 2012, leading Mercer to a 38-21 overall record and a seventh straight trip to the Atlantic Sun Tournament. The Macon native has a 277-233 all-time record at the school and is the second-winningest coach in program history.

“I want to first thank our Director of Athletics Jim Cole and the rest of our administration for their continued support of both me and the Mercer baseball program,” Gibson said. “I am honored to continue to serve as the head baseball coach here at Mercer and excited about the direction and future of our program and the athletic department as a whole.”

Gibson has led the Bears to recent prominence with a 115-65 record over the last three seasons, marking the program’s best three-year run. Mercer’s 115 wins over that span are the 29th most in the nation and tops among Atlantic Sun Conference schools.

In 2010, Gibson led the Bears to their fourth A-Sun Championship and first NCAA Tournament appearance. A year later, his 2011 squad tied the program single-season standard with a 39-20 overall record.

Thirty-two players have garnered first- and second-team A-Sun All-Conference recognition under Gibson, while three players — Andrew Urena, Jacob Tanis and Nick Backlund — have earned All-America recognition.

In addition to on-field success, another trademark of Gibson’s program is academic achievement. Individual academic prestige has come in the form of COSIDA Academic All-America third-team honors for Billy Burns (2010) and Mike Armstrong (2006), while 22 current team members earned at least a 3.0 grade point average during the 2012 competitive season.

Hoffman’s new five-year deal solidified him as the program leader through the 2016-17 season and replaced a five-year deal signed in June of 2010.

“Bob has done a tremendous job taking the men’s basketball program to new heights,” Cole said. “We were proud to extend this offer and look forward to the team’s continued success on and off the court.”

Hoffman’s latest season on the hardwood was marked by unprecedented success, as the Bears rewrote the program record books on their way to the CollegeInsider.com Tournament championship. The final buzzer saw the team book a 27-11 overall record, establishing a program record for single-season wins.

The landmark coaching effort elicited praise from around the collegiate basketball world, with SI.com listing Hoffman among the nation’s elite coaches and both Bleacher Report and CollegeInsider.com putting the team on their respective season-end top-25 mid-major polls.

“It’s a blessing to get the opportunity to continue to do what we’ve been doing,” Hoffman said. “President Underwood, Jim Cole and the entire administration have been great to us, and this is just another example of how they continue to help us compete at the highest level.”

Overall, Hoffman holds a 75-61 record as head coach at Mercer since beginning his tenure with the school in the 2008-09 season. In all four years, his teams have qualified for the Atlantic Sun Championship, highlighted by a championship final appearance in 2010. Hoffman’s 75 wins in four seasons equals the program-best win total over a four-year period.

“This also plays an important role in recruiting,” Hoffman said. “We have confidence in every home visit talking about the commitment the University has made to our staff.”

Hoffman’s teams have also been a consistent force in the classroom, with 50 percent of his student-athletes earning at least a 3.0 grade point average. Annual community service efforts at local schools, hospitals and charity events are also a staple of the Hoffman era.
Savannah Campus Among Medical Schools Experimenting with a Three-Year Degree

The Mercer School of Medicine is one of several medical schools experimenting with three-year degree programs in response to concerns about nationwide shortages of primary care physicians and rising student debts. The concept is to condense the course of study by eliminating breaks and electives and allowing students to begin clerkship training in their second year, a year earlier than the traditional four-year curriculum.

Many students in traditional programs spend their fourth year primarily doing specialty rotations and interviewing for residency positions. Students who know they want to go into family medicine from the start don’t necessarily need that fourth year, said Robert Pallay, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Mercer School of Medicine’s campus in Savannah.

“There are many of us in medical education who wonder about the need for the fourth year of medical school,” he said. “The issue here is, ‘What does society need?’ What our society needs right now is a significant increase in the number of family physicians.”

In the last five years, at least four schools have initiated or are developing three-year programs. A consortium of six schools, including Texas Tech, Mercer and LSU, has applied for $23 million in federal grants from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to expand the three-year model to more campuses. Other schools in the consortium are Indiana University School of Medicine, East Tennessee State University, Quillen College of Medicine and the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, said Ronald Cook, D.O., chair of Texas Tech’s Family and Community Medicine Department. The innovation center is expected to announce grant recipients soon.

Although the schools may follow some similar approaches, each will implement its program differently, Dr. Cook said. “You can’t just have a blanket curriculum,” he said. “Every school’s curriculum is a bit different.”

The traditional four-year design has been in place at least since educator Abraham Flexner published his influential report on medical education in 1910. It called for students to have two years of basic sciences and two years of clinical training.

Though most medical schools have followed that model, three-year programs are not new. Some schools, including the Medical College of Virginia, offered three-year programs during World War II. In the 1980s and 1990s, about a dozen schools offered accelerated programs that allowed students to begin residency training while finishing their fourth year of medical school.

In Canada, the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine and McMaster University Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine have had a three-year curriculum for all students for years, said Dan Hunt, M.D., co-secretary of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which accredits allopathic schools in the U.S. and Canada.

Some argue that U.S. students should be trained in less than four years. A March 21 article in The Journal of the American Medical Association called for medical education nationwide to be shortened 30 percent by 2020.

“In an era when unnecessary medical services are being intensely examined to reduce costs, similar critical attention should be applied to eliminating waste from medical training,” wrote the article’s authors, Ezekiel J. Emanuel, M.D., Ph.D., and Victor R. Fuchs, Ph.D.

Nationwide physician shortages are projected to reach 91,500 physicians by 2020, including 45,000 primary care doctors, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Students in Mercer’s three-year program who decide midway through that family medicine is no longer for them would be integrated into the traditional four-year degree track, Dr. Pallay said.

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High Schoolers Attend Second Annual College of Pharmacy Summer Program

Nearly 50 high school students participated in a three-day pharmacy summer program at Mercer’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Atlanta thanks to a $10,000 gift from Walgreens designed to foster diversity in the field of pharmacy. Most of the participants attend metro Atlanta high schools, but some came from other Georgia cities, and even other states such as North Carolina and Wisconsin.

