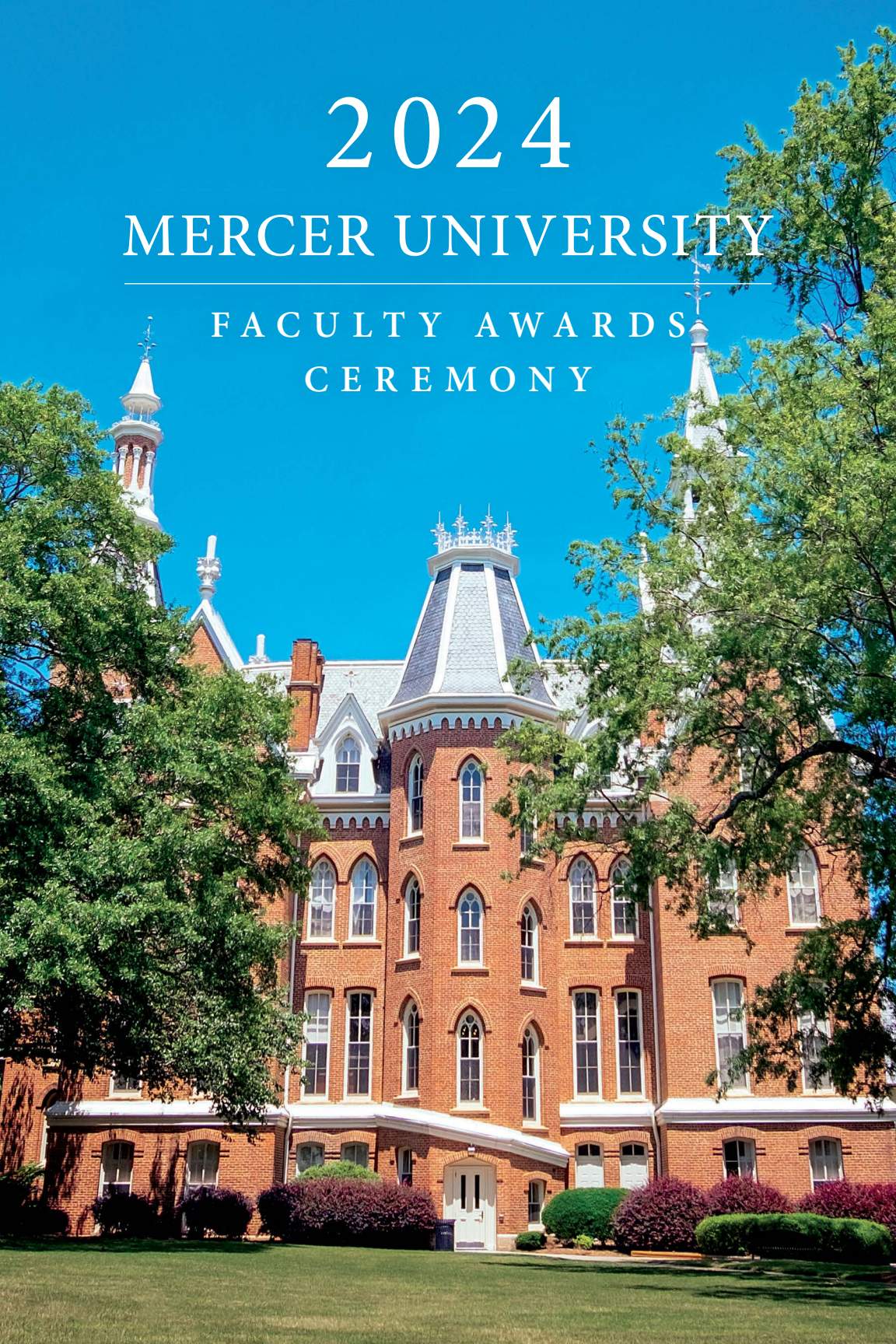


# 2024

## MERCER UNIVERSITY

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### FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY



