



INSIDE MUS

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Photo by Mr. Charles Wayne Harrell

(front row, from left) Nicholas Rouse, Robert Duffley, and Joseph Levy (second row, from left) Brandon Parrish, Victoria Busse, Mustafa Motiwala, Erin Fischer, Ted Fockler, Madeline Faber, Robert Threlkeld, Corinne Mestemacher, and Wesley Shannon (third row, from left) Turner Morehead, Fadi Assaf, and Mathew Jehl

Duffley in the Director's Seat

Senior **Robert Duffley** had an important choice to make, and it had nothing to do with which college to attend next fall. Instead, he had to choose which play would mark his directorial debut.

On Thursday, February 5, James Thurber's *A Thurber Carnival* premiered in Hyde Chapel and, under Duffley's direction, entertained audiences for three nights.

"This particular play is hilarious and a throw-back to the playwrights of years past, but it is still appropriate for modern audiences," Duffley said. "There is a lot of music, and the sets are all different, so I could have looked at something that would be easier to do, but I liked it so much that it is worth the difficulty to see it come to life on stage."

One student in the theater program each year is chosen to direct a play, and this was Duffley's turn. According to Mr. Tim Greer, theater director, and Mr. Andy Saunders, the play's production designer, choosing a student director offers another educational outlet for students to learn through experience and to work directly with their peers. Saunders said Duffley was chosen because of his experience with MUS Theater since the seventh grade, when he appeared in *Antigone*, and

because his peers respect him.

"The old adage 'experience is the best teacher' provides the rationale for student-directed productions," Saunders said. "It isn't any different from student government or student-run publications. Many of the programs at MUS are designed to make this possible."

Greer explained that student-directed plays also allow students to go a step further into the production process because the student director is responsible for play selection, public relations, and rehearsals.

Greer said he believes Duffley and others chosen as directors aren't the only ones who benefit from the productions; the actors grow from the experience as well.

"The student actors develop a different perspective in many ways by working for a peer, as opposed to working for a teacher," Greer said.

The student-directed play resulted in a positive experience for senior **Mustafa Motiwala**, who said that Duffley was organized and efficient as well as someone to whom he could relate.

"Robert was an incredibly creative and helpful director," Motiwala said. "He had a distinct vision of what he wanted the show to be, but he still allowed the cast to freely experiment with characters and roles."

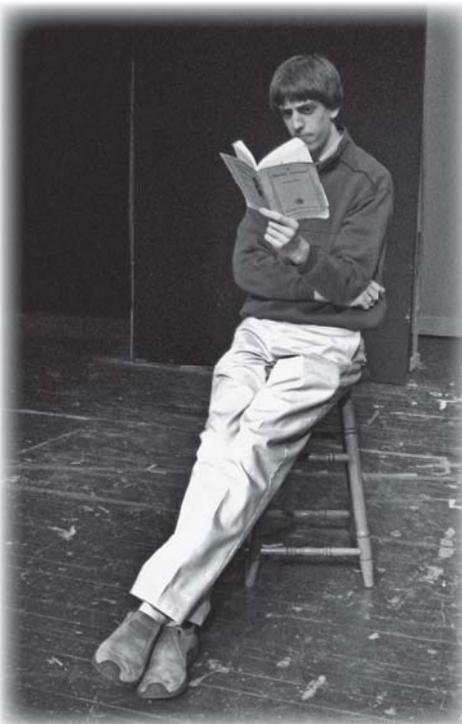


Photo by Mr. Andy Saunders

Robert Duffley reviews his script before play practice.

continued on page 3

STRAIGHT FROM THE TOP

Study is hard work.

That's the title of a book by Mr. William H. Armstrong I keep on my office shelf. The book is about study skills, and the words are fitting for life at Memphis University School. Our graduates, whether in the class of 1958 or 2008, have had the opportunity to learn its truth over and over during their educational journeys here. And, as a result of those journeys, they reap the rewards of that hard work – the rewards of knowing how to study, how to analyze, how to apply their understanding, how to ask questions, how to think, and how to learn.

Learning to work hard is one of the most important outcomes of education. All of us realize that our current and future students will have to answer questions and use skills and technology we don't even know about now. What better preparation for that future than to know how to study and how to work hard to gain understanding?

Armstrong wrote that “the basic skills of study cannot be taught. They can only be made available and demonstrated.” But, fortunately, they can be learned, and here at MUS, students have endless opportunities to learn and to develop them.

Study also involves accepting responsibility. This is



another important aspect of being an MUS Owl. As our Community Creed reads, “An MUS student takes responsibility for his actions and accepts their consequences.” Doing what you say you will do – whether turning your homework in on time or being prepared for a test – is a study skill we teach daily at MUS. And the learning is not confined to the classroom. Being a good team member, cast member, civic service participant, or publication staffer all involve

holding oneself accountable. And once again, what better preparation for the future than learning how to lead, follow, and collaborate, all of which involve accepting responsibility?

