The Report of the President
to the Board of Trustees

April 20, 2007
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AGENDA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
THE CORPORATION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY

April 20, 2007
10:00 a.m.
David E. Hudson, Chairman

I. Call to Order
   David E. Hudson

II. Meditation and Invocation
    Sidney A. Hopkins

III. Approval of the Minutes of the December 1, 2006
     Meeting of the Board of Trustees

IV. Report of the President of the University
    William D. Underwood

V. Matters of Current Business
   1. Report of the University Honors Committee
      and consideration of its actions
      Richard V. Saunders
   2. Report of the Audit Committee
      and consideration of its actions
      David E. Linch
   3. Report of the Educational Policy Committee
      and consideration of its actions
      W. Louis Sands
   4. Report of the Development Committee
      and consideration of its actions
      Robert L. Steed
   5. Report of the Finance, Investment, and Property
      Committee and consideration of its actions
      H. Allen Baldree
   6. Report of the Executive Committee
      and consideration of its actions
      William A. Fickling, Jr.

VI. Matters of Other Business

VII. Benediction
    Craig T. McMahan

VIII. Adjournment
I. PRESIDENT

President William D. Underwood serves as Chief Executive Officer of the University.

A. University Minister

The Office of the University Minister, led by Dr. Craig McMahan, is strategically positioned to shape and promote Mercer’s Baptist identity on a national level and beyond. Mercer’s character as a faith-based institution no longer derives from its affiliations, but from its actions.

What action is more Baptist than a mission? On May 21, 2007, thirty-nine students, six faculty members, and the University Minister will travel abroad in a unique program of service and learning, called Mercer On Mission. One cohort of sixteen students and two faculty members will go to villages northwest of Nairobi, Kenya, and work with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionary, Sam Harrell, who is distributing long-lasting insecticide netting to help prevent acute outbreaks of malaria. Mercer students will study the historical, cultural, and environmental factors that contribute to malarial outbreaks. Another cohort of twelve students and two faculty members will work with Baptist missionaries and other agencies in two Brazilian cities, Rio de Janeiro and Vitória, to provide health care information, assist in community service projects, and tutor impoverished students in an inner-city school. An additional cohort of eleven students and two faculty members will be serving alongside a Baptist mission agency, Buckner Orphan Care International, in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. Mercer students will care for and mentor orphaned children, who range in age from infants to teenagers. Mercer faculty members will teach two courses that concentrate on the culture and literature of the Guatemalan people, including their Mayan ancestors.

This adventure in service and learning will leave a lasting impression on Mercer students and faculty, as well as on the people they touch. For impressions to become transformational, however, they must be accompanied by times of reflection—occasions for processing and
applying what the experience means. The University Minister will join each of the three teams at their sites to lead reflection exercises that encourage consideration of the personal, spiritual, and vocational dimensions of what they are experiencing.

Mercer On Mission puts into action what it means for Mercer University to be a national Baptist university. And, momentum is gathering as students and faculty members are already making plans for Mercer On Mission 2008.

Dr. McMahan, following the retirement of Dr. James Bruner, who was Senior Vice President and Senior Assistant to the President, is now responsible for coordinating the Baptist Advisory Board. This board of Baptist ministers, supportive of the goals and aspirations of Mercer University, meets twice annually to hear University updates and to give input that will strengthen Mercer’s relationship with churches. Predominately from Georgia in the past, the Baptist Advisory Board has expanded to include pastors from Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Mercer expects that this board will make a significant contribution to helping the University extend its sphere of influence.

The University Minister continues to conduct weekly worship services, teach in the Columbus Roberts Department of Christianity, assist in planning numerous campus events with a spiritual component, coordinate the work of Mercer’s various campus ministries, speak in churches across the state, and lend pastoral support to members of the Mercer family.
II. PROVOST

Dr. Horace W. Fleming leads the academic areas of the University as Provost and serves as the Chief Academic Officer.

In January 2007, Dr. Scott Davis, formerly Vice Provost, was appointed Senior Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. In this role, Dr. Davis supervises the University’s Institutional Review Board, oversees graduate degree programs and research initiatives University-wide, and reports to the Provost. Given the importance of graduate programs and both the need and capacity that Mercer has to increase research and program funding, this position is essential within the University.

Quality Enhancement Plan

Dr. Peter Brown, Associate Provost, is responsible for oversight of the Quality Enhancement Plan and for other cross-unit initiatives to engage student learning and holistic student development. He also continues to facilitate University-community partnerships for neighborhood revitalization, consolidating the work of the former Mercer Center for Community Engagement. In 2007-2008, he will assume responsibility from Dr. Priscilla Danheiser for summer sessions programming and support for national fellowships and scholarships.

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), adopted in 2005 as part of the University’s reaccreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, has the goal of fostering students’ moral development and professional character. A variety of activities and programs support this goal. As part of the QEP, the first class of Mercer Service Scholars (MSS) was admitted in the fall of 2006 on the Macon Campus. These fourteen first-year students from across the country were selected from over 125 applicants because of their demonstrated commitment to the principles of leadership and service. All fourteen students successfully completed their first semester at Mercer, with an average 3.11 GPA. In addition to required leadership and service activities, MSS students will participate in a
new four-year academic curriculum in leadership to be offered through the Stetson School of Business and Economics and the College of Liberal Arts.

November 28-30, 2006, over seventy faculty and administrators participated in the second “Professionalism Across the Professions Symposium” in Macon and Atlanta. Jointly sponsored by the Mercer Commons and the QEP, the event featured Dr. William F. May, distinguished ethicist and former member of President George W. Bush’s Council on Bioethics. Dr. May gave the keynote address and met individually with faculty teams from liberal arts, engineering, nursing, theology, and law. Dr. May’s recent book, *Beleaguered Rulers: The Public Obligation of the Professional*, is a comparative study of eight professions undergoing identity crises because they face new moral and social challenges that a purely technical education does not address.

On March 17, 2007, Dr. Elizabeth Kiss, the recently-elected eighth President of Agnes Scott College and the former director of the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, addressed 200 students and faculty on the Atlanta Campus on the topic of “The Responsible Self in a Professional World.” The Saturday morning event culminated seven months of intensive preparation of students and faculty to participate in cross-disciplinary case discussions of professional ethics led by fifteen faculty-student teams from pharmacy, nursing, education, continuing and professional studies, theology, and business and economics. In their coordinated course work, participating students studied the ideas of Rushworth Kidder in *How Good People Make Tough Choices*, where Kidder explores the ethics of having to choose between two “right” values. Dr. Jacquelyn Culpepper, Assistant Professor in the Tift College of Education, and Dr. Graham Walker, Associate Dean and Professor in the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology, led the planning process for the Atlanta schools.

**Summer Sessions**

Planning for Mercer’s summer 2007 sessions is focused on enhancing the
undergraduate offerings with student-requested science classes and a number of Web-based courses offered through Mercer Summer Online. Following a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of the Provost’s 2006 Mercer Online pilot program, which yielded significant enrollments and positive evaluations from student and faculty participants, the Registrar will increase the number of totally online undergraduate summer classes from ten to fifteen. Outstanding faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, the Tift College of Education, and the Stetson School of Business and Economics will teach in the second year of the program. The online program increases the opportunities Mercer students have to stay connected with the University and with Mercer faculty during the summer months. Offerings include introductory courses in Communication and Theatre Arts, Psychology, Sociology, Women’s and Gender Studies, Political Science, Education, and Computer Science, as well as more advanced courses in Information Systems, Education, and English. A number of these courses will incorporate podcasting, and all faculty participants are participating in an intensive faculty development program, offered by the Instructional Technology Center, which focuses on ensuring active engagement and deep learning in Web-based courses.

**Fellowships and Scholarships**

As a result of the Dr. Priscilla Danheiser's work over the past year and one half to encourage Mercer’s most talented students to apply for prestigious, nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships, more students have submitted applications. Her efforts have included working closely with the scholarship committee of the College of Liberal Arts to recruit extraordinary faculty members to serve as advisors for each of the scholarship programs, bringing representatives of the programs to campus to meet with interested students, developing a promotional brochure, establishing a Mercer Web site, identifying and counseling competitive student candidates, establishing internal Mercer deadlines for application
submission, and establishing a presence for the programs at campus-wide events. Faculty advisors have established application review and interview committees. Since launching this initiative, students have submitted applications for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Fulbright, Truman, Phi Kappa Phi, and Goldwater programs. A Mercer student was selected for a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship in the most recent competition. The results of the 2007 Goldwater application were still pending as of February 19, 2007. A representative of the Marshall Fellowship Program visited the Macon Campus and met with students and faculty in late March 2007.

Three outstanding faculty members are Governor’s Teaching Fellows participating in the 2006-2007 Academic Year Symposia:

- Colleen Stapleton, Assistant Professor of Science in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies
- Catherine Gardner, Professor of Education in Tift College of Education
- Grady Strom, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Only twelve faculty members from institutions of higher education throughout the state are chosen each year for this prestigious faculty development program. The Provost’s Office has submitted nominations for Donald Ekong, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and John Summerville, Assistant Professor of Adult Health Nursing, for the summer 2007 Governor’s Teaching Fellows Symposia.

**University-Community Partnerships**

Mercer students and faculty continue to impact the lives of children and parents at John W. Burke Elementary School in the Central South neighborhood adjacent to the Macon Campus. This high-performing, Title I school has strengthened its longtime relationship with First-Year Seminar students, who serve as instructional aides to Burke teachers once a week.
Women’s and Gender Studies faculty and students engage Burke children and their grandparents in digital storytelling projects at Joshua’s House, an after-school program that is a partnership between the University, the Greater Little Rock Baptist Church, the Macon Housing Authority, and Burke Elementary. Mercer work-study students, supervised through the Center for Leadership and Volunteerism (a QEP initiative), also tutor in the Joshua’s House after-school program. For this and many other community service activities on the part of Mercer students, the University was recognized in fall 2006 on the first annual President’s Honor Roll for Community Service. Of the 492 schools honored nationally, Mercer was one of 141 recognized with distinction. Mercer and Oglethorpe were the only two schools in Georgia recognized with distinction.

The Beall’s Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Project is nearing completion of Phase One. This $30 million revitalization effort on the east edge of the Macon Campus has replaced obsolete public housing with ninety-seven town homes and upscale apartments for lease. In the surrounding neighborhood, thirty-four new or rehabilitated homes are for sale to homebuyers. This award-winning project is a partnership between the City of Macon, the Macon Housing Authority, and Mercer University. To date, seven Mercer faculty members have purchased new or rehabilitated homes in Beall’s Hill, taking advantage of the University’s down-payment assistance program. In support of this University initiative, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation awarded Mercer $100,000 in December 2006 to match the University contribution two to one over a two-year period. The down payment assistance program helps full-time employees of the University purchase homes in Beall’s Hill.
A. Academic Advising

Honors Program

Deans and faculty representatives from Macon’s undergraduate colleges and schools met in fall 2006 to design an interdisciplinary Honors Program. The committee submitted a proposal to the Provost in January 2007.

In addition to crafting a revised Honors Program, the group agreed on several initiatives for spring 2007 that will enhance the recognition of Honors Program students. These include a President’s Luncheon for graduating Honors Program students and a Hooding Ceremony prior to the baccalaureate service.

Religious Holiday Observance Policy

A University Religious Holiday Observance policy was drafted and circulated among the associate deans, the Academic Council, and the House of Delegates. No consensus on the policy was reached. A revised proposal will be submitted in spring 2007.

Phi Eta Sigma


Pre-Professional Programs

Student attendance at newly implemented fall pre-health information sessions averaged thirty-five to forty-five. Seven new informational sessions for pre-health students are planned for spring 2007. Among the topics is navigating admissions criteria in the health programs. Guests will include a panel of representatives from the School of Medicine and the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.
Summer Program for New Students

The Summer Program will continue in its current form during summer 2007. Faculty advisors and student preceptors are currently being recruited to work with twenty to twenty-five students who hope to earn admission to Mercer in the fall of 2007.

University 101

First-year student faculty advisors and student Peer Advisors (PAs) for fall 2007 were recruited during January 2007. Approximately thirty-five instructors will teach UNV/MAP 101, and forty PAs will co-facilitate the course and lead new student orientation. Advising workshops for both new University 101 faculty and general academic advisors will begin in April 2007. PAs will attend spring training during summer new-student orientation.

New Student Orientation

Thirty-six students and eighteen guests attended orientation in January 2007. Advising, registration, and orientation of new transfer students continues to present a challenge, and the office supports initiatives that improve confirmation of new transfer students.

The Sophomore Signature

The office created The Sophomore Signature, a series of initiatives designed to address academic issues during the second year. Academic Advising offered new academic workshops (e.g., choosing a major) during fall 2006 and will continue in spring 2007. The office is working toward better communication of relevant academic information to sophomores and their parents. The newly-created Sophomore Year Student Advisory Council is meeting in spring 2007.

Non-Registered Students

Follow-up with students who did not register for Spring Semester 2007 has been reassigned to the Academic Advising staff. Approximately forty-five percent of the initial 267
students who did not register during the formal registration period had financial holds on their accounts. The office implemented the following: direct emails to students and family listservs regarding registration follow-up; notification of Peer Advisors, faculty advisors, Residence Life, associate deans, and relevant campus office (e.g., Bursar’s office) for contact with non-registered students; notification of students’ work-study supervisors for follow-up; telephone calls to every student; and holiday break postcards with registration reminders. In addition, office staff created a new letter for students who withdrew earlier in the Fall Semester 2006, encouraging their re-enrollment at Mercer. Those students who did not return in spring 2007 were mailed a newly-created withdrawal survey.
Multi-Program Attendance

University-wide attendance for fall 2006 held strong at the Academic Resource Center (ARC) with a total of 18,663 student visits distributed as follows:

- 3,691 Supplemental Instruction sessions
- 2,044 tutoring
- 7,078 computer lab
- 5,850 individual and group study facility use

Tutoring Program – Macon Campus

During spring 2007, twenty-seven tutors are assisting students on the Macon Campus for a total of 143 staff hours each week. During fall 2006, twenty-four tutors helped students in twelve disciplines for a total of 173 staff hours per week. In spring 2007, the science lab hired a tutor in biology to support the new first-semester biology course for freshmen. The math lab has enjoyed an influx of highly-qualified underclassmen who look forward to returning as experienced tutors next year.

Supplemental Instruction Program

During fall 2006, the ARC on the Macon Campus provided Supplemental Instruction (SI) to thirty-one classes, comprised of seventeen sections of pre-calculus and calculus, thirteen sections of entry-level chemistry, and six sections of introductory and general physics. Twenty-one SI Leaders supported twenty professors in this program. The following chart summarizes the averaged grade advantages of students who attended SI sessions in math, chemistry, or physics.
Higher Grades earned by SI Attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Average</th>
<th>Sections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4 grade</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 grade</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 grade</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One whole grade or more</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During spring 2007, the ARC is providing Supplemental Instruction to seventeen classes comprised of seven sections of pre-calculus and calculus, nine sections of chemistry, and five sections of physics.

**Twenty-Four Hour Service Discontinued**

In order to meet budget cuts, the Macon ARC overnight program was discontinued at the beginning of fall 2006, and the ARC began closing at midnight. Students communicated their dissatisfaction with the truncated hours to officers of the Student Government Association (SGA) and to President Underwood. In late October 2006, the President provided funding to keep the ARC open until three a.m., Sunday through Thursday nights. From October 25, 2006 through December 14, 2006, a total of 530 student sign-ins were recorded between midnight and 3:00 a.m., with an average of thirteen students per night. The highest number of students attending on a given night was fifty-two.

**ARC – Atlanta**

On the Atlanta Campus during fall 2006, seven math and writing tutors were available to serve students from both undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Nursing students were the most frequent users of ARC services with forty-three percent of the total semester attendance; theology students were second with twenty-one percent. During fall 2006, student attendance for writing tutoring increased by twenty-eight percent over fall 2005. As a result, writing tutor hours have been increased for spring 2007.
ARC – Regional Academic Centers

At the Douglas, Henry, and Eastman Regional Academic Centers during fall 2006, ten professional tutors offered assistance on a drop-in basis. Tutoring attendance at these locations increased by more than twelve percent over the previous fall semester. For spring 2007, staff hours of operation remain the same. Sandra Rosseter, ARC Director, and Jennifer Zimmerman, ARC Assistant Director, continue to meet regularly with Centers’ faculty and ARC tutors to determine and meet the needs of Mercer’s evening students.

Tutor Certification and Training

The ARC has established an online dialogue for tutors pursing their CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) International Tutor Certification, and tutors from a variety of the ARC programs are working on this certification. A series of assessment workshops are scheduled for spring 2007.

Online Tutoring Lab

The Online Writing Lab (OWL) has had a steady increase in usage since its introduction in early summer 2006. This new program allows evening and online students to get tutoring help from home. It also puts Mercer in line with other universities who are leveraging technology to expand student support services. Designed to support both the Regional Academics Center and the Atlanta students, the OWL also supports students enrolled in the fifteen online courses for summer 2007. The OWL is staffed with three experienced writing tutors who have been able to give a twenty-four hour response to all papers submitted.

Collaboration with Tift College

The ARC continued its collaboration with Tift College by sponsoring a Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators workshop on March 3, 2007 at the Henry Regional Center for Mercer’s students enrolled in education programs who are preparing for the
state-wide PRAXIS test. Dr. Richard Binkney, Assistant Professor in the Tift College of Education, presented the writing and reading portion, and Dr. William Lacefield, ARC Lead Tutor and Associate Professor in the Tift College of Education, presented the math portion. ARC tutors also worked closely with the Tift College students to give them individual assistance.
C. The Center for Baptist Studies

The Center for Baptist Studies offers a wide range of events in the 2007 calendar year. The Center’s signature production is the popular *Baptist Studies Bulletin (BSB)*, an electronic journal featuring scholarly analysis and informed editorials touching Baptist life. “Baptists and Creation Care,” “The World’s Greatest Baptist Preachers,” and “Baptists and Public Policy” (authored by Melissa Rogers, professor at Wake Forest Divinity School) are among the newly featured series. Continuing series include monthly editorials by Dr. Walter B. Shurden, Executive Director of Baptist Studies, and Bruce Gourley, Associate Director of Baptist Studies.