*The mediocre teacher tells.  
The good teacher explains.  
The superior teacher demonstrates.  
The great teacher inspires.*

**WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD**



# MERCER UNIVERSITY FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 | 10:15 A.M.

PRESIDENTS DINING ROOM, UNIVERSITY CENTER, MACON CAMPUS

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

D. Scott Davis, *Provost*

## PRESENTATIONS

Innovations in Teaching Award.....Dr. Scott Davis

*Co-Sponsored by the Vulcan Materials Company,  
Georgia Independent College Association and Mercer University*

Spencer B. King, Jr., Distinguished Professor Award.....John Thomas Scott  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Judge Clyde Reese Board of Visitors' Excellence in Teaching Award.....Karen Sneddon  
Dean, School of Law

College of Pharmacy Educator Award.....Brian L. Crabtree  
Dean, College of Pharmacy

Distinguished Faculty Award.....Julie Petherbridge  
Dean, School of Business

Clayton R. Paul Teaching Excellence Award .....Laura Lackey  
Dean, School of Engineering

Catherine Futral Excellence in Teaching Award .....Thomas R. Koballa  
Dean, College of Education

Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year Award ..... Tammy D. Barbé  
Dean, College of Nursing

Award for Excellence in Teaching ..... Priscilla R. Danheiser  
Dean, College of Professional Advancement

Outstanding Faculty Award .....Gary G. Gerber  
Dean, School of Music

Excellence in Teaching Award ..... Lisa M. Lundquist  
Dean, College of Health Professions

2023-2024 Excellence in First-Year Student Advising Award .....Tony Kemp  
Associate Vice President of Events and Special Programs

# 2023-2024 INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AWARD

Co-sponsored by the Vulcan Materials Company,  
Georgia Independent College Association and Mercer University

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## Briana Stenard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship

Dr. Briana Stenard earned her Ph.D. in strategic management and entrepreneurship from the Georgia Institute of Technology and her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Georgia. She joined the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business in 2015 and teaches classes in strategic management, innovation management, and entrepreneurship. Several of her original experiential exercises have won the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) 3E Excellence in Entrepreneurship Exercises Awards Competition.



Dr. Stenard organizes multiple student engagement opportunities and mentors student teams, including planning Mercer's annual Elevator Pitch Competition and Next Big Idea Competition. She serves on the planning committee for the SoCon Entrepreneurship Challenge and leads the SoCon Faculty Entrepreneurship Education Summit. Dr. Stenard is on the planning committee for Innov8GA, an organization focused on improving entrepreneurship education throughout the state. This spring she organized the First Pitch Friday University Competition at Mercer with the mission of getting underrepresented student founders presenting in front of investors.

Her research focuses on the role of human capital in shaping entrepreneurial careers. She has been published in *Entrepreneurship Education and Pedagogy*, *Organization Science*, *Journal of Business Venturing Insights*, *Small Business Economics*, and *Advances in the Study of Entrepreneurship Innovation and Economic Growth*. Her research has also been featured in *Harvard Business Review* and *London School of Economics Business Review*. She has work forthcoming in the *USASBE Annals for Entrepreneurship Education and Pedagogy*.

One of her students said, "Throughout the course, I was continually impressed by the innovative and engaging activities that Dr. Stenard incorporated into the curriculum. Each activity was meticulously designed to connect the theoretical concepts discussed in class with real-world scenarios, providing us with invaluable insights into the application of our knowledge."

