



MERCER UNIVERSITY
NEW FACULTY
2024-2025



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ABOUT MERCER UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is a dynamic and comprehensive center of undergraduate, graduate and professional education. The University enrolls more than 9,000 students in 12 schools and colleges, on major campuses in Macon and Atlanta; medical school sites in Macon, Savannah, Columbus and Valdosta; and at regional academic centers in Henry and Douglas counties. Mercer is classified as a Doctoral University with High Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutes of Higher Education and ranked among the top tier of national research universities by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Mercer Health Sciences Center includes the University's School of Medicine and Colleges of Nursing, Health Professions and Pharmacy. Mercer is affiliated with five teaching hospitals — Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah; Medical Center, Atrium Health Navicent and Piedmont Macon Medical Centers; and Piedmont Columbus Regional and St. Francis-Emory Healthcare in Columbus. The University also has an educational partnership with Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex in Warner Robins. It operates an academic press and performing arts center in Macon and an engineering research center in Warner Robins. Mercer is one of only 293 institutions nationwide to shelter a chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation's most prestigious academic honor society; one of eight institutions to hold membership in the Georgia Research Alliance; and the only private university in Georgia to field an NCAA Division I athletic program.







OUR MISSION

To teach, to learn, to create, to discover, to inspire, to empower and to serve.

In fulfilling this mission, the University supports undergraduate, graduate and professional learning as well as basic research and its application in service to others.

As a university committed to excellence and innovation, Mercer challenges members of its community to meet and exceed high standards in their teaching, learning, research, scholarship and service.

Founded by Baptists in 1833, Mercer is an independent university that remains grounded in a tradition that embraces freedom of the mind and spirit, cherishes the equal worth of every individual, and commits to serving the needs of humankind. As a reflection of this heritage:

- We encourage our students to discover and develop fully their unique combination of gifts and talents to become leaders who make a positive difference in the world.
- We seek to inspire members of our community to live virtuous and meaningful lives by using their gifts and talents to serve the needs of humankind as an expression of their love for God and neighbor.
- We seek to enrich the mind and spirit by promoting and facilitating an open and rigorous search for truth and understanding, including an examination of the moral, religious and ethical questions of this and every age.
- We affirm and respect the dignity and sacred worth of every person and celebrate both our commonalities and our differences.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



TIFFANY M. B. ANDERSON, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies

Dr. Anderson received her Ph.D. in U.S. ethnic literature at Ohio State University and both her master's in English and B.A. in English literature from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She served as a faculty member at Youngstown State University and in the literature and language department at Texas A&M University. Her publications consider raising Black girls in the age of Black Lives Matter and other aspects of the movement. Additionally, Dr. Anderson considers popular culture and its influence on society's understanding of race. She is currently writing a creative nonfiction book about football's impact on the Black community.



BRANDON BAVIER, PH.D.

Lecturer of Mathematics

Dr. Bavier received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Michigan State University and undergraduate degrees in mathematics and computer science from Boston College. Previously he worked as a teaching assistant professor at West Virginia University. He is interested in combinatorial knot theory which studies knots based on certain diagrammatic properties, geometric knot theory that focuses on how knots behave in three-dimensional space, and the intersection of the topics. He has published articles in the field.



CANDACE EVANS, DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

Lecturer of Psychology

Professor Evans is currently completing her dissertation in developmental psychology from Georgia State University. She is examining sibling relationships in sibling dyads containing a child with an intellectual disability. She earned her master's in developmental psychology from Georgia State University and her B.S. in psychology from Georgia College and State University. Prior to joining Mercer, Professor Evans worked as an instructor and research assistant at Georgia State University. She is broadly interested in studying children and adolescents who are at risk from an ecological systems perspective. She has published in the field and is a member of the Society for Community Research in Action.



ANDREW GARDNER, PH.D.

Lecturer of Integrated Studies

Dr. Gardner holds a Ph.D. in American religious history from Florida State University, Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University, and B.A. in religious studies and history from the College of William and Mary. He previously served as lecturer in religious studies and philosophy at LaGrange College and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in American religious history at Baylor University. His research interests include American religious history, spatial humanities, theological higher education, and Baptist studies. He has published two books, *Binkley: A Congregational History* and *Reimagining Zion: A History of the Alliance of Baptists*, and numerous peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Religion and American Culture*, *The Journal of Church and State*, *Implicit Religion*, and *Baptist History and Heritage*. He is active in the American Academy of Religion, the American Society of Church History, the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, and the Baptist History and Heritage Society.



JOSÉ LUIS GARRIDO RIVERA, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Spanish

Dr. Rivera received his Ph.D. in second language acquisition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his M.A. in Spanish literature and foreign language pedagogy from the University of Delaware, a second M.A. in foreign language and secondary school teaching from the University of Huelva in Spain, and his B.A. in translation and interpreting (French and English) from Spain's University Pablo de Olavide. Dr. Rivera's prior position was a teaching assistant of Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests include second language pedagogy and vocabulary learning, bilingual mental lexicon, semantics, and translanguaging. He has published in the field and is a member of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.