The program is for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with interests in careers in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences. The program, which ran July 24–26, included activities in a compounding lab and workshops in pharmacy ethics, drug identification and patient care, as well as a pharmacy-related field trip. A panel of pharmacists discussed pharmacy careers with the participants.

“This summer program is critically important to increasing awareness among young people of the unique training, expertise and value of pharmacists and pharmaceutical sciences within the health care delivery system,” said Hewitt W. (Ted) Matthews, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and senior vice president for health sciences.

New Pharmacy Simulation Lab Benefits First-Year Students

With an eye toward developing patient-centric pharmacists, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences recently implemented a clinical skills and simulation laboratory in the first-year curriculum. The SimLab, as its called, is expected to better prepare first-year pharmacy students for their second and third years while providing them critical skills applicable to any practice environment.

The College’s development of a SimLab comes at a time when pharmacists are taking a more active role in providing patient care. Moreover, preceptors are increasingly saying pharmacy students need better patient-assessment skills, which have led to new national guidelines by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

The wireless lab allows students to perform point-of-care testing for glucose and cholesterol; blood pressure, chest and lungs, and skin assessments; patient counseling and order verifications; and chart reviews and medication reconciliations. Students perform these tests and assessments on manikins, a simulation man, blood-pressure arms, through role play, and on virtual patients. Additionally, the lab is equipped with several mock pharmacy stations with built-in computers, an instructor’s station and a smart board.

“So far, we’ve expected students to pick up these skills along the way,” said Christine Klein, clinical professor and director of the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

“We’re now front-loading them with skills, so it increases rigor and increases the quality of students who are going to be out there later on in real-life practices.”

Mercer On Mission’s Impact Continues to Grow

Mercer’s commitment to life-changing experiences continues as students have now visited 28 countries and made valuable contributions to the underdeveloped nations in which they visit. Among the trips last year was to Kampot, Cambodia, where current nursing, medical, pharmacy and undergraduate students saw more than 150 patients daily. They not only treated a variety of disease states but gained a valuable taste of complete patient care responsibility.

In just six years, Mercer On Mission has grown from three sites and 45 students and faculty at 315 students and faculty at 11 sites in 2012.
Hogan Appointed McCann Endowed Professor

Natalie M. Hogan, M.D., FAAP, has accepted a three-year appointment as the Joy McCann Endowed Professor in the Mercer University School of Medicine.

The Joy McCann Professorship for Women in Medicine was established by the Joy McCann Foundation to encourage, inspire and reward women physicians in their academic careers. Through an endowment, the professorship provides enhancement support for a current woman faculty member in a school of medicine who is an outstanding mentor and leader in teaching, research, patient care and/or community service. Anna N. Walker, M.D., was Mercer’s first professorship recipient.

The criteria for choosing a worthy woman physician included the following:

- Mentoring and leadership in the profession and the faculty
- Effective adviser to medical students and residents
- Leadership roles at local, state and national levels
- Commitment to success of women students, residents and faculty
- A vision for service across all campuses of the school

Dr. Hogan earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia and the Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta in 1993. She received post-graduate medical training in pediatrics at the Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, S.C., and later completed a fellowship in ambulatory pediatrics at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah.

Dr. Hogan has served the Mercer School of Medicine since 1997. She has been the pediatric clerkship director since 2003 and also has served as director of clinical skills on the Savannah campus since 2007. She has been recognized numerous times as an Outstanding Clinical Faculty in Pediatrics by both students and residents.

Phil Tobin Appointed New Chair of Physician Assistant Program

Dr. Philip Tobin, a 17-year physician assistant and a former assistant professor at Harding University, has been named chair and program director of Mercer’s Department of Physician Assistant Studies in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Prior to this position, Dr. Tobin was assistant professor and assistant clinical director of the Physician Assistant program at Harding, where he chaired the institutional review board charged with ensuring the university’s research compliance involving human subjects. Dr. Tobin was also on the medical staffs at the Arkansas Department of Corrections and Whitaker Medical locums in Texas.

A retired United States Air Force veteran who served during the first and second Iraq wars, Dr. Tobin earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center with emphasis in family medicine. He earned his Doctor of Health Science degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

“I’m extremely excited about this opportunity,” said Dr. Tobin, who began his PA directorship at Mercer on April 2. “I’m coming into a program that is up and running and is really a star in terms of PA education. In the short few years this program has been in existence, we’ve had advances and milestones that a lot of other programs have not had. So I’m coming into a well-equipped program as a director, and with that I’m both humbled and excited about the future of this program.”

Governor Appoints Melton Strozier to State Board of Examiners

Dr. Melton Strozier, chair of the Mercer School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, last May was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as a member of the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Serving the best interests and safety of the public, the six members of this board are entrusted with overseeing the licensure of professional psychologists in the state, as well as addressing licensing laws, and, when necessary, managing allegations of misconduct performed by current psychologists. In order to serve as a board member, one needs to be a mature licensed psychologist who holds many credentials and certifications.

Dr. Strozier, in his long history as a health professional and professor, is well-matched as a governing member of this state board. A native of Macon and 1974 graduate of Mercer, Dr. Strozier has served as a faculty member for 24 years and as chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences since August 2005. He has held memberships in six professional societies and is a founding member of the Middle Georgia Psychological Association. Dr. Strozier received a certificate of recognition from the American Psychological Association Division of Family Psychology (Division 43) for outstanding service on a Presidential Task Force on Special Issues Impacting the Family, and served as chair of the Subcommittee on the Impact on Families of Chronic Illness and Disability in 1995.

“It is an honor to serve on the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, and I am grateful that the governor appointed me to this position. It is a significant change is my career from advocating for psychology to advocating for the public.”
For Love of Their School

Proud Mercerians who love their alma mater, Lamar, CLA ’70, LAW ’74, and Sandy Sizemore, CLA ’70, found a home in Macon when they arrived on campus in 1966. Their experience at Mercer and still strong connection to the school are defining characteristics of their lives, and they still live today in the same neighborhood to which they moved after Lamar completed law school.