The Center also makes a significant contribution to the Baptist world by sponsoring various conferences. The Center co-sponsored a concert by Kyle Matthews, a popular musician and composer from Nashville, on January 23, 2007. Upcoming conferences include

- The annual Baptist Classics Seminar, featuring leading Baptist scholars in the U.S. (September 6-8, 2007)
- A Day With Brent Walker, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (September 6, 2007)
- Mercer Preaching Consultation, co-sponsored with the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology (September 23-25, 2007)

In addition, the Center continues to host a series of Baptist Discussion Groups with area pastors through the month of May 2007.

The Center is hosting four A. H. Newman Scholars this year, allowing those individuals to spend a week of focused research in a particular area of Baptist heritage and/or studies. Furthermore, the Center continues to enroll new students in the Certificate Program in Baptist Studies, including international students from Africa. The Center also will further expand its
Finally, the Center’s Executive Director is booked as the featured speaker at a variety of functions from the local church to denominational level. Dr. Shurden also has a leadership role in the New Baptist Covenant endeavor. Bruce T. Gourley, the Associate Director, is also scheduled to speak at a variety of Baptist events. He spoke at the annual Georgia Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (March 9-11, 2007), and the annual Georgia Baptist Historical Society Meeting (April 13, 2007). Mr. Gourley is also on the New Baptist Covenant Communications Committee. Both Dr. Shurden and Mr. Gourley are involved in a variety of writing projects, books, and articles that are scheduled for publication in 2007.
D. International Programs

English Language Institute (ELI)

Although there has been a decrease in the number of degree-seeking international students, the number of non-degree students at the ELI has increased. Last year’s focus on the recruitment of international students in the key markets of Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and Vietnam is showing positive results. Presently, the ELI has an enrollment of 104 students in its six language levels. The program is budgeted to have ninety-five students per academic session. The ELI expects to maintain this enrollment trend through the end of the 2006-2007 academic year.

The following table lists the top ELI student markets from 2004-2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP ELI STUDENT MARKETS 2004 – 2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. South Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Taiwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. People’s Republic of China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Cote D’Ivoire and Turkey (tied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Poland and Mexico (tied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Venezuela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Mercer University Student Information System

South Korea represents the largest group of students at the ELI, primarily because of the sizeable Korean immigrant community in northeast Atlanta. Immigrant communities from Taiwan and Colombia also impact ELI enrollment. The Japanese student body has been connected to Mercer’s “sister-schools” of Seinan Jo Gakuin University and Seinan Gakuin University in Japan. Two more notable academic markets that have seen growth over the past three years are in Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. The Saudi Cultural Mission continues to send
students to Mercer every semester. In addition, the Vietnamese market has been a new source of international students. The enrollment of eighteen students from Vietnam in the past three years has prompted the ELI to visit Vietnam to establish formal recruiting ties. Venezuela’s student numbers remain important as that country continues to experience an increase of “intellectual flight” in response to the Chavez socialist regime. Some of the Venezuela’s best students are actively searching for study opportunities abroad as the government restructures its economy from a capitalist system to one that is more centrally planned.

**Study Abroad**

The Office of Study Abroad has focused on three primary areas of program growth. These program developments are: (1) Mercer on Mission in Brazil, Guatemala, and Kenya; (2) growth in faculty-led study abroad and study tours; and (3) the introduction of a new one-credit hour study abroad orientation course in the College of Liberal Arts. A total of 240 Mercer students will travel and study abroad between January and August 2007. Many of these students will travel abroad during the summer. Enrollment projections are broken down in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Study Abroad Program</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester-long Programs (Spring)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer on Mission</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty-led Programs</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Tours</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMBA – China</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Singers on Tour – Japan</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>240</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mercer On Mission**

Dr. Craig McMahan has outlined the Mercer On Mission program on pages 1-2 of the *President’s Report*. Three initial countries were chosen to pilot Mercer on Mission: Brazil, Guatemala, and Kenya. Each country has a local connection with Baptist-related relief organizations or missionary operations.
Dr. Paul Lewis, Associate Professor of Christianity in the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Eric Spears, Director of International Programs, will direct the program in Brazil in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Vitória. The service-learning project in Rio will be done in conjunction with local Brazilian Baptists and is endorsed by the American Baptist Churches USA. The project in Vitória will be carried out at João XXIII (John XXIII), which is a privately funded learning center for the urban poor. The two professors will instruct courses on Liberation Theology and Brazilian culture and society.

Dr. Joanna Watson, Professor of Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Timothy Craker, Associate Professor of Liberal Studies in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, will organize and lead the program to Guatemala. The Guatemala program will be based at Buckner Orphan Care International near several ancient Mayan ruins in the town of Huehuetenango. Mercer students will work directly with orphans while doing field studies in the Mayan ruins.

Randy Harshbarger, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Robert Hargrove, Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science in the College of Liberal Arts, will lead a service-learning program that is focused on the prevention of malaria with rural residents, especially children. This project is in partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). They will study Kenyan culture and society as well as the country’s gender relations.

Faculty-led Study Abroad Programs

In addition to Mercer on Mission, there are several faculty-led study abroad programs that expand the international learning options for students during the summer months. The following table outlines the faculty-led study abroad programs being offered at Mercer during the summer sessions of 2007.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Leading Professor</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Dr. Atul Saxena</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England (Oxford)</td>
<td>CLA Honors</td>
<td>Dr. MaryAnn Drake, Dr. Doug Thompson</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>Dr. Scott Nash</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Dr. Charlotte Thomas</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Dr. Lydia Masanet, Dr. Jorge Palacios</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Study Tours

Three specific study tours will occur during Spring Semester 2007. Each of these programs is a part of an existing spring semester course on the Macon Campus. The study tours are outlined in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Leading Professor</th>
<th>Enroll.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Dr. Alan Smith</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova, Romania, &amp; Hungary</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Dr. Chris Grant</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Croix</td>
<td>History/Archeology</td>
<td>Dr. Eric Klingelhofer</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Overseas Programs

The Atlanta-based Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA) program will take thirty-nine students to the People’s Republic of China for an intensive exploration of emerging market capitalism and pre-existing political socialism. Dr. Penelope Prime, Professor of Economics in the Stetson School of Business and Economics on the Atlanta Campus, is coordinating this program.

Dr. Stanley Roberts, Associate Professor in the Townsend School of Music, will lead the Mercer Singers on a music tour of Japan in May 2007. The forty-member choral group will perform at Mercer's sister-schools of Seinan Jo Gakuin University in Kitakyushu and at Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka. The Mercer Singers will also perform at the Nagasaki Peace Park, the site of the drop of the atom bomb in World War II and where Christianity was introduced to Japan. The tour is being jointly sponsored by Seinan Jo Gakuin University, Mercer University, and Japan Airlines.
Study Abroad Orientation Course

Julie Strecker, Coordinator of Study Abroad Programs, successfully passed a pioneering course proposal through the College of Liberal Arts. ISA 101 – Cross-cultural Orientation will now be required of all study abroad students who enroll with an overseas program for one or more semesters. This one-credit, eight-week course will be housed in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Few universities in the United States have a course like ISA 101. This course will prepare Mercer undergraduate students for the cultural and academic challenges that might occur in their host countries.
E. Mercer Commons

Events

On September 21, 2006 at Mercer’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Atlanta, all pharmacy students who were enrolled in the Introduction to Pharmacy Course attended a seminar on Professionalism and Vocation. Commons Fellow and Professor of Pharmacy, Laurel Ashworth organized the seminar.

On November 29, 2006, the Commons co-sponsored a Symposium on “Cultivating Professionalism and Vocation Across the Professions: Challenges for Higher Education” at the Walter F. George School of Law. Teams from all the colleges and schools of the University heard keynote speaker Professor William F. May, Fellow of the Institute of Practical Ethics and Public Life at the University of Virginia. The symposium is the third event of Commons Fellow and Professor of Law Mark Jones.

Commons Fellow, Dr. Greg Domin, Associate Professor of Political Science of the College of Liberal Arts, continues regular meetings with Commons emeriti as his Fellows project. Other Fellows projects include:

- Dr. Leona Kanter, Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts, has organized an interfaith dialogue group, called the Abraham Salon.
- Dr. Carol Goff, Associate Professor in the Townsend School of Music, has introduced inner-city elementary students to musical instruments that they might not have heard previously with the help of her music students.

The Commons sponsored its Third Annual “Building the Beloved Community” Symposium on January 30-31, 2007. Over 100 local pastors and religious leaders and over 100 Mercer students and faculty heard talks by the Rev. Dr. Richard L. Gray, Associate Professor of Leadership and Ministry at Asbury Theological Seminary. Mr. Sam Oni, the first black student to be admitted to Mercer in 1963, also attended.
The Commons is again sponsoring Student-Faculty Reading Groups. In the fall, Dr. Michael M. Cass (Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts) led a group that discussed Will D. Campbell’s *The Stem of Jesse: The Costs of Community in a 1960s Southern School*, which tells the story of Mercer’s desegregation. During spring 2007, the Commons co-sponsored groups that discussed *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Dr. Francis Collins, head of the Human Genome Project, who spoke on campus on April 4, 2007. Commons Fellows will also help lead four reading groups sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts’ Faculty Development Committee on the question of Mercer’s Baptist identity.

Mercer Commons Director, Dr. John Marson Dunaway, Dr. Craig T. McMahan (University Minister), Dr. Peter C. Brown (Associate Provost), and Dr. Paul Lewis (Associate Professor of Christianity in the College of Liberal Arts) attended the Lilly Endowment’s final conference on the Theological Exploration of Vocation.

Dr. Dunaway will offer the Fifth Annual Summer Faculty Workshop on Faith and Learning May 21-25, 2007. Faculty will discuss common readings, focusing on teaching at a Baptist institution. Over sixty faculty members from all the colleges and schools have participated during the first four years of the workshop’s existence.

Commons Fellows

Other faculty members currently serving as Commons Fellows include Karen Lacey, Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, and Dr. Frank Macke, Professor in Communication and Theatre Arts in the College of Liberal Arts. The Fellows meet six times during the academic year to discuss common readings and their individual projects.
The following report reviews the work of Mercer University Press during the Spring/Summer 2007.

**Spring 2007 Highlights**

Ted Olson, ed., *CrossRoads 2006*

Stephen Bluestone, *The Flagrant Dead: Poems*

Fred Sauceman, *The Place Setting: Timeless Tastes of the Mountain South, from Bright Hope to Frog Level, Second Serving*

William Brackney and Craig Evans, ed., *From Biblical Criticism to Biblical Faith: Lee McDonald Festschrift*

Benedict Maryniak and John Brinsfield, ed., *The Spirit Divided: The Union*

Joann Ford Watson, *Selected Spiritual Writings of Anne Dutton, vol. 4, Theological Works*

Clyde Wiggins, ed., *My Dear Friend: The Civil War Letters of Alva B. Spencer*

Joanne McMullen and Jon Peede, ed., *Inside the Church of Flannery O’Connor: Sacrament, Sacramental, and the Sacred in Her Fiction*


Diane Asséo Griliches, *An Appalachian Farmer’s Story: Portrait of an Extraordinary Common Man*

Suzanne Lawler, *More Cotton, Cornbread, and Conversations*

John Ogasapian, *Church Music in America*

John S. Vassar, *Recalling a Story Once Told: An Intertextual Reading of the Psalter and the Pentateuch*

Ferrol Sams, *Down Town: A Novel*
Craig Forney, *The Holy Trinity of American Sports: Civil Religion in Football, Baseball, and Basketball*

Glenn and Virginia Linden, *Disunion, War, Defeat, and Recovery in Alabama: The Journal of Augustus Benners, 1850-1885*

William D. Taylor, *A Fit Representation of Pandemonium: East Tennessee Confederate Soldiers in the Campaign for Vicksburg*

Jim Dant, *The Truth Is Sensational Enough: Meditations for the Church Year*

Emmanuel McCall, *When All God’s Children Get Together: A Memoir of Race and Baptists*

**Acquisitions**

The Press is proud to announce that in the spring 2007, it will publish the new novel by Ferrol Sams, *Down Town*. In the fall of 2007, the Press secured the rights to publish Terry Kay’s new novel, *The Book of Marie*, and will also republish a book by Will D. Campbell.

The Press is actively looking for books in the areas of Southern history, politics, literature/literary criticism, religious studies, and in regional trade interest titles. In the past two years, the Press has begun to promote series-oriented books. The series that are most active are Sports and Religion, The Melungeons, Baptists, Civil War Georgia, Voices in the African Diaspora, the International Kierkegaard Commentary, and Music and the American South.

Several books have been contracted for a new series of college-oriented textbooks. These Mercer Student Guides will cover many areas of religious studies, including biblical studies, theology, ethics, and history.

**CrossWalk**

In spring 2006, the Press engaged in a new imprint, *CrossWalk*. This new imprint is intended for Church audiences and is open to various projects that meet the needs of churches. Following the Baptist Summit in January 2006, the University was looking for ways to stay
connected to churches. The Press was asked to explore the possibilities of publishing for churches.

Thus far, two major projects have resulted. One is CrossWalk for children, a Sunday School curriculum that is Bible-based and Baptist in orientation. The first three volumes were published in fall 2006 and the other three will be published summer 2007.

The other project involves working with the Townsend Institute of Church Music at Mercer to develop and publish a new Baptist hymnal. This new hymnal, slated for publication in 2009—the 400th birthday of Baptists—is in committee work at present.

Marketing News

The marketing department produced two major catalogs of new books with select backlists in each. Also, the department produced flyers on a Civil War book and on Religious Studies.

Awards

Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits received the ForeWord Magazine 2005 Book of the Year Gold Award for Best Book of Photography.

42nd Annual Georgia Author of the Year Award Specialty Books Division Winner: Churches: Photographs and Watercolors by Donald A. Smith and Dr. Roy Ward
The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) combines Accreditations, University Assessment, University Planning, and Institutional Research into one unit. Dr. Barry Jenkins, Associate Provost, began coordinating the unit in January 2007 following the retirement of Dr. O. Suthern Sims.

**Activities and Events**

In January 2007, Dr. Jim Eck, Assistant Provost at Rollins College, visited the Office as a consultant as part of the Institutional Effectiveness’s program review process. He writes in his final report, “I applaud Mercer’s commitment to data integrity and the efforts OIE staff exert to ensure that reports about Mercer are both reliable and accurate…. While Mercer has significantly benefited from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, the office continues to search out possibilities for continuous improvement—a very positive reflection upon a great university.” Based on Dr. Eck’s report, the office will develop an action plan and will use his information to modify its strategic plan.

The University Planning Council (UPC), for which OIE provides support, continues to develop Mercer’s strategic plan. During spring of 2007, the Office is assisting the UPC in gathering feedback from the University’s constituencies to help form Mercer’s vision as part of the University’s new strategic plan.

OIE recently received the results from the 2006 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which are available at [http://www.mercer.edu/oie/nsse/](http://www.mercer.edu/oie/nsse/). The University’s first-year and senior undergraduates from all the colleges and schools are included in the NSSE. Mercer scored significantly higher than its Carnegie peer institutions on NSSE’s benchmarks of effective educational practice. Ninety-two percent of Mercer respondents rated their entire educational experience as either good or excellent compared to only eighty-seven percent of
respondents from peer institutions. The University will participate in the NSSE again in spring of 2007.

**Professional Development**

Dr. Sims, Dr. Jenkins, and Dr. Whitney McMath, Director of Planning and Accreditation Liaison, participated in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) annual meeting in December 2006 in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Sims was recognized with the James T. Rogers Meritorious Service Award from the Commission on Colleges for his thirty plus years of service to the organization. Dr. McMath facilitated a roundtable on “Preparing the Compliance Certification” at the invitation of SACS.

Ms. Sarah May, Director of Institutional Research, and Ms. Cynthia Glance, Institutional Research Analyst, serve as Vice President and Secretary in the Georgia Association of Institutional Research, Planning, Assessment, and Quality (GAIRPAQ). On April 11, 2007, they attended the spring GAIRPAQ conference in Augusta, Georgia—an event that they helped plan.

H. Office of the Registrar

The Office of the Registrar has been reviewing office operations and its various areas of responsibility. The use of classroom space was a priority area of study. During the 2005-2006 academic year in the fall, spring, and summer terms, a total of 2,110 classes were taught on the Macon Campus (not including the Walter F. George School of Law or the School of Medicine); 1,061 classes were taught on the Atlanta Campus; and 602 classes were taught in the Regional Academic Centers. Because of the growing need for space, efforts to maximize the use of space are increasing. The Office of the Registrar, therefore, began an analysis of classroom utilization to determine how far the University is from reaching capacity.

The office began by studying the class scheduling for the Macon Campus. Results indicated that most classes are being offered during compressed time blocks with specific time periods being underutilized. For example, during fall 2006, seventy-two percent of all Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes were offered between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., leaving four class periods underutilized. Eighty-four percent of all Tuesday/Thursday classes were compressed between 9:25 a.m. and 3:05 p.m., leaving three class periods underutilized. Of greatest concern was the use of non-standard start times for classes. During fall 2006, six percent of all Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes were offered during non-standard times and eight percent of all Tuesday/Thursday classes were offered during non-standard times. The Office of the Registrar is working with the Deans’ Offices to reduce class scheduling compression and offering courses outside standard class periods. Few courses are being offered outside of the standard periods in spring 2007.

Within the 2005-2006 academic year, the Office of the Registrar completed degree audits for 1,903 students on the Macon Campus, on the Atlanta Campus, and in the Regional Academic Centers. As students approach the completion of their degree requirements, a degree audit is required and triggered by the students’ completion of the graduation application.
Mercer undergraduates have been able to complete the graduation application online for several years, but the graduate students had to complete a paper form. Graduate students can now complete their graduation applications online and trigger the degree audit, a process that is more convenient for students.

The University Registrar produces catalogs for the Macon Campus, the Atlanta Campus, the Regional Academic Centers, and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Once the catalog information is received, it must be formatted, printed, and bound. The catalog formatting will be done in-house for the first time in many years. The office now has the personnel with the expertise to accomplish this task. This change will allow the office to control the flow and revision, and it will save money.
III. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

A. College of Liberal Arts

As the cornerstone of Mercer University and its oldest academic unit, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), led by Dean Richard Fallis, seeks ways to engage with the University’s other schools and colleges. Some of these means of engagement date back many years. Students in the other undergraduate programs on the Macon Campus, for example, take general education and other courses in the College. Usually, about twenty percent of the students in the College’s classes are from other units. For example, in the Mathematics Department, the equivalent of three full-time faculty positions are devoted to teaching students from the School of Engineering. In cooperation with the Stetson School of Business and Economics, the College offers an Economics major grounded in the liberal arts, and students from the Business School regularly use a wide range of CLA upper-division courses in their School’s unique Managed Path to Academic Success (MAPS) Program.