STEPHEN LIPPI, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Lippi earned a Ph.D. in psychology with a concentration in cognitive and behavior neuroscience and a master's and B.S. in psychology from George Mason University. His prior position was as a senior lecturer of psychology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He has published 10 articles, and his research interests include Alzheimer's disease, lifestyle factors and their effect on learning and memory, animal models of behavior, and substance use and mental health in non-heterosexual populations.



REBECCA MCKEE, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. McKee received her Ph.D. in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida, a Master of Science in Forestry and Natural Resources from the University of Georgia, and a B.S. in environmental studies from Davidson College. Before joining the Mercer faculty, she worked as a graduate research assistant at the University of Florida. Recently Dr. McKee researched the impact of invasive Burmese pythons on native mammals and ecosystem function in the Florida Everglades. Her broad research interests include animal behavior, vertebrate ecology, and conservation. She has research experience in the U.S. and abroad, including the examination of how translocation affects the desert tortoise in California and the evaluation of mammalian biodiversity and microhabitat selection in the Himalayas of Bhutan. She has taught courses in quantitative wildlife ecology, conservation biology, and zoology among others. She has several publications and presentations in the field with active memberships in the Turtle Survival Alliance and The Wildlife Society. Dr. McKee is the recipient of numerous graduate student awards and scholarships.



TYLER PARKER, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

Dr. Parker earned his Ph.D. in political science from Boston College, his M.A. in Islamic and Near Eastern studies from Washington University in St. Louis, and his B.A. in Arabic from Ohio State University. He was previously a postdoctoral fellow in international cooperation at the Martin Institute at the University of Idaho. His research and teaching interests include international relations, comparative politics, Middle Eastern politics, security studies, and alliance politics. Dr. Parker has numerous publications and presentations in the field.



LIZ PETERSON, PH.D.

Visiting Professor of Biology

Dr. Peterson received her Ph.D. in biological science with a concentration in molecular genetics and biochemistry from Georgia State University and her B.S. in biological science from the University of Georgia. She served as a postdoctoral research fellow in the cardiology division at Emory University's School of Medicine. Dr. Peterson has co-authored several articles, including the recently published "Neutrophils Facilitate the Epicardial Regenerative Response after Zebrafish Heart Injury" in *Developmental Biology*. Her research interests include the role of the immune system in heart repair/regeneration, characterizing ATP-binding cassette transporter family members in flavivirus-resistance, and mechanisms of antibiotic resistance in bacteria. She is a member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Association of Women in Science, American Heart Association, International Zebrafish Society, and Genetics Society of America.



GANGHAO POH, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Poh earned a Ph.D. in history from Stanford University and B.A. in history and classical civilizations from the University of Michigan. Prior to Mercer, he held the position of lecturer at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is interested in topics such as empires, race and ethnicity, law and power, and religion and the environment. Dr. Poh teaches a wide selection of classes in premodern Chinese history, ancient Mediterranean, world history, and comparative history.



ADEJA D. POWELL, M.A.

Lecturer of Communication Studies and Assistant Director of Debate

Professor Powell received their M.A. in communication from San Diego State University and B.A. in political science from McKendree University. They were previously a graduate teaching assistant in the School of Communications at San Diego State University as well as the director of debate. Professor Powell's research interests include film studies, race, and gender and sexuality. They are currently the president of the National Parliamentary Debate Association.



ARIELLE STAMBLER, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies

Dr. Stambler recently earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Los Angeles with her dissertation on the examination of the contemporary postcolonial novel. She also earned her Master of Arts in English from UCLA and her Bachelor of Arts in English from Yale University. Dr. Stambler's previous appointment was as a graduate student researcher in the Excellence in Pedagogy and Innovations Classrooms (EPIC) Program at UCLA. She has taught undergraduate courses including the Twenty-First Century Human Rights Novel, Literary Rewriting: Critical Reading and Writing, and Literatures in English. Her recent article, "Feeling Implicated by Fiction: Imbolo Mbue's *How Beautiful We Were* and the Remaking of Human Rights Narrative," was published in an international, peer-reviewed journal. Dr. Stambler has received several fellowships and awards.



SUSAN ZIKI, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Ziki earned her Ph.D. in history from Kent State University and M.A. in African economic history and B.A. in economic history from the University of Zimbabwe. She gained experience as a graduate instructor, teaching assistant, and research assistant in the United States and Zimbabwe. Dr. Ziki was previously a graduate instructor at Kent State University in the Department of History, teaching courses in modern world history and African history. She has presented several papers at professional conferences, and her research focuses on the history of market women in Zimbabwe and the role of private-public partnerships in the development of African economies.

School of Law



MICHELLE HOOK DEWEY, J.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Dewey earned a Juris Doctor and a Master of Laws in Health Law and Public Policy from Southern Illinois University School of Law. She also earned a master's in library and information science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.A. in history and English from Northeastern Illinois University. Before joining the Mercer University School of Law faculty, Professor Dewey was a legal technologies librarian and associate professor at Georgia State College of Law. For five years, she served as the legal research services manager for an American Law 100 firm where she managed the firm's national research team. She focuses her scholarship in the areas of online legal instruction, hybrid law classes, legal research and writing pedagogy, and legal practice technology and innovation. Professor Dewey is a member several professional associations, including the American Association of Law Libraries, the Southeastern Association of Law Libraries, and the International Legal Technology Association.

