

Accolades Honoring Godsey Soar in Final Days as President

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

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

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

"Dr. Godsey himself epitomizes the Mercer Experience. He has brought to Mercer a place that only he envisioned, and he has transformed this institution into an outstanding university as only he could have done." — DAVID HUDSON

As Chancellor, President Godsey will work on projects as assigned by President William D. Underwood.

"I am gratified by Dr. Godsey's willingness to continue service to the University in this new capacity and look forward to our work together on behalf of Mercer," said Underwood.

Final action by the Board of Trustees at the meeting was a tribute to President Godsey.

Hudson said, "Dr. Godsey talks extensively about the Mercer Experience and how Mercer wants each student to make a difference in the world that only that one student can make. Dr. Godsey himself epitomizes the Mercer Experience. He has brought to Mercer a place that only he envisioned, and he has transformed this institution into an outstanding university as only he could have done. We are profoundly grateful that he chose to commit these 27 years of his life to Mercer."

He added that it is only appropriate that the historic Administration Building, with "its spires [that] point to the heavens," bear President Godsey's name. Therefore, the building, which has been the seat of every Mercer President since 1876, will now be known as the R. Kirby Godsey Administration Building. The action, which was seconded by every former chairman in attendance, was approved with an extended standing ovation.

"It was a wonderful day," President Godsey said in an interview with *The*

Telegraph. "It's a humbling experience. I've spent many hours and years in that building. It's a wonderful tribute."

GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HONORS GODSEY

The Georgia Senate honored Godsey at the State Capitol in March with a resolution highlighting the many accomplishments during his 27-year presidency. The resolution marked the second time in as many weeks that Godsey was honored by Georgia legislators. On Feb. 28, the Georgia House of Representatives honored

Godsey with a similar resolution.

The Senate Resolution recognized Godsey, who will retire from the office of president on June 30, for the vital role he has played in providing leadership in education and in serving Georgia and U.S. citizens. The resolution was sponsored by Sens. Cecil Staton (District 18), George Hooks (District 14), Seth Harp (District 29) and Michael S. Meyer von Bremen (District 12).

Read before the membership by Sen. Staton, the resolution noted Godsey's efforts to better his community and state through his service as president of Mercer University, and through his writings and community service.

In its conclusion, the Senate resolution stated: "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate that the members of this body commend Dr. R. Kirby Godsey for his efficient, effective, unselfish and dedicated service to the citizens of this state and nation and extend to him their most

sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness."

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

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

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The Mercer Board of Trustees voted at its April 21 meeting to name the historic Administration Building the R. Kirby Godsey Administration Building.

Participating in the presentation of House Resolution 1122 to President Godsey (center) included: left to right, Rep. Robert Ray, Rep. Jim Cole, Rep. David Graves, Rep. Nikki Randall, Rep. David Lucas and Rep. Mark Burkhalter (Speaker Pro Tempore).

Leavell and Godsey Highlight Macon Undergraduate Commencement

By Nancy Fullbright

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

The ceremony also marked one of the last undergraduate ceremonies presided over by President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey, the longest serving president in

the University's history, who steps down as president on June 30 after more than 27 years of service.

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

He opened with a joke.

"I have some good news for you and some bad news for you," Godsey said. "The good news is I am your



commencement speaker. The bad news is I am your commencement speaker."

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

Chuck Leavell performed "Georgia on My Mind" at the Macon commencement on May 13 and was recognized with an honorary doctorate of music.

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

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

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

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Mercer Poised to Provide Leadership in Uniting Baptists

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

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

The gathering was the first time Baptist organizations representing such diversity of race, culture, geography and convention affiliation had joined

together to explore additional opportunities for fellowship and cooperation. While discussions at the meeting covered a wide range of topics, the leaders focused on the major issues facing their organizations as well as the commonalities of their faith.

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



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

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

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

Underwood said that "Mercer's role in organizing the meeting at The Carter Center evidences Mercer's emergence as a truly national Baptist university that will continue exploring opportunities to relate to a wide diversity of Baptist groups and organizations."

Attending the meeting at The Carter

"Mercer's role in organizing the meeting at The Carter Center evidences Mercer's emergence as a truly national Baptist university that will continue exploring opportunities to relate to a wide diversity of Baptist groups and organizations."

— BILL UNDERWOOD

Center with Carter and Underwood were Godsey, Mercer University; the Rev. Jerry Sanders, president, and the Rev. Dr. David E. Goatley, executive secretary-treasurer, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society Inc.; the Rev. Dr. Major Lewis Jemison, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Marv Knox, editor, *Baptist Standard*, the news journal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary,

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Baptist Initiative Participants Meet at the Carter Center —

Participants in a historic meeting of Baptists gathered at the Carter Center in Atlanta in February. Front row, from left to right: **John Upton**, executive secretary, General Association of Virginia Baptists; **Charles Wade**, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Texas; **Roslyn Carter**; **Former United States President Jimmy Carter**; **Samuel C. Tolbert**, National Baptist Convention of America Inc.; and **Walter "Buddy" Shurden**, Mercer University Callaway Professor of Christianity and executive director of the Center for Baptist Studies. Second row, left to right: **J. Michael Sanders**, president, Lott Carey Foreign Mission Society; **David E. Goatley**, executive secretary, Lott Carey Mission Society; **Lewis Jemison**, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention; **Marv Knox**, editor, *Baptist Standard*; and **R. Kirby Godsey**, Mercer president and CEO. Third row, left to right: **Tyrone Pitts**, executive secretary, Progressive National Baptist Convention; **Bill Wilson**, pastor, First Baptist Church of Dalton, Ga.; **Daniel Vestal**, national coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; **William J. Shaw**, president, National Baptist Convention USA Inc.; and **Roy Medley**, executive director, American Baptist Churches USA. Back row, left to right: **Jimmy Allen**, chairman of the board, Baptists Today; **William D. Underwood**, president-elect of Mercer University; and **Gary Nelson**, executive director, Canadian Baptist Ministries.

Hilton Garden Inn to be Constructed on Campus

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

"We are delighted with the prospect of adding this significant amenity to the campus," said President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey. "The hotel's location, just off of I-75, will make it available to business and leisure travelers as well as

provide housing for alumni and visitors attending special programs and athletic events and for parents of current and prospective students."

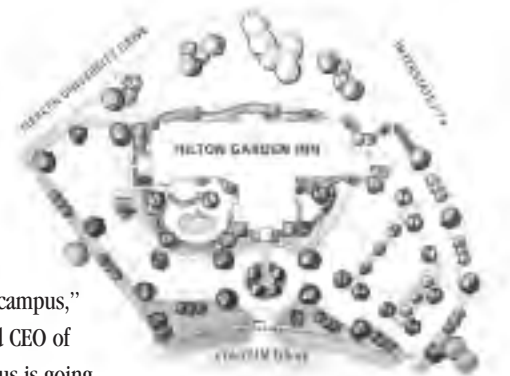
After interviewing a number of prospective developers, Mercer selected PHD Hotels, formerly known as The Hotel Group, of Auburn, Ala., for the \$10 million project.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer, with the Inn expected to open in spring 2007. The upscale hotel will offer a restaurant and a small conference area. After construction, PHD Hotels will operate and manage

the Inn, with the University being an equity partner.

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

The Mercer project is the fourth Hilton Garden Inn and the ninth hotel that PHD Hotels has constructed and



operated. The company's other Hilton Garden Inns are in Auburn, Montgomery and Huntsville, Ala. There are 270 Hilton Garden Inns across the nation. **M**

School of Music to Become University's 11th Academic Unit

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

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

The new academic unit will be named the Townsend School of Music, in honor of Raymond Clay Townsend and Sophia Malin Townsend, the parents of Mercer Trustee Carolyn

Townsend McAfee. The faculty of the Department of Music in the College of Liberal Arts will become the founding faculty of the school on July 1, 2006.

"Mercer has one of the most significant private music programs in the Southeast region," said Dr. John Roberts, chair of the Department of Music. "Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution's commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component."

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

With the establishment of the school

"Establishing a school of music demonstrates the seriousness of the institution's commitment to combining a professional music education with an enriching liberal arts component."

on July 1, The Townsend Institute will become known as The Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music.

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

Senior music major Ann Letsinger, of Knoxville, Tenn., said, "Mercer's



Thanks to the generosity of (left to right) Julie Crangle McAfee, Carolyn Townsend McAfee and J. Thomas McAfee, Mercer will be adding a School of Music on July 1.

music department already has exceptional faculty and staff that provide a challenging musical learning environment. With a new school of music, these qualities will only strengthen the music program at Mercer and make it more desirable

for prospective students."

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

MUP's Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits Wins Top Book Award

Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits: Fifty Internationally Noted Artists and Writers in the South, published by Mercer University Press, received the 2005 Book of the Year Award for the Best Book of Photography from *ForeWord* magazine. The announcement was made at a ceremony in May at BookExpo America in Washington, D.C. The awards program was established in 1998 to recognize exemplary books published by independent and university presses. This year, more than 1,500 titles were submitted in 55 fiction and nonfiction categories.

Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits features 85 black-and-white

studies, many of which are being made public for the first time. The portraits are paired with revealing quotes from the subjects themselves, along with biographical profiles. Paying tribute to these distinguished men and women and their work, the book offers fresh insight, intimate remembrances, and

exclusive information of widespread and lasting interest. The 232-page work includes 14 important American artists, 12 Pulitzer Prize winners, a Nobel Prize Laureate, seven recipients of the National Book Award, and eight of the world's best-selling

authors. The late-20th-century pictorial archive represents 20 years of meticulous work by Jimm Roberts, a nationally-recognized, award-winning photographer.