The College is now intentionally developing and cooperating in programs that would help assure a smooth transition from undergraduate work to graduate and professional study within Mercer:

• The successful Early Acceptance program with the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is being modified into a Guaranteed Admissions Plus Degree Program. Under this new arrangement, students will spend three years on the Macon Campus, sufficient time for a strong grounding in the liberal arts as well as work in a major. If students meet the admissions criteria of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, they will then move directly to that school to pursue the Pharm.D. and also earn a B.S. in Health Science from CLA.

• In the new Pre-Physician Assistant Program, CLA students who successfully complete the pre-requisite coursework will be guaranteed admission into the highly-competitive master's degree program in Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in

31
Atlanta.

- The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing offers an Early Admission Guarantee Program in conjunction with CLA. Students in this program complete their first year of pre-nursing classes in CLA. If they meet program requirements, they will be admitted to the College of Nursing and will transfer to the Atlanta program for three years of nursing courses and clinical experience.

- A new program in the Walter F. George School of Law provides that highly qualified students, upon their enrollment for undergraduate study at Mercer, will be guaranteed acceptance to the Mercer Law School for either of the first two academic years following their graduation from Mercer’s bachelor's degree program.

- In addition, CLA and the School of Medicine and the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology are discussing the possibility of other programs along somewhat similar lines.

The Computer Science Department’s Binary Bears computer programming team went to Tokyo, Japan in March for the 2007 ACM International Computer Programming Contest. The Bears beat teams from Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, and Florida State to place second in the ACM Southeastern Programming Contest. The three-man team is made up of seniors, Britt Daniel and John Wright, and junior David Thomas. Dr. Andy Digh, Associate Professor of Computer Science, is their adviser. In Tokyo, they competed against teams from MIT, Cal Tech, Harvard, Duke, and Carnegie Mellon as well as others from around the world.

The College continues to develop its long-standing commitment to service-learning and community engagement. Fifteen courses in the Spring Semester 2007 involve community activities, some through direct service in schools and social agencies and some through research that supports community development. Students in a course on politics in Eastern Europe, for example, traveled to Moldova to experience first-hand the struggles of a post-communist society by working in an orphanage. Students in Sociology are providing research
support for women’s shelters and other agencies in Macon.

For the second year, members of the College’s faculty will offer online courses exclusively for Mercer students who may not want to remain in Macon for the summer. While the College’s faculty feels strongly that face-to-face instruction is its major work, this innovative program permits students to remain in contact with Mercer and earn credits while working during the summers in their home towns or elsewhere. This summer’s program will feature both podcasts and digital storytelling, innovative means of electronic learning that have proven very popular with students—and have gained College faculty members national attention for innovation.

For the Spring Semester 2007, the College enrolled 1,212 students. With instruction for students in other undergraduate units on the Macon Campus included, the College served the equivalent of 1,500 students. The student/faculty ratio remains constant at about 14:1. As a result of necessary reductions in this year’s operating budget, support for faculty and student participation in regional and national scholarly conferences declined, the enlargement of the anatomy and physiology laboratory had to be delayed, and four members of the College’s staff were released. These faculty members who are retiring in June 2007 are being recommended for emeritus or emerita status: John D. Shepherd (Biology); Diana Stege (English/Interdisciplinary Studies); John J. Stege (English); and Jerry Winfield (Spanish).

The College remains a lively place through the spring. Poet Margaret Gibson, from the University of Connecticut, served very successfully as Sams Visiting Professor of Creative Writing. Dr. Renita J. Weems of Vanderbilt, a noted African-American biblical scholar, presented the annual Harry Vaughn Smith Lectures. As part of efforts to globalize the curriculum, students participated in the national Model Arab League, the art gallery featured a show of classic Japanese prints, and the College cooperated with the student QuadWorks organization for an Asian film festival. The College’s faculty approved changes to the curriculum, including a substantially revised major in English and the new option of an
individualized minor for students interested in such fields as classical studies, archaeology, and Greek. In these ways, as in so many, the College seeks to be true to its liberal arts traditions while adapting them to the needs of the time.
B. Walter F. George School of Law

Daisy Floyd serves as Dean of the Walter F. George School of Law.

American Bar Association and Association of Law Schools Re-Approval Process

The Law School underwent a sabbatical reaccreditation inspection during the Fall Semester 2006. A seven-person site team of lawyers, judges, and legal educators, representing both the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), visited the Law School from October 16-19, 2006. The team observed classes; met with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the legal community; and reviewed documents. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with the accreditation standards of the American Bar Association and the membership standards of the Association of American Law Schools. The visit was the culmination of an extensive self-study process, lasting over two years. The site team has submitted its written findings of fact to Dean Floyd and President Underwood; the response was due April 1, 2007. It is expected that the site team’s final report will go to the ABA and AALS decisional bodies in late spring 2007.

At the exit interviews, the site team was complimentary of the Law School’s commitment to students, curricular program, and physical facilities. It particularly noted the accessibility of faculty and staff to students, and that students were well-satisfied with their choice to attend Mercer and with their educational experiences. The team noted with approval the Woodruff Curriculum and was complimentary of the new Law and Public Service Program, which is implementing curricular and extra-curricular changes that will satisfy new accreditation standards.

July 2006 Bar Results

Mercer Law graduates once again performed well on the Georgia Bar exam. The pass rate for Mercer graduates who took the bar exam for the first time during the July 2006
administration was 90.6 percent (seventy-eight out of eighty-six). The pass rate for Mercer’s all-
time takers was 90.0 percent (eighty-one out of ninety). The pass rates for first-time takers from
the other Georgia law schools were 90.7 percent for the University of Georgia; 93.4 percent for
Georgia State University; 95.2 percent for Emory University; and 70.0 percent for John
Marshall-Atlanta.

Faculty

For the third year in a row, Mercer’s law faculty was ranked among the top ten in the
nation by The Princeton Review on its list entitled “Professors Rock (Legally Speaking).” The
ranking, contained in the online version of The Best 159 Law Schools, 2006 Edition, is based on
responses from student surveys on two ratings: the quality of teaching and the accessibility of
faculty.

Three new faculty members will be joining the faculty effective July 1, 2007. All three
are currently visiting faculty members at Mercer:

• Monica Armstrong, who holds both a J.D. from North Carolina Central University and an
  LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida and comes to the Law School from the
  Office of the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service
• Oren Griffin, who holds both a J.D. from Washington and Lee University and a Ph.D. in
  Higher Education Administration from the University of Iowa and was most recently a
  partner in the Atlanta law firm of Ellarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson
• Jennifer Sheppard, who received her J.D. from Capital University and is on leave during
  the current academic year from Appalachian School of Law.

Placement Statistics for the Class of 2006

The National Association for Law Placement collects statistics on placement of
graduates nine months after graduation. The reporting data in February 2007 shows that 94.35
percent of the Law School’s 2006 graduates were employed or enrolled in a full-time degree program—69.57 percent of the graduates are employed in private practice; 5.2 percent are in judicial clerkships; 13.0 percent are in government or non-profit work; and 3.48 percent are employed in business. The remaining are in twelve other states. The average salary for all graduates is $63,167.

Visit of the Georgia Court of Appeals

The Georgia Court of Appeals heard oral arguments at the Law School on September 20, 2006. The arguments were well-attended and created a rare educational opportunity for students. Following oral arguments, members of the Court joined the faculty and local judiciary for lunch.

John E. James Distinguished Lecture

On Tuesday, September 12, 2006, the Law School hosted the Sixth Annual John E. James Distinguished Lecture. The speaker was Professor Jean-Yves de Cara of the Faculty of Law at the Université Jean Moulin in France, who spoke on “The Role of Law in International Trade and Investment.” Other events surrounding the lecture included Professor de Cara’s meeting with students, a lunch with faculty and invited guests, and a reception following the lecture. Planning has begun for next year’s lecture.

Law Day 2007

The Annual Law Day celebration took place on March 9-10, 2007. This year’s celebration featured the new Law and Public Service Program with the theme “Answering the Lawyer’s Call to Service.” The featured speaker at the March 9 luncheon was Doug Ammar, Executive Director of the Georgia Justice Project. In addition to the luncheon, activities included the spring meetings of the Law School’s Board of Visitors and the Alumni Board of Directors, the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, a Law alumni reception on the evening of March 9,
and a cookout on Saturday, March 10. In addition to activities for law alumni, students, faculty, and staff, the celebration also included Family Day activities and scholarship interviews and recruiting activities.

Commencement and Hooding

The Law School’s spring commencement and hooding ceremony is scheduled for May 12, 2007 at the University Center. The keynote speaker will be Cathy Cox, a Law School alumna, member of the Board of Trustees, former Georgia Secretary of State, and currently the Carl E. Sanders Political Leadership Scholar at the University of Georgia School of Law.
C. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Dr. Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews serves as Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS) and Vice President for the Health Sciences. COPHS continues to develop innovative programs and will launch the newly formed Physician Assistant Program in January 2008. The faculty have been diligent in the review and restructuring of the experiential program and the enhancement of the curriculum. Faculty and students have significantly enhanced the reputation of the Pharmacy School via their involvement in professional and academic organizations. The commitment of the faculty, students, and staff to continuous quality improvement has created a good working and learning environment for all constituents.

Activities

- The inaugural issue of the COPHS electronic newsletter was distributed to University administrators and deans; College faculty, staff, and students; Board of Visitors; deans of pharmacy schools/colleges; and professional organizations.
- A Seminar on Professionalism and Vocation was presented to pharmacy students in October 2006.
- More than 200 students received seventy awards and scholarships at the Honors Luncheon on October 17, 2006. Academic awards were presented to more than twenty students who were the top academic achievers in the first through third professional year.
- Dean Ted Matthews; Dr. Ajay Banga, Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and graduate students attended the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in San Antonio, Texas in October 2006 and hosted an alumni reception for graduates of the Ph.D. program.
- More than 104 fourth-year students attended a law review.
• An advisory committee has been formed for the Physician Assistant Program and consists of College and University officials as well as external participants.

• The Physician Assistant Program held open house events in February and March 2007. Applications will be accepted beginning in March 2007.

• An academic coordinator and program specialist were hired for the Physician Assistant Program.

• The 2005-2006 annual report of the College will be completed and distributed in the spring of 2007.

• Over sixty fourth-year students participated in interviews at the College’s annual Career Day; numerous students visited the exhibits of forty-three companies.

• The Council of Students hosted an Alumni Career Panel where three alumni provided overviews of their respective areas of practice.

• A faculty retreat was held to begin work on the Self-Study for re-accreditation in 2008.

• A newsletter was created and distributed that will provide updates on the progress of the self-study.

• Dr. Mary Ann Koda-Kimble was the featured speaker for the Third Annual Dr. G. Van Greene Distinguished Lecture on March 15, 2007.

• Dr. Ajay K. Banga, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Dr. C. Kolli, post-doctoral fellow; and Ph.D. students, S. Late, G. Li, J. Paturi, and V. Vemulapalli, presented five papers on transdermal delivery at the annual meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, in San Antonio, Texas.

**Students**

• Fourth-year student, Bryan Rodgers, was one of twenty-seven students nationally awarded a National Community Pharmacists Association scholarship for 2006-2007.

• The Class of 2006 had a ninety-three percent pass rate on the NAPLEX licensure
examination, which was above the national average.

- The College anticipates awarding 136 Pharm.D. and two PhD degrees during the commencement ceremony on May 5, 2007.
- The applicant pool is currently at 1,972 for the fall 2007 entering class.

Faculty

- Dean Matthews was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee for the Council of Deans in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.
- Dr. Julie Cold Kissack, Associate Professor of Clinical and Administrative Sciences, was reappointed to the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Specialty Council on Psychiatric Pharmacy for 2007-2009.
- Dr. Michael W. Jann, Professor of Clinical and Administrative Sciences, was appointed to the Editorial Board of The Consultant Pharmacist.
- Faculty had eight articles published, gave twenty-four presentations and received $732,070 in grants and contracts.
D. School of Medicine

After 15 years as the Chair and Residency Program Director for the Department of Surgery, Dr. Dalton will step down in order to focus his full attention on his duties as Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Don Nakayama has been selected to succeed Dr. Dalton as Chair of Surgery and Surgery Program Director beginning July 1, 2007.

Dr. Rick Reinhart has been appointed as the new chair for the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Reinhart brings experience in administrative and practice management. In addition to his duties as chair, Dr. Reinhart will also focus his attention on the development of the faculty practice plan.

Dr. Melton Strozier, who has been serving as the interim chair of Psychiatry, has been appointed as Chair of Psychiatry. Dr. Strozier has shown exceptional leadership abilities in guiding the Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Wayne Glasgow has been appointed interim chair of the Department of Basic Medical Sciences. Formerly the department vice-chair, Dr. Glasgow has a distinguished history of service and leadership in the School and the University.

The School of Medicine post-graduate training programs (residencies) at the Medical Center of Central Georgia and the Memorial Health University Medical Center continue to be successful. All programs are fully accredited.

Educational programs

M.D. Degree program

The School received a limited follow-up site survey from the LCME in October 2006, to follow up on concerns from the full visit in 2005. In consultations leading up to the October 2006 site visit, the LCME was quite clear in noting that some citations could not be resolved. In general, the survey team was very complimentary about the progress that had been made to
correct their concerns. The team noted the energy and enthusiasm of the faculty in preparing for the visit and addressing LCME’s concerns. Of the eight concerns with curriculum standards, all eight were felt to be resolved. The only residual standard not in full compliance is Ms-24 dealing with student debt. The LCME noted that this standard will require continued attention. The LCME also noted that the School of Medicine can anticipate continued vigilance on “areas in transition,” such as the diversity of the student body and research support.

The admissions process for the entering class of 2006 resulted in admission of one of the strongest classes in the history of the School (as measured by standardized admission test scores). The quality of the applicants for the class of 2007 appears to be equally robust. To date, the School of Medicine has accepted twenty-five through the early admissions process and interviewed a total of 187 from an applicant pool of 732.

The most recent workforce data reported to the Georgia Board of Physician Workforce indicate that the School has produced 655 practicing physicians from the graduating classes of 1996-2002. Sixty-three percent of these graduates are practicing in Georgia. Of those practicing in Georgia, eighty-three percent are practicing in a designated Medically-Under-Served Area, and seventy-eight percent are practicing in a primary care specialty. The database will be updated in spring 2007 to include data for the class of 2003.

Through an ongoing structured process, the curriculum committee’s curriculum review is nearly complete. Outcomes data from courses, segments of the curriculum, and the curriculum as a whole are being used to identify areas for improvement. The faculty have approved the first major restructuring of the curriculum in over ten years, which will be implemented with the incoming class of 2007. The faculty have set goals for students’ outcomes on national examinations and have identified steps to achieve those goals.

Work is continuing toward development of the current two-year clinical training program in Savannah into a four-year medical school campus at Memorial Health University Medical Center. Faculty recruitment has begun with over 100 high-quality applicants for fourteen basic
science positions. The University leadership is working diligently to secure funding through the legislative process. The LCME has been notified of these plans and has announced its intention to visit in August 2008 to evaluate Mercer’s ability to deliver the expanded program. Memorial has pledged facilities for the program on its campus.

Mercer has initiated discussions with the Atlanta Medical Center to develop a two-year clinical teaching site similar to that currently in existence in Savannah. Access to quality teaching sites is important in the education of medical students. Development of this site will position the School for additional clinical teaching sites to offset the Savannah Campus development and/or allow for expansion of the Macon program.

The School of Medicine has begun discussions with the College of Liberal Arts to develop a “guaranteed admission” track for qualified freshmen. The target for this program is currently ten freshmen students for the fall of 2008.

**Master of Family Therapy**

Spring 2007 enrollment for the Master of Family Therapy (MFT) degree program is thirty-three. Enrollment for the program remains essentially stable. The program will graduate ten students in this academic year. The graduation rate for the MFT program has averaged ninety-five percent with little fluctuation.

The main challenges for the MFT program are emerging competition and identification with market need. There is concern that the Macon area market for MFT graduates is saturated. Plans are in development to expand the MFT program to Atlanta, with the majority of the program requirements to occur at Piedmont Hospital. The concept has received support of the counseling programs currently offered on the Atlanta Campus, with reciprocal certificate training to be offered for graduates of either program. The proposed financial outlook is budget positive in every year of development.

With regard to finances, the MFT program is currently meeting expenses, including University overhead, with very modest revenue generation.
Family Therapy Certificate Programs

The School offers three post-master’s certificate programs in family therapy through the MFT program:

- Certificate Program in Family Therapy
- Certificate in Medical Family Therapy
- Certificate in Pediatric Family Therapy

The expenses for the certificate programs are incurred through the MFT budget, rendering the certificate programs financially viable. No students are enrolled in the certificate programs at present.

Master of Family Services

The Master of Family Services is being discontinued. Three students are in the final stages of completing the degree program. No new students will be admitted. Students seeking an administrative career path are turning to other degree programs (such as the Master of Public Health). Discontinuation of the program is a budget neutral action. No faculty positions will be affected, as the courses are taught mainly by contract faculty.

Master of Public Health

Spring enrollment in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program is forty-five students. The program anticipates graduating twenty-three students in spring 2007. The overall graduation rate for the MPH program is eighty-nine percent. Of this number, eighty-one percent are working in a field related to the area of study. Mercer’s MPH program was granted accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2005.

The main challenges for the MPH program are competition from emerging public health programs and program finances. The MPH program is developing several initiatives for expanded offerings: (1) a certificate program in public health for administrators and health care providers who are currently working in the field, but do not have public health training, (2) undergraduate public health majors, which will serve to prepare students for graduate programs
in public health and other health care fields of study, and (3) certificate program or programs in grants administration and grants development. A certificate program in grants administration and grants development will be the first of its kind in the nation, and if successful, will lead to the first master's-level degree in this field of study.

The MPH program is projected to meet expenses this academic year, including University overhead, with very modest revenue generation.

**Master of Science in Anesthesia**

The Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) degree program is beginning its second year of operations. Total enrollment is sixteen students. Demand for the program continues to be very strong, with an applicant to acceptance ratio of 10:1.