My experience at MUS has shown that students who work the hardest are often the ones who have the best experience here. They rise to the challenge, they push themselves, and they develop confidence in their abilities. They don't always succeed, but they learn to pick themselves up after setbacks and to try again – one more skill for the future.

So, study is hard work. I am thankful for that. If it were easy, the lessons would be much less meaningful. I am proud of this great school where the hard work of study is valued and there is a realization that the lessons learned here will have an effect on our graduates all their lives.

Inside MUS Table of Contents

Owl News

- 3 Academic All-Stars
- 4 The Cum Laude Society Inductees
- 5 Student Tutors
- 6 Chess Champions
- 7 New Eagle Scouts
- 8 National Merit Finalists
- 9 Mock Trial
- 10 Science Olympiad Medal Winners

U News

- 11 Varsity Basketball
- 12 Varsity Wrestling
- 13 Athletic Staff Updates
- 14 Alexander Kaltenborn
- 15 Varsity Swim Team
- 17 Lower School Sports

Campus News

- 19 Wish Bowl
- 18 Saving Money on Campus
- 20 Faculty-Senior Basketball Game
- 21 Connecting Through Chemistry
- 22 Hao's Hoo
- 23 Mentoring Musings
- 24 Physics Meets Philosophy

25 Hyde Highlights

- 26 Talent Show
- 27 Rogers Leadership Forum
- 28 Caught on Camera
- 29 College Corner

Insights

- 30 Parent Speaker Series Update
- 31 Summer Enrichment

A *Thurber Carnival* is comprised of several of Thurber's short stories adapted for the stage.

"James Thurber's wit is timeless," said senior **Wesley Shannon**, one of the cast members, "There were numerous times I had trouble keeping a straight face on stage, especially since I was acting with such close friends."

Along with Motiwala and Shannon, the cast list included seniors **Brandon Parrish** and **Robert Threlkeld** and junior **Ted Fockler**. Duffley also cast female actors from several Memphis-area high schools, including junior Corinne Mestemacher from Hutchison School, senior Erin Fischer from St. Mary's Episcopal School, sophomore Madeline Faber from Ridgeway High School, and junior Victoria Busse from White Station High School.

"From the beginning, I had a pretty good idea of who I wanted to cast," explained Duffley, who cast the play early last fall. "Since I was the one in charge for the first time, I needed to be comfortable with the people I had to direct. As it turns out, I have been in shows with every single person in the cast."

The crews, led by stage manager and senior **Mathew Jehl**, consisted of senior **Rahul Kumar**, sophomore **Howard Choi**, and freshman **Morgan Hunt** on set crew; seniors **Fadi Assaf** and **Turner Morehead** on running crew; sophomore **Joseph Levy** on lights; and freshman **Nicholas Rouse** on sound. The Theater Production class, including seniors **Jared Davis**, **Lee Moodley**, **Joel Moss**, **Jason Weatherly**, and **Tucker Witte** and juniors **Whit Carr**, **Hunt Hensley**, **Buck Morris**, and **Harrison Martin**, also provided assistance.

Duffley returned to acting for the MUS spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by Greer, which ran April 17-20.

"I now have a renewed and intensified respect for what the professional directors do, and the enormity of their workload," Duffley said.



Wade Laycook, Robert Duffley, and Forrest Baty

The Owl's Hoot Wins Six Awards

The students who write the school news at MUS made some news of their own when the staff of *The Owl's Hoot* recently won six awards from the Tennessee High School Press Association.

Senior **Robert Duffley**, *The Owl's Hoot* editor in chief, came in first among 83 entries in the Best News Story category for his article titled "MUS Senior Contracts Rare Blood Disorder." The article chronicled fellow senior **Kimbrough Taylor's** struggle with Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). Duffley also received two honorable mention awards for Best Inside Page Design.

Sophomore **Forrest Baty's** article, "Undefeated Owls Capture State Title," beat 74 other entries to win Best Sports Story, and junior **Wade Laycook** took second place in the Best Review category with his movie review titled "Quantum of Disappointment."

The Owl's Hoot, a monthly newspaper, won in the Best Overall Newspaper category and received a "superior" rating, the second highest of four possible ratings and one tier higher than the publication received last year.



Evan Mah



Jim Moore

Mah and Moore Named All-Stars

Seniors **Evan Mah** and **Jim Moore** are the seventh and eighth MUS students recognized as First Tennessee Academic All-Stars by *The Commercial Appeal* this school year.

Both students are weekly winners in the history and social studies category. As this year's chairman of the History Club, Mah, who won in January, organized a trip to the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AR, and, as the editor of the yearbook, he chronicled the school year. Moore, the recipient of the Outstanding Student of American History Award, consistently demonstrated a strong understanding of historical forces and processes. His win was announced March 29.

In addition to recognition in *The Commercial Appeal*, each All-Star also receives a \$250 First Tennessee savings account and an invitation to attend the All-Star Awards luncheon on May 1. During the luncheon, finalists will be announced in ten academic disciplines, and the winners will receive an additional \$500 in their savings accounts.