Roberts is an Orlando-based

freelance photographer. His work has appeared in publications from *The New York Times Magazine* and *Le Monde*, *Paris* to *Rolling Stone* and *Vogue*; on record albums/CD covers from *The Allman Brothers Band* to *The Best of Otis Redding*; on the dust jackets of books by Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, such as Alison Lurie

and James A. Michener; as the frontispiece for the catalogues of artists, including *John Chamberlain*, *A Catalogue Raisonné of the Sculpture 1954-1985*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; on "Dateline NBC," as well as in museum galleries. He is founder of the photography department of the Orlando Museum of Art, where

he taught classes and workshops from 1971 to 1981.

The book, is available in bookstores, or can be purchased through Mercer University Press by calling (800) 637-2378, ext. 2880, or (800) 342-0841, ext. 2880 (in Georgia). For other books published by Mercer University Press, go to www.mupress.org. **M**



Students to Benefit from Baptist Scholars Fund

Mercer is committed to providing financial assistance for Baptist students.

One of the outcomes of the changing relationship between Mercer and the Georgia Baptist Convention that took place last November is the loss of \$3.5 million the University received annually from the Cooperative Program. Mercer used those funds to provide scholarships to Baptist students attending the University. In response to this financial loss, Mercer's Board of Trustees has established the Baptist Scholars Fund as a measure to sustain the financial support of students from Baptist churches and to continue to encourage Baptist men and women to choose Mercer for their college education.

"This loss of scholarship support from the Georgia Baptist Convention does not signal a lack of support by Baptist churches and individuals in Georgia for Mercer's Baptist students," said Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey. "The major difference is that churches and

individuals will need to make their financial contributions directly to Mercer's Baptist Scholars Fund."

The Baptist Scholars Fund will have both non-endowed and endowed scholarships. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to men and women who want an education of the highest quality with diverse offerings of academic programs in a learning environment that is faithful to the historic Baptist traditions.



"Financial support from churches and individuals is extremely important, but what is also vital is our alumni, friends and supporting churches encouraging Baptist students to consider Mercer as their college of choice," added Godsey. "While the relationship with the Georgia Baptist Convention has changed, Mercer has an enduring commitment to its historic Baptist

roots and traditions."

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

More information on this new scholarship fund will go out to Baptist churches this summer. Anyone wanting to apply to Mercer or to make a gift to the Baptist Scholars Fund at Mercer University should visit www.BaptistScholarsFund.org or contact Allen London at (800) 837-2911, ext. 4169, or london_a@mercer.edu. **M**

Accolades Honoring Godsey — Continued from page 1

colleges and universities in Georgia. Among the six schools he added were the School of Medicine and the School of Engineering in Macon. Godsey also established Mercer University Press and Mercer Engineering Research Center and formed partnerships with Piedmont Healthcare of Atlanta, Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon, as well as the Robins Air Logistics Center in Warner Robins.

Georgia House Resolution 1122 was presented to Godsey on Feb. 28 and was sponsored by Reps. David Lucas

(District 139), Brooks Coleman (District 144), Nikki Randall (District 138), Mickey Channell (District 116) and Jim Cole (District 125).

It cited Godsey's commitment to the Central Georgia area and downtown Macon, his vision as one of the founders of NewTown Macon and his recognitions for service and leadership, including the 2002 Southeast CEO of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the 2003 Macon Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and numerous listings by *Georgia Trend* magazine as one of the top 100 most influential Georgians. **M**

Mercer Expanding Programs, Adds Second Ph.D. By Mark Vanderboek

Mercer will offer a number of new programs in education, business, public safety, theology and counseling in 2006 to 2007 in both undergraduate and graduate studies. The new programs will include the University's second Ph.D. program.

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

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

teacher leadership focus.

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

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

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

The Business School developed the

while studying with top executives of companies successfully competing in the global market.

The 16-month professional MBA is aimed at business professionals with at least three years of experience who want to advance their careers to the leadership level in today's corporate world. Three retreats provide a

concentrated study on specific business topics, including a weeklong Best Practices Field Residency, where students meet with top executives of companies successfully operating in today's competitive market.

The College of Continuing and Professional Studies (CCPS) will introduce a master of science in public safety leadership program in Atlanta. The degree is at the leading edge of public safety education, according to Dr. Billy Slaton, the coordinator

of Mercer's criminal justice degree program. The program is designed to augment all public safety disciplines and will include courses in terrorism, disaster response and budgeting.

The program is the only one of its kind in Georgia and is geared for public

safety professionals, including sheriff's deputies, police officers and firefighters, as well as officials from state agencies, such as the bureau of investigation, state patrol, and department of corrections, among others. The schedule is designed for public safety practitioners, with classes in the evenings.

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

Students graduate with a master of divinity degree and a master of science in community counseling degree, which can be completed in four years. With two degrees, graduates will be able to integrate the knowledge of professional counseling with the ministries of pastoral care and counseling. The degrees will give graduates the depth of education they need to become certified pastoral counselors as well as licensed counselors, said Dr. Denise Massey, associate professor of the pastoral care and counseling program at McAfee. Additional professional training is required after graduation in order to complete the licensing and/or certification process, she noted. **M**



Beau Cabell photo

Bibb County teacher **Susan Goins** talks with Mercer University Associate Professor **Kevin Jenkins** about the new Educational Leadership Ph.D. during an information session April 10 in the W.G. Lee Alumni House.

new accelerated EMBA for corporate professionals who have a minimum of five years of experience. Three retreats provide a concentrated study on specific business topics, including a 10-day international residency where students are immersed in a different culture

Graduates Garner Awards for Excellence and Service By Mark Vanderboek

GRIFFIN B. BELL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Hollie Benet Preston, a graduate of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, took home the honors as the recipient of the Griffin B. Bell Award for



HOLLIE BENET PRESTON

Community Service. Preston entered the College of Nursing as a first-generation college student and excelled.

Preston made the Dean's List and the President's List multiple times and was named to the National Dean's List.

She served as an officer of the Student Government Association, the Baptist Student Union and the Honor Council. In addition to being a member of the Pi Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Preston was active with the National Student Nurses' Association and the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing chapter of Georgia Association of Nursing Students.

Off campus, Preston worked at the Pavilion Homeless Ministry, served as a camp nurse for the Baptist Student Union convention, volunteered for the Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and assisted at the Good Samaritan Health Clinic.

She leads weekly Bible studies for students and teaches Sunday School at her church. She organized or participated in mission trips abroad.

JAMES T. MCAFEE JR. ENDOWED VISION AND LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(James T. McAfee Jr., 1939-2004, provided strong leadership to Mercer as chairman and as a member of the Board of Trustees. This Fund was established in 2005 by his wife and son.)

The first two recipients of the James

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

Geiger, who graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor of music degree,



JAMES CHRISTOPHER GEIGER JR.

showcased his tremendous potential for leadership almost from the moment he set foot on campus.

According to Dr. Stanley Roberts, director of choral activities and coordinator of sacred music studies, Geiger "demonstrated maturity beyond his age and confidence for service and leadership. He has continued to exhibit and further develop these skills of leadership and service throughout his university career."

Geiger was involved in many facets of student life. He served in the Student

Government Association as vice president and senator-at-large; in the Sigma Nu fraternity as chaplain, candidate trainer and philanthropy chair; on the VIP staff with Quadworks and as a Mercer Ambassador.

Additionally, he was active in Mu Phi Epsilon and the American Choral Directors Association, as well as a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Theta Alpha Kappa honor societies.

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

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

WALLACE ODELL DU VALL EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

(Wallace Odell DuVall was an Atlanta attorney who spent most of his career in the banking industry and was a generous benefactor and longtime friend of Mercer. This award recognizes a graduating senior who has been accepted into an accredited graduate program.)

Samson Julius Alva, the 2006

recipient of the Wallace Odell DuVall Excellence in Leadership Award, graduated from the College of Liberal Arts *magna cum laude* with both a bachelor of science in physics and mathematics and a bachelor of arts in economics.

Alva has made numerous presentations at conferences on his research and also worked as a supplemental instruction leader at the Academic Resources Center. He served as a laboratory equipment assistant in



SAMSON JULIUS ALVA

the Department of Physics and as a student assistant in the Learning Resources Center.

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

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Ross Remembered Through Establishment of Scholarship By Anna Sandison

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross have established a scholarship at Mercer in memory of their daughter, Jennifer L. Ross, who died Jan. 1, 2006, in Savannah. Gifts that have already been sent to Mercer in her honor will serve as the foundation for the Jennifer Liscomb Ross Memorial Scholarship.

Ross and several friends were crossing Orleans Square in the early hours of Christmas Eve after attending the Savannah Christmas Cotillion. Muggers approached the group, one of whom shot Ross after she resisted handing over her purse. She died a week later of complications from her injuries.

“During her time with us, Jenn’s strongest personality trait was her courage.”

Ross was a sophomore at Mercer and a member of the Chi Omega sorority. She was studying international business and dreamed of opening an international design firm. Accordingly, the Jennifer Liscomb Ross Memorial Scholarship will benefit a sophomore member of the Chi Omega sorority who is enrolled in the Stetson School

of Business and Economics. The recipient of the scholarship “should possess the qualities of courage, devotion and determination that Jennifer demonstrated during her life.”

The sisters of Chi Omega echoed these sentiments at Ross’s memorial service, held in Willingham Auditorium

on Mercer’s Macon campus. The sorority passed out purple ribbons commenting, “Purple ribbons symbolize violence and crimes in the community as well as courage. During her time with us, Jenn’s strongest personality trait was her courage.”

