

The Insider

Events Around Town



Having an event?

Contact photographer Byron Small at bsmall@bizjournals.com

Merger honors BB&T chief

John Allison, chairman of BB&T Corp., was the commencement speaker on May 23 for Mercer University's Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics on Mercer's Atlanta campus. The ceremony included more than 130 bachelor of business administration and master of business administration graduates.

At the event, Mercer University President **William D. Underwood**, from left, presented Allison with an honorary doctor of commerce along with **William "Skip" Mounts**, interim dean of the school.



SPECIAL/MERCER UNIVERSITY

New court for Butler Street Y



On June 2 the WNBA and Spalding unveiled a new basketball court for the Butler Street YMCA.

The Atlanta Dream won the 2008 Home Court Challenge, earning the brand-new Spalding basketball court.

Hundreds of youth basketball players from select WNBA markets represented their hometown teams by competing in the Home Court Challenge. In August 2008, participants in two

age groups – 9 to 11 and 12 to 14 – competed in a variety of timed basketball drills focusing on the game's fundamentals. The WNBA and Spalding partnered to launch the program last year to bring children together in a positive setting and to promote healthy competition, sportsmanship and team spirit.

On hand were, from left, **Wendy Unger Moore**, manager of basketball marketing for Spalding; **Kirk Tyler** of Butler Street YMCA; **Bill Bolen**, president of Atlanta Dream; **Chamique Holdscaw**, Atlanta Dream player; and **Marynell Meadors**, Atlanta Dream head coach and general manager.

Eagle Star Awards



SPECIAL/LEON EGOZI

Norcross-based EMS won the Deal of the Year award at the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce's eighth annual Eagle Star Awards Gala

on May 27 at Georgia Power Co.'s headquarters. EMS and Israel-based Starling formed an alliance in 2008 to combine the best of their respective technologies for airborne satellite antenna systems into a joint product for in-flight entertainment service providers.

On hand were, from left, **Laurie Olivier**, AICC chairman; **Jacob Keret**, vice president of Starling; **David Smith**, vice president and general manager of EMS; and **Tom Glaser**, president of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Bright from the start

On June 1, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and Quality Care for Children, an independent, nonprofit organization, launched a new service that will give families throughout the state a single toll-free number they can call to find licensed, affordable and convenient child care.



On hand were, from left, **Stephanie Blank**, children's advocate and trustee with The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation; **Pam Tatum**, CEO of Quality Care for Children; and **Holly Robinson**, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Learning.

A glittering party

Cartier celebrated 100 years of business June 2 at its Lenox Square store with proceeds from the event going to the Carlos Museum.



On hand were, from left, **William Voyles**, vice president of Voyles Automotive, his wife, **Cindy**, and **John Terracino**, East Coast manager for Cartier.

Sears still Supreme

Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice **Leah Ward Sears** was the guest speaker at the Atlanta Press Club's Newsmaker Luncheon on June 2. In May Sears announced she will retire from the bench in October and join Schiff Hardin LLP. On hand were Sears, right, and **Bob Riley**, chairman of the board of Schiff Hardin.



PHOTOS/BYRON E. SMALL

Study shows gains in treatment of lung cancer

A new strategy for treating a certain kind of lung cancer increases the effectiveness of standard chemotherapy in patients with advanced stage disease, according to results presented at the **American Society of Clinical Oncology** meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The Phase II study was conducted across multiple academic institutions and chaired by Dr. Suresh Ramalingam, associate professor of hematology and medical oncology at **Emory University's** Winship Cancer Institute.

The study found that the addition of a substance called vorinostat to a standard chemotherapy regimen of carboplatin and paclitaxel increased response rates from 12.5 percent to 34 percent in a clinical trial of 94 patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, Emory said in a statement.

It also demonstrated favorable survival trends. The objective response rate was 34 percent for patients who received vorinostat in combination with chemotherapy compared with 12.5 percent for those treated with a placebo with chemotherapy plus a placebo.

"These results confirm our pre-clinical observations with this novel combination

and the provocative data from our earlier Phase I clinical trial," Ramalingam said.

Vorinostat is part of an emerging class of anti-tumor agents that interfere with enzymes known as histone deacetylases.



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Inhibiting these enzymes increases the level of acetylation, a reversible chemical modification, on proteins in the cell. Vorinostat is sold by **Merck & Co. Inc.** as Zolinza and was approved by the FDA in 2006 to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma.

Emory University, the University of Chicago, the **City of Hope Cancer Center**, the **University of Pittsburgh Medical Center**, the **University of California Davis Cancer Center** and the **Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute** participated in the **National Cancer Institute**-supported study.

MEDICAL OFFICE. **Tri County Pediatrics** has acquired a 7,500-square-foot medical office condominium in Stockbridge. The pediatric specialty care practice paid \$1.5 million for the medical office — located in one of two new 15,000-square-foot medical office buildings near **Henry County Medical Center** at Eagles Landing Parkway, a statement noted.

The seller was **SFA Enterprises LLC**, a developer of medical office properties. There are currently 22,500 square feet of office space available for sale or lease option at North Park Trail Office Condominiums.

"Medical practices can get some great deals in this market, including better location choices, good prices and some incredible purchase loans," said Edward Jones, vice president of **Bull Realty Inc.**, the broker involved in the transaction.

STUDENT GETS FELLOWSHIP. Shelly Hovick, a doctoral student in speech communication at the **The University of Georgia**, has been chosen as one of 11 recipients nationwide to receive a Kellogg Health Scholars Fellowship. The award is given annually to individuals engaging in health disparities research.

Hovick, the second UGA student to receive this fellowship, will pursue her research at the Center for Research on Minority Health at the **University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center** in Houston.

The Kellogg Health Scholars Program seeks to develop new leadership in the effort to reduce and eliminate health disparities and increase access to services. Funded by the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** and managed by the Center for the Advancement of Health in partnership with the **University of Michigan School of Public Health**, the program supports each scholar with an annual stipend of \$60,000 and a \$10,000 annual research fund during the two-year fellowship.

Hovick's research is aimed at understanding the degree to which low-income people feel susceptible to a variety of health risks ranging from chronic illnesses, such as cancer and heart disease, to more controllable risks such as car accidents, HIV/AIDS and drug addiction.

SENIOR VP. Craig Owens has been named senior vice president and administrator for **WellStar Douglas Hospital**. Owens' responsibilities include the operational management of the 98-bed facility in Douglasville.



Owens
WellStar Douglas Hospital

Owens has more than 19 years of senior leadership experience in health care, WellStar said in a statement.

Most recently, he served as chief operating officer for **Kingman Regional Medical Center**, the largest health-care provider in northwestern Arizona. The hospital received the Governor's Arizona Innovation Award.

SOLVAY INKS DEAL. **Solvay Pharmaceuticals Inc.** struck a deal with **HUYA Bioscience International** to access the firm's Chinese molecule portfolio, focusing specifically on compounds in the cardiovascular area.

HUYA has joint headquarters in San Diego and Shanghai, according to a statement. The partnership, Solvay said, will help speed up drug development and commercialization, since many of HUYA's molecules are already in advanced stages of development in China.

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