

Quick Facts

General Information

LocationMacon, Ga.
 Enrollment7,400
 Founded1833
 NicknameBears
 ColorsOrange and Black
 AffiliationNCAA Division I
 ConferenceAtlantic Sun (A-Sun)
 Arena (Capacity)University Center (3,200)
 PresidentWilliam D. Underwood
 Alma MaterOklahoma Baptist (1982)
 Athletics DirectorBobby Pope
 Alma MaterGeorgia College (1970)
 Associate A.D./SWASybil Blalock
 Assistant A.D.Kevin Gailey
 Athletics Phone(478) 301-2994
 Athletics Fax(478) 301-2061

Coaching Staff

Interim Head CoachSybil Blalock
 Alma MaterMercer (1975)
 Career RecordFirst Season
 Record at MercerFirst Season
 Assistant CoachTrish Roberts
 Assistant CoachToby Bush
 Assistant CoachEmily Klaerner
 Basketball Phone(478) 301-2739
 Basketball Fax(478) 301-2061

Team Information

2005-06 Overall Record14-15
 A-Sun Record/Finish10-10/5th tie
 Home/Road/Neutral9-3/3-10/2-2
 Starters returning/lost4/1
 Letterwinners returning/lost13/3
 Newcomers5

History

First season of competition1970-71
 All-time record504-480
 Atlantic Sun Regular Season Titles2
 Last1992 (Shared)
 Atlantic Sun Tournament Titles0
 LastN/A
 NCAA Tournament Appearances1
 Last (Result) ...1985 (L, 79-82, Central Missouri)
 WNIT Appearances1
 Last (Result)1975 (L, 74-83, Belmont)
 AIAW Tournament Appearances2
 Last (Result)1980 (L, 80-81, Texas)

Sports Information

Sports Information DirectorRandy Jones
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Credits

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On the Covers

The front cover features senior guards Rhonda Owens and Sally Skeldon.

The back cover features junior forward Zsaquez Flucker and junior guard Erin Keller.

2006-07 Mercer Women's Basketball

To the Media

The 2006-07 Mercer University Women's Basketball Media Guide is intended to provide you with general information about the Mercer women's basketball team. This information should assist you in your coverage of the team throughout the season. Should you need additional information or assistance, please contact Assistant Sports Information Director Steven Ericson, at (478) 301-5219 with any requests. He can also be reached via e-mail at ericson_sp@mercer.edu or via fax at (478) 301-5350.

Credential Requests

The Sports Information Office will issue credentials to working press only. All credential requests should be made in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled game.

Practices

As a general rule, all practices are open to the media and the public. There may be instances, however, when all or part of a practice session is closed. Please contact the Sports Information Office in advance if you plan on attending a practice session so an escort can be made available.

Interview Policy

Media interviews of players and coaches are encouraged, and every effort will be made to accommodate media requests. In-person interviews are preferred, but telephone interviews can be arranged through the Mercer Sports Information Office. Under no circumstances will student-athletes' residence numbers be supplied to the media.

Interviews

All interviews with Mercer student-athletes should be coordinated through the Sports Information Office. Players are generally available for interviews up to 30 minutes prior to the start of practice and directly afterward. Interim Head Coach Sybil Blalock is generally available in the afternoon.

Post-game Interviews

Following a 10-minute "cooling off" period, coaches and players from both teams will be made available to media members outside each team's respective locker room. The Sports Information Office will poll the media prior to the end of the game to determine any player requests.

Fax & E-mail Service

Media outlets may request to be included on the broadcast fax and e-mail lists to receive updates regarding Mercer women's basketball. The Mercer Sports Information Office fax number is (478) 301-5350. To be added, submit a request to ericson_sp@mercer.edu.

Sports Information Office

The Mercer Sports Information Office is located in Suite 135 on the first floor of the University Center.

On the Internet

Additional information on the Mercer Athletics program can be found online. News releases, player and coach biographies, historical data, live audio streaming, results and statistics on all 14 athletic programs can be found online at www.mercerbears.com.

Sports Information Staff



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Steven Ericson
Assistant SID
(Women's Basketball Contact)
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In his second year as Mercer's assistant sports information director, Steven Ericson is no stranger to the Atlantic Sun Conference. He worked as a graduate assistant in the Sports Communications Department of former A-Sun member Georgia State for two years.

He serves as the primary media contact for women's soccer, women's basketball and golf. He also assists with game day operations for all home events.

He previously worked as an assistant with the Atlanta Hawks' media relations department during the 2003-04 season. He also worked as a photography assistant during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons for the team photographer.

