

# The Mercer Cluster

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## Mercer Receives Flag In Impressive Ceremony

### LANIER BAND PLAYS FOR PRESENTATION

Alpha Phi Omega, National Service Fraternity, presented the outdoor school flag with ceremonies directed by Albert Jelks at 11:35 a.m. October 7, 1946. The program began with the student body singing the Alma Mater, after which Rev. Norman Shands, director of Religious Activities, led the opening prayer. After preliminary remarks Jelks introduced the following campus leaders: Phil Cox, President of the Student Body; Pal Skinner, Senior Class President; Ray Tynor, President of Junior Class; and Pat Barmore, Sophomore Class President. Following these student introductions, Deans Truex and Burts spoke briefly.

Louis Poetter, President of Alpha Phi Omega, gave the following interpretation of the symbolic significance of the flag.

The solid background represents the unity of the entire student body and their mutual causes in the pursuit of a liberal education.

The open Bible represents our Christian character, our Christian background and founding; and it is symbolic of the proper attitude toward God's word.

The foliage represents the new growth of our University; and only as we grow will we succeed.

The shield represents the protection our education will afford us in combating the problems of our later lives as we strive to conquer the future.

The chevrons imposed upon the shield represent the three great branches of learning of our University—Religion, Art, and Science.

The seal imposed over the chevrons represents the 113 years of growth, training and prestige of our University. It is also representative of the thousands of students who have marched through the halls of Mercer and on down through the corridors of time well prepared to meet the future.

The Gold Fringe is in memoriam to all the sons of Mercer who have through time laid down their books of learning and picked up the implements of war, marching forth to fight for the rights of our land.

Poetter then introduced Dr. Spright Dowell, President of the University.

With the beating of the drums, the American and Mercer flags were unfurled and raised by Albert Jelks and Carrol Wright. The student body stood at attention as the Lanier High School Band played the National Anthem.

The assembly was dismissed with prayer by Norman Shands.

### MORE ON RATTING

For the past years Mercer freshmen have been subject to ridding. The sophomores took pride in making freshmen miserable during the "rat" period. This year, however, circumstances have limited ridding. The only requirement put forth by the sophomores is that all freshmen (veterans may be excluded if requested) wear rat caps for one month beginning October 7. This requirement will be strictly enforced by the sophomore class.

### Noted Pianist



RAPHAEL de SILVA

### ARTIST TO APPEAR IN CONCERT SERIES

Mr. Rafael de Silva, noted Chilean pianist, will appear at Mercer, October 14 and 15 in a series of piano recitals at the Willingham Chapel. This program, presented under the auspices of the University, will be one of the most outstanding ever presented at Mercer, and should enlist great interest among the members of the student body.

Mr. de Silva, an artist of great renown, played from the time he was five years old, and later studied in Europe with Martin Krause and Jenny Krause. He also studied musicology with Professor Hans Mersmann and composition with Kurt Weill. Later, he appeared in concerts throughout Spain, France, and Germany. In 1929, he won a gold medal at the Iberian American Exposition in Seville for his performance of South American compositions and since then he has been the recipient of several other awards.

Mr. de Silva studied philosophy and art at the University of Berlin and has written for many South American periodicals on these subjects. In addition to his writing, he has been associated as assistant to the famous Chilean pianist, Claudio Arrau.

Dr. Arthur L. Rich, head of the music department at Mercer, announces that Mr. de Silva will present an informal program on the afternoon of Monday, October 14 at 3:30. He will present a formal recital Tuesday evening, October 15, at 8:15. He may also visit classes in music, art and Spanish.

The program of the formal recital will include works by Debussy and various Latin-American composers. De Silva is particularly noted for his interpretation of modern works.

All Mercer students will be admitted free of charge to these recitals.

### Students!

This is your paper.  
Voice YOUR opinion.  
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The Cluster Staff

## A CAPPELLA PLANS FALL TOUR SERIES

Plans for performances by the Mercer Glee Club and A Cappella choir during the fall quarter have been announced by Dr. Arthur Rich, director.

The A Cappella choir will present programs at the Georgia Baptist Convention, which is to be held in Savannah in November, and also in several other east Georgia cities. Other trips through the northern and southern sections of Georgia have been planned for the fall and spring quarters. The membership of the choir has greatly increased and there are now about eighty students wishing to become members.

The Glee Club will present Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah" in late November. The chorus, which Dr. Rich considers the best since his arrival at Mercer, is made up of 150 selected voices and will include many regular members and a number of new students.

Negotiations are now in process for soloists for "The Messiah." Mr. Frank Campbell, of New York, will be tenor soloist, and others of similar calibre will be named.

## CICERONIAN SOCIETY SETS YEAR'S GOAL

Ciceronian Literary Society held its first meeting of the year on October 3 in the theology building, with Hugh Cheek presiding.

The president introduced Joe Davis, who made a short talk on the purpose of the Ciceronian Literary Society. A goal of fifty members has been set to be reached by the end of the term.

Mr. Charles Stone, faculty advisor, stressed the importance of the Ciceronian Society as a campus organization and the desirability of worthwhile aims.