College of Pharmacy



PHILLIP MENSAH, PHARM.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Mensah received his Doctor of Pharmacy from Mercer University and a B.S. in biotechnology from Kennesaw State University. His research interests are evaluation of health disparities as they relate to vaccine hesitancy and medication therapy management initiatives in rural, minority, and underserved communities. He is a member of American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Pharmacists Association, Georgia Pharmacy Association, and Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity.

School of Medicine



HANA M. ABUALADAS, M.B.B.S.

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences

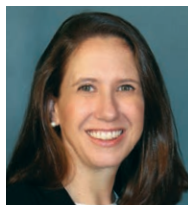
Dr. Abualadas earned her M.B.B.S. medical degree from University of Jordan School of Medicine. She completed her internship and post graduate clinical training in Al-Israa Medical Center and the Islamic Hospital in Amman, Jordan. She received her M.S. degree in clinical anatomy from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Dr. Abualadas is recognized for her distinction in medical education and has received many awards in clinical anatomy, anatomy, and clinical sciences teaching. Her research interests are focused on medical education, clinical anatomy, surgical anatomy, and anatomical variations.



SORITA ANN, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy

Dr. Ann recently earned her Ph.D. in human development and family science with an emphasis in couple and family therapy from the University of Georgia. Her dissertation title is “Quality of Peer Relationships as Moderators of the Impact of Peer Victimization on Depression among Early Adolescents.” She received her master’s in social cultural psychology from De La Salle University in the Philippines and her undergraduate degree in banking and finance from Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia. Dr. Ann has experience in both in-person and telehealth therapy and served as a clinician at a community clinic for an economically disadvantaged population.



KARIN BAKER, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences Education

Dr. Baker earned her M.D. degree from the Medical College of Georgia and B.S. degree from the University of Georgia. She completed her residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in pediatric rehabilitation at Northwestern University. Dr. Baker’s recent research focuses on children with cerebral palsy, pediatric disabilities, and physical medicine and rehabilitation advancements.



ELIZABETH BIZZELL, LMFT

Instructor of Clinical Marriage and Family Therapy

Professor Bizzell is a licensed marriage and family therapist who holds a master’s in family therapy from Mercer University School of Medicine and a B.A. in psychology from Asbury University. She has served in both clinical practice and leadership roles in behavioral health agencies in Middle Georgia since 2006. Professor Bizzell is currently the vice president of the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and holds the Approved Supervisor designation for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Her clinical practice primarily focuses on children, adolescents, and families with emphasis on improving family structure and relationships.



KEVIN S. BURGESS, PH.D.

Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Burgess earned his Ph.D. and B.S. in plant biology from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, and has completed post-doctoral positions at the University of Virginia and University of Toronto. He has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles in the fields of botany, plant ecological genetics, and community phylogenetics. He is currently expanding his research interests in the fields of genetics and ethnobotany at Mercer’s School of Medicine. More specifically, Dr. Burgess is interested in medicinal plant genomics and the clinical efficacy of natural plant products. He is a member of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Botany Society of America, Association of Southeastern Biologists, Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, and Longleaf Conservation Alliance among others.



THOMAS PRIER CALLIER IV, M.D.

Instructor of Family Medicine

Dr. Callier earned his M.D. from Morehouse School of Medicine and completed his residency in family medicine at Houston Healthcare in Warner Robins where he served as chief resident. He previously attended Southern Polytechnic State University (now Kennesaw State’s Marietta campus) where he earned his B.S. in biology. Dr. Callier is a native of Taylor County, and it has long been his goal to return to his hometown to serve as a physician.



NAKITA CARROLL, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy

Dr. Carroll earned her Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy at Florida State University and her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Prior to beginning her doctoral program, she worked in private practice and as the assistant director of family services at the UCF Marriage and Family Research Institute in Orlando. Her research interests include the impact of the African American experience on couple and family processes, religious singles romantic relationships, and hope. Dr. Carroll has co-authored articles about participation in relationship education and couple quality time. She is a member of the National Council on Family Relations and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.



JANETTE CARTER, ED.D.

Instructor of Marriage and Family Therapy

Dr. Carter earned her Ed.D. in higher educational leadership from Liberty University and M.Ed. from Mercer's Tift College of Education. She also earned her B.S. in health services administration from Macon State College (now Middle Georgia State University). Dr. Carter has worked in the School of Medicine for 25 years and previously worked for the Medical Center of Central Georgia (Atrium Health Navicent) as the cardiac rehabilitation program assistant. Her research interests are academic achievement, self-care, and health promotion in education. Dr. Carter is a certified group fitness instructor and a member of Athletics and Fitness Association of America.