One person estimated that as many as 1,000 people attended the Jan. 5 memorial service in Savannah, held at Saint John’s Church. The church was filled and people spilled onto the steps and the sidewalk, a testament to Ross’s popularity as well as the strong reaction of the public to the violence of her death.

Ross’s death was also the final instigator in ongoing efforts to study



The Ross family, along with friends of the family, announced the creation of the Jennifer Liscomb Ross Scholarship on April 10 at the Mercer Connection in Savannah. Pictured left to right: Holmes Bell, Lisa Bell, Diana Bell, Gus Bell, Coren Ross, Rusty Ross, and Drs. Ramon Meguiar and Ed Abrams of Memorial Health University Medical Center.

and improve the emergency care in the state of Georgia, outlined in Senate Resolution 785. Sen. Eric Johnson of Savannah, a friend of the

Ross family, supported the resolution, which Gov. Sonny Perdue not only signed in April, but also dedicated to Ross. **M**

Graduate Lead Effort to Bring ‘Baby Noor’ to America for Care By Mark Vanderboek

Armed with a Mercer degree that opened doors for him, 1st Lt. Jeff Morgan took the initiative to open doors for a tiny Iraqi nicknamed “Baby Noor,” arranging to get her life-saving care.

The baby, a three-month-old with a severe case of spina bifida, would have died in Iraq without the help of Morgan and his unit. The effort to bring the baby to the United States for surgery to repair her spine, and save her life, made national news and garnered blanket coverage from *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution* (AJC). Morgan spearheaded the effort in Iraq and enlisted the help of a friend from his church, Debbie Stone, who raised thousands of dollars for the surgery and arranged for the care of Baby Noor and her family in the United States. He gives plenty of credit to Stone and to his unit for the successful operation.

“These are all very brave men,” Morgan said. “These guys in Charlie Company went out every day risking their lives and really wanted to help this little girl. I can’t take all the credit. The Good Lord knows you can’t do it all alone — all the guys helped out with this, and the credit really belongs with the entire unit.”

Morgan, 40, a 2001 graduate of Mercer’s Organization Leadership program, came across the baby after members of Charlie Company discovered her during a sweep for terrorists. At the time, Morgan was serving as the civil affairs officer for his unit, Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion/121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia National Guard. The company was attached to the 10th Mountain Division, and was responsible for patrolling the March 1 Area of Baghdad, also known as Abu Ghraib.

“I just really felt I had to do something for this little girl,” said

Morgan, a single father with five children of his own. “I tried to get the 10th Mountain to help, but there just wasn’t anything they could do because they weren’t set up that way. So I went outside of Army channels, I grabbed the folks from the newspaper — Moni Basu and Curtis Compton [of the AJC] — and told them about it and then I just started e-mailing people.”

Morgan made numerous calls and sent e-mails. Morgan was in contact

numerous times with American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad’s office and with the office of U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), which paved the way for the child to leave for America to undergo surgery. The Jan. 8 operation was a success, and Baby Noor continues her recovery at Children’s Healthcare in Atlanta.

The story was not just a success in America, Morgan said; the Iraqi neighborhood in which Charlie Company was operating changed after news got out of its assistance with Baby Noor.

“There was a mix of Shia and Sunni in the area and tensions were pretty high there before this happened,” Morgan said. “The complexion of the area changed after it. People saw that Americans weren’t just there to enforce the law and catch terrorists, they saw that we were there to help out the Iraqi people.”

Before joining the National Guard, Morgan spent 10 years in the regular Army, working his way up to staff

sergeant before moving into civilian life and the Guard. After moving his family to Douglasville, Morgan began to think about college again. During his time in the military, he had amassed a number of college credits, but had not finished his degree. He found just what he was looking for in Mercer’s Organization Leadership program in Lithia Springs. Morgan finished in 18 months, graduating at 35.

Once he had his degree, Morgan found out he could become an officer in the National Guard through a program developed after the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. So, at 36, Morgan went to Officer Candidate School, graduating among the top in

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

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

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



“People saw that Americans weren’t just there to enforce the law and catch terrorists, they saw that we were there to help out the Iraqi people.”

Leavell and Godsey Highlight Commencement — Continued from page 1

institution for 27 years, Dr. Kirby Godsey,” Leavell noted. “From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the deep love and passion you have shown not only for this institution, but for this community, this city and the state of Georgia.”

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

In an interview with *The Telegraph*, Walden Jr. discussed the

impact Mercer University made on his father’s life.

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

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

William L. Emerson received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, an honor presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies excellence in character, leadership,

service to the community, and a commitment to spiritual values.

In addition to the main Macon commencement held May 13, the University coordinated nine other commencements. On May 6, students from Southern School of Pharmacy, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and the School of Medicine matriculated; Walter F. George School of Law students celebrated commencement on May 12; Macon, Eastman and Henry County students from College of Continuing and Professional Studies graduated on May 13. Four commencements were held on the Atlanta campus on May 20 — College of Continuing and Professional Studies (Atlanta and Douglas County); James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology; Tift College of Education; and Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics. **M**

McDuffie and Mercer Offer Advanced String Instruction *By Denise Cook*

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

The program provides full scholarships covering tuition, housing and meals for four days of intense study of solo, chamber and orchestral repertoire. Eight violinists, four cellists and four violists will have the opportunity to participate in this exclusive strings immersion workshop with some of the nation's foremost concert artists. The master faculty will include Robert McDuffie, world-renowned violinist and distinguished university professor of music at Mercer, and six visiting master string musicians: Andrés Díaz, renowned concert artist; David Halen, concertmaster, Saint

Louis Symphony Orchestra; Amy Schwartz Moretti, concertmaster, Oregon Symphony; Paul Murphy, associate principal violist, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; Christopher Rex, principal cellist, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and Sabina Thatcher, principal violist, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

The students will take part in both personal and group lessons that will advance them to a new level of music performance. The festival will culminate with a public concert on Sept. 4 in Mercer's Neva Langley Fickling Hall. The Festival serves as a preview for the Robert

McDuffie Program for Advanced String Studies at Mercer University, which begins fall 2007. Mercer is working with McDuffie and renowned musicians from around the country to create a program that addresses the need for elite string instruction in the South.

"Our goal is to have a minimum of 12 students, who will serve in three string quartets, and form a nucleus for a string orchestra. We will expand the curriculum to include not just solo and ensemble music, but orchestral excerpts as well," McDuffie said. "In 2008 to 2009, we plan to reach our full complement of 26 undergraduate musicians, enough to form a string orchestra, and a variety of chamber ensembles," he added. The 26 musicians will consist of 12 violinists, six violists, six cellists and two double bassists.

The renowned musicians, who will be distinguished visiting artists at Mercer, will impart a sweeping view of music and demonstrate the kinds of career paths available from completion of an advanced string program. Many of the artists hold principal positions at major symphony orchestras across the



Robert McDuffie coaches Evelyn Petcher of Lookout Mountain, Ga., after her solo performance during a violin and viola master class during the 2005 festival.

nation, and all maintain prominent solo and chamber music careers. The distinguished visiting artists include Andrés Díaz, David Halen, Christopher Rex, Sabina Thatcher and Eugene Levinson, principal double bassist, New York Philharmonic.

"McDuffie Program students will also be Mercer students, which means they will receive the kind of first-rate, well-rounded education that a conservatory cannot provide," McDuffie explained. In addition to their instruction with Mercer resident string faculty, every student will have direct

access to each distinguished visiting artist during their regular visits on campus, and will participate in private lessons, master classes, chamber music coaching sessions, and orchestral sectional work.

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

For more information about these programs, call (478) 301-2748 or visit www.mercer.edu/mcduffie. **M**

New Physician Assistant Program Provides Excellent Career Opportunities

By Nancy Fullbright

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

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences of Mercer, formerly known as Southern School of Pharmacy.

"The offering of a physician assistant program is an important first step that the University has taken to increase the number of health science programs available to its students," said H.W. "Ted" Matthews, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health

Sciences and vice president for the health sciences at Mercer. "This program provides Mercer students another health career option, especially for those who are interested in the practice of medicine. This field is in great demand and provides excellent career opportunities."

The new physician assistant program is one of the reasons for the changing name of Mercer's 103-year-old pharmacy school, which officially becomes the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on July 1, 2006. "This change reflects the additional health science offerings that will be beneficial to our students and University in fostering inter-professional education," Matthews added.

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

The 28-month program will be based on Mercer's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta and will eventually enroll 80 to 100 graduate candidates. Coursework will include studies in biology, physiology, anatomy and biochemistry,

among others.

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

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

"Many of our students are interested in a career in a health-related area, and the development of this program allows a unique situation," he explained. "Currently, a student at Mercer can prepare for medical or dental school, or pursue a pre-pharmacy or pre-physician curriculum while also enjoying the benefits of a liberal arts base. The students in the pre-physician assistant program will have that same opportunity. They will receive a B.S.

degree in health science from the College of Liberal Arts at the completion of their first year in the graduate program in Atlanta."

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

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

For more information about Mercer's physician assistant program, contact the Office of the Senior Vice President – Atlanta at Mercer University at (678) 547-6397 or PAprogram@mercer.edu. **M**



Raytheon Supports School of Engineering

On April 24, Raytheon Co. presented a check to the School of Engineering. The general manager of Raytheon in Warner Robins, Tom Wilkason, left, a member of the School's National Engineering Advisory Board, presented the gift to Dean M. Dayne Aldridge at the School of Engineering.

University Honors Music Giants with Honorary Degrees By Nancy Fullbright

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

CHUCK LEAVELL Doctor of Music

Chuck Leavell has been pleasing the ears of music fans for more than 30 years now. His piano and keyboard work has been heard on the works of Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, the Black Crowes, George Harrison, the Allman Brothers Band, Indigo Girls, Blues Traveler and many, many more. His association with the Stones has been a long one, beginning in 1982, and is still going strong.