“I didn’t know I was going to be in Macon for the rest of my life,” Sandy said. “That was a surprise!”

For anyone who has ever met the Sizemores, their passion for Mercer is immediately evident because of the profound impact the University has made on each of them. In fact, if not for Mercer, they might never have met each other.

As the Sizemores recall their story together at Mercer, they initially met each other the first day of new student orientation. Sandy had traveled north from her home in Daytona Beach, Fla., to attend Mercer, while Lamar was a native Georgian with family ties to the University as a third generation Mercerian, following in the footsteps of his parents and grandfather.

“Without us both going to Mercer, our paths wouldn’t have crossed,” Lamar said. “My whole life would have been different.”

The Sizemores began their college careers at a turbulent time in American history. They remember experiencing national tragedies such as the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy as well as the shootings at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. At a time of social contention across the country resulting from integration, the Vietnam War and other social and political issues, Mercer provided a safe haven for its students.

“We were in a Mercer bubble,” Sandy said. “It was constant turmoil. It was a turbulent time, and yet, we were happy.”

With fond nostalgia, the Sizemores recall dating on campus for four years, cheering on the Bears at basketball games in Porter Gym, climbing to the top of the Administration Building tower, taking the Pilgrimage to Penfield as freshmen and seniors, and going to the co-op to play bridge. The list of memories goes on and on.

Upon completion of their undergraduate studies, the Sizemores married, and after his military obligation, Lamar soon began law school while Sandy taught at Southwest High School. Mercer Law School prepared Lamar for a successful career in the law. He practiced at O’Neal, Brown & Sizemore from 1974 to 2001, when he was appointed by former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes to the Superior Courts of the Macon Judicial Circuit. He served on the bench through 2010, after which he joined the law firm of Sell & Melton, and now spends the majority of his time mediating. In addition, he has been an adjunct faculty member at the Law School for 33 years.

Lamar’s career success allowed Sandy to focus on raising their children, Rick, LAW ’00, and Becky, and she also briefly taught at Mount de Sales Academy. Today, she continues to volunteer at several organizations, including L.H. Williams Elementary School and Vineville United Methodist Church.

Because of all their alma mater has done for and means to them, the Sizemores consider it their duty to give back to Mercer, a responsibility they take seriously. The Sizemores made their first gift to the University in 1974, before Lamar had finished law school, and they have continued to give for 38 consecutive years.

“I really feel something of an indebtedness, almost an obligation, because, as I say, my spouse of a lifetime, my love of history, my appreciation for the military, my profession, memories and family traditions are all tied to Mercer,” Lamar said. “They all derive from Mercer.”

Supporters of the College of Liberal Arts, the Law School, and the Mercer Athletic Foundation, the Sizemores have also established three scholarships and have made provisions for the University in their estate plans.

“The great thing is there are so many different components to Mercer that you can always find something that you have a connection with, whether it’s athletics, whether it’s a scholarship, whether it’s music, whether it’s the Christianity department,” Lamar said.

In addition to their consistent financial support, the Sizemores have also given their time in service to Mercer. Lamar is a former University trustee and Law School Board of Visitors member, and Sandy previously served on the CLA Alumni Association executive committee. For their efforts, Lamar received the Law School’s Outstanding Alumnus Award, and he and Sandy both received the Meritorious Service Award from the University.

From basketball games in Hawkins Arena at the University Center to local alumni gatherings, the Sizemores come to campus and spend time with fellow Mercerians as often as they can. It all goes back to their pride in and love of the University as well as their desire to see the next generation of Mercer students have the same life-defining educational experience they did. The Sizemores believe there’s no more worthy cause for their support.

“If not for education, then what?” Sandy asked, regarding their giving. “People sacrificed for us, and we want to give to current students. That’s the way it’s supposed to be.”
Mercer Giving

Law, Medicine Add Development Directors

The Office of University Advancement recently added two new staff members to lead fundraising efforts for the Walter F. George School of Law and the School of Medicine.

Greer Aiken, LAW ’10, joined Mercer Law in July as director of development and is the newest member of its senior staff. A 2010 cum laude graduate of the Law School, he comes to his new position after two years of practicing corporate, transactional and bankruptcy law at James-Bates-Brannen-Groover LLP in Macon. Additionally, Aiken received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia, where he studied in the Honors Program.

Trey Seagraves came to Mercer in July as director of development for the School of Medicine. He is a three-time graduate of the University of Georgia, having earned his bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. there. Previously, Seagraves served as a teacher and assistant principal for three years at Crawford County Elementary School before becoming assistant superintendent for Crawford County Schools in 2005.

For more information about the Office of University Advancement and giving to Mercer, visit mercer.edu/gifts.

New Life Members Inducted at 47th President’s Club

MERCER RECOGNIZED its most generous donors in April at the 47th annual celebration of The President’s Club in Atlanta. On the evening of April 20, guests enjoyed a reception at 103 West in Buckhead. The next morning, the group reconvened for brunch and to honor the newest Life Members at the JW Marriott.

The University’s highest level of leadership giving, The President’s Club Life Member status is conferred on those individuals and churches who have contributed at least $100,000 to Mercer. At this year’s event, the following were recognized for achieving Life Member status: Marcus E. Brewster III, Frank and Madge Byington, Dwight and Brenda Davis, Benjamin W. Griffith Jr., Fred B. Miller Jr., William and Elizabeth Rawlings, Doc and Helen Schneider, Charles and Mary Jean Yates, First Baptist Church of Griffin, First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon and Highland Hills Baptist Church.
Feed The Children Names Mercer Graduate Kevin Hagan New President and CEO

Feeding The Children, an Oklahoma City-based charitable organization, announced April 4 it has appointed Kevin Hagan, CLA ’95, as president and CEO. Hagan will lead Feeding The Children’s national and international lifesaving programs delivering food and other essentials to people in need.