During the summer of 2003, he completed an internship with the Double-A Huntsville Stars of the Southern League. During his stint in

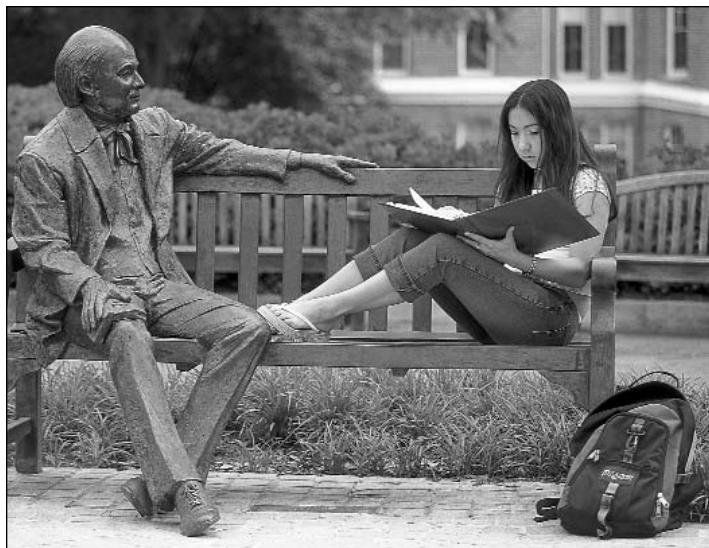
Huntsville, Ericson worked with numerous departments, including grounds crew, marketing, stadium operations and ticket sales.

At Georgia State, he served as the primary contact for men's soccer and baseball. He assisted with game day operations for men's and women's basketball, and served as color commentator on baseball radio broadcasts.

He received a bachelor's in journalism from Georgia State in 2001, and a master's in sports administration in 2003 from Georgia State.

Ericson has covered several Atlantic Sun championships as a member of the media, highlighted by the 2000 and 2001 A-Sun Women's Basketball Tournaments. He also covered the Georgia State women's basketball team's appearance in the 2000 Women's NIT and 2001 NCAA Tournament.

Additionally, he worked at the 2003 Atlantic Sun Men's Basketball Tournament, the 2005 Atlantic Sun Men's Soccer Tournament and the 2006 A-Sun Tennis Championships.



What distinguishes a good university from a great university extends far beyond the boundaries of its curriculum and its campus.

The competence and character of an institution's graduates are, more often than not, the hallmarks by which its reputation is both earned and measured.

As a private, co-educational institution, Mercer University has emerged as one of the premier universities in the Southeast and the nation.

Mercer is truly a dynamic and comprehensive center of undergraduate, graduate and professional education. Mercer's outstanding faculty take students beyond the rigors of academic programs to explore the challenges of reason, responsibility, compassion and character.

Through learning, living and leading, Mercer students are prepared not only to confront, but also to embrace the challenges of their future.

Under the leadership of prominent Georgia Baptist leader Jesse Mercer, Mercer University was founded in Penfield, Ga., in 1833 and later moved to Macon in 1871. From its humble beginnings as a small liberal arts college, Mercer now offers programs in 11 schools and colleges.

Conveniently located in the middle of the state, Macon serves as the educational, medical, cultural and commercial hub of central Georgia. Located just one hour from

Atlanta - one of the nation's most popular international cities - and two hours from the Atlantic coast, Macon is easily accessible from two interstate highways - I-75 and I-16.

Consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review among the nation's leading universities, Mercer considers one of its strengths to be its superior faculty, who "teach from the heart."

At Mercer, students benefit from learning experiences guided by caring faculty, not teaching assistants found at many universities as is the case at many universities. The Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA recently named Mercer as a "highly selective" university, and The Princeton Review has placed Mercer among the Best 351 Colleges in North America.

The University is comprised of the College of Liberal Arts, the Walter F. George School of Law, the School of Pharmacy, and Health Services, the School of Medicine, the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics, the School of Engineering, the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology, the Tift College of Education, the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, and the Townsend School of Music. The University also operates the Mercer University Press in Macon and the Mercer Engineering Research Center in Warner Robins.

Mercer's enrollment is nearly 7,400 students. While many students come from the Southeast, more than 38 states and 30 countries are represented among the student body. The average class size at Mercer is 21, with a student/faculty ratio of 13:1 - unusually low for a major university.

Campus Life

Even with its picturesque setting, the spirit of Mercer is not in the grandeur of its buildings, but in the graciousness of its people - a friendly, family-like community of faculty, staff and students who strive for excellence in all that they do.

The University offers a wealth of fascinating experiences and activities both in and outside the classroom. From academic clubs and honor societies, to performing arts and special interest groups, to 16 national fraternities and sororities on campus, students can choose from more than 80 on-campus organizations to discover new talents and interests and to gain important leadership skills they will need for life after college.

Residence Life

The benefits of campus living are numerous - the development of life-long friendships, a sense of community, enhancing campus involvement and higher academic performance.