In addition to his musical expertise, he is now a respected author having penned a book on forestry and conservation called *Forever Green: The History and Hope of the American Forest, 2nd edition* (Mercer University Press, 2003). This book is now in its second printing in the U.S. and has been translated and released in Germany and Austria.

Leavell takes this passion to the streets by giving speeches and presentations to a variety of groups and also spends time in Washington, D.C., meeting and speaking to committees, environmental officials and high-level government officials to help shape policy and to promote sound forestry management practices in America. This has resulted in Leavell being one of the most sought-after keynote speakers around.

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

His autobiography with co-writer J. Marshall Craig titled *Between Rock and a Home Place* (Mercer University Press, 2004) has garnered such overwhelming reviews that one critic even declared it the "best rock autobiography ever." Taking the reader from his early days as an upstart musician in Alabama in the

late '60s to his classic '70s years with the Allman Brothers Band, Sea Level and his many sessions as a premiere sideman to his more than 20 years with the Rolling Stones and much more in-between, this book rocks. Leavell also discusses his passion for forestry and the environment as well as his dedication to his family.

In addition to his solo projects and working with the Stones and their various solo projects, Leavell is an in-demand session player and producer. His credits include recordings by Gregg Allman, Chuck Berry, the Black Crowes, Blues Traveler, Larry Carlton, Eric Clapton (notably, the Grammy-winning *Unplugged* album), Aretha Franklin, George Harrison, Warren Haynes and Gov't Mule, John Hiatt, Indigo Girls, Train, Dave Edmunds, Dion and scores of other artists.

A well-established pianist in the music industry, Leavell continues to tour and record with national artists and manages plenty of time to work on Charlane Plantation, his beloved hunting and pristine pine forest plantation. At his home in rural Georgia, you can find Leavell working in the woods, playing his piano and declaring he's fortunate to have three real passions in his life: "My family, my trees and my music," he says. "I have no intentions of slowing down in music now! But one day I will hang up my rock 'n roll shoes and I hope it will be right here on a pine tree."

PHILIP M. WALDEN, CLA '62 Doctor of Humanities (posthumously)

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

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



President Godsey congratulates Phil Walden's son, Phil Walden Jr. (left) and Chuck Leavell (right) at commencement exercises on May 13.

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

Over the past four decades, Walden, through his Georgia-based recording companies, Capricorn Records and Velocette Records, represented and produced some of the hottest musical

talent of the times, including renown hit-makers Sam and Dave, Percy Sledge, the Allman Brothers Band, the Marshall Tucker Band, the Dixie Dregs, Wet Willie, Widespread Panic, Cake and 311, placing the state on the recording industry map.

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

of music fans.

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

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

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

Engineering Professor Nominated for Major Technology Award By Mark Vanderboek

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

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

"I was delighted and honored

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

The nomination "came out of the blue," the longtime Mercer professor said.

"This was a total surprise to me," Davis said. "It was just a great experience, and it was wonderful to be recognized both within the University and outside of it."

Davis has made numerous contributions to the University and has been on the faculty since 1972, when she began teaching in the English department. She served as associate provost at Mercer from 1984 to 1989, with various responsibilities including undergraduate admissions. In 1989, she became a faculty member in Mercer's newly established School of Engineering and, in 1991, she developed the technical

communication program. She is the only female chair in the School.

During Davis' tenure, the bachelor of science in technical communication program has received national recognition. Additionally, she helped pioneer distance learning degree programs at Mercer by creating, along with the late Dr. David Leonard, the master of science in technical communication management degree.

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

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MERCER COMMENCE

In ten commencement ceremonies held over a three-week period in May, Mercer graduated nearly 1,500 students from the University's 10 colleges and schools. President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey presided over the final commencements of his 27-year presidency.



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



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



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



SGA President **Nancy David** and Vice President **Jamie Geiger** prepare to lead the graduating students into the University Center Arena.



Suzanne Jackson Newberry of Bishop, Ga., proudly displays her bachelor of business administration degree.



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

MENT 2006



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

“**W**e commend you today for the study, for the critical thinking, and for the intellectual

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



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



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



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



Kimberly Sharron Billingsley of Carrollton, Ga., graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree.

More Than One 'Chip Off the Old Block' By Rachel Garza

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

The Mercer tradition began with Horace Hoyt Harwell, who received his bachelor's degree from the College of Liberal Arts in 1929. As a young man growing up in Winder, he felt his calling was into the ministry. Mercer was the university of choice for young men who wanted to become Baptist preachers. During his time in school,

he traveled with the Mercer Quartet as they spread their Mercer spirit through song around the state. After his graduation, he served as a minister with the Alabama Baptist Convention and pastored many Alabama churches.

Horace's son, Jack, served as editor of *The Christian Index* for 30 years and was very involved with Mercer through the Georgia Baptist Convention. While he did not graduate from Mercer, he was recognized for his support and Mercer spirit with an honorary doctorate from the University in 1976.

Jack received this honor one year before his son, Ronald, graduated with his bachelor's degree from Mercer. In 1977, Ronald Harwell made the move from Mercer's undergraduate campus on Coleman Avenue to the law school campus on Coleman Hill. During his first year of law school, he met his

future wife, Elizabeth Fieldbinder. The two fell fast in love and were married during their second year of law school. They graduated with their law degrees in 1980 and are now partners in the law firm of Harwell, Brown and Harwell in Newnan, Ga.

They welcomed the fourth generation Mercerian, Kelly Harwell, in November 1983. She followed in her family's footsteps and made Mercer her college choice.

"Kelly holds the record for the highest grade point average among the Harwells," her father, Ronald, said. "I graduated *magna cum laude*, too, but she had even better grades than I did!"

Kelly is working for the Alpha Delta



From left: **Ronald Harwell** holding **Kelly Harwell**, **Horace Harwell**, and **Jack Harwell**. "When we took this picture, we thought we were simply capturing four generations of Harwells," Ronald Harwell said. "As it turns out, we were capturing four generations of Mercerians!" Below: **Kelly Harwell**, a fourth generation Mercerian, graduated in May.



Pi National Headquarters in Atlanta this summer, but plans to pursue a career in business event planning after she completes her internship.

With a relationship dating back more than 80 years, Mercer University is very much a part of the Harwell family and will continue to be so for years to come. **M**

New Tax Law Changes Increase Benefits of Independent 529 Plan By Mark Vanderhoek

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

President Bush signed a law in February that included parity for prepaid tuition plans, like Independent 529 Plan, and 529 savings plans, allowing the two to be calculated equally in financial aid decisions.

The new law takes effect July 1 and will mean that proceeds from prepaid tuition plans will no longer be considered student assets, which weigh more heavily in the federal financial aid formula. Instead, prepaid 529 assets will be considered as a part of parents' assets, as 529 savings plans are now.

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

The head of Independent 529 Plan praised the changes to the law. "Now, more than one million American families that currently own prepaid 529 accounts may be granted more financial aid than they would have before," said Nancy Farmer, president and CEO, Tuition Plan Consortium, which administers

Independent 529 Plan. "This is a win for parents and students who will receive the same financial aid benefit regardless of what type of 529 they choose. This ends the confusion for families and will help encourage more parents to save for college."

Section 529 Plans, named for the IRS code that defines them, have gained popularity over the last decade. Families have been attracted to the plans because accounts generate no federal income tax if used as intended, benefits are transferable to other members of the family, certificates are usable at any participating school in the consortium and refunds are available if the student receives a scholarship or decides not to attend college.

Independent 529 Plan offers parents a way to make contributions to a 529 plan and reap the benefits without regard to the performance of

stock or bond funds. Participants buy tuition certificates rather than make contributions to an account that holds stock or bond funds. Rather, contributions are actually pre-purchasing tuition, in part or in whole, at less than today's prices. It operates

"The new calculations will mean a better federal financial aid package and will help families get that much more benefit out of their college savings."

as a prepaid tuition benefit and purchasers can deduct purchases of the tuition certificates from their income tax.

The plan enables a parent to purchase a certificate for part or all of tuition that can be used at any participating college. The parent pays today's prices, less a discount that reduces the cost even further. Then, years later, they redeem the certificate

for guaranteed amount of tuition.

The tax law changes will only make Independent 529 Plan that much more useful to Mercer families, according to Williams, who heads Mercer's Office of Financial Planning. "This is great news for Mercer students and families,"

Williams said. "The change in law means that Independent 529 will benefit them that much more. The new calculations will mean a better federal financial aid package and will help families get that much more benefit out of their college savings."