“We have anxiously anticipated this day and are extremely pleased to be announcing Kevin as the new president and CEO,” Rick England, Feeding The Children board chairman, said. “We are confident in his abilities to lead the organization and the entire board is eager to work collaboratively with him toward our vision to see no child or family go to bed hungry.”

Most recently, Hagan served as chief operating officer for Good360, a nonprofit organization in Alexandria, Va., dedicated to fulfilling the needs of nonprofits with corporate product donations. Before Good360, Kevin honed his industry expertise at U.S. Foodservice Inc., the second-largest broadline foodservice distributor in the country with more than $20 billion in revenues.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to join Feeding The Children and help further its mission of providing food and other essentials to people across America and around the world,” Hagan said. “I look forward to expanding the 30-year legacy of impacting change around the world and believe that Feeding The Children has a bright future as it continues to impact countless lives.”

Hagan received his bachelor’s degree in history, political science, and German from Mercer, and he earned his master’s degree in international affairs from American University in Washington, D.C.

He currently serves on the board of directors for Academy of Hope, an adult education nonprofit in Washington, D.C., and on the executive committee for the board of the D.C. Baptist Convention.

Highlights of Feed The Children’s work in 2011 include the delivery of food and other supplies to 115,000 U.S. families in need of assistance through its Americans Feeding Americans Caravan. More than 200 truckloads of disaster relief services were also distributed to thousands of displaced families and communities after disastrous tornadoes struck America’s heartland and extreme flooding engulfed the southeastern United States.

Internationally, Feed The Children fed 350,000 school-aged children daily in 10 foreign countries. In addition, to fight the threat of parasites — a major obstacle to conquering global hunger — Feed The Children provided de-worming medication to treat 16 million children in 15 countries.
Incident Handler from the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. Only 35 information security professionals worldwide hold this certification. Additionally, he received Chief Information Security Officer Certification from the EC Council.

James N. Sadd, LAW ’87, was elected as the new president of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association in May.

Evett Simmons, LAW ’82, hosted the Evett L. Simmons Mock Trial Competition in Washington, D.C., during the National Bar Association Crump Law Camp in July. The two-week summer camp, which she founded, is hosted at Howard University and designed to provide high school students with an enjoyable and comprehensive introduction to the challenges of a legal education. Simmons is a shareholder at Greenspoon Marder in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Brian H. Turpin, LAW ’86, was appointed by the Virginia General Assembly as judge of the Pittsylvania County (Va.) Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Billy Walker, BUS ’89, became CEO of Memorial Hospital and Manor in Bainbridge in March. He has worked at the hospital for 11 years and was CFO prior to his promotion.

J. Henry Walker IV, LAW ’86, was named firm managing partner of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP in June.

1990s

Adam L. Appel, LAW ’90, joined the claims and litigation management board of Carroll Copeland & Stair LLP in Atlanta.

Melissa Armitage, PHA ’97, accepted a position at the Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., and completed requirements to become a board certified oncology pharmacist.

M. Brian Blake, EGR ’97, has been named vice provost for academic affairs and dean of the Graduate School at the University of Miami, effective July 1. He previously worked as professor of computer science and engineering and associate dean of engineering, research and graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Justo Cabral, LAW ’99, was appointed solicitor general of Lowndes County by Gov. Deal in March. He previously worked in the Southern Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office.

Raoul Calimlim, EGR ’96, was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He currently serves in the 315th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., as a bioenvironmental engineer. Additionally, he completed all requirements for certification as a certified safety professional.

Mark K. Delegal, LAW ’93, was selected as a 2012 Florida Super Lawyer in the area of governmental and legislative representation. Delegal is the president of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell and Dunbar PA in Tallahassee, Fla.

Denise Dell-Powell, LAW ’91, attorney with Burr & Forman LLP has been ranked as a leading practitioner in the 2012 edition of Chambers USA, a highly regarded directory featuring client-led intelligence on America’s leading lawyers for business.

Mandy Ely, CLA ’94, was named a 2011-12 Educator of the Year at Prince Avenue Christian School in Bogart, where she teaches kindergarten.

Alwyn R. Fredericks, LAW ’97, and associate Justo A. Robson, LAW ’07, secured a $3.8 million verdict in March for a Fulton County woman injured in a 2008 automobile collision.

Cal Garretson, BUS ’99, is the owner of Macon-based Caliente’s Bburrito Shop, which celebrated its 10th anniversary Sept. 12. Calientes is now ready to begin franchising to grow the business across the Southeast.

Rebecca L. Griswold, LAW ’94, became the first female solicitor general of Bibb County, when she won an uncontested primary election July 31. She previously served as an assistant district attorney.

Kevin Hagan, CLA ’95, was appointed president and CEO of Feed the Children, an Oklahoma City-based charitable organization that delivers food and other essentials to people in need domestically and abroad. Prior to joining Feed the Children, Hagan was chief operating officer of Good360, a non-profit organization in Alexandria, Va.

Brian Highley, EGR ’96, became vice president and general manager at Nymco Healthcare as segment leader for medical device and consumer health business.

Joel A. Howe, LAW ’95, has been named a partner at the law firm Martin Snow LLP. Howe practices in the litigation section.

Keill Kennedy, CLA ’90, was named the Race to the Top grant project coordinator for the School District of Manatee County, Fla., in July 2011.

The Hon. Jeffrey H. Kight, BUS ’92, LAW ’95, was appointed a Superior Court judge in the Waycross Judicial Circuit by Gov. Deal in March. Kight fills the seat vacated by Michael P. Bogg, LAW ’90, who was appointed to the state Court of Appeals in December 2011.

Jennifer K. (JJ) Koleff, CLA ’92, completed a master’s degree in education with an emphasis on middle grades social studies from Piedmont College in June.

Bill Lindsey, BUS ’95, earned fellowship status in the American College of Medical Practice Executives. Fellowship status is the highest designation in medical practice management.

Lindsey is the CEO of OrthoGeorgia.