For many new students, this is the first time they have lived away from home, and the community that develops on campus and in residence halls becomes a second family.

All freshman and sophomores (first-year and/or transfer students) are required to live on campus, with the exception of married students, students above the age of 21, students with children and/or students who live at home with a parent or guardian within reasonable commuting distance.

In each of Mercer's residence halls, safety comes first and foremost. The exterior doors are locked at all times, and students use their identification cards to gain access into their residence hall.

Undergraduate Degrees	
African American Studies	
Art	
Biology	
Business (M.A.P.S. program)	
Chemistry	
Christianity	
Communication and Theatre Arts	
Computer Science	
Economics	
Education	
Engineering	
English	
Environmental Science	
French	
German	
History	
Information Science and Technology	
Journalism	
Latin	
Mathematics	
Media Studies	
Music	
Music Education	
Philosophy	
Physics	
Political Science	
Psychology	
Sociology	
Spanish	
Theater	
Women's and Gender Studies	
Graduate Degrees	
Business Administration (MBA)	
Community Counseling	
Engineering	
Education	
Family Service	
Family Therapy	
Nursing	
Public Health	
Professional Degrees	
Law	
Medical	

2006-07 Mercer Women's Basketball



Mercer broke ground on the new centerpiece of the Macon campus in the fall of 2001. The University Center has become one of the premier venues in the nation for college basketball and volleyball. The \$40 million facility has become the focal point for almost all campus activities, providing students with an area for study, a food court and a coffee shop.

The "Street" is a tree lined, sunlit indoor patio, providing students with an area to study, socialize, and dine on cuisine from the food court, including Chic-Fil-A, Subway, Grill Works, and Izzi'a Mexican. Java City is a coffee shop and internet café for students to use either with high-speed connections throughout the floor area with the wireless internet connections, or with Java City's three computers. Students can also relax and watch either of two flat screen televisions, or relax outside on the Patio overlooking the Greek Village and campus.

Students have state of the art fitness facilities, with weight training equipment and cardiovascular theater, as well as a 1/8 mile indoor track. The track overlooks the lower level, which has three full size basketball and volleyball courts for intramural and recreation use.

Another distinguishing feature of the University Center is the 25-meter indoor swimming pool for use by both students and teams for lap swim and water strength and speed drills. Athletes have a separate weight room for use during team workouts with all the latest free weight and weight machine technology. Athletes and trainers also have the use of a complete athletic training room, with the latest in injury treatment and prevention equipment.

The University Center has also become the new home for Mercer University Athletics, with brand new offices for all the athletic administration and coaching offices. These offices give

coaches at Mercer an incredible advantage in recruiting, allowing potential student-athletes to see first hand the facility that will be their home base for their career at Mercer.

The University Center, on top of all the other amenities, is the home to Mercer basketball and volleyball. There are two full courts, one designated as the practice court, and the main floor in the center of the arena in the University Center. The main court is surrounded by 3,200 seats for basketball and volleyball, but can be expanded for up to 4,080 with floor seating for concerts. Three skyboxes at mid court provide a birds-eye view of the action on the floor. Full access to both phone and high-speed internet is available courtside for media members and visiting sports information directors. The media room in the athletics offices below court level is capable of handling up to 10 separate phone lines, and 20 Internet connections.



The main entrance into the Arena at the University Center is Mercer's Heritage Hall. This is a collection recognizing some of Mercer's most important alumni, faculty and staff. There are many different displays, including the Mercer Hall of Fame which honors the accomplishments of Mercerians through the years. Displays also include the history of Mercer athletics, and a history of Mercer itself.

The University Center provides Mercer students, athletes, faculty, and staff with a state of the art facility for study, recreation, and community. Potential students and potential student-athletes will view the facility as something they can use to improve their college experience.





Locker Rooms

Each of Mercer's team sports has a new state-of-the-art locker room in the University Center. Attached to each locker room is a player lounge, complete with a big-screen TV, sound system and comfortable seating.