The purchase of a tuition certificate does not guarantee admission or enrollment at a participating institution. Students must meet entrance standards at the institution they choose to attend. For more information, visit www.independent529plan.org or contact the Mercer Office of Financial Planning at (478) 301-2670. **M**

Mercer Poised to Provide Leadership in Uniting Baptists

— Continued from page 2

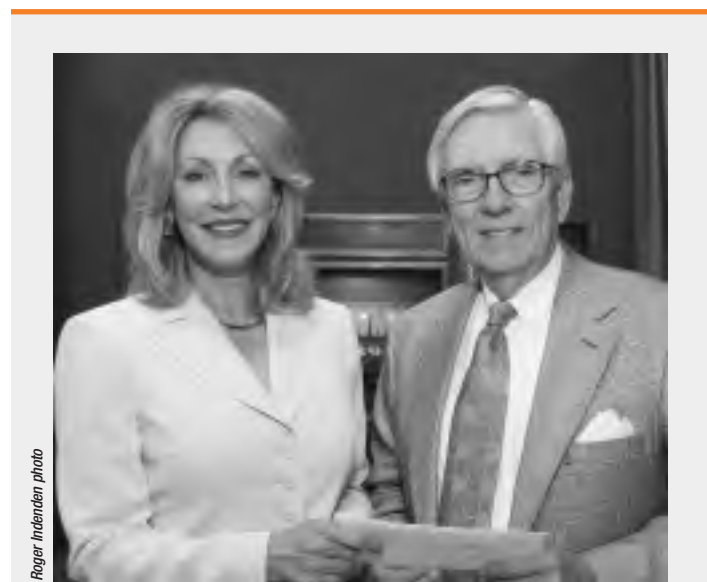
American Baptist Churches, USA; the Rev. Dr. Gary Nelson, general secretary, Canadian Baptist Ministries; the Rev. Dr. Tyrone Pitts, general secretary, Progressive National Baptist Convention; the Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw, president, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; Dr. Walter Shurden, director, The Center for Baptist Studies of Mercer University; the Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert Jr., general secretary, National Baptist

Convention of American, Inc.; Dr. John V. Upton Jr., executive director, Baptist General Association of Virginia; the Rev. Dr. Daniel Vestal, coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Dr. Charles R. Wade, executive director, Baptist General Convention of Texas; Dr. Bill Wilson, co-chair, Mainstream Baptist Network, and Dr. Jimmy Allen, a former president, Southern Baptist Convention, and a founder, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"The Baptist voice has certainly been muted by the Southern Baptist Convention," said Godsey. "While none of these groups by themselves has a large voice, together, they have a very

significant voice. Their willingness to work together to become a more unified voice of Baptists is a very important step. President-Elect Underwood will provide the principle leadership in organizing the continuing conversations among these diverse Baptist constituencies."

Determined to move forward in seeking opportunities to work together as Christian partners, the participants agreed in the covenant to plan a convocation of Baptists to celebrate their commitments to Baptist values and traditions. Underwood expects the convocation to take place in 2007. **M**



Gannett Makes Gift for Digital Storytelling Project —

Gannett Foundation recently made a gift to Mercer to be used to purchase equipment for digital storytelling. **Dodie Cantrell**, president and general manager of 13WMAZ television in Macon, presented the check to **Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey**.

Class of 1956 Encouraged to Attend Reunion

Dear Fellow Graduate of the Class of '56:

Last fall, as soon as the letters about Red's 50th Class Reunion started coming, we started planning. There were several reasons. For one, my dad (Mercer's Class of '29) always went to his class reunions, and I remembered how he enjoyed his 50th. We were curious, too, about seeing folks again. And some people



contacted us to ask if we would be there. We put it on the calendar and made our hotel reservations. It was really a given from the start. We looked forward to it. We hope it is a "given" for you, too, and that you are looking forward to it.

But just in case you are thinking of not coming ...

We really never expected to have so much fun! The Mercer folks, including the students who were our guides for the weekend, did a fantastic job. It was organized in a way that made it easy to get where we were supposed to be. (Clear directions are good for folks our age.) The food was good. The campus looked fabulous — different from "ours" but great, nevertheless. They had thought of everything. Maybe you know how they take a group picture and are

able to identify everyone accurately, but I didn't. It was so neat! The programs were well planned and entertaining ... they even had gifts for everyone!

But you know what? All of that wasn't what made it so much fun. It was the people who came back for the reunion. The sight you caught of someone you hadn't seen in 10 or 20, or 50 years was so exciting! The conversations, whether it was about the years from '52-'56 or the years that have followed, were wonderful. We were hugging, and laughing and talking the whole time. I sat by Dr. McManus at the first dinner. It was a delight. I saw Dr. Johnson at the same dinner, and got to ask him if he remembered that he was one of the two ministers who performed our wedding ceremony. I just can't tell you of all the memories that flooded back as we would see and talk to people. We even made friends with some we had not known all that well when we were in school.

Red and I talked about it all the way home and for days afterwards. Even now, months later, we'll remember a person or a conversation, and enjoy it all over again. I remember saying to him: "I expected to have a good time but I didn't expect to have *such* a good time!"

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

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

Sincerely,

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



Graduates Garner Awards for Excellence and Service

— Continued from page 4

2006. He chaired the SGA Academic Affairs Committee in 2005 and Fiscal Affairs Committee from 2005 to 2006. In rounding out his Mercer experience, he served as a DJ for the new Mercer Radio Station in 2005, and as general manager in 2006. He was also captain of the Binary Bears, Mercer's successful computer programming team.

Alva will attend Boston College this fall and begin work on his Ph.D. in economics.

LOUIE D. NEWTON GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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

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

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

A graduate of the Holistic Child



NICOLE E. NATHER

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

The foundation for her success can be found in her commitment to the profession of teaching and her creative ability to solve problems and be a part

of a team. She presented with members of the Tift College of Education faculty at two national conferences about programming and partnering within and outside the College.

ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARD

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

William L. Emerson, a *summa cum laude* graduate of the College of Liberal Arts was the consummate student athlete



WILLIAM L. EMERSON

in winning one of the two top undergraduate honors when he was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award. He won because of his exemplary leadership to the Mercer community, as an athlete, as a student and as a leader.

Emerson excelled as an athlete, playing for four years on the men's basketball team and serving as captain during his senior year. He was twice recognized as a first-team Academic All-American by *ESPN The Magazine*, the premiere academic All-America team in the United States. Emerson was a four-time Atlantic Sun Academic All-Conference honoree and was named the conference's Male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2005.

Emerson maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average as a biology major. In the fall, he will attend the Medical College of Georgia on a full scholarship. Emerson swept the awards for all three yearlong science sequences required for entry into medical school. Professors praise Emerson's work ethic, intellectual gifts and ability to manage his time as an athlete and a scholar.

Emerson served as a Student Government Association senator for three years and as senior class president this year. He also served as a leader in the community, volunteering with several organizations and agencies. **M**

Human Resources Offers Alumni Online Employment Opportunities

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

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

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

To subscribe to the e-mail distribution list, contact Human Resources at jobinfo@mercer.edu or (800) MERCER-U (ext. 2786). We look forward to hearing from you. **M**

Athletic Director Inducted Into Macon Hall of Fame

Director of Athletics Bobby Pope was inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame April 18 during the annual ceremony at the Macon Coliseum.

"I'm humbled and very honored," said Pope. "I'm not sure I actually deserve it. To be inducted along with the quality of athletes and the other people associated with athletics in Middle Georgia is very flattering."

Pope had his plaque join those of 12 other honorees on the Wall of Fame in the Coliseum's foyer prior to the induction banquet in the Coliseum.

The dean of athletic directors in the Atlantic Sun Conference, Pope is in his 17th year at the helm of Mercer University athletics.

During his tenure at Mercer, he has

seen the growth of the program to 14 sports, as well as the addition of the first full-time coaches for men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis and cross country.

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

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

For nearly two decades, he was a

sports reporter, director and sports anchor at WMAZ-TV. Pope called high school football and basketball games from the mid-'60s through 1972 on WMAC-AM radio and began his involvement with Mercer athletics in

1970 when he was the "Voice of the Bears." He served as Mercer's sports information director from 1980 to 1992.

He remains very involved in the community, serving as treasurer of the Macon Touchdown Club as well as

serving on the Mayor's Recreation Master Plan Committee and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority.

"One of the attributes that sets Bobby apart as a successful athletic director is his desire for Mercer's student-athletes to succeed in the classroom as much as they succeed in the various athletic venues," said Mercer President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey. "This past fall semester, the cumulative grade point average for all of the institution's student-athletes was 3.018. On behalf of my colleagues at Mercer, I want to express congratulations to Bobby for this very appropriate recognition."

A native of Thomaston, Pope graduated from Georgia College. He and his wife, Carol, have two children: Andy, a 1998 graduate of the University of Georgia, and Krissy, a 2001 Mercer University graduate. **M**



"To be inducted along with the quality of athletes and the other people associated with athletics in Middle Georgia is very flattering."

Athletic Director Bobby Pope was among the 2006 inductees into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame.

Nomination Deadline Aug. 15 for Athletic Hall of Fame

Mercer alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends are urged to nominate former student-athletes, coaches or contributors whom they deem viable candidates for the Athletic Hall of Fame. Mercer now inducts members into the coveted Hall of Fame every two years. Most recently, women's basketball standout Emma Mumphrey (Beal) and golfer Ed Everett were inducted in 2005.

Mumphrey and Beal were recognized at a dinner

ceremony in the Presidents Dining Room at the University Center and then publicly at halftime of the men's 2005 basketball homecoming game on the floor of the UC Arena. They became the 135th and 136th members of the Athletic Hall of Fame. Each member is now recognized with photos and biographies in designated showcases in Heritage Hall, located in the entrance to the University Center.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1971 to recognize and preserve the outstanding achievements of selected Mercer athletes in intercollegiate sports.

Eligibility is limited to former athletes, coaches and contributors who have brought acclaim to the University with consideration given to integrity, sportsmanship and character.

Nominations should be submitted by Aug. 15 to T. Raleigh Mann, senior

associate vice president of alumni services and university special events, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207, or e-mail to mann_tr@mercer.edu.