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
2023-2024 SPENCER B. KING, JR.  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AWARD

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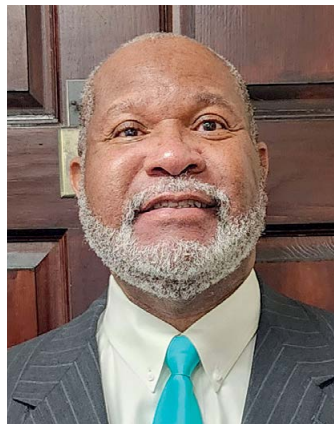
**Kedrick Hartfield, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Mathematics*

**D**r. Kedrick R. Hartfield, professor of mathematics, earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Augusta College (now known as Augusta University), and he earned his master's degree and doctorate in mathematics from the University of Georgia. Dr. Hartfield began his teaching career at Mercer University in 1981 when he became the first African American instructor in the Department of Mathematics. He is the longest-serving African American professor at Mercer and the longest-serving full-time faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Hartfield has twice served as chair of mathematics and has taught most classes offered by the department. Known as a demanding mathematics teacher, he is also renowned for his ability to make difficult material understandable while also extending help through numerous office hours. Since his arrival, Dr. Hartfield has been a loyal and passionate supporter of Mercer's Upward Bound Program. He was awarded the University's Joseph and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award in 2021.

Dr. Hartfield is described by his students as inspiring, kind, honest, and humble. One student explained, "Dr. Hartfield not only taught me derivatives and integrals, he taught me that it did not matter whether I was the smartest person in the room; it only mattered that I was the most hard-working. He constantly reminded me to never let anyone outwork me, and this short statement has stayed with me throughout my college career." Another student wrote, "The principles of diligence and dedication instilled by Dr. Hartfield will never leave me."



SCHOOL OF LAW  
JUDGE CLYDE REESE BOARD OF VISITORS'  
2023-2024 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

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**Sarah Gerwig, J.D.**

*Professor of Law and Director of Experiential Learning*

Sarah Gerwig is a professor of law and director of experiential learning at Mercer University School of Law. She received her B.A. in English from Mercer University, her J.D. from Emory Law School, and her Master of Theological Studies from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, where she studied with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Professor Gerwig is a thoughtful teacher and scholar. At Mercer, she founded the nationally recognized Habeas Project that provides pro bono representation in post-conviction cases across Georgia. In recognition for her work with that clinic, she was awarded the 2013 Shanara Gilbert Emerging Clinician Award by the Clinical Legal Education Section of the American Association of Law Schools. She currently directs Mercer's unique Introduction to Client Counseling program, and her textbook, *What Brings You Here Today? An Introduction to Client Counseling*, was published in 2021.

Professor Gerwig is a McDonald Distinguished Fellow with Emory University's Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Law and Religion and writes on criminal law, human rights, and legal education. Beyond her teaching and scholarship, she is engaged with a number of statewide nonprofit organizations, including the Georgia Resource Center and the Georgia Innocence Project. Before joining Mercer, Professor Gerwig was the senior appellate supervising attorney in the central office of Georgia's statewide public defender system.

This teaching award celebrates an outstanding law school faculty member who has made an important contribution to the education of Mercer law students. The recipient demonstrates (1) successful teaching, indicated by the imparting of competence in the subject matter, (2) the ability to inspire and motivate students to high achievement and standards of integrity, and (3) lasting educational influence. As one of the nomination letters shared, "Her influence has inspired me to help others in underprivileged communities and help my clients' voices be heard."



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY  
2023-2024 COLLEGE OF PHARMACY  
EDUCATOR AWARD

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**Lori Dupree, Pharm.D.**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice*

The College of Pharmacy Educator Award honors an outstanding teacher and colleague, selected by a committee of peers and student leaders.

This year's recipient is Dr. Lori Dupree, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Samford University, followed by post-graduate residency training at the University of Virginia Health System and University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, specializing in internal medicine pharmacotherapy. She is certified by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties as a pharmacotherapy specialist. She was a full-time clinician for more than 12 years before her first full-time faculty appointment at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. She joined Mercer University in 2020. Dr. Dupree's contributions to

teaching have had a major impact on the pharmacy curriculum. In particular, she has been a leader in skills simulation, developing a new structure to support and evaluate skills acquisition. She collaborates internationally on a web-based application to simulate order processing, verification, and dispensing, and as a result, Mercer will be one of only three pharmacy schools in the U.S. to test the new platform in 2024.