David W. Long-Daniels, LAW ’90, was recently selected as global co-chair for the labor and employment department and co-chair for the global human capital practice group for Greenberg Traurig. In that capacity, Long-Daniels will lead Greenberg Traurig’s labor and employment practice worldwide.

The Rev. Olu Menjay, CLA ’95, was elected president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention on March 17. He also serves as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and is principal and chief administrative officer of the Ricks Institute, a K-12 school located just outside Monrovia, Liberia’s capital.

G. William “Bill” Norris Jr., LAW ’97, was appointed to the Capital Region Workforce Investment Board. Norris is a director with the law firm of DurrettCrump PLC.


Luna Phillips, LAW ’95, has been named a “Leader in Their Field” by Chambers USA for her work in environmental law. She is a shareholder at Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart PA in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Loren B. Pierce, PHA ’91, received the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award sponsored by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations at the Georgia Pharmacy Association Annual Convention on July 10.

Daniel Ryan, EGR ’96, earned a Master of Science in Software Engineering from George Mason University in January and was hired as a software engineer at A.I. Solutions in Lanham, Md.

S. Majeed Shah-Khan, LAW ’94, was named the new city attorney for Greensboro, N.C., City Council in July.
The Hamer Institute Honors CLA Alumna Susan Glisson

Dr. Susan M. Glisson, CLA ’89, ’92, was named one of four recipients of the 2012 Hamer Humanitarian Award by the Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy at Jackson State University. Glisson, executive director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss., was formally recognized at an awards luncheon April 20 on the Jackson State campus in Jackson, Miss.

After coordinating the only deep South public forum from President Clinton’s “One American: An Initiative on Race,” which led to the creation of the Institute for Racial Reconciliation, Glisson continues to lead community projects, specializing in the history of race, religion and the black struggle for freedom. She became director of the institute in 2002.

A native of Evans, Glisson earned bachelor’s degrees in religion and history from Mercer, a master’s degree in Southern studies from the University of Mississippi and a Ph.D. in American studies from the College of William and Mary. She is the co-author of First Freedoms: A Documentary History of First Amendment Rights in America (2006), and she edited The Human Tradition in the Civil Rights Movement (2006). She is a contributor to Telling Stories That Change the World (2008) and to the Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History (2006).

“The Hamer Institute is honored to be able to recognize these special persons in our state,” Leslie Burt McLemore, director of the Hamer Institute, said. “Collectively and individually, they have helped to change the course of human history and have been instrumental in modeling a civil society.”

Founded in 1997, the Hamer Institute promotes social engagement by examining and teaching the tools and experiences of those who struggle to create, expand and sustain civil rights, social justice and citizenship. The Institute advocates civic engagement and popular sovereignty through the study of the struggle for civil rights in the United States and works with school boards and colleges, national funding organizations, state agencies and local civil rights groups to encourage communities to embrace political engagement and agency.

Mercer Alumnus Olu Menjay Elected President of Liberia Baptist Convention

The Rev. Dr. Olu Q. Menjay, CLA ’95, was elected president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention on March 17 during the group’s meeting at Mount Nimba Baptist Church in Yekepa, Liberia. He and the convention’s other elected officials were inducted at the church the following day.

Dr. Menjay currently serves as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, the largest Protestant body in the world, and is the youngest person ever to hold that office. He is also the principal and chief administrative officer of the Ricks Institute, a premier K-12 school located just outside Monrovia, Liberia’s capital, and is a Mercer adjunct professor through the Mercer On Mission program. In addition to his duties as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, he chairs its Human Rights Advocacy Commission and is a member of the promotional and development committee.

“As we strive to encourage our churches to become self-supporting, self-propagating and self-governing, we have the passion also to serve all regions of our convention,” Dr. Menjay said after his election.

Forced to flee Liberia to escape one of Africa’s bloodiest wars, which killed more than 200,000 Liberians and displaced a million others into refugee camps in neighboring countries between 1989 and 1996, Dr. Menjay came to the United States to pursue his postsecondary education.

He earned an associate’s degree at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., before attending Mercer, where he received his bachelor’s degree in sociology and Christian Ministry. Menjay completed a Master of Divinity degree at Duke University, a Master of Sacred Theology degree in practical theology and missions at Boston University and a Ph.D. in church history from the University of Wales.

Dr. Susan Glisson

Dr. Olu Menjay
Jenna Blackwell Matson, LAW '08, was recognized by Augusta Magazine as a member of its 2012 Top 10 in 10, showcasing 10 of Augusta’s most outstanding young professionals, for her accomplishments as an associate attorney at Shepard, Plunkett, Hamilton and Boudreaux LLP as well as her work in the community.

Amy Landers May, LAW ’01, joined the South Carolina Bar Foundation board of directors in July. May is a shareholder at Rogers Townsend & Thomas PC in the estate planning, probate and elder law practice group.

David Hamilton McCain, LAW ’07, completed the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia.

Alex McCoy, BUS ’02, ’05, received the inaugural Young Professional of the Year Award from the Florida Economic Development Council for his work with the Florida Institute of Government to create an economic development community leadership training program.

William P Miles Jr., LAW ’01, completed the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia.

Faroq Mughal, CLA ’00, managing partner at MS Global Partners Governmental Advisory Group, was selected to serve on the steering committee of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Southeast Regional Summit this year in Atlanta. After the summit, he participated in a community leaders briefing at the White House with members of the Obama Administration.

Kelly Pipkin, CLA ’09, graduated from the University of South Alabama with a master’s degree in physician assistant studies July 27 and is now a board certified PA.

Dr. Stephen Powell, MED ’05, has been promoted to chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs and inpatient services at New London Hospital in New London, N.H. Dr. Powell is board certified and completed residencies in internal medicine, psychiatry and preventive medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., and received his Master of Public Health in health policy from the Dartmouth Institute.

Dr. Catherine M. Preisig, MED ’02, was appointed to serve as a co-editor of the Pediatric Comprehensive Critical Care Review Book Task Force, which is charged with developing the textbook Comprehensive Critical Care: Pediatric.