By contractual arrangement with Medical Center of Central Georgia, the program contributes a fixed amount to the School of Medicine. The contract is in renegotiation to ensure that Mercer's expenses for the program, including University overhead, are covered.

The main challenge for the MSA program will be to identify the resources for growth of the program. National and state workforce data indicate a strong demand for nurse anesthetists, and the applicant pool is deep.

**Research**

Increasing funded research is a priority at Mercer. The School has hired and supports new faculty with strong research backgrounds and aspirations. Mercer is working with the Medical Center to develop a mutually beneficial research initiative and collaboration. The researchers at Memorial Health University Medical Center are being credentialed as Mercer faculty, and an Assistant Dean of Research has been appointed for the Savannah Campus to facilitate collaboration between the two institutions.
Facilities

Renovation of the tutorial rooms was completed in fall 2006, including the addition of a new quiet study room and three new tutorial rooms. The next area of need is the clinical skills teaching facility, which is currently housed in the Patterson Building. The needs and activities of the educational program have outstripped the capacity of the existing facility. Acquiring acceptable space will require shifting of several program and activities within or outside the current structures.

Mercer Health Systems

Authority and responsibility for Mercer Health Systems will transition to the School of Medicine in July 2007. The goal is to support a practice plan and environment that support the educational program directly, as a clinical teaching site, and indirectly, through generation of a modest revenue stream. The leadership of Mercer University, the School of Medicine, Mercer Health Systems, and the Medical Center of Central Georgia are currently exploring options for the best way to accomplish this goal.

International Activities

In the fall of 2006 through winter of 2007, the School facilitated an educational experience for four residents and one faculty member from Macon’s sister city of Kurobe, Japan. Three Mercer faculty visited Kurobe as visiting professors. Three senior medical students spent two weeks in an educational exchange program with Kanazawa Medical University (KMU), and four students from KMU Medical University visited the School of Medicine in March 2006. Three KMU students visited again in March 2007, followed by three to six Mercer students visiting KMU in late 2007.

Dr. Brian Tobin, along with Dr. Eric Spears, Director of International Programs, will visit the College of Medicine at Chungnam National University, Daejeon South Korea, to teach its faculty about problem-based learning on a fully-funded request from that institution.
E. Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics

Dr. William Stewart Mounts, Jr. was named Interim Dean of the Stetson School of Business and Economics in December 2006. Dr. Mounts, Professor of Economics, has been with Mercer University for twenty-eight years and is the author of over thirty publications. Dr. Mounts recently returned from an American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) meeting for Deans where he started the process of building the Maintenance of Accreditation Visiting Team.

A new Professional MBA cohort began in Henry County in January 2007. Thirty-eight students are enrolled. The MAPS program is completing its fifth full year. Student retention has increased, as well as the graduation rate.

The faculty of the Stetson School of Business and Economics continues to be active in the areas of publication and presentations.


- Dr. Brett Katzman, Associate Professor of Economics, co-authored two articles, “A Theoretical and Empirical Investigation of the Social Market for Cigarettes,” which will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Health Economics*, and “Will Competitive Bidding Decrease Medicare Prices?” which will be published in the *Southern Economic Journal*.

- Dr. Penelope Prime, Professor of Economics, served as Guest Editor and authored an article, “Research on India and China: Interconnections and Comparisons,” for a special issue on India and China in the *Indian Journal of Economics and Business*. Dr. Prime presented “China: Land of Opportunity and Risk” at the GC South Roundtable,
sponsored by Jones Day at the Intercontinental Hotel in Buckhead, and “China’s Economic Reforms: Update on Progress and Challenges,” at the ICA Institute Roundtable at Emory University.

- Dr. Ronald Barden, Visiting Professor of Accounting, made a presentation and led a discussion, “Meeting the Needs of Employers,” at the 2007 annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Accounting Instructors.

- Dr. James Weisel, Professor of Accounting, published an article, “Dial a Forecast,” in the December 2006 Journal of Accountancy.

- Dr. Mei Zhang, Associate Professor of Economics and Finance, presented a paper, “Comparative Analysis of Economic Performance under Republican and Democrat Presidencies,” at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines. The paper will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Dr. Zhang also co-authored several articles:
  - “Monetary Policy vs. Foreign Exchange Rate: A Statistical Analysis,” which was published in the International Business and Economics Research Journal
  - (with Dr. Lloyd Southern, Professor of Management) “Team Approach or Individual Approach: A Statistical Analysis of the Impact of Socioeconomic Heterogeneity on Students’ Preference in Writing Term Papers in Management Courses,” which was accepted for publication in the Journal of Diversity Management
  - “A Multivariate Analysis of Foreign Direct Investment in China,” which has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Applied Business Research.

- Dr. Mounts has an article, “Why Odd Pricing?”, that will appear in the May issue of the Journal of Applied Social Psychology.
In the area of service to the community:

- Dr. Michael Weber’s marketing students performed research studies for a variety of companies including: The Transform Group, Pure Fun Juice, Staybattlin.com, and Murillo Coffee.

- Dr. Penelope Prime serves on the board of the Georgia China Alliance, serves as Director of the China Research Center, and is Research Director for Trade and Finance, ICA Institute.

- Dr. James Weisel served as Visiting Professor at Wing Lung Bank International Institute for Business Development at Hong Kong Baptist University, where he taught “Financial Modeling and Analysis” in the summer of 2006.

- William Vincent, J.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Law and Management, co-authored a paper, “Investment and Financing in Franchising: Financing Your Franchise,” which was presented at the First Annual China Franchise International Summit held at Beijing Normal University. The paper will be published in the Chinese academic journal, ATO. The book, which he co-authored, *Achieving Wealth through Franchising*, is used as a required text in franchise management at all Beijing Normal University campuses and is currently the most widely read book on franchising in all of China. His paper, “Interpreting Earnings Claims Information: A Second Trial,” was presented at the 21st Annual International Society of Franchising Conference in February, 2007.

- Dr. Scott Beaulier will be going to Nairobi, Kenya to give the keynote address (“What Economic System for Africa?”) to the Mt. Pelerin Society.
F. School of Engineering

Dr. M. Dayne Aldridge leads the School of Engineering as Dean. Graduate programs are experiencing significant enrollment increases. An Educational Partnership Agreement with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center has increased demand for graduate degree offerings. Two graduate programs enjoy success as online programs. The Master’s of Science in Software Systems Engineering has evolved as an online offering for both local and distant students. Strong demand continues from mid-career professionals in the United States and abroad for the online Master’s of Science in Technical Communication Management.

A recent survey of students that graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science in Engineering degree during the past five years revealed that fifty percent pursued graduate or professional degrees. All of the respondents reported their Mercer University degrees prepared them adequately or very well for their additional studies.

Dr. Clayton R. Paul, Sam Nunn Eminent Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering, is being honored by the most prestigious teaching award ever received by a Mercer Engineering faculty member—the 2007 Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Undergraduate Teaching Award at the 2007 IEEE Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility in June 2007. IEEE selects one person each year from a slate of nominations received from around the world. Dr. Paul’s award has the citation “for sustained excellence and creativity in the preparation of instructional material and inspirational teaching of undergraduate engineering students.”

Dr. Michael Leonard, Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Industrial Engineering, traveled to Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand as a guest of the Thai Ministry of Education. Dr. Leonard participated in the Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering and Management Science Conference and made four presentations. One presentation was the conference keynote address on engineering accreditation. One was to the faculty and staff of the Asian Institute of
Technology and another to the faculty and staff of the Chiang Mai University. In addition, he provided a seminar on medical supply chain management at Mahidol University.

Dr. George Hayhoe, Professor of Technical Communication, participated in a working group session of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in Seoul, South Korea. He is co-editor of a proposed standard for designers and developers of software user documentation that was submitted to the national standards bodies that are members of ISO. If successful, the draft will be officially adopted as an ISO Standard in 2008.

Dr. Richard Mines, Professor of Environmental Engineering, published an article on the Performance Assessment of Major Wastewater Treatment Plants in the State of Georgia in the Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A: Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering. Co-authors with Dr. Mines were Dr. Laura Lackey, Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering, and Mr. Glen Behrend, an alumnus of the School of Engineering in Environmental Engineering specialization.

Dr. M. Dayne Aldridge, Dean and Kaolin Chair of Engineering, provided an invited presentation about engineering accreditation to the International CDIO Meeting, at the École Polytechnique in Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

Dr. Joan Burtner and Dr. Laura Moody, Associate Professors of Industrial Engineering, led a team of students in projects as part of Mercer’s partnership with Piedmont Healthcare. Their projects deal with quality control. Dr. Burtner gave a presentation to the IIE/ASQ Lean and Quality Conference in Atlanta about one of the projects.

Dr. Susan Codone, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication, was notified that an article she published in IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication was number thirteen in the list of Top 50 Downloads for 2004.

The School of Engineering hosted the 39th Southeastern Symposium on System Theory in early March 2007. One hundred professors and students from primarily the southeast participated in the on-campus events. Dr. Phillip Olivier, Professor of Electrical Engineering,
served as the general conference chair.

Dr. Mines, Professor of Environmental Engineering, and Dr. Lackey, Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering, recently signed a contract to publish an introductory textbook for the study of environmental engineering.

Eleven Engineering Honors students have research projects underway. Twenty Freshman Engineering Honors students will choose projects next year.

Gama Roberts, a Mercer engineering graduate, was featured in the Christian Science Monitor as one person who is leaving a good job in the United States to start a new business in Africa. A 1999 engineering graduate and 2005 MBA graduate, Roberts started a Web development business in Liberia.

Goodrich Corporation selected Tara Owens-Bruss to receive its Distinguished Engineering Achievement Award for her work on electric brakes used on the Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Tara was one of the first graduates of the five-year Bachelor and Master of Science in Engineering dual degree program in 2004. For her senior design project, she led a team that designed and built a simulated cockpit test stand for a local contractor for delivery to the Air Force.

Rajesh Pandey, a 1993 engineering graduate, helped develop a ventricular assist device that was first implanted in an opera singer in Vienna, Austria. The first implant was so successful at least four additional implants have been made.

Construction of the new Science and Engineering Building has been completed. Movement of laboratory equipment is underway with full occupancy to be completed during the summer of 2007. The biomedical and environmental engineering laboratories will be expanded in the present building. The additional laboratory space in both buildings provides opportunities for design and research projects for engineering and technical communication programs.
G. James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology

By every indication, the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology continues to thrive and fulfill its mission under the leadership of Dr. Alan Culpepper as Dean. Highlights from the Spring Semester 2007 are provided in this report.

ATS Accreditation

In February 2007, the McAfee School of Theology hosted a visiting team from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) that reviewed the School’s accreditation. The team recommended that the Board of Commissioners reaffirm accreditation of the McAfee School of Theology for a period of ten years (spring 2017) and to approve the following degree programs: Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) preliminary. They commended in particular (1) “the extraordinary level of commitment, loyalty, and dedication of all stakeholders at the School and the University,” (2) “the significant growth and progress of the School in a relatively short time,” and (3) “the adherence to the focus of Knowing, Being, and Doing as seen in the strength of the M.Div. program.” They encouraged the School to give attention to the School’s current and future identity, to give increased attention to diversity throughout the School and its programs, and to continue growth of the comprehensive institutional evaluation process. The team requested reports to the Commission staff in three areas: (1) D.Min. publicity and admission activities (June 2007), (2) progress in increasing human resources, including staff and faculty (April 2008), and (3) progress in increasing the breadth and depth of the theology library collection (April 2009).

Enrollment

McAfee enrolled thirteen new M.Div. students in the spring of 2007. With some normal attrition, the spring enrollment is 207 M.Div. students and nineteen D.Min. students. With two non-degree students, McAfee has a total enrollment of 228, a new high. McAfee has also
admitted five new D.Min. students who will begin in summer 2007.

Faculty

Dr. Truett Gannon, who has been Senior Professor of Supervised Ministry since 1997 will retire on June 30, 2007, and Mr. Dock Hollingsworth is being nominated for appointment as Assistant Professor of Supervised Ministry effective July 1, 2007. A search process is also underway for a full-time professor of Church History with an emphasis on Baptist Studies. Dr. Denise Massey, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Dr. Nancy DeClaisse-Walford, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, are on sabbatical leave this spring. During 2007-2008, the School needs to appoint a professor of Theology in order to complete the second tier of faculty appointments.

Staff

Mr. Chip Reeves, Director of Admissions, resigned at the end of February 2007 to become the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Allendale, South Carolina. Mr. Ryan Clark, a 2001 M.Div. graduate, has been appointed Director of Admissions, and Mrs. Libby Allen has been appointed Associate Director of Admissions.

Library

In February 2007, the Theology collection in the Swilley Library contained 51,679 volumes, which represents an increase of 2,883 volumes or 5.91 percent in fifteen months. The continued growth of this collection is vital for the accreditation and the excellence of the academic programs in Theology. The University can be proud of the service rendered by the Library staff in this effort. The accreditation of additional degree programs in the School of Theology depends on the continued growth of the Theology library collection.
Curriculum

The McAfee School of Theology now has six M.Div. concentrations in Academic Research, Business, Christian Education, Church Music, Counseling, and Pastoral Care. With support from a grant from Faith and the City, the School has implemented a seventh concentration in Urban Mission that involves a year of ministry in an urban setting, courses in urban ministry and public policy, and an annual conference in urban ministry. The first Urban Mission Conference was held March 21-22, 2007. Dr. Raymond Bakke was the featured speaker. Students participating in this concentration reported on what they had learned from the urban ministries in which they were involved.

Endowment

The School of Theology reached $11,580,806.04, with an additional $10,153,861.81 pledged to the endowment as of December 31, 2006. In 2006, the School had a total of 691 donors.

Alumni

After eight graduations, McAfee has 211 alumni. Of the 211, 185 are in ministry (87.6 percent), which is well above the average for Association of Theological Schools. Twenty-eight are pastors, eleven are pastoral residents, sixty-three others are associate pastors or serve in staff positions, thirty-four are chaplains, and twelve serve in church related ministries. Eighteen are pursuing Th.M. or Ph.D. studies.

Pastoral Residency Program

With the support of the Lilly grant, McAfee has undertaken a five-year program designed to ease the transition from school to church for McAfee graduates who plan to become pastors. McAfee has established a series of two-year residencies for McAfee graduates in teaching churches that support Mercer. Six graduates began residencies in Baptist churches in Georgia
in June 2005 and six more in June 2006. Mr. Dock Hollingsworth, Assistant Dean, directs the residency program, meets with the peer groups, and collaborates with partners at the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia and the Pastoral Institute.

**Events at McAfee**

A number of exciting events are occurring this year:

- Ninth McAfee School of Theology Graduation (May 19, 2007)
- McAfee Alumni and Friends Dinner, Washington, DC (June 28, 2007)
- Mercer Preaching Consultation, St. Simons Island (September 23-25, 2007)
H. Tift College of Education

The Tift College of Education is engaged in a number of projects designed to facilitate the further development and expansion of the College. Under the leadership of Dr. Carl Martray, the Tift College of Education continues to move forward.

Comprehensive Assessment System

Under the leadership of Associate Dean and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Coordinator, Dr. Susan Malone, the College is continuing with its intensive preparations for the upcoming national accreditation (NCATE) and state approval process (Georgia Professional Standards Commission) for all of Mercer’s professional education programs on November 10-14, 2007. At the heart of these preparations is a comprehensive assessment system that includes massive datasets developed through electronic portfolio evaluations, standardized test results, performance evaluations, and survey feedback from employers, graduates, and strategic partners. This data system allows the College to aggregate data at the unit level and to disaggregate data at the program level for purposes of program improvement. Recently, the College submitted twenty-five individual program reviews to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for evaluation prior to the fall accreditation visit. These reviews focus on program faculty’s use of data as a mechanism for determining program effectiveness and opportunities for growth. To illustrate the comprehensiveness of this system, faculty have recently reviewed performance data on over 600 current students.

Educational Leadership Programs

Educational Leadership Programs within the College of Education, under the leadership of Assistant Dean, Dr. Penny Elkins, continue to expand. The masters-level program, designed to prepare local school leaders, added a new cohort from Gwinnett County in January 2007,
while maintaining existing cohorts in Atlanta, Henry County, and Macon. The Ph.D. Program in Educational Leadership has completed its first semester. Tift is pleased to report that, of the forty doctoral-level students enrolled during Fall Semester 2006, thirty-nine students are in good standing and are enrolled in the current semester. Faculty are impressed with the quality and performance of the students in this first cohort. In addition to working closely with the current K-12 doctoral students, the faculty are fine-tuning the curriculum for the higher education track, which will begin in fall of 2007. Final adjustments to the curriculum were forwarded to the University Graduate Council for its approval on February 23, 2007. Recruitment efforts for the Fall 2007 cohort, which includes both the K-12 and higher education tracks, are yielding positive results, and it appears that enrollment in this program will be doubling. Currently, a search is in progress for the addition of a second educational research/statistics faculty member to support this program as the current students begin identifying dissertation research topics.

**Technology Innovations**

In an effort to maximize instructional resources and decrease the use of adjunct instructors, the College has embarked on two innovative technology initiatives. This Spring Semester 2007, for the first time, full-time faculty on the Macon Campus are using I-Chat technology to teach classes that combine students from Macon and Eastman. Dr. Al Stramiello and Professor Sharon Augustine and their students are enthusiastic about the learning experience. This instructional model leverages the power of technology to bridge the miles between these two sites while maintaining the face-to-face interaction between instructor and students and among students in the classroom community. This technology allows the instructor the flexibility of moving back-and-forth on alternating weeks, so the students have the benefit of the instructor being physically with them for half of the instructional meetings. In the second initiative, faculty at the Henry/Douglas Regional Centers are in the process of completing five hybrid online courses, which will allow the faculty to simultaneously teach
students from both sites. It should be noted that these courses, while online, are hybrid in nature in that there will be face-to-face sessions, supplemented by online activities. These courses will be implemented in the Fall Semester 2007.

**MAT Program in Atlanta**

Modification of the certification-only program for individuals with bachelor’s degrees to a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program yielded an increase in enrollment at the Atlanta Campus. This program targets individuals making career transitions into the teaching profession. Initial indicators demonstrate that the MAT will be highly attractive in that graduates enter their teaching careers with an advanced certification, which yields higher compensation. Strategic marketing will be the key to the success that the MAT might achieve.

**Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts**

Tift College of Education is pleased to announce the acquisition of a new grant to provide leadership throughout Georgia in the area of early care and education (Birth-five). Professors Margaret McCall and Linda Adams are working closely with Dr. Janet Fields, who is directing this $200,000 grant from the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). This is the second grant received from DECAL for developing education articulation models and curricula for programs to certify practitioners working with young children.

In addition to external partnerships such as the DECAL grant, the College is also engaged in various interdisciplinary partnerships within the Mercer University community. Tift continues collaborative efforts with the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, and the Townsend School of Music in the education of future teachers at the undergraduate level.

The following projects are examples of collaborative efforts with sister professional schools and colleges within the University:
• Dr. Tom Kellow, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership/Research and Statistics, is working closely with members of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on validating end-of-year student assessment instruments.

• Dr. Susan Malone, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Assessment, was recently named Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Medicine, as a result of her work with School of Medicine faculty in the on-going enhancement of their assessment system.

• Dr. Kevin Jenkins, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, is working with Professor Oren Griffin from the Walter F. George School of Law on common research interests in education law.

• Dean Daisy Floyd of the School of Law was a featured presenter on education law topics at the spring 2007 Leadership Academy, sponsored by Tift College of Education’s Educational Leadership program.
I. Georgia Baptist College of Nursing

Dr. Susan S. Gunby serves as Dean of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing. The College offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing degrees on the Atlanta Campus. Effective Fall Semester 2006, a pre-nursing program was initiated on the Macon Campus, and no new freshman students were admitted to the College of Nursing for the 2006-2007 academic year. However, effective Fall Semester 2008, freshman students will again be admitted to the Atlanta Campus.

College of Nursing Highlights

Fifty-two students graduated from the College of Nursing in December 2006. This number included one graduate of the Master of Science in Nursing program and one student enrolled in the RN-BSN track. This Commencement program included the pinning of each student and the recognition of students receiving academic awards.

The new Piedmont Healthcare Learning Resource Center (LRC) has been used extensively during the past few months. Piedmont Healthcare funded the construction and furnishing of the center on the third floor of the College of Nursing and the addition of several features and equipment in the existing LRC, which enable faculty to evaluate students as they use patient care simulators.

The College of Nursing continues to emphasize the importance of developing the future leaders of the nursing profession. In October 2006, six College of Nursing students were elected to state offices within the Georgia Association of Nursing Students. Over 200 College of Nursing students attended the mid-year convention of the National Students Nurses Association (NSNA) in Atlanta. One student is currently serving on the NSNA national board. Several students are slated to run for national offices in the NSNA.

On October 20, 2006, over 200 alumni attended the annual meeting, continuing
education sessions, and honors luncheon. The continuing education program was entitled “Reshaping the Nursing Profession.” Dr. Gunby; Dr. Linda Streit, Associate Dean for the College’s Graduate Program; Dr. Helen Hodges, Coordinator of the College’s RN-BSN track; and Barry Hawthorne, Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer for Piedmont Hospital gave presentations. Twelve individuals were inducted into the College of Nursing’s Hall of Honor for their contributions to nursing education, health care administration, community health service, mentorship, clinical nursing practice, and student leadership development. Merle Willis Griffin, 1957 alumna, was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award. Dr. Sara H. Mitchell, 1972 alumna and a member of the College of Nursing faculty, received the Edna Earle Teal Award for her service to God and humanity. Forty-one members of the Class of 1956 attended the Alumni Day events, and were inducted into the Mercer University Half Century Club.

Faculty and Administration Highlights

- Dr. Susan S. Gunby, Dean, was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Georgia Center on Oncology Research and Education (Georgia – CORE).
- Dr. Gunby was an invited speaker for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s Faculty Development Conference in Houston, TX, in February 2007.
- Dr. Gunby was appointed to the Georgia Board of Nursing’s Education Committee.
- Dr. Linda A. Streit, Associate Dean for the Graduate Program, served as the project director on a Department of Health and Human Services grant, which resulted in $120,000 in funding for graduate students pursuing a master’s degree with an area of concentration in nursing education.
- Dr. Streit is a member of the Georgia Nurse Alert System – a coordinated network of registered nurses available to respond to any natural or human-made emergency or disaster in the state.
• Dr. Dare Domico, Professor, was elected treasurer for the Peachtree chapter of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), and was a speaker at the AANN certification review course.

• Dr. Domico published two chapters in a textbook entitled *Modules for Basic Nursing Skills*, and served as a reviewer of three nursing textbooks.

• Ann Keeley, Assistant Professor, is participating in a two-year certificate program in Qualitative Nursing offered through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

• Brenda Rowe, JD, Associate Professor, presented a speech on legal aspects in neuroscience nursing for the 2006 Neuro Nursing Symposium at Emory University, and created a presentation on legal aspects of documentation for all Georgia public health nurses, which was recorded on a DVD program by the Georgia Division of Public Health.

• Grace Lewis, Assistant Professor, authored two chapters in a nursing textbook and served as a reviewer for two books. Professor Lewis has been selected as a national licensure item writer / item panel member for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

• Dr. Diane E. White, Associate Professor, presented a research paper at the Sigma Theta Tau International Region Seven conference in Savannah, Georgia in January 2007, and served as a reviewer for three nursing textbooks.

• Dr. JoEllen Dattilo, Associate Dean for the Undergraduate Program, was elected to the office of President-Elect of the Phi Kappa Phi, Mercer University chapter.

• Lana Chase, Assistant Professor, is serving as secretary of the metropolitan Atlanta chapter of the Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses in Georgia.
The College of Continuing and Professional Studies, under the leadership of Dr. Tom Kail, Dean, marked the fourth anniversary of its founding on January 19, 2007. The College offers five undergraduate programs: Criminal Justice, Human Services, Information Systems, Liberal Studies, and Organization Leadership. The College of Continuing and Professional Studies also offers two graduate programs: Community Counseling and Public Safety Leadership. Completion of coursework in the counseling program enables graduates to take the National Counselors’ Licensure Examination, which is a requirement in the State of Georgia in order to practice as a professional counselor. The graduate program in Public Safety Leadership, begun in January of 2007, is aimed at providing law enforcement professionals with the knowledge to meet the public safety challenges of the twenty-first century.

While faculty in all of the College’s programs are committed to continuous improvement, measurable results are dramatically evident in the master’s program in Community Counseling. The program now attracts applicants from throughout the nation. The solid records of academic- and work-related achievement of these applicants is an indication that the program, over a short period of time, has gained a reputation for quality. The performance of recent graduates on the national counselors’ licensure examination, which all students are required to take to complete the program, also reflects the ability of these students. Last year’s graduates achieved a pass rate of ninety percent; this year it is ninety-three percent. The pass rate exceeds by a significant margin national norms for graduates of counseling programs and is tangible evidence of a high quality program. Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Sciences and Program Coordinator, Dr. David Lane, submitted a self-study report on February 9, 2007 to the Council on Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs for professional accreditation of the program. A site visit will occur in May 2007.

The success of the program has resulted in requests for training and professional
development programs for personnel working for the State of Georgia’s Department of Human Resources and Department of Corrections. Both departments have sent professionals to a seven module “Addiction Counselor Certification Program,” which ended on January 11, 2007, with a recognition ceremony on Mercer’s Atlanta Campus. At the ceremony, the Corrections Commissioner James E. Donald underscored the importance of this partnership with Mercer: “We’re facing an explosive meth epidemic across the state, and there is a huge shortage of certified addiction counselors in Georgia and nationwide. This joint effort with Mercer helps us equip our staff with specialized skills and ensures we have access to well trained professionals....” A new cohort consisting of Department of Corrections staff and others began on March 5, 2007.

Another important area of professional training within the College is an outgrowth of faculty expertise in leadership and public safety administration. The establishment of the Public Safety Leadership Institute several years ago enables the College to offer leadership training to law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, corrections, and executives of other agencies. The vehicle for this training program has been a six-module program. On January 22, 2007, the Institute inaugurated its fifth cohort with professionals from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department, the Fulton County Police Department, the City of Covington Police Department, MARTA, and the City of Cartersville Police Department. Capitalizing on the professionalization of public safety work, the College also began offering a graduate program in Public Safety Leadership, which began in January of 2007.

The success of these initiatives has resulted in a decision within the College to seek federal support and other funding for a Center for Substance Abuse Counselor Education. Likewise, efforts are underway to seek Department of Justice funding for the Public Safety Leadership Institute. These efforts are being coordinated through the office of the Senior Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Scott Davis.

Equally important to the College is the commitment to offer adults high quality
undergraduate learning experiences. Measuring learning outcomes will be important to reaching this goal. Under the leadership of Assistant Professor of Human Services, Marna Burns, and Assistant Professor of Organization Leadership, Dr. Lynn Clemons, along with a cross-disciplinary team of faculty, the College’s Assessment and Planning Committee completed a two-year project that focused on assessment of the writing and critical thinking skills of a cross section of senior undergraduates enrolled in the College. The committee’s report provided the foundation for a cross-disciplinary effort to improve student writing and critical thinking skills in each major by identifying writing intensive courses in which faculty will evaluate students’ performances using an agreed upon rubric. In their report completed in November 2006, the Committee recommended that “continued assessment be done” and that mathematics and science be included for critical thinking assessment. The aim of this important College effort of emphasizing writing and critical thinking across all of the disciplines is to make both skills a measure of the quality of the College’s programs.

Academic advising has received significant attention in the College under the leadership of Associate Deans, Dr. Laurie Lankin and Dr. Clinton Terry. Adult students enrolled in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies place a high value on academic advising, as determined by the results from the Noel-Levitz Adult Student Priorities Survey, which was distributed to 213 students in the spring of 2006. This initiative is the foundation for the College’s goal to achieve a seventy-five percent retention to graduation rate among students who have had previous college or university work. The current rate of retention among this group is sixty-seven percent.

Also contributing to additional adult student enrollment and ultimately to the College’s financial contribution to the University is the initiative undertaken by department chairs and faculty to bring the College’s Regional Academic Center programs to the Atlanta Campus. Beginning in May 2007, the College will expand its general education offerings and offer three degree completion programs: Organization Leadership, Criminal Justice, and Information
Systems. All of these undergraduate programs, if appropriately marketed, will have strong demand among adults who work in North DeKalb, North Fulton, Gwinnett, Cherokee, and other metro Atlanta counties. Making certain that the infrastructure and support are in place to serve faculty, both full- and part-time, as well as students will be an important initiative over the next four months.

In the past four years, the College has worked hard at continuous improvement. Evidence for this effort is present in the Noel-Levitz Adult Student Priorities Survey Results, an instrument that captures both what adult students are most satisfied with or most dissatisfied with concerning their educational experiences at Mercer. The College’s students indicate that they are pleased with the quality of the education that they are receiving at the Regional Academic Centers and the Macon and Atlanta Campuses. The following in rank order are areas of high satisfaction:

- Quality of instruction
- Knowledgeable faculty
- Commitment to academic excellence
- Quality learning experience for adults
- Good reputation in the community

Mercer University makes one of its most important contributions to the lives of adult students and the communities in which they live by offering innovative undergraduate programs that give individuals, many of whom are first-generation college students, the opportunity to advance their careers and lead fuller lives.
K. Townsend School of Music

The Townsend School of Music, under the leadership of Dr. John N. Roberts as Dean, continues to develop its foundation guidelines and policies for establishment of a viable school of music. Significant progress is being forged in several key areas.

Enrollment

To date, Townsend has offered eleven undergraduate music scholarships for incoming freshmen for the 2007-08 academic year. Two have accepted their music scholarship offers. Twenty-eight prospective music majors signed up for auditions during February and March 2007. Townsend Graduate Music Studies will offer seven teaching assistantships and one fellowship for the upcoming academic year. These potential music enrollment figures are average compared to past enrollments.

Administration

Work is continuing on the completion of the Townsend School of Music Faculty Policies and Guidelines Handbook. This handbook will be submitted for approval to the Provost, the President, and the Board of Trustees.

Curriculum

The University Graduate Council recently passed the proposal from the Townsend Graduate Music Studies to expand the Master of Music in Choral Conducting degree to include instrumental conducting. The name of the degree will be changed from Master of Music in Choral Conducting to Master of Music in Conducting. The instrumental conductors will work with both the Mercer University Orchestra and the Mercer Wind Ensemble.

The University Undergraduate Curriculum Council (UUCC) is currently considering a proposal to alter the Bachelor of Music Education degree by adding four credit hours of needed
music education courses and reducing general education requirements. The UUCC will also consider requiring Bachelor of Music in Performance vocal majors to fulfill their language study in French or German, and requiring Bachelor of Music in Performance string majors to register for four credit hours of chamber music during the course of their undergraduate studies.

**Faculty**

Townsend School of Music formed a vocal search committee to evaluate candidates to replace Dr. Kyle Ferrill, baritone, on the music faculty. Dr. Ferrill decided to live in Boston and become a freelance musician in the New England area. There are around fifty applications on file for this vocal position, and candidates were invited to the campus to interview during the months of March and April 2007.

Ms. Amy Moretti, Associate Professor of Music, has arrived and has assumed her responsibilities as Director of the McDuffie Center for Strings. A Labor Day String Festival is currently being planned.

The music faculty is active in recitals and conferences. Adrian Gnam hosted a very successful International Conductor's Workshop in January 2007. Dr. Robert Parris hosted a conference for the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists and performed a Bach Birthday concert during the Cherry Blossom Festival season in Macon. Dr. John N. Roberts will be performing solo recitals and a concerto concert in North Carolina this spring 2007, and Dr. Monty Cole was featured as guest soloist with the Macon Symphony Orchestra for the February subscription concert. The music faculty is preparing to offer three recruitment academies this summer: the High School Summer Keyboard Academy, the High School Summer Chamber Music Academy, and the High School Summer Vocal Academy.

**Students**

Townsend Music Students are actively involved in performances and competitions. Two
Townsend students placed in the Collegiate Competition sponsored by the Macon Symphony Orchestra in January 2007. Megan Ganyard, violinist, won first place and Mary Brooke Quarles, singer, won alternate. Both students were featured as soloists with the Macon Symphony Orchestra on Young People’s Concerts in March 2007 at the Grand Opera House.

Keitaro Harada, conductor, recently conducted the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as a participant in the Conductor’s Guild Workshop. Mr. Harada will be pursuing graduate studies in conducting in the Townsend School of Music next year on a full fellowship. It is a milestone that the first two graduates of Townsend School of Graduate Music Studies will receive their degrees this spring. Creston Groover will receive the Master of Music in Church Music degree, and Calista Waddy will receive the Master of Music in Performance degree.

Brass and woodwind students in the Mercer Wind Ensemble will be performing with the renowned American Brass Quintet at the Grand Opera House, and music students in the Mercer Jazz Ensemble will be featured with jazz trumpeter Vincent DiMartino in April 2007. The Mercer Singers are preparing for a tour of Georgia Baptist churches in April to hone their performance skills for an international tour of Japan in May.

News of alumni include Monica Murphy, soprano, who recently placed in the Chicago Lyric Opera’s Young Artists Ensemble Competition, and Leah Partridge, soprano, who is currently performing with the Palm Beach Opera company. Ms. Partridge was the featured clinician for the High School Voice Performance Workshop at Mercer University in March.

External Outreach

Townsend School of Music is sensitive to the need to establish clear strategies for publicity, marketing, recruitment, and development for the stability of the new School of Music. University Advancement has assigned persons to focus on the future goals for marketing and development. The need to establish a Board of Visitors for Townsend School of Music is also recognized.
The launching of a new hymnal for Baptist worship entitled “Celebrating Grace” has generated excitement. This hymnal publication is a collaborative initiative of the Townsend-McAfee Institute of Graduate Studies in Church Music at Mercer University and the Mercer University Press. J. Thomas McAfee is generously supporting this project with both time and resources.

Finally, plans are currently underway to present a Townsend School of Music dedication concert. This special October 2007 event will take place at the Grand Opera House in Macon and will introduce the newly established School of Music to the nation.
L. University Libraries

The University Libraries, led by Dean Beth Hammond, continue to develop and improve services to its patrons in response to new technologies and new academic programs.

The University Libraries launched IM (Instant Messaging) reference service October 16, 2006. Patrons can get an immediate response to their reference query through this popular communication tool. Many questions can be handled online while others lead to a referral to a phone or in-person conversation for more extensive reference assistance. Reference librarians at Swilley and Tarver share responsibilities for staffing this service Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The University Libraries, with the guidance of Bob Frasier, Systems Librarian, moved from a single proxy server for the combined Mercer University Libraries to individual servers for Macon, Atlanta, and the Centers. EZproxy software manages off-campus access to electronic resources. Access from off-campus locations is critical for all patrons, but especially for the non-residential programs at the Regional Academic Centers and Atlanta Campus where patrons live and work some distance from a campus library. Although many of the electronic resources are shared across the University, each teaching location has developed electronic resources tailored to its own curriculum. The new configuration will permit improved access to electronic resources by the students and faculty, and provide librarians with better usage statistics and product management.

The Libraries worked with Technical Support Services on planning and implementing the Libraries’ participation in recent campus-wide network migration projects to minimize library service disruptions. One result of this network project is the ability of Technical Support Services to host three instances of EZProxy software in its server facility.

The University Libraries try to follow a four-year refreshment cycle for library computers for the 150 public and staff computers in the Libraries. New machines replace public
computers, which are moved to upgrade staff computers. This ensures that the hardware and software on the library computers is able to support the activities required by the curriculum and patrons have the most up to date technology. This year, the Libraries were able to purchase 30 computers and upgraded machines at Swilley, Tarver, and the Douglas County Regional Academic Center Libraries.

Dean Beth Hammond and Associate Dean Judith Brook and their Special Collections colleagues are helping with preparations to move the collections of the American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and Rochester, New York, to Mercer’s Atlanta Campus. Laura Botts, Head of Special Collections/Tarver; Kim Eccles, Head of Public Services/Swilley; Susan Broome, Head of Technical Services/Tarver; and Arlene Desselles, Public Services Librarian, have all been involved in conversations with ABHS personnel and Mercer administrators about service and support needs.

**Monroe F. Swilley, Jr. Library**

Swilley Library liaisons have been busy serving their individual colleges and schools and preparing for various accreditation visits. The Theology Librarian, Beth Perry, and the Associate Dean of University Libraries, Judith Brook, met with the American Theology Schools’ team leader, Newland Smith in February 2007 to respond to his questions following the self-study report and visit. Other upcoming accreditation visits are the initial visit of the Physician Assistant Association in July 2007, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education (CACREP), the National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE), and Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Librarians and the Associate Dean of the Libraries have all begun discussions with the various schools about the self-studies and are preparing for the visits.