AHMED ELTOKHI, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Eltokhi earned his Ph.D. from Heidelberg University in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research. He obtained a master's degree in neuroscience from Bonn University and a bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences from Ain Shams University in Egypt. He has worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research at Tübingen University in Germany and the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Washington. Dr. Eltokhi has contributed to over 20 original articles, reviews, and book chapters. His research primarily focuses on neuropsychiatric disorders, including autism, schizophrenia, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.



ABRAHAM ENYEJI, M.D., PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Community Medicine

Dr. Enyeji specialized in heart failure treatment and cardiovascular disease prevention as a cardiology fellow after earning his M.D. from the University of Bonn College of Medicine. He also holds a Ph.D. in public health from Florida International University and a master's in healthcare administration from Washington Adventist University. With experience as an attending physician, Dr. Enyeji contributes to cardiovascular health promotion through research and is an active member of the American Heart Association and American Public Health Association.



DONNA L. EVANS, M.D., FAAP

Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences

Dr. Evans earned her M.D. degree and completed her residency in pediatric medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. She earned her board certification in pediatrics and joined the pediatric faculty at Memorial Health University Medical Center (MHUMC) in 1994 until her retirement in 2023. She was the rotation director and curriculum developer for the community pediatrics and child abuse rotations. She participated in several resident and outpatient research projects throughout her career in addition to serving as physician leader for the American Academy of Pediatrics hypertension improvement study. Dr. Evans earned the teacher of the year award several times from both the resident and medical school classes during her career at MHUMC. She co-founded and served as the medical director of the Child Protection Team and became board certified in child abuse pediatrics. Her dedication for child protection was recognized in 2021 when she was awarded the HCA Frist Humanitarian Award. Dr. Evans continues to advocate for children by offering expert opinion regarding cases of child abuse and neglect. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



TAHICHA GREEN, LAMFT

Instructor of Clinical Marriage and Family Therapy

Professor Green earned her Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from Touro University Worldwide, following her Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Mercer University. Professor Green has extensive experience in the healthcare field, having worked with Mercer Medicine for nine years.



P. ANTHONY (TONY) GRYFFIN, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Community Medicine

Dr. Gryffin earned his Ph.D. in health and human performance as a University of Florida Alumni Fellow and his M.S. in kinesiology and B.S. in administration from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He has authored books, a book chapter, and co-authored articles on health behavior and theory and on mindful exercise and practice. He is also a requested presenter and speaker at various state and national health conferences. Dr. Gryffin is a member of the American Public Health Association and the Georgia Public Health Association.



DUSTIN C. HORNE, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Family Medicine

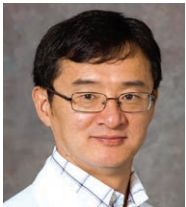
Dr. Horne earned his M.D. from Mercer University School of Medicine after completing his B.S. in biology from Berry College. While at Mercer, he was the recipient of the Nathan Deal Scholarship as well as the recipient of the Class of 2019 Outstanding Student in Community Medicine Award. Dr. Horne completed his residency training in family medicine at East Tennessee State University and is board certified with the American Board of Family Medicine. Prior to joining Mercer Medicine, he was in private practice as an associate physician in Calhoun. Dr. Horne is currently a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and its Georgia chapter. He is interested in quality and performance improvement research.



ALTEE JOHNSON, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences Education

Dr. Johnson earned her M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School and B.S. in pre-med from the University of New Orleans. She completed the family medicine residency program at Piedmont Columbus Regional. Dr. Johnson has practiced at several reputable healthcare institutions, including Rivertown Pediatrics, Piedmont Immediate Care, Piedmont Physicians at Northside Family Medicine, and Landmark Health. Her expertise extends to teaching in clinical settings, underscoring her commitment to advancing the field of medicine through both education and patient care.



JINOH KIM, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Genetics

Dr. Kim earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from University of Connecticut after earning his M.S. in molecular biology and B.S. in zoology from Seoul National University in South Korea. He completed his postdoctoral training from University of California, Berkeley and was a faculty member at Iowa State University and University of California Davis Medical Center. Dr. Kim has co-authored over 30 articles and a book chapter on protein secretion. He is a member of the American Society for Cell Biology.



KIMBERLY KLAUS, PH.D., M.M.SC., PA-C

Assistant Professor of Community Medicine

Dr. Klaus earned her Ph.D. in global health from the University of South Florida and spent nine years working in clinical medicine, public health practice, and research in southeast Asia. She has been a practicing clinician for over 20 years and served as an adjunct instructor at several institutions. Dr. Klaus has published several articles and has research interests in health disparities, social determinants of health, and cultural influences on health behavior.



MICHAEL KRAMER, PH.D., M.M.SC.

Professor of Community Medicine, Director for the Center of Rural Health and Health Disparities, Rufus C. Harris Endowed Chair

Dr. Kramer earned a Ph.D. in epidemiology from Emory University, M.S. in emergency medicine from Alderson Broaddus College, Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant degree from Emory University, and B.A. in human development and social relations from Earlham College. He last served as associate professor of epidemiology and director of the Maternal and Child Health Center of Excellence at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. Dr. Kramer is a population health scientist focused on the intersection of geographic, place-based, and social determinants of health and health inequities, particularly in the U.S. South. His work approaches health through a life course lens, centering maternal and perinatal health but including life course communicable and non-communicable disease patterns.