MEMBERS OF THE MERCER ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

INDUCTED 1971: Wright Bazemore, '38; James Wallace (Wally) Butts, '28; James M. Cowan (coach, 1946-56); Malcolm Lawrence (Shorty) Green, '27;

A. (Tige) Stone, '24; Zebulon Baird Vance (athletic director, 1942-71); Glenn Newton Wilkes, '50

INDUCTED 1972: Wilton Byron (Bill) Alderman, '30; Allan Rabun Bloodworth, '37; Luther U. Bloodworth, '18; William Lamar Clements, '51; George H. (Skipper) Cochran, '14; Charles C. Morgan, '17; John Richardson Parks, '24; Robert B. Reeder, '51; Claude Smith (coach, 1943-77); Albert J. (Duck) Swann, '16; John Lenoir Westmoreland, '14

INDUCTED 1973: Norman King Carter Jr., '60; James Clayton Clements, '17; Herschel Forester, '15; Walter Jasper Grace, '15; George F. Harmon, '25; Ernest Lynwood Mallard, '30; William R. Pinkston, '26; Thomas J. Porter, '36; Richard Francis Reid, '54; Robert M. (Bob) Smith, '33

INDUCTED 1974: Glenn E. Cassell, '52; Josh Cody (coach, 1920-23); Robert M. Gamble, '22; Frank L. Hunt, '15; Carl E. Lancaster, '23; Robert E. Lee Jr., '35; Harold (Harold) Lichter, '36; A.

Thomas Mixon, '55; Robert E. Wilder, '52

INDUCTED 1975: Charles E. Dewberry, '15; C. Bradley Hogg, '11; James D. (Spec) Landrum, '40; F. Manly McWilliams, '24; H. Alton Owen, '38; Joe Pope, '34; Nat H. Reazor, '34;

Thomas H. (Slap) Rentz, '22; Bert D. Schwartz, '54; Robert (Bob) E. Sperry, '33; Ernest E. Zinkowski, '34

INDUCTED 1976: Neal Allen, '41; Jimmy J. Carnes, '56; Sidney H. Ellison, '25; George C. Gibson, '14; Dan W. Hammack, '23; Oscar L. Long, '26; Neufville Poore, '25; Charles R. Dorsey, '17

INDUCTED 1977: W. Mayes Dobbins, '50; J. King Dunn, '25; Ferrol A. Sams Sr., '14; Eerie O. Sinclair, '20; John V. Skinner, '27; William C. Smith, '38

INDUCTED 1978: Steve E. Moody, '67; Emmett H. (Bubber) Pope, '25; Tommy Day Wilcox, '65, JD '73; Isben Giddens (Gid) Wilkes, '23

INDUCTED 1979: Sybil A. Blalock, '75; Mike E. Herndon, '24; Henry M. Melton, '09; Woodrow W. Richardson Jr., '58; Judson R. Roberts, '69; Virginia I. Williamson, '37

INDUCTED 1980: Robert H. Reeves, '66; Walter R. Salter, '28; Donald Glenn Veal, '61

INDUCTED 1981: Robert Belloir, '70; Walter L. Moore Jr., '57

INDUCTED 1982: James C. Hearn, '64; Bala A. Lancaster, '26

INDUCTED 1983: Horace E. Richter, '42; Donald B. (Butch) Clifton, '63; Myrel H. Huskey, '75

INDUCTED 1985: John Davis (Cotton) Harrison, '34; Donald E. Baxter, '65; Stewart A. Reese, '79

INDUCTED 1986: Dewall Waters, '66; John P. Manton, '67; Ronald (Sandy) Harris, '65

INDUCTED 1987: Julian Ray LeRoy, '52; Lamar Rich Plunkett, '32; Linda Callahan, '75; Clifford L. Powers Jr., '54

INDUCTED 1988: Dan Hammack, '55; Bruce Gordy, '72; Robert Graham, '61

INDUCTED 1989: Albert Sidney Johnson, '22; Grady Rainey, '39; Vassill Hoffich, '54

INDUCTED 1990: Vivian H. Terry, '81; Anthony B. Page, '42; Talcott Creech, '73

INDUCTED 1991: Charles J. Stapleton, '26; Rodney H. Blaylock, '42; Billy Smith, '24; Melvin Kinslow, '52

INDUCTED 1992: Edith Hillman Gerhardt, '39; William F. Sutton, '48

INDUCTED 1993: Richard Benson, '50; J. Aulbert Kinsaul, '50; Kenny Daugherty, '80; Frank Wary, '42

INDUCTED 1994: T. Kenyon Sellers, '40; Cecil B. Patterson, '76; Anthony P. Mazanek, '41

INDUCTED 1995: Al Gerhardt Sr., '40; Sam Mitchell, '85

INDUCTED 1997: Bill Bibb, (coach, 1974-89); John Hughes, '55; Frank Miller, '82

INDUCTED 1999: Dan Nymicz (coach, 1951-53); Sharon McSwain, '80

INDUCTED 2002: Barry Myers, (coach, 1978-2003); Tim Smith, '83

INDUCTED 2005: Ed Everett, '68; Emma Mumphrey Beal, '84



Members of the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame are now on display in Heritage Hall in the University Center.

Class Ring Finds Its Way Home 10 Years Later By Anna Sandison

In February, T. Raleigh Mann, senior associate vice president of alumni services and university special events, received an unusual package. The return address listed only a post office in Worcester, Mass.

The package contained a Mercer class ring, engraved with the year 1971, but no accompanying note of explanation. Inside the ring, Mann noticed two faded engravings. One was the name of the manufacturer, which has since gone out of business. Luckily, the other turned out to be "CFT." Armed with these initials, Mann determined to return the ring to its rightful owner.

A quick flip through a 1971 yearbook revealed only one student with those initials: Charles F. Thornton of the College of Liberal Arts. Unfortunately, Thornton, like his ring, was classified as "lost" in the alumni database, leaving Mann with no address, no phone number and no way to contact him.

According to Mann, it required

"several days of 'Columbo' work" to track down possible contact information. Turning to past alumni directories, he discovered that Thornton was a teacher whose last known address was Wakulla

County, Fla. After fruitless Internet searches — there are almost 300 "Charles Thorntons" in America according to the online white pages, 20 in Florida alone — Mann searched the Wakulla County School District Webpage.

Mann e-mailed an inquiry, appropriately titled, "Charles F. Thornton of Mercer University Fame?," to Frank Thornton, a computer applications teacher at Wakulla Middle

School in Crawfordville, Fla.

"When I received the initial e-mail from Mr. Mann," said Thornton, "I almost discarded it as junk mail. I'm not sure what made me change my mind."

Concerned that it was an e-mail scam or solicitation, Thornton was still skeptical after opening the message. After Mann explained that he was trying to find the 1971 Mercer graduate who was missing a piece of jewelry, Thornton admitted that he had indeed lost his class ring.

"I am delighted that I finally did

trust my instincts and had faith in the innate goodness of people," said Thornton, who discovered the ring missing more than 10 years ago.



"I have always been proud of my Mercer heritage and was ebullient to once again possess my long-lost symbol of those formative and happy years on the Mercer campus."

There is no explanation as to how the ring ended up in Massachusetts or who eventually returned the ring to Mercer.

Of Mann, Thornton said, "I am delighted to find that there are still people who are willing to go the extra mile to put a smile on another person's face."

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



With a little help from Mercer's Alumni Services and an unknown person in Worcester, Mass., Frank Thornton is reunited with the class ring he lost more than 10 years ago.

Originally from Jesup, Thornton graduated from the College of Liberal Arts in 1971 with a bachelor of arts degree in history. **M**

UNIVERSITY NEWS BRIEFS

In its 10th year and eighth commencement ceremony, **James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology** graduated its largest-ever class of 39 students. The event also included a commencement address by one of Asia's preeminent theologians, Dr. Lien Hwa Chow. Mercer bestowed an honorary doctor of humanities degree upon Chow, who, until his retirement last year, served for 12 years as the president of the Asia Baptist Graduate Theology Seminary, a consortium of Baptist seminaries located throughout Asia. He is an accomplished writer, authoring 50 books, and is the chief editor of *Chinese Bible Commentary*. He is the co-translator of the *Today's Chinese Version* translation of the Bible. Other revised versions of the translated Bible are scheduled to be published in 2006 and 2009.

Walter F. George School of Law continues to advance in the national rankings due in good part to the opinions of the nation's judges and lawyers. In the 2007 *U.S. News and*

World Report edition of *America's Best Graduate Schools*, the school was rated an average of three out of a possible five by judges and lawyers across the nation, which accounts for 15 percent of a school's overall ranking. The Mercer Law School jumped 13 places among "The Top 100 Schools." While the school tied with five other law schools — LSU, Northeastern University, Penn State, Pepperdine and Santa Clara, Mercer had the highest rating of the five among judges and lawyers.

Susan S. Gunby, dean of **Georgia Baptist College of Nursing**, was recognized by the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) with its Leader of Leaders Award at NSNA's 54th Annual Convention in Baltimore, Md., last April. The Leader of Leaders Award, sponsored by Elsevier, is presented to an outstanding dean, faculty advisor or state consultant who has provided exceptional commitment to his or her students and to NSNA. Dean Gunby is the first Georgian to ever be presented with this award.

Guests at the 2006 commencement ceremony of the **Southern School of Pharmacy** witnessed two significant moments in the history of the pharmacy school. Eight candidates received Ph.D. degrees, a record number for the research program. Candidates in the Pharm.D. program also set a record, with nine graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. The nine students with 4.0 grade point averages received the R.C. Hood Award, the highest scholastic honor offered by the Southern School of Pharmacy. The award honors the memory of Dr. Reuben C. Hood, the first dean of the School.