Dr. Dupree's teaching philosophy emphasizes a profound commitment to student-centered learning and integration of real-world experiences into the educational process. She believes that teaching goes beyond the classroom and has the power to leave a lasting impact on the lives of students and graduates. As she has evolved as an influential leader among the faculty, she has advanced the institution, our students, the quality of the education they receive, and the work of all colleagues around her.



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
2023-2024 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

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**Stephanie Morris, MBA**

*Senior Lecturer in Accounting*

Stephanie Morris is a senior lecturer of accounting in the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business at Mercer University. She earned the Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting, *summa cum laude*, from Mercer University and the Master of Accountancy degree with a specialization in taxation from the University of Georgia. She is a licensed certified public accountant.

Professor Morris is responsible for bringing Beta Alpha Psi, an active accounting honor organization, to Mercer's campus and serves as the faculty advisor. She developed a service-learning course enabling students to serve as certified tax preparers in the local community through the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Students have served the middle Georgia area through this service-learning course each spring for the past 10 years.

Professor Morris enjoys mentoring students and feels that the most rewarding aspect of her role at Mercer is watching students build successful and fulfilling lives after graduation. She looks forward to co-leading a Mercer On Mission trip to Cape Town, South Africa, in summer 2024. In the community, she serves on the advisory board of the Georgia Industrial Children's Home Foundation and is a member of North Macon Presbyterian Church.

Students state that Professor Morris genuinely wants her students to succeed. One student wrote, "Professor Morris is an outstanding professor as she not only makes learning simple and easy but allows you to come to talk to her about anything you need help with or are struggling with."





SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
2023-2024 CLAYTON R. PAUL  
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

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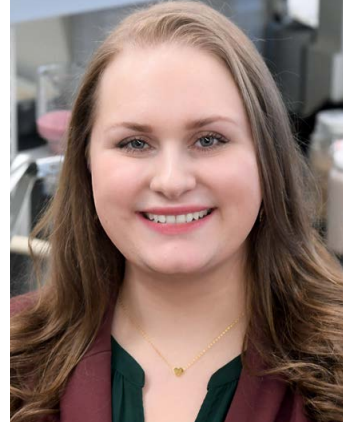
**Sarah K. Bauer, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of Environmental & Civil Engineering, Macon Campus*

**D**r. Sarah Bauer is an assistant professor of environmental and civil engineering at Mercer University. She received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Rowan University and her master's and Ph.D. degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Virginia. Her primary research interests are water and wastewater treatment, waste management, pollution prevention, and renewable energy technologies. Her research focuses on developing sustainable techniques for the production of clean energy and clean water. Her teaching focuses on developing and implementing inclusive pedagogy in the areas of environmental engineering and sustainability.

Dr. Bauer teaches courses in environmental engineering, particularly in the areas of water and wastewater treatment and air pollution. She has worked on projects to develop hands-on engineering activities for K-12 students through the Society of Women Engineers: Engineers in Training (SWEET) outreach program that she developed. She currently serves as the co-faculty advisor for Mercer's student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.

Engineering students regard Dr. Bauer as a kind, high-spirited, and passionate professor who always greets each class with encouragement and a smile. Students state that Dr. Bauer is "constantly searching for new ways to engage students with course materials. She works to make lectures engaging, which enables students with a variety of learning styles to engage with the course material."



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
2023-2024 CATHRYN FUTRAL  
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

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**Sara Luke, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of Special Education*

**D**r. Sara Luke is an assistant professor of special education in the Tift College of Education. With a solid academic background, she earned her Ph.D. in special education from the University of Georgia, an Ed.S. degree in educational leadership from Lincoln Memorial University, an M.Ed. in multiple/severe disabilities with a concentration in special education/early childhood from Georgia State University, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Clearwater Christian College.

Before joining Tift, Dr. Luke spent 15 years teaching young children with disabilities in an elementary school. She now brings her practical experience into her teaching role, instructing both undergraduate and graduate students. Her research interests lie in simulation-based pedagogy in teacher education, aiming to enhance teaching practices in the field of special education teacher education.