In December 2006, Swilley Library approached the Medical School Libraries at Macon and Savannah about financial support to contribute towards licensing a database from Ovid.
Technologies that provides access to the full-text of 260 health sciences journals. One of the Mercer University health sciences programs also provided funding to make this possible. Swilley Library had previously subscribed to 144 journals through its membership in the Atlanta Health Sciences Library Consortium, but this opportunity was no longer available. This new resource will greatly enhance the body of medical literature that is available to students and faculty in professional and graduate programs.

The Education Resources and Technology Committee of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing held a campus wide technology fair November 17, 2006 on the Atlanta Campus. The planning committee consisted of three College of Nursing faculty members plus Nursing Librarian, Arlene Desselles, the Assistant Director of Learning Technologies, and the Director of Technical Support Services.

Instant messaging and the use of Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds were incorporated as part of the Library’s public services offerings by the electronic resources and circulation librarians. In addition, The Electronic Resources Librarian added an "Ask Us" tab to the Library's Web site. The Pharmacy Librarian produced and launched a blog, “Library prn,” to market new services and resources in the library, as well as information on news in the area of information resources for the health sciences from sources, such as the National Center for Biotechnology Information. The target audience is the faculty and students of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The URL of the blog is http://libraryprn.blogspot.com.

Information literacy is a key component of all University disciplines and programs. The Swilley Library provided library instruction to over 1,256 students from August 2006 to February 2007.

The Associate Director of the Swilley Library received funding from the Georgia Humanities Council for a grant request, “Connecting Histories: Evaluation of Theology and College of Arts and Science Archival Materials.” This grant was used this spring with a program that culminated during National Library Week, April 19, 2007.
Swilley Library welcomed two new staff members: Jameelah Ferell joined the staff as part-time Library Assistant, and Michael Barnes is the new Acquisitions Coordinator and Webmaster.

**Jack Tarver Library**

Tarver librarians offered instruction in identifying, accessing, and evaluating library resources to 930 students during the Fall Semester 2007. Subject Librarians conducted forty-three in-depth research consultations with students and created Web-based course specific guides for students in Chemistry, Christianity, Communication and Theater Arts, Education, Engineering, English, History, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Web-based guides were created for specific resources including *RefWorks* and *JSTOR*.

The Tarver Library coordinated with Technical Support Services to incorporate the former Instructional Technology Center student computer lab into the library operations. Twelve additional computers were added to the main Reference area in January 2007. Designed by Consuela Cline, Coordinator of Reference and Instructional Services, and Lee Twombly, Media Services and Outreach Librarian, these computer clusters are more conducive to group work and are popular gathering places for students. The former computer lab in the library now serves as a “Laptop Lounge” where students can work in comfortable surroundings.

Andrew Shuping, Interlibrary Loan and Circulation Services Librarian, coordinated the installation of a new public address system. The new system replaces twenty-year old equipment and provides much better sound coverage for routine and emergency announcements.

Geoffrey Timms, Electronic Resources Librarian, joined Tarver Library in January 2007. He is charged with updating information on various database vendors, learning the structures through which Tarver offers electronic resources, and designing a statistics reporting structure.
Special Collections, Tarver Library

Special Collections is fulfilling its mission of collecting, preserving, and providing access to the Baptist history collections and the University archives. Since October 2006, the department has had almost 300 off-campus requests, assisted more than 170 on-site researchers, and provided twenty-two books and microfilm reels via interlibrary loan services, totaling 560 contacts.

In addition, staff members continue a strong tradition of instruction, working with History and First Year Seminar students as they learn to conduct research using primary documents. Recent student topics have included Mercer’s first female students, the history of the Administration Building, and the effects of World War I on campus life.

Special Collections employees are also pleased to note an increased awareness of the department’s holdings. The photograph collections are being used for PowerPoint displays at this year’s Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, and numerous artifacts are being featured in an exhibit presented by QuadWorks during homecoming festivities.

Dr. Robert G. Gardner, the Senior Researcher for Baptist History, is processing sixty-four boxes of material from the estate of Baptist historian and pastor, Waldo P. Harris, III. Several student assistants have helped him clean and sort these records.

Archives Assistant Arlette Copeland continues her work editing a new history of Mercer written by Dr. James C. Bryant. At the request of the Mercer Administration, she will focus on fact-checking and revising the text during 2007. Barbara Brennan joined the department as a temporary employee during Mrs. Copeland’s absence.

The Georgia Baptist History Depository was represented at the annual meetings of both the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia and the Georgia Baptist Convention during November 2006. Laura Botts, Head of Special Collections, worked with the department’s student assistants to update brochures given out at the meetings, and the booths were well received.
Technical Services and Processing Center

Catalogers have completed work on all of the curricular materials at the Eastman and Swilley locations. The majority of the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC) titles in the areas of science, mathematics, social studies, the arts, professional education, and related manipulatives have been evaluated, cataloged, and returned to the Douglas County, Henry County, and Tarver libraries. Of the 12,000 CMC materials listed in the original inventory of the five locations, approximately fifty-eight percent (7,000 titles) have been cataloged to date. The remaining 5,000 language arts and juvenile literature titles include more duplicate copies than the other subject areas and should be cataloged more quickly.

Almost 1,700 duplicate serial issues from the Swilley, Tarver, Law, and Medical libraries have been offered to other institutions since September 2006 through a national duplicate exchange program that allows libraries to fill collection gaps.

The library collection at the Eastman Regional Academic Center sustained moisture damage and was cleaned and moved to another building in the Fall Semester 2006. A number of outdated volumes in the general collection were removed, and close to 1,000 newly-cataloged curricular materials were added and made available for campus-wide use.

Of approximately 2,666 media materials (DVDs, videos, film, and laser discs) brought into the Tarver collection in the fall, 648 have been cataloged, representing twenty-four percent. Until cataloging is completed, an alphabetical list of titles is on Tarver’s Media Center Web site. Cataloging should be completed in fall 2007.

Several thousand name headings (authors) in the library’s online catalog have been updated to include death dates, which OCLC finally began providing in 2006.

Evaluation of Tarver Library print and online journal packages from EBSCO for cost-savings is being used as a test-run for assessing use and duplication of access of approximately 800 print serials subscriptions. This process will continue through spring, so adjustments can be made to the 2008 fiscal year serials order before it is due in summer 2007.
Approximately 300 books that Stetson School of Business and Economics professors donated, primarily for the Swilley and Douglas libraries, are being cataloged. A gift collection of approximately 10,000 volumes is expected from the estate of Tom Watson Brown, an Atlanta attorney, historian, and scholar, as well as a University Life Trustee.

Account credits with book jobber, Baker and Taylor, have allowed for nursing collection additions, despite budget restraints; and a $20,000 credit from EBSCO’s serials subscription service has been recovered for other Tarver budget uses.

Regional Academic Library Services

Tarver and Swilley Libraries have teamed up to assist in services at the Regional Academic Center Libraries this academic year while the Coordinator of Regional Academic Center Library Services position remains vacant. Julie Poole, Douglas County Library Assistant, and Sandy Cox, Henry County Library Assistant, work twenty four hours per week and are aided by student assistants to maintain adequate library hours. Ms. Poole and Ms. Cox are to be commended for their superior patron service and leadership during this period. Theresa Preuit, Associate Director for Public Services and Collections, Tarver Library, is coordinating services and library instruction at the Centers. Ms. Preuit has delivered instruction sessions along with assistance from Kim Eccles and Arlene Desselles at Swilley Library. Four sessions, reaching eighty-six students at the Regional Academic Centers, were held in Douglas and Henry in fall 2006.

Theresa Preuit, with extensive assistance from Bob Frasier, updated the Regional Academic Centers Web site, including the addition of guides assisting students in distinguishing between popular and scholarly articles and links to Web sites providing assistance with APA citation style.
### IV. PROMOTIONS, TENURE, SABBATICALS, AND EMERITI

#### FACULTY

#### A. Promotion Recommendations

**College of Liberal Arts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kot, Mary</td>
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<td>Nash, R. Scott</td>
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<td>Yackel, Carolyn</td>
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**School of Engineering**

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<tr>
<td>Butler, André J.</td>
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**School of Medicine**

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<td>Glasgow, Wayne</td>
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<td>Kovach, Karen</td>
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<td>Walker, Anna</td>
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**College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

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<td>Ryan, Gina</td>
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Tift College of Education

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<td>Morris, Margaret R.</td>
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Townsend School of Music

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<td>Malone, Martha</td>
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B. Tenure Recommendations

College of Liberal Arts

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<tr>
<td>Yackel, Carolyn</td>
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<td>Zhao, Martin</td>
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Engineering

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Walter F. George School of Law

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<td>Hricik, David</td>
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School of Medicine

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C. Emeriti Recommendations

**College of Liberal Arts**

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<td>Winfield, Jerry</td>
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**Stetson School of Business and Economics**

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**Walter F. George School of Law**

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<td>Chanin, Leah F.</td>
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**School of Medicine**

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**College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

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D. Sabbatical Requests

**College of Liberal Arts**

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<td>Denny, Jeffrey</td>
<td>Spring 2008</td>
<td>Apply expertise in mathematical modeling to several areas of biomedical research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nash, R. Scott</td>
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<td>Continue archaeological work at Corinth in Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright, John C.</td>
<td>Spring 2008</td>
<td>Complete a multi-year project sponsored by the Pet Care Trust studying the behavioral differences of dogs neutered early in their lives compared with dogs neutered later in life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zielinski, Marian</td>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>Produce five (5) major art pieces that will extend her study of how to adapt and incorporate fiber art into stage design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Walter F. George School of Law**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date(s) Requested</th>
<th>Sabbatical Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oedel, David</td>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>Implement, supervise, adjust, expand, and popularize a new Web site that provides a forum-like atmosphere for citizens and others interested in commenting on publicly-funded transportation infrastructure projects</td>
</tr>
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**Tift College of Education**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date(s) Requested</th>
<th>Sabbatical Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Jude</td>
<td>Fall 2008 or Spring 2009</td>
<td>Pursue teaching methods designed for underprivileged students in Quito, Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sliger, Bruce</td>
<td>Spring 2008</td>
<td>Write a book on grant writing for teachers and school leaders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**McAfee School of Theology**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Date(s) Requested</th>
<th>Sabbatical Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen, William Loyd</td>
<td>Academic Year 2007-2008</td>
<td>Gather material for a book on &quot;Global Baptist Spirituality&quot; while traveling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Date(s) Requested</td>
<td>Sabbatical Purpose</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeper-Woodford, Sandra K.</td>
<td>26 November 2007 to 26 May 2008 (6 months)</td>
<td>Spend time in a laboratory to hone skills in research techniques and grant writing to progress in areas of successful research and research funding at MUSM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT—ATLANTA

The Atlanta operations of Mercer continue to be a vital and growing part of the University. The Senior Vice President – Atlanta, Dr. Richard Swindle, is responsible for leading the long range planning and operations of the Atlanta Campus, as well as Mercer's Regional Academic Centers. New programs are being added, current programs are being expanded, and services and facilities are being improved. Currently, almost half of all Mercer students are enrolled in Atlanta programs, and this percentage is expected to increase.

Atlanta Administration and Conference Center

The Atlanta Administration and Conference Center (formerly the Georgia Baptist Convention building) is being reconfigured to provide a home for various programs. As in earlier reports, the American Baptist Historical Society archives will be relocated into the building within the next year. This organization and its archives will base its operations in the lowest level of the building. The upper floors of this 100,000+ square foot building will be used for various offices, including the faculty and staff of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, and the faculty and administration of the Educational Leadership program. Eventually, many of the Atlanta administrative office will be located in the building.

An immediate goal is to connect the building to the main campus with a road and sidewalk.

Physician Assistant Program

The Physician Assistant Program, which is based in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, is continuing to move toward its goal of matriculating students in January 2008. Space needs for this program are being addressed, and in the summer and fall of 2007, some significant renovations will occur in order to accommodate this program and assure its accreditation. The Physician Assistant program will eventually enroll from eighty to one hundred
English Language Institute

The English Language Institute is experiencing significant growth. This program, which has been on the Atlanta Campus for over twenty years, teaches students whose first language is not English. Over 100 students from forty-five countries are enrolled in the program in the winter term, and there has been a fifty percent increase in applications for the spring term. These students study English for up to six sessions in preparation to move into regular college and university programs. In February 2007, over seventy international students were transported from the Atlanta Campus to Macon to visit the campus and learn about the programs.

Center for Health and Learning

The Center for Health and Learning, a partnership between Piedmont Healthcare and Mercer, continues to move forward. Over forty students are currently in the Piedmont Nursing Scholars program, and a new class has been selected for fall 2007. Also, initiatives in pharmacy research between Piedmont and Mercer continue to expand, and collaboration between the two organizations with the new Physician Assistant program is underway. An Executive Director will join the program and will lead the Center for Health and Learning whose goal is to be a center of excellence in providing solutions to healthcare challenges throughout Georgia, and beyond.

New Degree Completion Programs Offered through the College of Continuing and Professional Studies

The Atlanta Campus will now offer degree completion programs, which are currently offered in the Douglas and Henry County Centers. By offering these programs on the Atlanta Campus, the University can market its programs to potential students who live in the northeast
Atlanta area. The programs that are being planned include Criminal Justice, Organization Leadership, Information Systems, and General Education courses. The impetus for this decision was the recommendation by the Lipman Hearne consultants to offer the Atlanta Campus as new educational delivery site.

Chapel for the Atlanta Campus

President Underwood has appointed a committee, chaired by Dr. Richard Swindle, to create a plan for a designing and constructing a chapel on the Atlanta Campus. As a signature building on the Atlanta Campus, it will be a symbol of Mercer's commitment to being a faith-based institution. The committee is considering important issues such as the size of the main auditorium and the purposes for which the chapel will be used. This multi-purpose facility with excellent acoustics will be used for worship events, presentations, concerts, and lectures.

Regional Academic Centers

Mercer’s Regional Academic Centers – in Douglas County, Henry County, Macon, and Eastman – continue to be important components of the University. The recent Lipman Hearne study confirmed that the Centers are viewed favorably by students and by the communities they serve. Importantly, the programs in the Centers are perceived as offering high quality programs. New initiatives are being put in place, with regard to admissions and marketing to increase the enrollments in the Centers.
VI. STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Division of Student Affairs, under the leadership of Dr. Doug Pearson, Vice President and Dean of Students, strives to enrich the Mercer student experience through co-curricular and extra-curricular programming. Over the past six months, Student Affairs has focused on five themes: (1) building a stronger community; (2) developing campus-wide student leadership programs; (3) enhancing multi-cultural and diversity initiatives; (4) utilizing assessment research to more effectively evaluate Student Affairs programs; and (5) identifying programmatic changes for each of the departments to better serve the student body.

In addition to the successes reported in the previous report, the Division has continued to focus Student Affairs programs and initiatives around these themes. Select accomplishments include:

- Campus Life has responded to student feedback with an increase in programming, forty programs compared to twenty-seven programs the previous year. In addition, to a student-selected concert and a series of educational programs entitled the “Tangled Roots Series,” Campus Life scheduled two student-selected national speakers. This committee has also worked closely with athletics to re-invigorate the student athletic booster group, the “Mercer Maniacs,” focused on increasing student spirit and attendance at University Athletic events.

- The Leadership program has worked closely with those in academic affairs to implement a four-year academic track that focuses on leadership theory and development for students. The first class of fifteen Mercer Service Scholars has successfully completed its first semester with one hundred percent retention rate and a 3.1 first semester grade point average. Recruitment is underway for the next class of fifteen. The program has a target enrollment goal of sixty students by 2009.
The Division focused on multicultural and diversity issues with a forum, “The Dream 33 Years Later,” in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Former faculty member, Dr. Mary Wilder, and the Reverend James Bumpus shared reflections on racism in the United States. QuadWorks also sponsored the immensely successful “Tunnel of Oppression” program in January 2007 in which approximately 400 students confronted issues of sexism, homophobia, and racism in society. In addition, TRIO programs recently submitted a grant proposal for the McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Grant that focuses on preparing undergraduate college students for doctoral study.

The Assessment Committee is currently working on an initiative to survey students on selected outcomes put forth by the “Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education.” This information will better inform Student Affairs professionals about the impact that student involvement has on such key areas as self esteem, effective communication, value clarification, and other important outcomes of the college experience to help guide future programming.

The professional development committee sponsored two forums for division staff members on what it means to work at a Baptist institution. These programs, led by Dr. Craig McMahan, University Minister, elicited such lively debate and discussion in the fall that a third program was scheduled for the spring.

Student Affairs also continues to provide leadership on a variety of student issues. These issues include a focus on student safety. Mr. Sterner, whose program entitled “DUI: A Powerful Lesson,” spoke to a packed Willingham Auditorium about his experience with drinking and driving during his college spring break that resulted in the death of three of his friends. Also, a recent campus safety walk with students and the Mercer Police resulted in additional lighting being placed around the campus and enhanced security camera abilities. Updates from the departments within the Student Affairs Division follow.
Counseling and Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) continues to offer counseling and psychological services to Mercer students, as well as consultation to the Mercer community. CAPS Director, Jeffrey Henderson, in his seventh year at CAPS, and Assistant Director, Emily Piassick, in her fifth year, continue to maintain licensure as psychologists in Georgia, acquiring forty hours of continuing education biannually.

CAPS provided counseling to approximately 275 students, resulting in 804 clinical hours from fall 2005 through fall 2006. Primary concerns are relationship concerns, stress/anxiety, and depression. Based on CAPS’s evaluation forms, more than ninety percent of CAPS respondents who have received services are reporting that they agree or strongly agree with the statement “Counseling is helping me to be more successful in school.” One hundred percent of respondents report agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement “I would recommend the Counseling and Psychological Services to a friend for counseling.”

Professional staff and Mercer University Peer Educators will complete or provide consultation for numerous outreach and educational programs this year on diverse topics as healthy relationships, stress management, sexual assault, time management, emotional intelligence, as well as Dinner with Dr. Em for the New Student Summer Program. Professional staff will also assist in the training of Mercer University Peer Advisors, Resident Directors, and Resident Assistants over the summer. CAPS staff or Peer Educators provided more than eighty Outreach Programs, not including numerous informal contacts, from fall 2005 through fall 2006.