Coach Jim Cowan addressed the group on the subject of varsity teams at Mercer. He outlined the keynote of the program as being athletics for all. A schedule of intramurals as well as intercollegiate games has been planned.

Robert Hites presented several arguments in favor of a psychological laboratory which has been proposed as a part of the guidance program of Mercer.

After the program, refreshments were served. Joe Davis, social chairman, was in charge of refreshments. He was assisted by Beverly Buchanan.

## BSU COMPLETES CLOTHING DRIVE

A clothing drive under the auspices of BSU has been completed on the campus. As it was directed only at the students, it was a success in that quite a number of clothes were collected. Also a number of people gave money, which was greatly appreciated. This collected clothing will be shipped overseas under the direction of the United Church Service Center of which most of the Protestant churches in America are a member. The clothing is to be distributed by Protestant missionaries to the devastated countries of Europe.

We give our thanks to all who gave to this worthy cause.

## Mercer Bears to Resume Intercollegiate Basketball

### Foreign War Vets To Organize Here

Due to the large number of veterans now on Mercer's Campus it has been suggested that a Chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) be organized.

This organization has been very successful throughout the nation in solving veterans' problems.

The VFW is an organization of Veterans who have served outside the continental limits of the United States.

### VFW BENEFITS

It has been asked—how can the VFW help me?

1. Personal assistance to the disabled veteran and his dependents.  
2. The second advantage is that the VFW offers a home for veterans' children who have become orphans.

3. The third great advantage of membership is the opportunities for the comradeship of other overseas veterans who speak the same language.

4. Membership in the VFW gives those who have served overseas with the armed forces the opportunity to serve the patriotic welfare of their own community—as workers and leaders in the project dedicated to public interest.

The VFW of the United States is organized in those main divisions, the local unit is the post. All the posts in the state are under the control and supervision of the department, one for each of the 48 states. The national headquarters in Washington, is the administration center of the VFW.

### VFW GOALS

1. Prompt and effective administration of the service man's readjustment act, and rapid adjudication of all.

2. Adequate hospital facilities for free medical treatment for honorably discharged veterans.

3. Special recognition of foreign service by extra compensation.

4. Liberal and equalized compensation and pension payment for veterans of all wars and their dependents.

5. To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members.

6. To assist worthy comrades.

7. To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans.

8. To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from her enemies whomsoever.

Some of the past accomplishments of the VFW have been:

### Past Accomplishments

1. Disability compensation and pension allowances, hospitalization, and domiciliary care, vocational training, civil service preference, and Government Insurance.

2. Payment of Adjusted Compensation certificates in 1936 for Veterans of World War I.

3. Passing the service man's readjustment act of 1944, The GI Bill.

4. Making Congress and the general public, conscious of the principle.

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### Varsity Basketball

Coach Cowan announced today that practice for Varsity Basketball would begin Oct. 21. Practice will be held four afternoons a week at 4 p.m. All men who have played basketball and are interested in seeing Mercer "place her name ahead of all the rest" are asked to be present at 4 p.m. October 21st for practice.

The schedule for games, as scheduled thus far, follows:

#### Basketball Schedule

Dec. 6—Albany "Y"—Here  
Dec. 14—Univ. of Chattanooga—Here  
Jan. 2—Albany "Y"—There  
Jan. 4—Piedmont College—Here  
Jan. 7—North Ga. College—Here  
Jan. 8—Auburn—There  
Jan. 10—North Ga. College—There  
Jan. 11—Piedmont College—There  
Jan. 16—Ga. Teachers College—There  
Jan. 18—Univ. of the South—Here  
Jan. 21—Howard College—Here  
Jan. 24—Alabama Teachers—There  
Jan. 25—Howard College—There  
Jan. 28—Ga. Teachers College—Here  
Jan. 30—Fort Benning—Here  
Feb. 1—Dublin Naval Hospital—There  
Feb. 5—Univ. of Chattanooga—There  
Feb. 6—Univ. of the South—There  
Feb. 7—W. Carolina T. C.—Hendersonville; N. C.  
Feb. 8—Presbyterian—There  
Feb. 11—Alabama Teachers—Here  
Feb. 13—Fort Benning—There  
Feb. 15—Dublin Naval Hospital—Here  
Feb. 21—Auburn—Here  
Feb. 22—Presbyterian C.—Here.

## ACTORS TO PRESENT "TMWCTD" SOON

The play reading committee of the Mercer Players announced on October 3 that their first production will be "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

Tryouts for this play will be held as soon as the books arrive and any student interested may try out. Each Mercer Player must try out. Miss Burton announces that the cast requires twenty-four players and that plans are being made to double cast it.

The second term production will be "Family Portrait," a religious drama encompassing the last three years of the life of Jesus.

Homer Statham, recently elected program chairman, announced that programs for the entire year have been planned. These programs will follow an outline which will present a history of drama encompassing each period from the Greek Theater to the modern one. Talks by faculty members and students have been planned.

The meeting date of the players has been changed from Thursday of each week to Monday at noon. Masquers' meeting will be held on Fridays at 12:00. The luncheon meetings have been changed from the third week of each month to the second week.