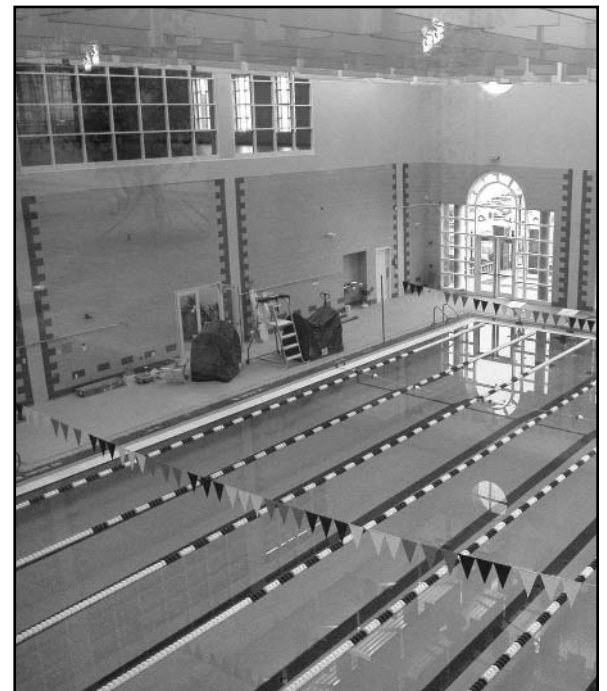
Weight Room

Another state-of-the-art addition to Mercer, the weight room is home to three power lifting stations, abundant free weights and state-of-the-art cardio equipment.



Sports Medicine

A comprehensive therapeutic setting that provides medical coverage for all student-athletes. Staffed by two full-time employees and four graduate assistants who are licensed and certified to practice.



Indoor Pool

The indoor pool at the University Center is a collegiate size lap pool that is utilized for aqua-therapy for rehabilitation of student-athletes.



Heritage Hall

When walking into the U.C. for the first time, you get a look at Mercer's historic past with a glimpse of the future. Heritage Hall is home to memorabilia from Mercer's historic athletic achievements as well as the athletic Hall of Fame.

President William D. Underwood

William D. Underwood was selected to serve as the 18th president of Mercer University beginning July 1, 2006. Prior to joining Mercer, Underwood served at Baylor University as interim president and held the prestigious Leon Jaworski Chair at the Baylor School of Law, having joined the law faculty in 1990 after practicing law with a large firm in Dallas. He also took a leave of absence from the Law School from 1997-98 to serve as Baylor's general counsel.

Underwood is an accomplished educator and scholar. He was designated a Master Teacher at Baylor in

recognition of extraordinary classroom teaching and was named an Outstanding University Professor in 2005. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and the American Bar Foundation.

He has published extensively on a range of topics and has presented a number of papers on how faith relates to higher education, especially at universities that share the historical and theological commitment of Baptists to intellectual and religious freedom and respect for religious diversity.

Underwood is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Illinois

College of Law, which awarded him the juris doctor degree. He graduated as class salutatorian and was an editor of the University of Illinois Law Review. Following graduation, he clerked for the Honorable Sam D. Johnson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

He also holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, where he met his wife Lesli. They have two teenage children, Jessica and William.



Athletics Director Bobby Pope

The dean of Atlantic Sun Conference athletics directors, Bobby Pope is in his 18th year at the helm of Mercer athletics.

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

Facility upgrades have been a priority since he became athletics director, as evidenced by the state-of-the-art University Center, home to the men's and women's basketball teams as well as volleyball. The \$40-million facility opened in January 2004. The building houses offices for all coaches as well as locker rooms for all teams.

Claude Smith Field, the home field for baseball, received a facelift in the fall of 2003. In addition, Sikes Field, the home field for softball was completely renovated in the summer of 2006. A practice facility for the golf teams is also on the drawing board.

Pope is also very active in the Atlantic Sun, having served two years as president in the late 1990s. He is currently a member of the tournament committee. Additionally, Pope serves as the athletics director liaison for the basketball coaches advisory committee.

He is also very active in the community, serving as treasurer of the Macon Touchdown Club as well as serving on the Mayor's Recreation Master Plan

Committee and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority.

Pope's involvement with Mercer athletics began in 1970 when he was the "Voice of the Bears." In recognition of his contributions to sports in Middle Georgia, Pope was inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame on April 18, 2006.

A native of Thomaston, Ga., Pope graduated from Georgia College in 1970. He and his wife Carol have two children, Andy, a 1998 graduate of Georgia and Kristen, a 2001 Mercer graduate.



Sybil Blalock
Associate A.D./
Senior Woman Admin.



Kevin Gailey
Assistant A.D.
Internal Affairs



Myra Cameron
Athletic
Coordinator



Kristen Smith
Staff
Assistant



Rob Murphy
Head
Athletic Trainer



Rachel Green
Assistant
Athletic Trainer



Jim Tessmer
Operations
Manager



Ryan Bailey
Head Coach
Cross Country



Tony Foti
Head Coach
Softball



Craig Gibson
Head Coach
Baseball



Sally Hammel
Head Coach
Women's Golf



Noelle Hughes
Head Coach
Volleyball



Tom Melville
Head Coach
Men's Soccer



Jason Payne
Head Coach
Men's Golf



Mickey Pearce
Head Coach
Rifle



Grant Serafy
Head Coach
Women's Soccer



Mark Slonaker
Head Coach
Men's Basketball



Nick Stutsman
Head Coach
Tennis