CHARLIE MOORE, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences Education

Dr. Moore earned his M.D. from Mercer University School of Medicine and completed his residency in emergency medicine at the Medical College of Georgia, where he served as the academic chief resident during his final year of residency. He then completed several operational and special operations assignments while serving on active duty in the U.S. Army, including multiple combat deployments while maintaining his clinical skills by also working in emergency departments. Dr. Moore continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves and works clinically in the Piedmont Midtown emergency department.



SHIVANI SHARMA, M.B.B.S., M.D.

Associate Professor of Pathology and Clinical Sciences Education

Dr. Sharma earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S.) and M.D. in physiology from the Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences in India. With an expansive career spanning over two decades, Dr. Sharma has significantly contributed to medical education, particularly in the fields of physiology and pathology. Her professional journey includes key roles at the Medical University of the Americas in Saint Kitts and Nevis, SSR Medical College in Mauritius, and Muzaffarnagar Medical College and Hospital in India. She is a certified Basic Life Support (BLS) instructor and has authored and co-authored several articles for medical journals. Her expertise extends to research and professional development with certifications in physiology and biochemistry from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Sharma's involvement in various academic committees and community health initiatives underscores her dedication to advancing medical education and healthcare.



LORAIN SUMNER, M.D.

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Director of Mercer Medicine Rural Clinics

Dr. Sumner earned her M.D. from Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) and completed her residency in internal medicine at the Medical Center of Central Georgia (now Atrium Health Navicent). She earned her B.A. in history from Mercer University. A native of Tifton, she spent the last 18 years practicing in her hometown for Southwell (previously Affinity Medical Clinic). She is board certified in internal medicine and serves on the Board of Governors and Admissions Committee for MUSM and the Mercer Athletic Foundation. Dr. Sumner is a member of American College of Physicians, Alpha Omega Alpha, and the Medical Association of Georgia.



WENDY WALKER, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Walker earned her Ph.D. in medicine from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom. She subsequently completed postdoctoral training in immunology at Yale University. She conducts research on sepsis, a disease where an infection induces a dysregulated immune response. She was awarded an R15 grant to study how sleep affects sepsis. Dr. Walker has authored and co-authored at least 29 articles and three book chapters and edited a book entitled *Sepsis: Methods and Protocols*. She is an active member of the Shock Society and a member of the editorial board for *Shock* journal that focuses on laboratory and clinical approaches to injury, inflammation, and sepsis.

School of Business



ELIZABETH (LIZ) ADAIR, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Management

Dr. Adair received her Ph.D. in organizational behavior and human resources management from the University of Minnesota, M.B.A. from Texas State University, M.A. in teaching English as a second language from the University of Memphis, and B.A. in elementary education from Christian Brothers University. She will join Mercer's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business in spring 2025 from California State University, Monterey Bay where she taught courses in principles of management, organizational behavior, and human resources management. Dr. Adair's research centers on leadership (e.g., abusive supervision, rotational supervision), emotions in the workplace, and worker well-being. She has published in top journals in her field such as *Journal of Applied Psychology* and *Annual Review of Organizational Psychology and Organizational Behavior*. She is a member of the Academy of Management, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the Southern Management Association.



HEATHER CURRIE MARKLE, M.B.A.

Lecturer of Management

Professor Markle received her M.B.A. in innovation and entrepreneurship from Mercer University and B.A. from Oglethorpe University. After completing her M.B.A, she continued her Mercer journey by joining the adjunct faculty in 2021. She recently completed a year as a visiting lecturer and has assumed the full-time role of lecturer of management. She specializes in human resources and teaches classes in human capital management, human resource management, ethical leadership, and diversity and inclusion. Growing up in a small family business gave her an entrepreneurial spirit, which the School of Business recognized when she won the annual Next Big Idea competition in 2019. Professor Markle's career in the industry included almost two decades at Cox Enterprises, where she was awarded Employee of the Year and helped the organization win several distinguished employee experience awards. She last served as Director of Employee Experience and Global Human Resources Programs at Diebold Nixdorf.

School of Engineering



MICHAEL J. PELOSI, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Software Engineering

Dr. Pelosi earned his Ph.D. in computer science and information systems from Nova Southeastern University. He earned his Master of Public Administration, Master of Business Administration, and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the City University of Seattle. He has served as an associate professor of computer science at Texas A&M University. Dr. Pelosi's research interests include artificial intelligence, software engineering, defense-related applications, radar and electromagnetic simulation modeling, photovoltaic (solar) energy simulation and modeling, and algorithms. He has published approximately 40 peer-reviewed articles and is a member of three professional societies. Dr. Pelosi has taught approximately 70 different course titles in computer science and software engineering over the last 30 years. He is also a holder of three U.S. patents.

In addition to academic teaching, Dr. Pelosi has extensive experience in business, having started a successful solar energy simulation software company in Hawaii that sold software worldwide for more than a decade. During this period, he conducted research for Sandia National Labs and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.