CAPS also serves as a field placement site for outstanding undergraduate psychology students. Ms. Alicia Crampton is currently serving as the lead Peer Educator and psychology field placement student.

Housing and Residence Life

The Office of Housing and Residence Life provides housing for approximately 1,750
residents. It continues to focus on providing a safe and secure environment for residents while offering programs and services that encourage student development and involvement outside the classroom.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life, in conjunction with Admissions, is pursuing offering online housing applications for all students through the Residential Management System (RMS). The online application and the automation of room assignments will allow students to choose their roommate based on a series of questions about their social, academic, and personal qualities. The full implementation of the RMS will be completed in the spring of 2008.

The Orange Street apartments and portions of MEP dormitory will be reroofed over the summer 2007. Carpet replacement is scheduled for Shorter Hall, Plunkett Hall, and Boone Hall. Mercer will complete its update of fire-rated mattresses in the Garden Apartments.

The Residence Life staff will replace eight Resident Directors and hire twenty new Resident Assistants for the 2007-2008 academic year. The staff is looking forward to a full slate of summer conference groups, including the new “Passport” camp group.

**Upward Bound**

For fiscal year 2006-07, Upward Bound received $603,103 in grant aid from the U.S. Department of Education to serve 165 students. Upward Bound offers Bibb County high school students supplemental instruction in academic areas and cultural activities in an intensive six-week residential program.

Forty-eight students participated in two college campus tours: Clark Atlanta University and University of Georgia. Forty students attended the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater production at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. Thirty-one seniors applied for college admission for fall 2007 and will participate in a FAFSA completion workshop facilitated by Mercer Educational Opportunity Center. The 2007 Upward Bound Summer program is scheduled for May 27-July 6,
Educational Opportunity Center

At the beginning of September 2006, the Educational Opportunity Center was awarded $465,429 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education to serve 2,050 disadvantaged adults for 2006-07.

Since the start of the fiscal year, the program has identified 3,288 prospective participants. In addition, the program partnered with the Princeton-Review to provide ten SAT Strategy Sessions for the Houston County Public School System. To date, 200 students have participated in those sessions. By the end of January 2007, the program had met with officials from Robins Air Force Base, Central Georgia Technical College, Houston County and Baldwin County high schools, the Department of Labor, and Macon Housing Authority to develop memorandums of agreement to continue services for the next four years.

During spring 2007, the program held twenty-eight financial aid sessions, fifteen career planning workshops, and twelve academic workshops in addition to weekly visits to the Department of Labor, the Department of Family and Children Services, and Central Georgia Technical College’s GED sessions.

Minority Affairs

Twenty-one students attended the Martin Luther King celebration in January 2007. Guest speakers were Dr. Mary Wilder, Mercer Professor Emerita, and Rev. James Bumpus, a professor at Fort Valley State University and Pastor of Macon’s oldest black church, Tremont Temple Baptist. In February, the Annual Cultural Bowl was held with participation from many minority organizations on campus. In April, the eighth annual Occupational Insight event gave students an opportunity to network and to receive encouragement towards their future by local minority professionals. This summer, Mercer University minority freshmen and upperclassmen
mentors will participate in a Minority Retreat. Each freshman will be assigned a mentor for the year to assist with the acclimation to college life. The freshmen will participate in two activities each month with the Mentor Program aimed at increasing minority retention.

**Mercer University Student Support (Opportunity Scholars)**

Mercer University Student Support serves fifty-one students who have an academic need, are first-generation, low-income, and/or disabled students. In the spring, all students were offered Financial Aid workshops at the Educational Opportunity Center in addition to academic advising. This summer fifty new incoming freshmen will be selected to participate in the Opportunity Scholars Pre-Orientation Activity.

**Intramural Sports**

The intramural sports program consistently provides students, faculty, and staff members opportunities to participate in competitive team sports, individual sports, and individual/dual sports. Intramurals Sports currently has fifty basketball teams, a twenty-five percent increase in teams from last year. Approximately 900 individual students participated in the intramural sports program during fall 2007. These students combined for more than 8,000 participations in the fall semester. Intramural Sports currently employees seventy-four students to operate the program. Intramural Sports has fourteen events planned for the spring semester and has added several new activities for the spring semester: a volleyball tournament, water basketball tournament, basketball extravaganza, NCAA basketball pick ‘ems, and a kickball tournament.

**Fitness and Wellness**

The Fitness and Wellness program consistently provides students, faculty, and staff with diverse opportunities to participate in educational and fitness activities to improve their personal health and wellness. Twenty-three fitness classes are offered each week, including a variety of
mind/body classes, dance aerobics and ballet, and step aerobics and kickboxing. An average of 178 people participate in group fitness classes each week. The Healthy “U” Fitness Incentive program also continues to be a tremendous success. There are 375 students and 114 faculty and staff members participating in the program, earning points through physical activity and exercise to win rewards.

At the end of Fall Semester 2006, more than sixty employees had taken advantage of the Personal Wellness Profile benefit, and Fitness and Wellness has averaged approximately sixteen profiles a month in the spring. Personal training services and fitness consultations have been provided to nine students, two employees, and one spouse since the beginning of spring semester. In the fall semester, eight students successfully completed the Group Fitness Instructor Training class. Five of these students completed professional certifications to teach group exercise classes. Currently, there are ten students enrolled in the Personal Fitness Training class, preparing to become certified personal trainers. The fall 2006 Employee Weight Loss Challenge was a phenomenal success. Twenty-eight employees completed the entire Challenge, losing a combined total of 320 pounds. Educational programs being offered include a pandemic flu preparedness lunch and learn, a blood pressure screening, and Sexual Assault and Alcohol Awareness events.

Aquatics

The aquatics program consists of an indoor pool at the University Center and an outside pool behind Plunkett Hall. During the fall, the pools have had more than 2,200 participations. The aquatics program currently employs twenty-six students as lifeguards to monitor swimmers. The University Center pool operates twenty-five hours per week, and Plunkett Pool will be operating forty hours per week beginning in April. During the summer, Plunkett Pool will operate forty-six hours a week to accommodate summer camps.

Sam Mayhew, Assistant Director for Intramural Sports and Aquatics, will complete his
Life Guard Instructor certification from the American Red Cross in early April 2007. This certification will enable Recreational Sports and Wellness to offer certifications to students.

**Outdoor Adventures**

Outdoor Adventures is providing outdoor travel opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. Outdoor Adventures’ goal is to challenge self-perceived limits, to have fun, and to build a strong appreciation for the natural environment. During the fall semester, whitewater rafting, kayaking, and educational sessions were provided along with equipment rental to more than one hundred individuals. The spring semester will bring a whitewater rafting trip to the Chatooga River, multiple kayak trips, camping, and rock climbing. The challenge course had more than 300 individuals use a combination of the low ropes and high ropes elements. The participants included Mercer students, faculty, staff members, youth groups, academic classes, church groups, and local businesses.

**Sport Clubs**

Sport Clubs consistently brings together students, faculty, and staff members with similar sporting interests. The Sport Clubs offer a wide variety of sporting activities, including team sports, individual sports, aquatics, and martial arts. Many of the clubs teach activities that can be practiced a lifetime. A focused effort has been made to increase the number of sport club offerings. The club program has grown from nine clubs during 2006-2007 to sixteen active clubs. Current clubs are ballroom dance, bowling, cycling, disc golf, equestrian, karate, outdoor adventure club, paintball, running/walking, soccer (men’s), sports officials association, swimming, tae kwon do, volleyball (men’s), volleyball (women’s) and wrestling. New clubs such as golf, rugby, soccer (women’s), ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, and table tennis are in the early stages of formation and are currently recruiting members to meet membership quotas to start these clubs.
Career Services

The Career Services staff continues to provide awareness and to create opportunities for Mercer’s undergraduates and alumni. Awareness programs this semester include Careers in Marketing and Communications, Careers in Hospitality and Tourism, and Starting the Job Search. These programs feature professionals from the community who discuss their career paths and offer advice to students about strategies for entering their profession. Staff members have visited twenty-five classrooms and student organizations to promote services, programs, and resources.

One hundred thirty-five employers have visited Mercer this semester. The annual Teacher Recruitment Day featured thirty-five school systems recruiting teacher education candidates from the Macon Campus and the Regional Academic Centers. Career Day welcomed sixty employers interested in networking with all majors. Mock interviews were provided twice during the semester. Human resources personnel from local businesses conducted these interviews. Students received advice about their interviewing skills. Career Services also welcomed BB&T, Milliken, Finish Line, Ameriprise, Hertz, Armstrong, and Enterprise to campus for individual interviews. Both a Summer Internship Fair and the Georgia Association of Colleges and Employers (GACE) College to Career Fair at the Cobb Galleria will be held later in April.

Students also received career guidance using the online personality assessment TypeFocus. The program provides information about careers and academic majors related to the student’s personality strengths. Academic advisors can use this resource with their students. The Career Services staff provides individual assistance to students and alumni with resume development, the job search, interview skills and the graduate school application process.
Greek Life

Greek Life continues to experience growth at Mercer. The Interfraternity Council (IFC) held a spring recruitment. Greek academic achievement continues to outpace the general student population with the All-Greek grade point average (GPA) of 3.106 compared to the All-Unaffiliated average of 2.973. In addition, the All-Sorority GPA of 3.264 is higher than the All-Female GPA of 3.123, and the All-Fraternity GPA of 2.910 is higher than the All-Male GPA of 2.870.

This spring, several speakers addressed the Greeks on hazing, risk management, and values. The Campus Leadership awards, held April 13, 2007, highlighted the Greeks’ achievements for the year. Campus Life is working closely with the chapters to complete a full review of Mercer’s policies and procedures regarding current risk management standards.

QuadWorks

QuadWorks continues to improve programming, both in quality and attendance. The first major undertaking this semester, the Tunnel of Oppression, was a collaborative effort led by Quadworks. The Tunnel of Oppression provided approximately 400 Mercer community members with current and past issues of oppression while taking a proactive approach in personal and student development. QuadWorks also hosted a debate on same sex marriage with 160 people participating. Homecoming, held February 9-17, included Stompfest with approximately 620 students in attendance, the annual skit competition with approximately 520 students attending, and a comedian with approximately 394 students attending.

A “Students Choice Concert” featuring national recording artist, Guster, was held at the Grand Opera House on March 30, 2007. One of the final activities of the year will be a joint effort between QuadWorks, the Student Government Association, and the Center for Leadership and Volunteerism to bring speaker Chris Gardner to campus. Mr. Gardner’s life story was just made into a movie (“The Pursuit of Happyness”) played by Will Smith. Mr.
Gardner, once homeless but now a successful stockbroker, is slated to speak about his life on Saturday, April 21, 2007.

**Disability Support Services**

Disability Support Services continues to provide federally mandated support services and accommodations to students with mobility, medical, psychological, sensory, and learning disabilities at Mercer University. Disability Support Services also provides technical assistance and assistive technology support for students in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs on all campuses. Currently, there are 109 undergraduate students on the Macon Campus and a total of fifty-four students on the Atlanta and Regional Academic Campuses who are registered as students with disabilities. The number of accommodated exams administered through Disability Support Services during spring term is anticipated to be close to 200. Professors on the Atlanta and Regional Academic Campuses continue to administer their own accommodated exams in most cases. The first bi-annual *Disability Services Newsletter* for faculty was distributed in January 2007 in an effort to help faculty increase their understanding of the disability laws and their role in providing accommodations to students with disabilities.

Disability Support Services will continue to strive to improve the availability of assistive technology on all campuses over the upcoming spring and summer terms. The number of students on all campuses who require audio books or other technology as an accommodation for visual or reading disabilities has increased over the past year with eleven books requested during spring term alone. Disability Support Services has located and contracted with local sign language interpreters to ensure access to lectures for a deaf engineering student during spring term. Disability Support Services will continue to investigate the most cost effective means of providing interpreters and transcription services for this and any other deaf persons requiring access to campus lectures and events. The use of transcription software and video remote interpreting are being investigated as alternatives to providing on-site interpreting services in the
Disability Support Services continues to provide support and guidance to the Mercer chapter of Delta Sigma Omicron, the national campus disability awareness fraternity. Support will also be provided to the newly formed Sign Language Club’s efforts to make sign language classes available to students, faculty, and staff members each semester. Joint disability awareness activities between the two clubs and Disability Support Services are planned for spring term and include hosting a speaker from the National Organization on Disability. Disability Support Services will work with representatives from other campus offices during spring term to re-establish a campus-wide Disability Access Committee. The committee will be formed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for ongoing self-evaluation of campus accessibility and will meet a minimum of once each semester. Disability Support Services will work closely with Residence Life throughout spring and summer terms to meet the housing related accommodations needs of students for fall term.

In the area of professional development, Rich Stilley, Assistant Dean for Campus Life on the Atlanta Campus, attended the Georgia Association on Higher Education and Disability Conference in Athens in March. Carole Burrowbridge, Disability Support Service Coordinator, plans to attend the National Association on Higher Education and Disability conference in July and will act as co-chair of the ADD/LD special interest group meetings at the national conference.

**Judicial Education**

The Office of Judicial Education continues to enhance the learning environment for students of Mercer University by adjudicating alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct. During the fall and the first six weeks of the spring semester, the office has adjudicated fifty-three cases. A majority of the cases (eighty-nine percent) involved alcohol violations; of the remaining cases, two were fire safety violations and five were drug violations. One adjudicated
case resulted in a suspension from the University during the first six weeks of the semester.

The Office of Judicial Education continues to use "AlcoholEdu" in an attempt to educate students found responsible for alcohol violations on the dangers of alcohol. The Judicial Office also uses the "Primed for Life" class for repeat offenders or for alcohol cases judged to be more serious in nature. None of the three students required to take the class during the Spring Semester 2006 have had further alcohol violations.
VII. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Thomas G. Estes serves as Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Human Resources Office

The Human Resource Office continues its assessment of University non-faculty staff relative to their respective salary markets.

Benefits and Payroll

The use of Campus Wide Identification Numbers (CWID) are now being used on all payroll issues and reports in an effort to minimize risks associated with social security numbers.

Health care costs continue to rise. The Benefits Advisory Committee continues its task of meeting the University's budgetary needs while maintaining a quality level of health care for employees.

Office of Budget

This year’s budget process included meeting with deans and administrators as they presented their budgetary request proposals, which were compiled and presented to upper management. All seemed pleased with the new process.

Bursar’s Office

The University Bursar, Tanya Barton, served on several task forces this year, one of which was the Tuition Task Force to study the many different tuition rates the University was using and to minimize these as much as possible. Credit card security was enhanced by requiring a security code on all transactions. A RMS housing module was implemented with Residence Life and used to bill students for the first time during the summer session last year.
Student Loan Office

The University Cohort default rate decreased from 7.44% to 6.82%. This is another record low for the University. The industry norm percentage is still below twelve percent. The office also worked with programmers to initiate the use of alternate identification numbers in lieu of social security numbers for billing and correspondence with borrowers.

Accounting Office

The 2006 financial audit was completed with an Unqualified opinion from KPMG. Also, accounting continues to provide monthly training of the financial records system and develop reports for budget managers.

Grants and Contract Accounting

The A-133 audit of federal funds was completed with no material findings. Mercer averages over $19.6 million in awards including financial assistance awards. Grants accounting is currently managing approximately 100 active awards with budgets totaling around $10 million.

The facilities and administrative rate proposal for base year 2006 was completed and submitted. After audit and negotiations, this rate will be used for 2008 and 2009 sponsored research projects. As part of this process, a space study was completed for the entire University.
A. Audit and Compliance

James Calhoun serves as Vice President for Audit and Compliance, and in this capacity, oversees the Internal Audit Office, Corporate Compliance, and Health and Safety Office.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Office is an independent and objective resource that provides support to management and trustees through pro-active audit philosophy. It interacts with Senior Management on a regular basis and communicates frequently with the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Corporate Compliance

Corporate Compliance is in the process of establishing an oversight program to oversee reporting and compliance with external regulatory agencies. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) is included in this initiative.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Office performs a significant role for the University in many areas, including, but not limited to Radioactive Materials Program, Hazardous Chemical Waste Disposal Program, University Emergency Preparedness Program, University Radiation Safety Officer, and support for the Institutional Radiation Safety and Bio-Safety Committees. Since December 2006, the Health and Safety Officer has assisted in special projects in the School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, and Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) and has completed the required updating of the state radiation safety license.
B. Vice President and Chief Technology Officer

The office of Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, under the direction of Major General (Retired) Richard N. Goddard, provides mission critical technology support for all University functions. The organization includes Information Technology, Web Management, Telecommunications, Computer Applications Development, and the Learning Technologies Center. General Goddard is also responsible for managing major campus construction projects.

Information Technology

The new technology organizational structure, implemented July 1, 2006, is fully integrated and effectively managing the full spectrum of information technology systems and programs. Organization focus is on assuring the security, availability, reliability, and supportability of the University’s information technology infrastructure, and providing a clear program driven strategic planning process to match emerging technologies with evolving educational initiatives.

Meeting these goals is not without significant challenges. Budget constraints, coupled with declining telecommunications revenue, significantly impact the ability to implement planned technology upgrades. Student use of cell phones has virtually eliminated the revenue generated from University-provided phones in student housing. At the same time, growing student demand for additional bandwidth, wireless access, email enhancements, iPod applications, etc., requires careful planning and prioritization.

In spite of many tough issues, there have been many significant achievements. The summer online program that had such great success in 2006 will add an additional four classes to the schedule this year. Working together, the Mercer faculty and Learning Technologies staff have created a highly regarded learning experience that is being well received by Mercer students. The new Admissions Web site continues to generate great interest. Since the new
site was launched last October 2006, there has been a thirty-six percent increase in the number of people accessing the site.

**Campus Construction Projects**

**Science and Engineering Building** – This new state of the art educational facility will be occupied by the Physics Department and the School of Engineering. The building, which is on schedule and below cost projections, will be complete and ready for occupancy in April 2007.

**Mercer Gateway Project** – The Gateway project will provide a new “front door” to the Macon Campus. This project is being completed in conjunction with the new Hilton Garden Inn, located at the intersection of Mercer University Drive and I-75. The Gateway project is on schedule to ensure the new Stadium Drive will be complete to meet the hotel opening date of June 1, 2007. While some aspects of the Gateway project will continue after the Hilton Garden Inn opens, the overall project is ahead of schedule and on cost.
VIII. UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Under the leadership of Ms. Emily P. Myers, Senior Vice President for University Advancement and External Affairs, the Office of University Advancement supports each college and school and all other academic and non-academic units of the University through fundraising, marketing, alumni services, special events, donor relations, grantwriting, governmental relations, foundation proposals, community relations, and any other activity that promotes and advances the mission of Mercer University.