Mercer awarded honorary doctor of science degrees to Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H., director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, and W. Douglas Skelton, M.D., public health director for Chatham and

Effingham Counties, Georgia Department of Human Resources, at the **School of Medicine** commencement on May 6. Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey made the presentation after Gerberding delivered the commencement address. Skelton, a former Trustee of the University, joined Mercer in 1985 as dean of the new School of Medicine, the last medical school to be accredited in

the 20th Century. Gerberding became director of the CDC and the administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on July 3, 2002. Previously, she served as acting deputy director of National Center for Infectious Diseases, where she played a major role in leading the CDC's response to the anthrax bioterrorism events of 2001.

Herff Jones Offers "Classier" Ring for Mercer Graduates

Mercer graduates now have a choice when it comes to class rings.



Men's Traditional Ring with Royal Setting

For the past five or six years, Herff Jones, a company that provides school rings, offered only one "official" ring design for Mercer University. The ring featured the University seal on top of a flat black jewel, flanked by rough engravings of Jesse Mercer and the Administration Building tower. The ring was available in both white and yellow gold.

Herff Jones has designed several new rings for Mercer. Men now have two options — the official ring and a traditional ring with a jeweled center. Women have three choices — the official design, the traditional ring and a "fashion" ring

called the Integra.

Herff Jones has also added a signet ring — a ring with a flat face, rather than the traditional domed-shape jewel — that usually appeals to graduates of professional programs. The signet ring is available in a generic Mercer University design, as well as law, medicine, pharmacy and theology-specific designs.

The new ring designs became available just in time for the graduates of the Class of 2006.

For more information about purchasing a Mercer class ring, contact Huey Feagin by phone at (205) 444-0202 or e-mail him at grads@bellsouth.net.



Men's/Women's Signet Ring



Women's Official Mercer Ring



BSU Students Break for Hurricane Survivors

Nearly two dozen Mercer students took advantage of a Baptist Student Union-sponsored trip to the Gulf Coast for their spring break. The students spent the week helping victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Mississippi and Louisiana. One group traveled to Mississippi to clean up after the devastation there, and another group traveled to New Orleans to help out. Among the students on the New Orleans trip were (left to right): **Jordan Wallace, Luke Carter, Justin Wright, Ben Tran, Priscilla Ezonnaebi, Tyler Cowart, and Ed Udvardia**, who paused for a photo after helping to remove a large tree stump from one woman's backyard.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1950

The Rev. Claud L. Asbury, CLA, of Ellicott City, Md., earned the Congressional Order of Merit for his work to promote prayer in schools. Asbury has traveled across America spreading his message, speaking at church conventions and publishing articles.

1953

Dr. Daniel Roberts, CLA, of Rockledge, Fla., has made annual visits to the Florida Legislature as "Physician of the Day" and participated in the Brevard County Alzheimer's Association fundraiser. He is an emeritus member of the Brevard County Medical Society Board of Governors and a retired dermatologist.

1957

James E. Worrall, EDU, of Perry, was re-elected mayor of Perry for a sixth term. A recipient of the prestigious

1971

Susie I. Trinkle, TIFT, of Pasadena, Md., completed a Ph.D. in organization and management on Oct. 31, 2005, from the School of Business and Technology at Capella University. She is employed by the IRS, is president of the Federal Triangle Chapter of Federally Employed Women and is vice president of education for the Revenooers Toastmasters Club. She has been married to Robert Trinkle for 22 years and has three grown children.

1975

Col. Steve Carter, CLA, of Peachtree City, recently retired from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service. He was honored with a parade at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, and received the Legion of Merit award for outstanding military service. His wife, Jane, was named a "Yellow Rose of Texas" for 30 years of volunteer and community service.

R. Leslie Hammock Jr., CLA, of Warner Robins, has been invited to

Clergy Overboard. He is the pastor at First Baptist Church, Plantation.

Ann H. Smith, BUS, of Macon, recently won the Governor's Small Business of Excellence Award.

1986

Christopher W. Yokom, BUS, LAW '89, of Atlanta, is an attorney with the Fulton County Juvenile Court. He was named the 2005 Child Advocate Attorney of the Year by the Juvenile Law Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the Georgia State Bar.

1987

Joe I. Allen, CAS, of Martin, was recently named executive director for the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District. He previously served as head of risk management for Gwinnett County government, chief deputy for the Gwinnett Tax Commissioner and director of public affairs and business resources for the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

1988

Henry C. Whitfield III, BUS, of Macon, was recently named the director of the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. The center is a unit of the Division of Continuing Education and Public Service at Georgia Southern University.

1989

Debby G. Farias, EDU, of Largo, Fla., completed the first half of the Ironman distance triathlon in the Florida Half Ironman on May 21 with a time of 5:27:12. She qualified for the World Championship in Clearwater, Fla., to be held in November.

Jennifer L. Smith, BUS, of Snellville, received her master of early childhood education degree from Piedmont College, Demorest, in May. She plans to teach the 5th grade in Gwinnett County, beginning this fall.

1990

Carlos A. McCloud, BUS, of Brunswick, was selected principal of Pelham Elementary School in Mitchell County. Prior to this appointment, he was an assistant principal with Glynn County Schools.

1991

Maricka Rogers, ENG, of Dunnellon, Fla., received her MBA from Regis University in July 2005. Rogers works for SPX AirTreatment in Ocala, Fla.

1993

Gene Dale Perkins, BUS, of Macon, received the Julian V. Smith Community Service Award. He is the vice president of Capital City Bank and has participated in various community activities, including raising money for the Hay House, the MEDGEN Community Health Foundation and serving meals to needy families on Thanksgiving.

1995

Chris Misamore, CLA, of Columbus, was named major accounts executive with Abbott Laboratories Pharmaceuticals. Misamore is married to **Birgit Stuienberg**, EDU '94, and has two daughters.

1996

Jon-Paul Croom, CLA, of Abington, Pa., was appointed chief operating officer of Roxborough Memorial Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

Jennifer L. McCarta, CLA, of Altamonte Springs, Fla., received her MBA from Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., in May.

Karen C. Mizell, EDU, of Griffin, earned a master's degree in Middle Grades Science from Georgia State University on Dec. 17, 2005. She teaches at Peebles Elementary School, Fayetteville.

Jennifer Sampson, CLA, of Dearborn Heights, Mich., was promoted to mid-level management at the Detroit location of Mobile Mini, Inc.

1997

Catherine Nance, ENG, of Hermitage, Tenn., earned her JD degree from Nashville (Tenn.) School of Law in May 2006. She was instrumental in the development of Mercer's distance-learning Master of Science in Technical Communication program.

1998

Heather L. Darden, CLA, of Atlanta, has taken an in-house position as director and real estate counsel for Arby's Restaurant Group, Inc., Atlanta.

Gail C. Johnson, BUS, of Tucker, published an essay in the anthology "*Kids, have you seen my backpack?*" and *Other Inspirational Stories of Non-Traditional Students: An Adult Learner Anthology*.

2000

Farooq Bilal Mughal, CLA, of Buford, is the senior adviser for the 2006 U.S. Congressional Campaign, Georgia 7th District.

2001

Carla A. Brown, EDU, of Lithonia, received her MBA in 2003 from Lacrosse University. She retired from General Motors in April and bought a franchise of "Comfort Keepers," a home senior service company.

Kelly R. Hohenstern, CLA, of Warner Robins, recently sold her first historical romance novel, *Trusting a Dark Stranger*, to New Concepts Publishing under the pen name, Kelly Renea.

2002

Michael McCord, CLA, of Macon, received his master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University on May 15.

Jeff Moore, CLA, of Augusta, received his doctor of dental medicine

degree from the Medical College of Georgia in May.

2003

Charles Wesley Easom, CLA, of Cordele, received his Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University on May 15.

2004

Ruth J. Beerman, CLA, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, her her article, "Agency for Whom? Looking at International Women's Day 2004: A Time for Consternation Amidst Celebration" published in May in the *Iowa Journal of Communication*.

2005

Ricky L. Haney, ENG, of Taylorsville, graduated in May from Penn State University with a master of science degree in engineering science, computer design option.

MARRIAGES, ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHS

1945

Anita Stephens Ball Harrison, TIFT, of Atlanta, welcomed her third great-grandchild, Mary Kate Guley of Waco, Texas.

1986

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

1990

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

1992

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

1993

Stacey Adams, BUS, and his wife, **Kathryn Chaffin-Adams**, CLA, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Scott, on Nov. 23, 2005. The family resides in Suwanee.

Charlotte T. Cline, ENG, and her husband, Dave, announce the birth of their son, Caleb Thomas, on Dec. 27, 2005. The family resides in South Boston, Va.

1996

Angela Folds Fox, CLA, and her husband, Jerry, announce the birth of their son, Brayden Patrick, on Sept. 15, 2005. The family resides in Franklin, Tenn.

✂ Please complete the form, detach and mail to Mercer University.

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



If you would like to receive a Mercer University commemorative tag, please complete this form and return it to the Mercer University Office of University Relations at 1400

Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207, along with a \$25 check made payable to Mercer University "Commemorative Tag." Mercer will mail you a release form to take to your county tag office, which will have your tag shipped from the Bibb County Tag Department.

COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE TAG INFORMATION

(Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

County in which vehicle is registered _____

* Your local tag office may require additional fees for commemorative tags.

Georgia Municipal Association Leadership Hall of Fame Award, Worrall is in his 18th year as mayor.

1960

Dr. William H. Brantley, CLA, of Greenville, S.C., received the George B. Pegram Award from the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society. The award honors outstanding physics teachers, particularly those who have authored undergraduate physics textbooks or advised students to enter the field of physics. Brantley has taught at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., since 1966.

attend the annual meeting of the Million Dollar Round Table in San Diego in June. The owner of Capital Planning, Hammock has achieved life membership and honor roll status with the group and marked his 25th year as a member.