LIANJUN WU, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Wu earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas. Additionally, he earned his M.S. in mechanical engineering from Xi'an Jiaotong University and his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Chongqing University. Before coming to Mercer University, he worked as an assistant professor at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Wu has published several articles and conference proceedings. His research interests focus on smart actuator and soft robotics. He is an active member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

College of Education



ANGELA CREVAR, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Dr. Crevar received her Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from Texas Tech University, her M.Ed. in reading instruction from the University of West Georgia, and her B.S. in education from the University of Georgia. She served as a postdoctoral researcher at Texas Tech University and as a high school principal for ten years. Her research is focused on the nexus of high school to college and career readiness with a focus on pathways through education to student success. These pathways include career technical education, hybrid education, and non-traditional pathways. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Leadership Studies* and *Early Education and Development*. Dr. Crevar is an active member of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, American Educational Research Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, University Council for Educational Administration, and the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness national conferences.



KAITLIN FINLEY, M.ED.

Instructor of Teacher Education

Professor Finley earned her M.Ed. in middle grades education from Mercer University and her B.S. in middle grades education with a concentration in science and literacy from Georgia College and State University. She is also certified with the gifted, English as a second language, and coaching endorsements. Her previous professional experiences include providing high-quality science and literacy instruction to students in a Title 1 school and a STEAM-certified school. Professor Finley's research interests include the impact of positive behavior systems on student efficacy and effective support for multilingual learners. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.



AARON G. GETTER, JR., ED.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Dr. Getter received his Ed.D. in educational leadership from South Carolina State University, his education specialist and master's degrees in educational leadership from Troy State University, and his undergraduate degree in health and physical education from Mercer University. He has served as superintendent of the Wilkinson County School System in Irwinton for the past fifteen years. Previously he was principal for ten years at Wilkinson County Middle School and a classroom educator in several school districts in Georgia. Dr. Getter is highly respected for his expertise in educational leadership. He has served in several leadership positions for Georgia School Superintendent Association, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, Oconee Regional Educational Service Agency as well his fraternity of Kappa Alpha Psi.



JOO YOUNG HONG, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Special Education

Dr. Hong holds a Ph.D. and master's in special education from the University of Kansas and a B.S. in economics from Kyungpook National University in South Korea. Prior to joining Mercer, she was a special education teacher at Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech in Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Hong's primary research areas include culturally and linguistically diverse families and their children with special needs, home-school language intervention for students with or at risk for language delays, and the social-emotional development of students with disabilities with a focus on fostering self-advocacy and resilience. She has published 11 peer-reviewed journal papers among other publications. She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Council for Exceptional Children, the Division for Early Childhood, the A.G. Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.



JOHN (HANK) SAMUELS, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Elementary Education

Dr. Samuels earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at the University of Florida after serving as an elementary school teacher for seven years. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Florida State University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests are at the intersections of teacher education, professional development, creativity, and arts integration. He is specifically interested in examining how teacher educators, practicing teachers, and preservice teachers can support the imagination-intellectual development of their students. Dr. Samuels is a member of the American Educational Research Association and the Association of Teacher Educators.



LATESHIA WARREN, PH.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Elementary Education

Dr. Warren earned her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Mercer University, her master's degree in post-secondary education from Troy University, and her undergraduate degree in middle childhood education from Georgia State University. She comes to Mercer from Brenau University where she served as an associate professor in the elementary education department. Dr. Warren's research interests include building cultural competence with teacher candidates and developing pre-service teacher candidate efficacy. She has published five co-authored manuscripts in journals such as *National Teacher Education Journal* and *The Field Experience Journal*. Additionally, she is a member of various professional organizations including the Georgia Association of Educators, the National Association for Multicultural Education, the National Educators Association, and the Association of Teacher Educators.

College of Nursing



JENNIFER KELLEY, M.S.N., R.N.

Lecturer

Professor Kelley earned her M.S.N. from Mercer University and her B.S.N. from Brenau University. Prior to her appointment at Mercer, she held the rank of associate professor and was the nursing program coordinator at Piedmont University. While at Piedmont, she served on the Curriculum Innovation Committee, the Nursing Admissions Committee, and the University Faculty Senate. Her research interests include motivation theory as it pertains to nursing students. Professor Kelley is a member of the Georgia Association of Nurse Educators and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

College of Professional Advancement



TUGBA ERTAN BOLELLI, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Bolelli earned her Ph.D. and master's degree in the pharmaceutical chemistry department at Ankara University in Turkey. She served as a research assistant in the same department for over 10 years before assuming the role of associate professor. She has published over 40 papers and contributed to the translation of two chemistry books into Turkish. Recently Dr. Bolelli has pursued postdoctoral research at Mercer University's College of Pharmacy. Her research interests encompass organic, medicinal, and computational chemistry. She is currently involved in six collaborative research projects, focusing on identifying lead compounds through molecular modeling studies and designing new compounds with promising biological activity. Notable research areas include the design of new compounds targeting NLRP3, KMO, NOX4, SARS-CoV-2, GSTP1-1, and Topo-II. She has extensive hands-on experience in organic synthesis, particularly in heterocyclic chemistry. Additionally, she possesses in-depth knowledge and practical expertise in various techniques for synthesizing, purifying, and spectroscopically characterizing novel compounds, including NMR, LC-MS, and IR.