Lillian Shaw, CLA ’10, has joined SAI Digital in Rome as the community support assistant. In addition to her administrative duties, Shaw will support both the company and its clients through writing, research and social media management.

Imshaan Somani, EGR ’09, recently earned an MBA from Georgia Tech and accepted a position as an analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in quantitative and computational finance at Georgia Tech.

John R Stout, CLA ’08, was recognized as one of Augusta’s 10 most outstanding young professionals in Augusta Magazine’s 2012 Top 10 in 10 for his work to improve the city as its sustainable development manager. He also co-founded an educational consulting firm to help school districts implement the common core state standards.

Matthew Q. Wetherington, LAW ’10, completed the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia.

J. Chase Wilson, LAW ’10, joined the Atlanta law firm Davis, Matthews & Quigley PC in June.

Sharon Pinkard Wilson, COPP ’07, was promoted to immunization coordinator at the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services in July.

Kathleen L. Wright, LAW ’02, partner at Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP in Roanoke, Va., has been named a 2012 Virginia Super Lawyer Rising Star in business litigation. The list recognizes Virginia’s top attorneys under age 40, or those who have been practicing less than 10 years, as nominated by their peers across the Commonwealth.

2010s

Gagan Chahal, EGR ’11, joined Caterpillar, Inc. as a process planner/manufacturing engineer on a Greenfield project at the company’s new facility in Athens.

Pamela Gibson, CLA ’11, began working full-time with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in September 2011 after an internship and received a promotion this September.

Emily E. Machneski-Preston, LAW ’10, was named the 2012 Young Professional of the Year by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce. An associate at Coleman Talley LLP, Emily practices in employment law, local government law and civil litigation.

Andi Thomas Sullivan, DIV ’11, was unanimously elected as the new executive director for the non-profit organization His Nets Inc. on March 3. Sullivan is one of the co-founders of the organization and has served on the board of directors since its founding in 2005. His Nets provides a Christian response to the global malaria epidemic by purchasing long-lasting insecticidal bed nets, which are distributed free to targeted families, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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In Memory

1920s
Lula Daughtry Denmark, TIFT '22, CLA '24, of Athens, April 1.
Jesse Christine Greene, NUR '27, of Douglasville, May 18.

1930s
Thomas Hoyt Davis Jr., CLA '39, LAW '40, of Vienna, April 29.
Almeda Hines Donaldson, NUR '33, of Cook Springs, Ala., May 23.
George E Dukes Jr., LAW '35, of Tampa, Fla., April 16.
Helen Gunn Fuller, CLA '31, of Maryville, Tenn., Jan. 27.
Kathryn Rackley Hale, TIFT '36, of Dalton, Jan. 1.
Mary Willborn Holcomb, TIFT '39, of Clarksville, March 27.
Sara C. Prosser, TIFT '35, of Mansfield, July 15.
Elie Vickers Shaw, CLA '39, of Macon, March 18.
Dorothy Lasseter Smith, TIFT '30, of Atlanta, Nov. 6, 2011.
Zelma Tucker Vissage, CLA '37, of Brunswick, May 1.
Joseph Harry Winters, CLA '38, of Toccoa, May 21.

1940s
H. Leroy Acree, CLA '49, of Monticello, Ark., June 16.
Harry B. Alderman, CLA '47, of Alpharetta, July 11.
Virginia Lee Norris Anderson, TIFT '45, of Beaumont, Texas, April 3.
Mary Jackson Bennett, CLA '44, of Rockmart, July 7.
Lamar J. Brooks, CLA '49, of Wilmington, N.C., April 5.
Dorothy M. Greene Brown, TIFT '41, of Fort Valley, March 20.
Edward T. Cassiday, CLA '42, of Macon, April 10.
Robert Harrell Culpepper, CLA '44, of Richmond, Va., Aug. 10.
Frances Feagin, CLA '45, EDU '51, of Americus, on March 14.

1950s
Helen Gunn Fuller, CLA '50, of Newport News, Va., Aug. 10, 2011.
Mary squarely Stedham Whipple, TIFT '45, of Lakeland, Fla., July 4.
Alice C. Williams, CLA '48, of Georgetown, S.C., May 22.
Comer William Woodall, CLA '47, of Montgomery, Ala., June 24.

1960s
Leila Gunn Fuller, CLA '60, of Atlanta, Feb. 16.

Class Notes

Mercer Law Alumnus
Frank C. Jones Dies at 87

Distinguished Mercer University alumnus, trustee and respected attorney Frank C. Jones died Aug. 29 in Macon at the age of 87. Serving his first term on the Mercer Board of Trustees at the time of his death, Jones was a 1950 graduate of the Walter F. George School of Law, coming to Mercer after earning his bachelor’s degree at Emory University in 1947. He served as editor in chief of the Mercer Law Review.

“Frank Jones lived a full and meaningful life,” Mercer President William D. Underwood said. “He made a difference in his community and in the lives of his loved ones, clients and many friends. And he tirelessly served the institutions he loved. Frank was among Mercer’s most distinguished and faithful alumni. He will be missed.”

Following graduation from Mercer, Jones practiced in Macon until 1977 at the law firm now known as Jones, Cork & Miller, which was founded by his great grandfather. Jones eventually made partner before joining King & Spalding to establish the Frank Cater Jones Endowment Series Attendance Fund, which honors Jones’s service as president emeritus of the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society.

“As a newly graduated lawyer, I spent my first year as a law clerk to Judge Griffin Bell,” recalled David Hudson, chairman of Mercer’s Board of Trustees. “In the fall of 1971, I rode with the judge to South Georgia for the convening of a three-judge federal court considering a constitutional challenge to some aspect of the school system in Sumter County. As we talked about the case, discussion went to the lawyers on either side. Judge Bell remarked that I was going to have the privilege of seeing in action one of the state’s very best lawyers, and I should learn from the experience. As usual, Judge Bell was absolutely right. Frank Jones was that lawyer and was then and remained throughout his career the gold standard in trial and advocacy skills and service to the profession and to our state and nation.”