1979

Sara "Sally" E. Lloyd, TIFT, of Fort Pierce, Fla., is on leave as a juvenile probation officer with the state of Florida because of health problems.

1981

Dr. William D. Blossch, CLA, of Plantation, Fla., published a book titled



Construction Progressing Well on Science and Engineering Building —

Construction crews with Chris R. Sheridan & Co. are making significant progress on the new Science and Engineering Building. The building will give the School of Engineering additional space and laboratories and serve as the new home for the physics department of the College of Liberal Arts. The state-of-the-art building will be ready for occupancy during the spring semester of 2007.

Michael T. Smith, BUS, married Casey Valentine Tolbert in April 2005. The couple resides in Macon, where he is senior credit manager at Atlantic Southern Bank.

1997

Carey Neeld, CLA, married Edward Retz Maple on April 16, 2005, at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, Atlanta. Bridesmaids included **Amy Brand Raub**, ENG '97, LAW '00; **Stacy Veasey Lange**, CLA '97; and **Jill Wallman Cronin**, CLA '96. **Colleen McCrory**, CLA '97, BUS '01 and **Ginna Passailaigue**, '98, served as greeters and readers.

Chrissy Dixon Pearson, CLA, and her husband, Marcus, announce the birth of their son, Marcus Benjamin Jr. (Benji), in January. The family resides in Holly Springs, N.C.

2000

Jeannie Smith Altman, CLA, and her husband, Tracy, announce the birth of their son, Stephen Daniel, in January. The family resides in Nahunta. She also received her JD degree from Georgia State University College of Law in 2003.

Bridgett Hoepner Casadaban, CLA, and her husband, **Douglas**, ENG '01, announce the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Joyce, on July 21, 2005. The family resides in Charlottesville, Va. She graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin on May 19 and will begin residency training in the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Virginia.

Courtney Jones Dalton, BUS, and her husband, Daryl, announce the birth of their daughter, Emerson Grace, on Dec. 30, 2005. Their other children are Walker Cole and Caroline Elizabeth. The family resides in Newnan.

2001

Mary Alison Calloway, ENG, married S/Sgt. Richard Band on Oct. 22, 2005. She is enrolled in the post-baccalaureate teacher certification program at the University of Texas-San Antonio for secondary math certification. The couple resides in

San Antonio, Texas.

Douglas Casadaban, ENG, and his wife, **Bridgett**, CLA '00, announce the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Joyce, on July 21, 2005. The family resides in Charlottesville, Va.

IN SYMPATHY
Faculty, Staff and Friends

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

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

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

Nancy Johnston, 88, of Macon, died July 27, 2005. She was a former member of Mercer Faculty Wives. Her husband, **Dr. Edwin D. Johnston Sr.** formerly served on the Mercer faculty.

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

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

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

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

Glenn Taylor, 83, of Atlanta, longtime friend of the University, died May 1.

1927

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

1928

Elizabeth R. Travis, TIFT, 99, of Stapleton, died Nov. 17, 2005.

1929

Clyde F. Hinely, TIFT, 96, of Guyton, died March 7, 2005.

1931

Coralee L. Gunn, TIFT, 95, of Macon, died April 8.

Aranna M. Watson, TIFT, 94, of Baytown, Texas, died Feb. 24.

1932

Shirla Wells Mashburn, TIFT, 94, of Douglasville, died Feb. 6.

1935

Charles E. Roberts Jr., BUS, 92, of Macon, died March 14.

1936

Emalyn L. Taylor, TIFT, 90, of Evans, died Aug. 24, 2005.

1938

Caroline B. Bonner, TIFT, 87, of Athens, died Dec. 18, 2005.

Dr. John M. Martin Sr., CLA, 88, of Augusta, died Nov. 14, 2005.

Louise W. Thompson, TIFT, 88, of Blakely, died May 16.

1940

Rubye W. O'Brien, CLA, 91, of Decatur, died Nov. 15, 2005.

Mary Neal Pilcher, TIFT, 86, of Marietta, died Jan. 14.

1941

Elizabeth Z. Brantley, TIFT, 84, of Newnan, died June 9, 2005.

The Rev. Albert L. Hall, CLA, 92, of Macon, died Dec. 23, 2005.

1942

Jean Hendricks, TIFT, of Macon, professor of psychology and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, died May 29.

Margaret B. Parkins, TIFT, 83, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., died July 14, 2005.

1943

Dr. Richard Wayburn, CLA, 83, of Irmo, S.C., died Nov. 14, 2005.

1945

Dr. Charles B. Shiver, CLA, 79, of Augusta, died Feb. 15.

1946

The Rev. H. Earl Peacock, CLA, 81, of Flowery Branch, died April 24.

1947

Elizabeth T. Smalley, TIFT, 81, of Appling, died Dec. 1, 2005.

1948

Renva S. Acree, TIFT, 79, of Blairsville, died March 29.

Dr. Warren White, CLA, 77, of Anderson, S.C., died Dec. 18, 2005.

1949

William V. Argo, CLA, 81, of Macon, died March 25.

1950

W. Sloan Gavin, CLA, of Macon, died March 1.

Bobbie Bobo Henneey, CLA, 83, of Macon, died Feb. 22.

Cason Sherwood Jr., CLA, of Macon, died Jan. 21.

1951

William T. Colquitt III, TIFT, 76, of Dublin, died Feb. 7.

1952

Lois Evelyn Franklin White, TIFT, 78, of Milan, died Feb. 16.

1954

Dr. William R. Newton, CLA, 77, of Macon, died Feb. 22.

1955

Louise Arnold Burge, CLA, 92, of Warner Robins, died May 19.

1956

Julian E. Amos, CLA, 72, of San Jose, Calif., died Oct. 10, 2005.

Dr. Donald Lee Folsom, CLA, 72, of Villa Rica, died April 15.

1957

Bennett R. Whitaker Jr., CLA, 71, of Austin, Texas, died Dec. 25, 2005.

Dupont K. Cheney Sr., CLA, LAW '71, of Hinesville, died Feb. 18.

1958

Jane C. Pringle, CLA, 68, of Spring, Texas, died Jan. 15.

1960

William H. Deloach, CLA, 72, of Gainesville, Fla., died Jan. 16.

1961

The Rev. J. Calvin Durrence, CLA, 66, of Reidsville, died Dec. 21, 2005.

1962

George W. Johnson, CLA, 66, of Roswell, died Oct. 25, 2005.

Philip M. Walden, CLA, 66, of Atlanta, died April 23.

1963

Susan W. Lovett, CLA, 83, of Atlanta, died June 24, 2005.

1965

Lewis M. Groover Jr., CLA, 62, of Ludowici, died Feb. 26.

Kay Moody Morris, CLA, 62, of Playa Del Rey, Calif., died Nov. 19, 2005.

1968

Paula M. Cannon, TIFT, 59, of Smithville, died Feb. 17.

1969

Carla J. Arp, TIFT, 79, of Blue Ridge, died Oct. 26, 2005.

Eleanor B. Peed, TIFT, 84, of Butler, died Nov. 23, 2005.

1972

Ann A. Whitley, TIFT, 75, of Macon, died May 9.

1973

The Rev. Charles H. White Sr., CAS, 58, of Savannah, died Sept. 12, 2005.

1977

Betty Jean Muller, CAS, of Marietta, died July 25, 2005.

1981

Michael B. Cook, CAS, of North Hollywood, Calif., died May 1.

1986

Nena Barger, CLA, 49, of Warner Robins, died Dec. 27, 2005.

W. Todd Beach, CLA, 41, of Macon, died Jan. 13.

1988

Jana C. Davis, CLA, 39, of Tampa, Fla., died Jan. 2.

1992

Ritchie Alan Young, BUS, 38, of Dublin, died July 3, 2005.

1993

Janice Shepard Meeks, EDU, 57, of Douglasville, died Dec. 13, 2005.

1996

The Rev. Michael H. Flake, CLA, 32, of Cleveland, died Jan. 27.

1997

Patricia B. Pryor, EDU, 60, of Griffin, died May 27, 2005.

1999

Tami K. Masterson, EDU, 41, of Macon, died Feb. 8.

2000

Kevin Aaron Young, BUS, 39, of New York, N.Y., died Feb. 10.

2001

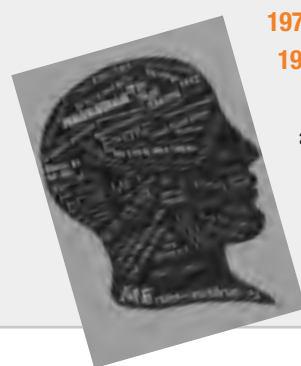
Michael Alan Brotherton, CLA, of Woodbridge, Va., died Jan. 20.

Mercer Yearbooks Available

The Office of Alumni Services has several past issues of Mercer's yearbook, *The Cauldron*, available to interested alumni. Quantities are very limited and the books will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Issues are available from the following years: **1954, 1955, 1956, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1979 and 1986.**

While there is no charge for the books, a fee of \$5 is required to cover shipping costs. Contact Kim Adams in the Office of Alumni Services at **(478) 301-2189** to secure your copy today.





President and CEO R. Kirby Godsey congratulates Patrick Tully Wommack of Dunwoody upon receiving his Executive Master of Business Administration degree at the Sletson School of Business and Economics commencement in Atlanta on May 20. Wommack was the last student out of more than 30,000 to graduate under the tenure of President Godsey.

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

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 School or College _____
 Degree _____
 Fraternity/Sorority _____
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"Chip Off the Old Block" —
Please list any family members who are Mercer alumni.

 News to Share _____

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**The End
of an Era**

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

Below: Dr. Godsey in 1979, the first year of his presidency.