S.M. SHAFIUUL HASAN, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Dr. Hasan holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in electrical and computer engineering from Florida International University in addition to an M.S. and B.S. in electrical and electronic engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. Previously he was a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University where he developed innovative machine learning models to enhance healthcare diagnostics and patient care, particularly in the realm of stroke recovery. With expertise in artificial intelligence, machine learning, biomedical signal processing, and health informatics, Dr. Hasan's research addresses the challenges of interpreting complex biomedical data. His work integrates advanced computational methods with practical healthcare applications, aiming to transform patient care through technology. He has published 15 peer-reviewed articles and is affiliated with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



KEVIN MCQUEENEY, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of History

Dr. McQueeney earned his doctorate in history from Georgetown University, specializing in African American, U.S., African, and transnational urban history. He earned an M.A. in history from the University of New Orleans and a B.A. in history from Rutgers University. Previously Dr. McQueeney was an assistant professor of history and coordinator of the Black Studies Program at Nicholls State University. His research focuses on African American and African diaspora history with a concentration on racial health disparities and healthcare inequality, the Black freedom movement, environmental racism, and the carceral state. In May 2023, he published his first book, *A City Without Care: 300 Years of Racism, Health Disparities, and Healthcare Activism in New Orleans*. He has published articles in *The Journal of African American History*, *Louisiana History*, *Federal History*, and *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* as well as chapters in two edited volumes.



RAMYA TEKUMALLA, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Data Science

Dr. Tekumalla received her Ph.D. and master's degree in computer science from Georgia State University. She received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Gitam University in India. She is deeply engaged in mining large, unstructured data sources and curating domain-specific data. Dr. Tekumalla's research interests include machine learning, statistics, natural language processing, data analytics, and inference and causal analysis. She employs an array of techniques from machine learning, statistics, and natural language processing to collect data and generate insights. Having mined over 16 billion tweets for natural language processing tasks, Dr. Tekumalla has provided valuable insights for various applications including pharmacovigilance and characterizing the COVID-19 pandemic.

College of Health Professions



SHARON F. BEASLEY, PH.D., R.N., CNE, NEA-BC

Assistant Dean of Accreditation and Assessment

Dr. Beasley received her Ph.D. in higher education with a specialty in leadership from the University of South Carolina, M.S. in nursing from Armstrong Atlantic State University (currently Georgia Southern University), and B.S. in nursing from the University of South Carolina. She completed the Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellowship in 2008. Prior to joining Mercer, Dr. Beasley served as a director with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for seven years, where she was responsible for mentoring/assisting programs with programmatic accreditation.

Dr. Beasley's experience encompasses outcomes assessment and program evaluation for all undergraduate and graduate nursing program levels domestically and internationally. She developed and revised accreditation policies based on the U.S. Department of Education guidelines of recognized programmatic accreditors, co-chaired the ACEN 2023 Standards and Criteria Review, co-authored two U.S. Department of Education Re-Recognition Reports, and co-authored two Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Reports. Additionally, Dr. Beasley's served on the Technical College of the Lowcountry institutional accreditation steering committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process and the University of the District of Columbia's steering committee for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmation process. Dr. Beasley's scholarship focuses on accreditation, program development, leadership, outcomes assessment, and curriculum revision. She has presented nationally on the topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the context of nursing education accreditation and assessment.



SISI CHEN, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Dr. Chen received her Ph.D. in kinesiology from Michigan State University, M.S. in physical education and sport studies from University of Macau, and B.S. in kinesiology from Beijing Sport University. Prior to joining Mercer, she was an assistant professor at Georgia Southwestern State University. Her experience includes test and measurement, strength and conditioning, biomechanics in sport and exercise, exercise leadership, and computer application in health and human performance. Dr. Chen's research interests focus on physical activity and public health. Her most recent project examined the association between meeting physical activity guidelines (i.e., aerobic activity, muscle-strengthening activity) and health-related quality of life among older adults. She is also an ACSM/NPAS certified physical activity in public health specialist.



TOI CURRY, PSY.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

Dr. Curry received her Psy.D. and M.A. in clinical psychology from Widener University in addition to her B.A. in psychology from Marist College. She completed a two-year post-doctoral pediatric neuropsychology fellowship through the Center for Attention and Learning Disorders at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist in Georgia, New York, and through PsyPact. Dr. Curry has vast experience in independent clinical work and school-based service delivery. Areas of her clinical expertise include learning differences/disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, neuropsychological assessment, executive functioning, and cognitive development throughout the lifespan. Her research interests include brain development through the lifespan, the effects of alcohol and substance exposure on fetal cognitive development, the impact of socio-economic status on service delivery and access in school and community settings, universal design in the schools, and learning profiles and interventions with respect to dyslexia, dyscalculia, and disorders of written expression. She is an active member of the American Psychological Association, the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, School Psychology, Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology, and Developmental Psychology.