A colleague commented on her teaching: "Dr. Luke is the Gold Standard for teaching in Tift for the meaningful feedback and coaching that she provides for students to deepen their understandings of special education and how to provide instruction that is responsive to students' needs. Using virtual simulations across the college, she continues to be on the forefront of innovative teaching in Tift."



COLLEGE OF NURSING  
2023-2024 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY  
MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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**Toinette “Toni” Higgins, Ph.D., RN**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing*

**D**r. Toinette “Toni” Higgins, clinical assistant professor of nursing, is the recipient of the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award for her achievements in teaching and service. Dr. Higgins joined the Mercer faculty as a clinical assistant professor in 2018. With more than 30 years of nursing experience and 20 years in higher education, she has been instrumental in developing nurse leaders throughout her career.

Dr. Higgins serves as the faculty advisor for the College of Nursing Student Government Association. Through her guidance, student leaders develop advocacy skills. As faculty advisor for the Georgia Association of Nursing Students, she works with student leaders across Georgia, supporting students as they plan and conduct monthly meetings and annual conferences. She accompanies student leaders to the National Student Nurses Association conference and actively engages in advisor and state chapter planning meetings. Dr. Higgins is committed to building student relationships and developing nurse leaders. Since 2020, she has coordinated the Leadership and Role Practicum course, the final course in the undergraduate nursing curriculum that engages students in leadership and management responsibilities.

Described as an enthusiastic champion for student success, Dr. Higgins is passionate about developing meaningful learning experiences that take learning to a deeper level and lead to student success. Students view her classroom as a unique, high-energy, and safe environment for learning. As one nursing student commented, “Dr. Higgins gets you excited to learn. She is creative, engaging, and interactive and truly cares about each and every student.”



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
2023-2024 AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

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**Vikraman Baskaran, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of Health Informatics*

**D**r. Vikraman Baskaran, Associate Professor of Health Informatics, is the recipient of the College of Professional Advancement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Prior to joining Mercer in 2013, Dr. Baskaran earned a Ph.D. in computer science specializing in healthcare informatics and a master's degree in software development from Coventry University. He completed his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering in India. Dr. Baskaran teaches across all data and information-related undergraduate and graduate programs in the College.

Known for his collaboration across disciplines and academic units, Dr. Baskaran teaches and provides leadership in disciplines related to computing, data mining, and data analysis. He was the primary driver of the University's dual degree program that links pharmacy to the study of health informatics. Dr. Baskaran has advocated for a multi-disciplinary approach to computing and has been named an affiliate faculty member for the new Collaborative Computing Center. He also teaches for the cybersecurity dual enrollment program which links students from a STEM high school with cybersecurity agent lecturers from the FBI and instructors in Mercer's informatics programs.

Dr. Baskaran's research has focused on caregiver support and adoption of assistive technologies for patient health self-management. He has developed and tested applications for fall management and diabetic coma emergency assistance.

Students describe Dr. Baskaran as a wonderful teacher who is committed to the success of each student. They speak of his "patience, his ability to sharpen critical thinking and communication and to equip them with all they need to enter the workforce." He is "professional, passionate, knowledgeable, responsive, insightful about student needs," and "great at helping a student step out of their comfort zone by encouraging participation."



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## 2023-2024 OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

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### Kyung-A Yoo, DMA

*Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano*

Hailed for “her expressive and sensitive sound,” Dr. Kyung-A Yoo, associate professor of collaborative piano, joined the faculty of the Townsend School of Music in 2021. Currently she teaches collaborative piano, solo piano, chamber music, sight reading skills, and basic musicianship. As a distinguished artist at Robert McDuffie Center for Strings, Dr. Yoo coaches and performs with string players and guest artists.

Before joining Mercer, Dr. Yoo served as an artist collaborator at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music. Under her mentorship, students won competitions, obtained orchestra jobs, and entered prestigious music schools such as the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, the Colburn School, Peabody School of Music, New England Conservatory, and Eastman School of Music.