“Although I believe words like ‘superstar’ and ‘giants’ are used too freely today, Frank truly was a legal superstar and a legal giant,” said Gary Simson, Macon Professor of Law and dean of Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law. “The imprint that he has left on the legal profession and on our system of justice is extraordinary. No less remarkable is the grace, modesty and humanity with which he did it. As a person, he was a superstar and giant as well. His passing is a very sad day for the law school.”

Jones was a member of Vineville United Methodist Church in Macon with his wife, Annie Anderson Jones, a 1951 College of Liberal Arts graduate. He previously served as chairman of the church’s administrative board as well as the board of trustees. For more than 60 years, Jones taught adult Sunday School classes between churches in Macon and Atlanta.

Jones is survived by his wife, Annie, their four children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
Dr. Leila Denmark, Mercer’s Oldest Alumna, Dies at 114

A retired pediatrician and one of the world’s oldest people, Dr. Leila Daughtry Denmark, TIFT ‘22, CLA ‘24, died April 1 at the home of her daughter in Athens. She was the world’s oldest practicing pediatrician until her retirement in May 2001 at the age of 103 after more than 70 years of medical practice.

On Nov. 27, 2011, at age 113 years, 299 days, she became one of the 101 oldest people in history. At her death, she was the fourth-oldest verified living person in the world and the third-oldest verified living person in the United States.

Born Leila Alice Daughtry in the Bulloch County town of Portal in 1898, Dr. Denmark as a young woman graduated from Tift College, then studied at Mercer and taught high school science for two years. She decided to attend medical school when her fiancé, John Eustace Denmark, was posted to Java, Dutch Indies, by the U.S. State Department and no wives were allowed. She was the only woman in the 1928 graduating class of the Medical College of Georgia and just the third woman to graduate from the college.

Dr. Denmark is credited as co-developer of the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine in the 1920s and 1930s. For this medical breakthrough, she received the Fisher Award in 1935 for outstanding research in diagnosis, treatment and immunization of whooping cough.

In 1953, she earned Atlanta’s “Woman of the Year” award at the Piedmont Driving Club, where she was honored “not only for her work as a medical practitioner, but as a complete professional woman.”

She received the Distinguished Service Citation from Tift College in 1970 and was awarded an honorary degree, the Doctor of Humanities, in 1972. Also in 1978, the Georgia Legislature honored Denmark for her 50 years of “outstanding and dedicated service in the practice of medicine in Georgia.”

Mercer presented Dr. Denmark with the coveted Distinguished Alumni Award in 1980. In 1987, she and her husband, John, a Mercer trustee from 1957-1962, were recognized as Life Members of The President’s Club of Mercer University.

Additionally, her well-regarded parenting book, *Every Child Should Have a Chance*, which contains her ideas on the care and rearing of children, is in its 14th printing.

Mercer Alumnus, Faculty Member and Trustee Edwin Johnston Dies April 2

Dr. Edwin Dargan Johnston Sr., CLA ’41, who taught Christianity at Mercer for 39 years and later served on the Board of Trustees, died April 2 in Macon.

Born Jan. 7, 1919, in Chattanooga, Tenn., he grew up in Florida, and his family eventually settled in Atlanta, where he graduated from Boys High School. Dr. Johnston earned his undergraduate degree at Mercer in 1941, and he then entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., following a call to full-time ministry.

While in seminary, he met and married Nancy Belle Wooley and, after completing his graduate studies, enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving on active duty as a chaplain from the end of World War II until he retired in 1978 with the rank of colonel.

Dr. Johnston and his family moved to England in 1948 for him to study at the University of Manchester. He received the Doctor of Philosophy degree in New Testament in 1950 and would later earn a Doctor of Theology degree from Southern Seminary.

In 1950, Dr. Johnston began teaching Bible at Mercer, including some years of teaching Greek. He served as Roberts Professor of Christianity until his retirement in 1989. His influence is evident at Mercer, where he served and chaired many faculty committees. He directed the 1961-62 self-study of the College of Liberal Arts for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Edwin Dargan Johnston Christianity Faculty Research Fund was established in 1989 in Mercer’s College of Liberal Arts.

During his retirement, Dr. Johnston was a member of the Mercer Board of Trustees. He served as pastor or interim pastor at several churches in Kentucky and Georgia, but his great passion was researching and writing about the Christian college.

Dr. Johnston was a member of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, where he served as a deacon and attended the Brotherhood Sunday School Class.

The Johnston’s three children, Gwen Weston, Dr. Edwin D. Johnston Jr. and David Johnston, are all Mercer alumni.
Long-Time Christianity Professor Harold McManus Dies at 92

Longtime Mercer faculty member Dr. Harold L. McManus Sr. died July 24 at age 92. He was professor emeritus of Christianity and held the Roberts Professorship of Christianity in the Columbus Roberts Department of Christianity, where he taught from 1949 to 1985. He also served as chair of the department from 1964 to 1965 — and encouraged both to become full-time ministers.

During his long tenure at the University, Dr. McManus was honored twice as the dedicatee of The Cauldron, Mercer’s yearbook, in 1957 and 1962. In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. McManus pastored rural churches in Middle Georgia — Marie Baptist Church, near Dublin, from 1953-1957, and Elam Baptist Church, near Gray, from 1958-1965 — and encouraged both to become full-time ministers.

He taught several summers at Naval Chaplains School in Newport, R.I., in the 1960s, as well as other military bases. Additionally, Dr. McManus was one of the first non-Catholics to preach from the pulpit during Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon during the 1960s. He authored several series of adult Sunday School lessons for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1970s and 1980s. He also was a member of the Macon Palaver Club for 40 years.

Dr. McManus graduated from Wake Forest in 1941 and earned his Master of Theology degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1944 and his Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1948 and Ph.D. in 1953 from the Yale University Divinity School. Dr. McManus served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy in World War II, subsequently joining the Navy Reserve and retiring with the rank of captain.