HIRUT GEBREKRISTOS, PH.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor of Public Health

Dr. Gebrekristos received her Ph.D. in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University, Master of Public Health in International Health from Yale University, and a B.A. in anthropology from Mount Holyoke College. Prior to joining Mercer University, she was an assistant professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine where she taught courses on epidemiology methods and conducted research on Chagas disease, health inequalities, and developed methods on interaction in epidemiology. Her teaching responsibilities include social epidemiology and social determinants of health, and her research interests include health inequalities research and developing epidemiologic methods. Over 20 years of HIV research experience among highly vulnerable and often marginalized populations forms her interest in health inequalities. More recently, she has collaborated with faculty at the Morehouse School of Medicine on research in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Overall, her research is focused on developing methods that can help translate research into practical public health interventions and programs. Dr. Gebrekristos is a member of the American Public Health Association and Society for Epidemiologic Research.



CAROLINE HAMILTON, M.S.P.A.S., M.P.H., PA-C

Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Professor Hamilton received her Master of Physician Assistant Studies and Master of Public Health from Augusta University in addition to her B.S. in education with a minor in Spanish from the University of Georgia. As a certified physician assistant, she has over seven years of clinical experience in pulmonary critical care, outpatient HIV medicine, and general infectious diseases. Prior to joining Mercer, she worked as the program manager of Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy at Wellstar MCG Health (formerly Augusta University Health System), served on the Antibiotic Stewardship Team, and served on the Ventricular Assist Device Steering Committee as the infectious disease expert. Additionally, she participated as lead coordinator and/or sub-investigator on industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated infectious disease research. Professor Hamilton is a member of American Academy of Physician Assistants and Infectious Diseases Society of America.



JONATHAN HILL, M.M.Sc., PA-C

Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Professor Hill received his Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Mercer University and his Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Georgia. As a certified physician assistant, he has clinical experience in pulmonary medicine, critical care, and urgent care. He has worked as an adjunct faculty member in Mercer's Physician Assistant Program since 2021 and joined the full-time faculty in 2024. Professor Hill is an active member of the Georgia Association of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA). He has served nationally as a representative for the state of Georgia on the AAPA House of Delegates and is also an elected member of the Pi Alpha Physician Assistant Honor Society.



LAUREN HOOVER, M.M.Sc., PA-C

Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Professor Hoover received her Master of Medical Science from Mercer University and Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in Spanish from the University of Georgia. As a certified physician assistant, she has over six years of clinical experience in emergency medicine. She joined the University's Physician Assistant Program as full-time faculty in 2023 and has served as adjunct faculty in Mercer's PA Program since 2018. Professor Hoover is a member of the Georgia Association of Physician Assistants and American Academy of Physician Assistants. Also, she is an elected member of Pi Alpha Physician Assistant Honor Society.



RACHEL JOHNSON, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Athletic Training

Dr. Johnson received her Ph.D. in kinesiology with a concentration in biomechanics from the University of Georgia, her M.S. in athletic training from A.T. Still University, and her B.S. in athletic training from Springfield College. She completed a two-year post-doctoral research fellowship at Boise State University and St. Luke's Health System. Dr. Johnson's primary teaching area is athletic training. Her research interests focus on concussion, specifically lower extremity injury risk post-concussion and concussion management in neurodiverse and non-traditional performing artists. She is a certified athletic trainer and an active member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.



ANNIE MULHOLLAND, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Dr. Mulholland earned her Ph.D. in exercise physiology at the University of Alabama, M.A. in human performance from the University of Alabama, and B.S. in exercise science from the University of Connecticut. Her previous teaching experience includes exercise physiology and exercise testing and prescription. Her primary research interests include heat stress and the impact on cardiovascular physiology and thermoregulation, especially in the context of occupational health and safety. Dr. Mulholland's research explores occupational heat stress mitigation, limitations of current recommendations, and development of new tools and technology for heat safety monitoring.



TAMBRE PHILLIPS, P.T., ED.D., D.P.T., M.B.A.

Chair, Department of Physical Therapy and Clinical Professor of Physical Therapy

Dr. Phillips received her Doctor of Education from Northeastern University, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Master of Physical Therapy, and Bachelor of Health Sciences from the University of Miami, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota. She also attended the United States Naval Academy and was honorably discharged from the United States Navy. Dr. Phillips has 29 years of clinical experience in the acute care and inpatient rehabilitation settings. Her areas of expertise include orthopedic and neurologic trauma, burn rehabilitation, and neuro-oncology. She earned her board certification in neurologic physical therapy in 2012. She has 14 years of academic experience teaching adult neurorehabilitation and functional mobility. With a passion for service-learning, she developed a decades-long partnership with ForU Rehabilitation in Jamaica and expanded physical therapy education in the Republic of Georgia.

Her scholarly interests include the use of learning communities in physical therapy education and the impact of writing reflective narratives during entry-level and post-professional education. She has numerous publications and presentations at the state and national levels. Dr. Phillips is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), APTA Georgia, and the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy. She is a neurologic content expert council member of the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, an instructor for the Neurologic Physical Therapy Professional Education Consortium, and an APTA-credentialed clinical instructor and Level I Trainer.



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