Her professional career started at Manhattan School of Music where she received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano and worked as a staff pianist and vocal coach. As a collaborative pianist, she frequently performed with the New York Composers Circle, the Joy in Singing Art Song Competition, New Triad for Collaborative Arts, and the Korea Music Foundation, presenting debut recitals and annual concerts at Carnegie and Merkin Halls. Additionally, she was featured in Classical Singer magazine, and her performances were broadcast by WQXR radio station in New York City.

Dr. Yoo served as a staff accompanist at Summit Music Festival and Quartet Program and was invited to the Music Academy of the West at Santa Barbara as a full-scholarship pianist. After serving as a visiting assistant professor of collaborative piano at the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University, Dr. Yoo continued her work as a collaborative pianist at Oberlin Conservatory. She also worked as faculty member at Heifetz International Music Institute and joined Aspen Music Festival and School as a collaborative pianist and performance coach.



# COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

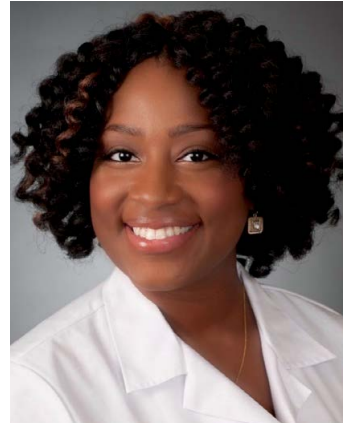
## 2023-2024 Excellence in Teaching Award

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### **Shannon Jackson, MSPAS, PA-C**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies*

**S**hannon Jackson, Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies, is the recipient of the 2024 College of Health Professions Excellence in Teaching Award, presented to the faculty member who demonstrates sustained contributions to teaching and learning within and outside the College. Professor Jackson joined the faculty of the Physician Assistant (PA) program in 2020 and currently serves as the academic director for the PA program. A committed and progressive educator, she enhanced student learning by incorporating safe-space training into the PA behavioral medicine curriculum and by designing learning activities that address health disparities and diversity in medicine. Professor Jackson developed and implemented a curriculum mapping process to ensure the program's mission and core values of patient-centered care, ethical behavior, integrity, diversity, cultural competence, and life-long learning are evident throughout the curriculum. In addition, she received the PA Faculty of the Year in 2023 from the Georgia Association of Physician Assistants. PA students note that Professor Jackson “pours into her students academically, she supports others’ goals and aspirations professionally, she lifts individuals up when they are feeling dejected personally, she engages students in [service] across underserved communities, and she selflessly gives the best of herself 100% of the time.”



ACADEMIC AND ADVISING SERVICES  
2023-2024 EXCELLENCE IN FIRST-YEAR STUDENT  
ADVISING AWARD

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**Vicki Eveland, DBA**

*Professor, School of Business*

**D**r. Eveland earned a doctorate in business administration from Mississippi State University with a major in marketing and minors in management and quantitative analysis. Prior to her appointment at Mercer University, she served on the faculty of several universities including Seattle Pacific University, Florida State University, and the University of Dayton. She was also previously on the faculty at Mercer. During her academic career, Dr. Eveland has taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate marketing courses and has been recognized for teaching excellence by both students and peers. At Seattle Pacific University, she won Ambassador of the Year for actively engaging with the business community in Seattle and providing opportunities for students to interact with over 100 business leaders per year. Dr. Eveland is also an active scholar with 21 peer-reviewed journal publications and 38 peer-reviewed conference publications. She has been a Direct Selling Education Foundation Fellow since 2018 and currently serves as president of the Marketing Educators' Association.





**TO TEACH, TO LEARN, TO CREATE, TO DISCOVER,  
TO INSPIRE, TO EMPOWER AND TO SERVE.**

**MERCER**  
UNIVERSITY

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MACON | ATLANTA | SAVANNAH | COLUMBUS

Douglas County, Henry County, Warner Robins