Some of the campaign highlights since the December 2006 meeting include:

- Backer, Guerry Estate – $130,000 pledge for endowed scholarship in School of Engineering
- Baldree, Allen and Gail – $1,000,000 life insurance policy
- Barnes, Emmett Estate – $5,000,000 pledge for new Welcome Center
- Borrish, Fred and Aileen – $1,000,000 trust to benefit the Douglas County Regional Academic Center and $40,000 to the Baptist Scholars Fund
- Brown, Tom Watson Estate – $2,000,000 pledge for endowment of the Mercer University Press and $500,000 gift-in-kind of 10,000 volumes for the Tarver Library
- Drake, Homer – $150,000 annuity to make Drake Professorship at Walter F. George School of Law the SBLI/W. Homer Drake Chair in Bankruptcy Law
- Elliott, A.V. – $700,000 gift of property to benefit the new Science and Engineering Building
- Gough, Kerry – $500,000 IRA pledged for scholarship for the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing
- Grace, Nancy – $15,000 to create the Nancy A. Grace Endowed Scholarship for the Walter F. George School of Law
• Hamil, Bobby – $100,000 to create the Betty C. Hamil Memorial Endowed Scholarship for the Tift College of Education
• Harrison, George – $100,000 pledged from sale of property for endowed scholarship in McAfee School of Theology
• James, John and Lil – $24,000 to the John James Lecture Series at the Walter F. George School of Law
• King, Spencer and Gail – additional pledge of $141,373 to convert Caroline Paul King Professorship to a Chair of Strings ($500,000)
• Knight Foundation – $100,000 grant for Beall’s Hill Project
• LaTorre, Don – $50,000 for naming opportunity in new Science and Engineering Building
• Lawler, Joyce – $50,000 pledged from estate for endowed scholarship for the Tift College of Education
• Lewis, Dorothy V. and Logan Foundation – pledge of $250,000 over five years for endowed scholarships for students from Mount de Sales Academy who attend Mercer
• Lopez, Vince – $87,385 estate pledge to the Lopez Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
• McAfee, Carolyn – $100,000 for the James T. McAfee, Jr. Endowed Vision and Leadership Scholarship
• McAfee, Tom – $30,000 for the hymnal project
• McAfee, Carolyn and Tom – $1,000,000 gift as first installment toward $10,000,000 pledge to endow Townsend School of Music
• Moye, Tony – $1,000,000 pledged from estate for endowment at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
• Murphy, Reg – $124,377 for a putting green for the golf team
• Newton, Ralph – $50,000 for endowed scholarship in the School of Medicine
• Overstreet, C.M. – $93,000 for scholarships in the School of Medicine
• Pickels, Curtis – $280,000 trust for endowment for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
• Piedmont Healthcare – $2,850,000 for endowment for the College of Nursing and $300,000 to name learning center
• Plant, Cleo – $20,000 for endowed scholarship for College of Nursing
• Ragan and King Foundation – $58,000 grant for Hardman Building renovations and Baptist Scholars Fund
• Roberts, Charles Estate – $420,000 to general university
• Sanders, Beverly – $100,000 to the Graydon Ware Scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts
• Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute – $150,000 pledged for SBLI/W. Homer Drake Chair in Bankruptcy Law
• Steed, Bob and Lu – $24,500 to the Steed Scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts
• Tarver, Jack Foundation and Margaret Tarver Jason – $55,000 for landscaping at the Tarver Library
• Tarver, Margaret – $5,000,000 for endowment of Tarver Library
• Williams, Doris – $10,000 from estate for endowment at School of Medicine
Advancing The Vision Campaign
Gift Report Summary
As Of February 28, 2007

Advancing The Vision Goal – $350,000,000

Phase I – Total Pledged and Received  $143,717,289.63

Phase II – Century Center Property

Given by Remer and Emily Crum  $62,000,000.00

Total of Phases I And II (Completed)  $205,717,289.63

Phase III Goal  $142,000,000.00

Total Pledged and Received To Date  $109,229,846.28

Total of Phases I, II, and III to Date  $314,947,135.91

Percent of Goal  90%

To Be Raised  $35,052,864.09

Griffin B. Bell, Chair
Robert L. Steed, Executive Vice Chair

University Center Entries

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<th>Month</th>
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To Date
Upcoming Important Dates

Friday, October 26, 2007

Macon:

10:00 a.m. President's Club Golf Outing - location TBD
7:30 p.m. President's Club Musical Extravaganza featuring Robert McDuffie and the Townsend School of Music - The Grand Opera House
9:00 p.m. Reception for President's Club members - The Hay House
          Reception for Other Guests - The Woodruff House

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Macon:

10:30 a.m. Dedication of the Townsend School of Music - location TBD
11:30 a.m. Reception
12:30 p.m. VIP Luncheon - The City Club

Saturday, December 1, 2007

Atlanta:

10:00 a.m. Authors Luncheon - InterContinental Hotel in Buckhead

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Macon:

6:30 p.m. Trustees Reception and Dinner - Location TBD

Friday, December 7, 2007

Macon:

10:00 a.m. Board of Trustees Meeting - Griffin B. Bell Board Room, University Center
Commencement Information

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2007  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Sheffield Center, Atlanta Campus  
School: College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2007  
Time: 12:00 noon  
Place: Sheffield Center, Atlanta Campus  
School: Mercer University Georgia Baptist College of Nursing

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2007  
Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Place: University Center, Macon Campus  
School: Mercer University School of Medicine

Date: Friday, May 11, 2007  
Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Place: University Center, Macon Campus  
School: Baccalaureate

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2007  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: University Center, Macon Campus  
Schools: Undergraduate (CLA, Business, Engineering and Education)

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2007  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
Place: University Center, Macon Campus  
School: Walter F. George, School of Law
Date: Saturday, May 12, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: University Center, Macon Campus
School: College of Continuing and Professional Studies (Macon, Henry Co., & Eastman)

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Sheffield Center, Atlanta Campus
School: College of Continuing & Professional Studies (Atlanta & Douglas County)

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2007
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Sheffield Center, Atlanta Campus
School: James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2007
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: Sheffield Center, Atlanta Campus
School: Mercer University’s Tift College of Education

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2007
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Sheffield Center, Atlanta Campus
School: Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics
IX. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

On January 1, 2007, Terry E. Whittum, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management, assumed responsibility for enrollment management at the University. Mr. Whittum leads a new division that consolidates responsibility for undergraduate admissions on the Macon Campus and undergraduate and graduate admissions at the University's Regional Academic Centers. He is also responsible for financial aid operations on the Macon and Atlanta Campuses and at the Regional Academic Centers and oversees Mercer's student retention initiatives.

Admissions – Macon Campus

A record number of applications for fall of 2007 have been received. Mercer anticipates receiving 5,700 applications for a first-year class of 610 students. This larger applicant pool will allow the University to be more selective and lower its acceptance rate.

Mercer must improve its yield, the percentage of admitted students who enroll, if it is to achieve the new student enrollment goals. Common reasons for low yield include:

- Lack of an effective post-application written and personal communications system
- Admissions process too complex and impersonal
- Cognitive dissonance
- Unimpressed with labs, classrooms, campus buildings, equipment, curriculum
- Lack of opportunity to interact with faculty
- Program does not meet expectations
- Lack of support from influential(s)
- Uncertainty about ability to complete program successfully
- Inadequate financial aid package
- Failure by admissions staff to implement relationship-management approach
• Perception that the value returned by the institution is not worth its cost

Many of these issues can be addressed through effective relationship management between the institution (admissions office and faculty) and the student, and by continuing to “recruit” the students after they have been admitted, by providing the information the students want and need when they need it, and by keeping them “connected” to the University. To assist in communicating with admitted students, Admissions will use a product called Enrollment Yield Optimization (EYOp) from a company called GoalQuest.

EYOp is an interactive Web- and email-based tool designed to connect with students during the “window of vulnerability” between their acceptance and enrollment. EYOp’s interactive content reiterates key institutional strengths and enrollment next steps while ushering admits through a virtual pre-orientation that’s custom-built for the school and its yield objectives.

The faculty play a vital role in the enrollment of admitted students. Mr. Whittum has met with the deans and individual academic departments to discuss expanding the role of the faculty in the yield process. A formal program to send individual emails from appropriate faculty members to admitted students has been developed and will be launched in conjunction with the EYOp program.

Successful enrollment management programs start the recruitment process with high school sophomores. Building a pool of qualified and interested sophomores will give Mercer nearly two years to recruit a class. One of the best ways to develop a qualified inquiry pool is through the use of student search. Student search involves the purchasing of student names from the College Board (SAT takers), ACT (ACT test takers), and other sources of student lists. A direct mail/email campaign is then used to encourage students to request information from Mercer. This spring, Mercer’s student search response rate improved dramatically to twenty percent. As a result, Admissions already has an inquiry pool of high school juniors (students who would start college in fall 2008) larger than the current senior inquiry pool and the pool of high school sophomores (students who will start college in 2009) will approach 30,000 names
by the spring of 2008. This places Mercer in an excellent position to recruit future classes.

As the size of the inquiry pool increases, Mercer will need to find ways to identify those students in that pool most likely to apply and enroll at the University. Identifying these students early on in the process will allow Admissions to direct resources in the most efficient and effective way. Starting in spring 2007, Admissions will use a tool called ForecastPlus® to determine the probability of enrollment for the students in the inquiry pool. ForecastPlus is a highly advanced predictive modeling tool for enrollment management.Powered by customized, multi-variable analyses, it uses past enrollment data to predict future enrollment results.

Financial Assistance

Another goal of the enrollment management program is to lower the tuition discount rate while still achieving the enrollment and academic profile objectives. In January 2007, Mercer University started working with the firm Noel-Levitz to establish an enrollment and revenues management program designed to lower the discount rate, increase new student enrollments, improve the new student academic profile, and increase net-tuition revenue.

As a result of this program, Mercer established five scholarship award levels based on a student’s academic achievement. Each level offers a specific scholarship amount, ranging from $8,000 to $15,000 annually. The scholarship amounts were established, based on historic enrollment and financial aid information, to produce a certain yield from each of the five student academic levels.

Academic scholarship awards are now sent to admitted students within five days of being admitted to the University. Each week, the financial aid, scholarship, and admissions information is loaded into the Noel-Levitz model, so Admissions can track the performance of each level. Should a particular academic level, or subset of that academic level, not be performing as anticipated, Admissions has the ability to make adjustments accordingly.
Admissions – Regional Academic Centers and the Atlanta Campus

In December 2006, the research, marketing, and communications firm, Lipman Hearne, reported back to the University the results of its market research of the nontraditional programs at the Regional Academic Centers and the Atlanta Campus. As a result of that study, the University has started to take steps to improve the recruitment, retention, and admission of new nontraditional students.

Understanding that nontraditional students may have a very short recruitment timeline, and that when they contact or visit a center to discuss the possibility of enrolling, they expect to meet with someone immediately, Mercer now has an admissions officer/recruiter in both the Henry County and Douglas Centers. An admissions officer located on the Macon Campus is being trained to serve the nontraditional students on the Macon Center.

Nontraditional students have different recruitment needs than traditional students. They have a different recruitment cycle; their information needs are different; and they have different obstacles that may prevent them from enrolling. To address these differences, Admissions has instituted a training program for the recruitment of nontraditional students that is required not only for all admissions officers working at the centers, but also for the admissions counselors on the traditional campus.

The most significant initiative taken by the institution was to contract with Lipman Hearne for the development of detailed marketing/recruitment plans for the Douglas and Henry County Regional Academic Centers and for the Atlanta Campus. Each of these plans will include enrollment projections for specific locations and programs, as well as the identification of those marketing channels and audiences that can be leveraged to ensure program success. These plans will include very specific strategies for such activities as:

- Build general public awareness of the Atlanta Campus
- Develop strategies to increase the prospective student pipeline
• Create alumni and current student communications to increase prospective student volumes

• Increase partnerships to build long-term enrollments through community, two-year college and corporations

  Each plan will specify timetables, budgets, and measurable objectives for each strategy and tactic.
X. ATHLETICS

Men’s basketball finished the 2006-07 season with an overall record of 13-17 and an Atlantic Sun Conference record of 8-10. The players lost to Lipscomb in the first round of the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament at Johnson City, Tennessee, March 1, 2007. Guard, James Florence of Marietta, Georgia was named Freshman of the Year in the Conference by league coaches. Florence, who also was a First Team All-Conference selection, led the A-Sun in scoring with an average of 19.7 per game—he scored his top-scoring 39 points against Stetson. Junior Shaddean Aaron of Pomona, California was named to the All Conference second team.

The Mercer women’s basketball team struggled to a 5-25 overall record and a 4-14 mark in the conference. The highlight of the season was a three-game winning streak, which included a victory over conference champion, Belmont. Belmont later eliminated the Bears in the first round of the league tournament at Dothan, Alabama, March 8, 2007.

The Mercer baseball team drew national attention in its season opening series, taking a pair of wins at then-number two ranked Miami. The third game in that series was cancelled because of rain. The Bears lost to Georgia 6-5 at Claude Smith Field February 21, 2007 before a crowd of approximately 1,000 people—the largest crowd to ever see a Mercer baseball game.

Four new members were inducted into the Mercer Athletic Hall of Fame during homecoming weekend ceremonies February 16, 2007:

- Benton Wade, men’s basketball player
- Jack Pool, baseball player
- Peggy Collins, women’s basketball coach
- The late David Rowe, a standout track and field athlete in the late 1940s

Twenty eight members of the Athletic Hall of Fame attended this year’s ceremonies.

Mercer student-athletes continued their stellar performance in the classroom during the
Fall Semester 2006, compiling an average grade point average of 3.1. Sixteen student-athletes recorded a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

The first of two major fundraising events for athletics, “The Big Dance” netted more than $20,000. The goal of the second fund raiser, “The Big Auction,” is $35,000, scheduled at the Grand Opera House.
XI. LEGAL AFFAIRS

Since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, no new lawsuits have been filed against the University. Summary judgment has been granted in favor of the University in one case, and motions for summary judgment are pending in two other suits.

*Melanie Ross v. Psi Chapter, LLC, d/b/a The Georgia Psi Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and The Corporation of Mercer University*  
(United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia)

This case arose out of an alleged incident of acquaintance rape that was claimed to have occurred in January 2003 in a fraternity house on the Macon Campus. According to the Complaint, the plaintiff attended a promotional event at a local bar off-campus where she met a former boyfriend, also a Mercer student. After spending the evening together, the two students returned to the boyfriend’s fraternity house, where the plaintiff spent the night. On the night of the following day, she reported to the Macon Police that she had been sexually assaulted by her former boyfriend on the previous night.

Upon learning of the alleged incident, the University undertook an investigation of the matter. According to the plaintiff’s own statement, she did not recall anything directly from the time she left the off-campus bar until she awoke the following morning. In his statement, her former boyfriend adamantly denied having committed a sexual assault against the plaintiff. At the request of the plaintiff, the University suspended any further investigation or disciplinary proceedings in connection with the matter, pending completion of the criminal investigation by the Macon Police. While the criminal investigation was proceeding, the plaintiff withdrew from the University. The Bibb County District Attorney subsequently declined to prosecute the case for lack of evidence that a crime had been committed.

In January 2005, the plaintiff filed suit against Mercer and the fraternity in U. S. District Court, and filed a separate suit against the alleged perpetrator in the Bibb County Superior Court.
The suit against the University alleged that Mercer was deliberately indifferent to the plaintiff’s allegations, and that the University’s failure to take disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator created a hostile environment for her in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The suit further alleged that the University’s investigation and complaint procedures for complaints of sexual assault have a disparate impact on women in violation of Title IX.

During discovery in the case, the plaintiff offered no evidence to prove her allegations against either the University or the fraternity. The period allowed for completion of discovery expired in December 2005. In February 2006, the University filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, which is currently pending before the Court.

**Kimberly R. Welch  v.  Mercer University**  
*(United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia)*

The plaintiff is a former employee of the University who was terminated from her position in the School of Medicine because of poor work performance.

The plaintiff had recently returned to work from extended unpaid medical leave pursuant to her rights under the Family Medical Leave Act. Upon the subsequent termination of her employment because of unsatisfactory work performance, she filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), alleging that her termination was based upon her disability and/or the University’s perception of that disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She alleged further that the University had discriminated against her on the basis of her race, and also alleged equal pay violations.

In January 2005, the EEOC determined that it had found no evidence that Mercer had discriminated against the plaintiff in any manner.

The plaintiff then filed suit against the University as a pro se litigant on the grounds of alleged disability discrimination, race discrimination, and violation of the Equal Pay Act. The University filed an Answer denying liability for all asserted claims.
The plaintiff later retained an attorney, who withdrew from the case within a month. After the Court granted the plaintiff a forty-five-day period to seek new counsel, the plaintiff retained a new attorney to represent her. During the period allowed for discovery in the case, the University took the plaintiff’s deposition, but the plaintiff’s attorney did not conduct any discovery.

The University has filed a motion for Summary Judgment in the case. The plaintiff has not yet filed a response to the University’s motion, pending rulings from the Court on other procedural motions.

**Sherry Moore Williamson v. Mercer University**

*(United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia)*

The plaintiff is a former employee of the University who was terminated from her employment in the Mercer Center for Community Development because of the restructuring of that department and the elimination of her position.

The plaintiff subsequently filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), alleging that the University’s termination of her employment was based upon her race and gender in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The plaintiff requested a Right to Sue letter from the EEOC before the EEOC had completed its investigation of her charge of discrimination, and the EEOC complied with her request. The plaintiff then filed suit against the University in U. S. District Court on the grounds of alleged race and sex discrimination, unlawful retaliation, and breach of contract. The University filed an Answer denying liability for all asserted claims.

Upon expiration of the period allowed for discovery, the University filed a Motion for Summary Judgment. In March 2007, the Court granted Summary Judgment in favor of the University on the federal law claims (race and sex discrimination; unlawful retaliation), and declined to exercise jurisdiction over the state law claim concerning alleged breach of contract.