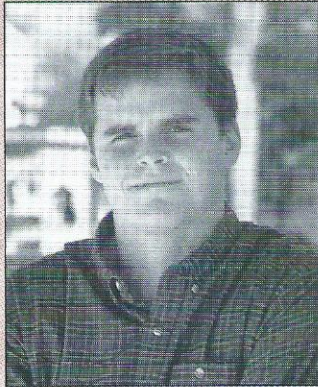




S T U D E N T
P R O F I L E S



From the
Playing Field
to the
Courtroom:
Success
Guaranteed
for Talley

by Roban Johnson

From the time he was a little boy, third-year law student Gregory Talley knew he wanted to be two things — a Georgia Bulldog and an attorney. Since that time he has accomplished one of those goals and is well on his way to fulfilling the other.

Talley grew up in Valdosta, a city well-known for the enthusiasm generated each year by its winning high school football team, the Valdosta Wildcats. Talley was starting quarterback at Valdosta and went on to earn an athletic scholarship to play at the University of Georgia.

Although he was redshirted as a freshman, by his sophomore year he was on the playing field — a place he stayed through four football seasons. In 1991 he was named team captain.

“Greg is the type guy who gets the maximum out of everything he does,” said Ray Goff, head football coach at the University of Georgia. “If you give him a task to do and walk away, you never have to worry about it getting done.”

His involvement as a Georgia Bulldog extended beyond the gridiron. In addition to playing varsity football, Talley volunteered with the Georgia Special Olympics. He received the Student-Athlete Award in 1989-90, was a member of the Gridiron Secret Society, and was named to the Dean’s List and the Academic All-Southeastern Conference Team.

After graduating in the fall of 1991 with a bachelor of arts degree in speech communications, Talley worked as a pharmaceutical sales representative for Glaxo Pharmaceuticals. His tenure lasted only two months, the time it took for him to be accepted into Mercer’s Walter F. George School of Law.

Talley attributes his desire to be an attorney to his father, George Talley, who practices in the Valdosta firm of Tillman, McTier, Coleman, Talley, Newbern and Kurrie.

“When you’re a little boy you always look up to

your dad and want to be like him. I formed that belief when I was young and it carried over. I liked what he did and always respected what he did, and here I am today,” Talley said.

The young Talley is indeed following in his father’s footsteps, earning the respect of his peers and faculty at Mercer.

Professor Mike Sabbath describes him as an all-around fine person. “Greg is very popular and is a well-liked young man. He’s always surrounded by friends. As a student, he’s down-to-earth and hardworking, a good writer and very articulate in class.”

The hard work has paid off for Talley. He has been in the top 10 percent of his class and was on the Dean’s List in 1992-93. He also received the Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in Legal Writing.

“Mercer places a lot of emphasis on writing. It has really helped me and I think it will be very valuable when I begin practicing,” Talley said. He’s already had one article published in the *Mercer Law Review*, “Pardue v. Ruiz: An Extension of Tort Immunity,” and another article is scheduled to be published in a later issue.

So who will reap the benefits of his counsel once he graduates from Mercer and passes the bar exam? “When you have good grades and leadership ability like Greg does, it makes you a very attractive prospect,” said Sabbath. “I believe Greg could probably go anywhere he wants.”

For Talley, that means back home to Valdosta, where he will join his father’s firm. He plans to begin work soon after graduation and will arrive home with his wife, Laura, and their new daughter, Kate McClain, who was born Jan. 12.

“Mercer is very, very proud of Greg. We have high expectations of him and are confident that he won’t let us down,” Sabbath said.