After his retirement, Dr. McManus went as a volunteer with a group of fellow Baptists to teach conversational English to Chinese students at Guangxi University in China during the summers of 1998-2000. He also served as associate teacher of the Garland Taylor Bible Class of Vineville Baptist Church in Macon from 1993 to 2006.

Former Engineering Faculty Member Clayton Paul Dies June 27

Dr. Clayton R. Paul died June 27 at 70 years of age after a several year battle with cancer. As the Sam Nunn Eminent Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Paul continued to teach one semester each year as he transitioned into retirement earlier this year.

Born Sept. 6, 1941, and raised in Macon, Paul attended grammar school at Alexander III and graduated from Lanier High School in 1959. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from The Citadel in 1963, a Master of Science degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1964, and a Ph.D. degree from Purdue University in 1970, all in Electrical Engineering.

After serving a post-doctoral fellowship with the Rome (N.Y.) Air Development Center, Paul began his career as a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Kentucky in 1971, where he taught until he joined the faculty of the School of Engineering at Mercer University in 1998.

During his 49-year career as a teacher of electrical engineering, Paul published 19 textbooks on electrical engineering and interference in electronic systems as well as more than 200 technical papers, symposia papers and technical reports. Additionally, he is a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and an honorary Life Member of the IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Society. He earned the 2005 IEEE Electromagnetics Award and the 2007 IEEE Undergraduate Teaching Award. He also received the IEEE EMC Society’s Hall of Fame Award in 2011.

One of Paul’s passions was teaching the basics to new engineers, and he was instrumental in starting the “EMC University” at the annual IEEE EMC Symposia — a five-day intensive EMC basics course oriented towards new EMC engineers.

Paul was a Federal Aviation Administration certified flight instructor for airplanes and instruments and an FAA advanced ground and instrument instructor. Moreover, he was an accomplished Bluegrass musician, performing in many local events, as well as the annual “EMC Band” performances.

He is survived by his wife Carol and their companion animals.
25-50-100 Years Ago ... 

Photos and archival information for 25-50-100 Years Ago assembled by Laura Botts and the Tarver Library Special Collections staff.

1912
Officers of the Bessie Tift College Athletic Association were Elleigh Page Tucker, Tassie Jackson, Wrethea Rogers and Grizella Merrill. Tennis and basketball were among the popular sports at Tift during this era. In 2010, using original photos and plans held in Mercer University’s archives, the Tift campus was restored by the Georgia Department of Corrections for use as offices. Before and after photos of the campus may be viewed at the Department of Corrections website, www.dcor.state.ga.us/NewsRoom/Publications/Tift.html.

1962
Gov. Nathan Deal (lower right) is pictured here with other members of the Phi Eta Sigma freshman honor fraternity. Also pictured are Mercer University trustee Don Baxter, Joe Daniel, Kenneth Reeves, Ward Lowrance, Ronnie Rossee, Colin Harris and faculty member James Lloyd Clegg Jr.

1987
Groundbreaking was held Oct. 7 for a new university library. The building was 93,750 square feet, twice the size of the previous Stetson Library. Then President R. Kirby Godsey (center) said during the ceremony, “The very heart of a University is its library, and we are extremely pleased that this new magnificent facility will provide an excellent setting for the library needs of the undergraduate schools in Macon for years to come.” The library was known simply as the “Main Library” until it was named for Mercer alumnus and newspaper publisher Jack Tarver in April 2000.
Answer the Call, Support Our Students

Each year a team of students is hired to conduct Mercer’s Phonathon campaign. These students represent most of the colleges and schools of the University and work to offset the cost of their education by calling alumni to raise awareness and ask for financial support of the Mercer Fund.

Gifts to the Mercer Fund make the difference between covering essential academic needs and providing an exceptional Mercer experience. Every gift is critical to strengthening the educational environment and promoting student success.

Last fiscal year, student callers attempted nearly 34,000 alumni, reached more than 7,200 and logged pledges from more than 2,300. In addition to calling alumni, Phonathon workers called parents of Macon undergraduate students to ask for gifts to the Parents Fund. More than 350 parent donors, who most likely assist their own student with the cost of attending Mercer, chose to give to a general fund that benefits all students. Thanks to alumni and parent support, Phonathon generates nearly 40 percent of the University’s total donor count.

“Phonathon offers a unique chance to talk with alumni and hear about their experiences at Mercer,” student caller Laci Gillis said. “And, I appreciate the opportunity to discover all of the work that goes into making a university function and grow. I am proud to say I was part of that effort.”

Mercer phonathon students are calling now through March to ask for your support of the 2013 Mercer Fund. Please answer the call to make a gift to Mercer. Your support of our students matters.

Gifts to Mercer have the power to change students’ lives. For more information on ways to give, contact the Office of University Advancement at (800) 837-2911 or visit www.mercer.edu/gift.
### Women's 2012-2013 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Francis Marion (Exhibition)</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Loyola (Homecoming)</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>Notre Dame, Indiana</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Furman</td>
<td>Greenville, South Carolina</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>Davidson</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>Athens, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Georgia Southern</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Alabama State</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>Tallahassee, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>High Point</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>Stetson</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2</td>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Kennesaw State</td>
<td>Kennesaw, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>USC Upstate</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Charleston Homecoming</td>
<td>Charleston, South Carolina</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Lipscomb</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>* Florida Gulf Coast</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>* Stetson</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>* Stetson</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6-9</td>
<td>* Atlantic Sun Tournament</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Men's 2012-2013 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Orange/White Game</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Sewanne (Homecoming)</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>Stetson</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2</td>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast</td>
<td>Macon, Georgia</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Kennesaw State</td>
<td>Kennesaw, Georgia</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>* Jacksonville</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>** USC Upstate</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>* East Tennessee State</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>* Lipscomb</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>* North Florida</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>* Stetson</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
<td>* Stetson</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6-9</td>
<td>* Atlantic Sun Tournament</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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