The Cream of the Crop



(front row, from left) Amro Amro, Jim Moore, Andrew Maroda, Mathew Jehl, and Evan Mah (back row, from left) Johnny Carson, Tho Nguyen, Harrison Rea, and Taylor Reed

There is a group of Memphis University School students whose accomplishments qualify them for the highest academic honor a high school student can receive: membership into the Cum Laude Society.

The Cum Laude Society is an international honors organization that recognizes academic excellence and is modeled after Phi Beta Kappa, the most prestigious college honor society in the United States.

The new members are seniors **Amro Amro, Johnny Carson, Mathew Jehl, Evan Mah, Andrew Maroda, Jim Moore, Tho Nguyen, Harrison Rea, and Taylor Reed** and juniors **Andrew Chinn, Josh Feler, Cliff Guyton, Chase Harriman, John Michael Hoyle, Wade Laycook, Evans McCaul, Wilson Orr, Brad Ringel, Reid Sanders, and Will Taylor**. On February 27, they joined previously inducted seniors **Will Benton, Robert Duffley, Michael Edwards, Evan Elmore, Lowell Hays, Rahul Kumar, Matthew Shelton, Will Stokes, Robert Vestal, and Walt Wepfer** to make up the MUS chapter of the Cum Laude Society.

"To their innate intellectual ability, these men added commitment, perseverance, and a deliberate pursuit of academic excellence," said Headmaster Ellis Haguewood, who also serves as chapter president. "I commend them."

Mr. Jim Russell, English Department chair, is chapter secretary. He said the quality of students inducted each year into the society remains outstanding because the academic requirements, which will help the members in the future, are rigorous and challenging.

"Alumni members of the Cum Laude Society have often excelled as college students and as adults, many having achieved distinction in their chosen professions," Russell said. "MUS believes that such recognition for scholarship itself brings balance among other school awards for character, service, leadership, athletics, and extracurricular achievements."

MUS is one of only 14 secondary schools in Tennessee to have a Cum Laude Society chapter. The qualifications for membership are different for seniors and juniors. Seniors must have a weighted GPA within the top 20 percent of their class over seven semesters of academic work, and juniors must exhibit a weighted GPA within the top 10 percent of their class over five semesters. All students, regardless of class year, must be an MUS student for at least three semesters before induction.



(front row, from left) Brad Ringel, Wade Laycook, Wilson Orr, Reid Sanders, and Cliff Guyton (back row, from left) Evans McCaul, Will Taylor, Chase Harriman, and John Michael Hoyle

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: PASSING IT ON

Each week, a select group of boys and girls board a bus and prepare for a long ride from Fayette County. They may be rowdy on the trip, but when they arrive at their destination, Germantown Baptist Church, they know they will work hard. Yet, they won't work alone.

These students will get help with homework and basic skills from a group of volunteers, which includes three MUS students.

Sophomores **Clint Montgomery**, **Kevin Szymkowicz**, and **Richard Twardzik**

tutor in the Germantown Baptist Church's Rossville Tutoring Program. Each Tuesday during the school year, they work for an hour and a half with their students on everything from math, reading, and writing skills to helping them with their homework. The 17-year-old program helps about 50 students from kindergarten through the 12th grade, but more need help, and there is a long waiting list for new students.

Montgomery, Szymkowicz, and Twardzik started working with the Rossville Tutoring Program at different times, but their involvement can be traced to Szymkowicz's mother, Mrs. Dorrie Szymkowicz, who had been volunteering with the program for months. She knew her son wanted to spend more time on community service, so she encouraged him to work with her. Szymkowicz, who joined his mother during his freshman year, currently works with two boys, a seventh-grader and an eighth-grader. He said he is excited to be a part of the improvements that both boys have shown.

"From a tutor's perspective, I believe we do all we can to impact the students' lives in a positive way and to help them in any way possible," Szymkowicz said. "From what we've been seeing, their grades are improving, and we're happy for that.

Every week the students show progress."

Szymkowicz and his mother recruited another mother-son pair to volunteer with them. Twardzik and his mother, Mrs. Claudia Twardzik, started working with the program in 2008, and Mrs. Twardzik said she is amazed with the progress she's seen with her student's reading skills.

Twardzik said he tutors because it is a way to make a difference, and he wants to help in any way he can. He currently works with two fifth-graders each week.

"The students involved in the program are there because they want to do better in school," Twardzik, said. "The leaders of the tutoring program make it clear that the students who get into the program need to attend regularly. Most students come every week."

Montgomery started volunteering as a tutor in the fall of 2008, after learning

about Rossville from Twardzik. He works with an eighth-grader and also teaches a writing class to high school students.

"I try to teach the same way my MUS teachers have taught me," he said. "I enjoy that I can take some of the education that I have received at MUS to kids who don't have the same opportunities as I do."

Mrs. Lucy Doane, the program's middle school director and mother of Ben Doane '95, said most of the other volunteers are adults, but, since Montgomery, Szymkowicz, and Twardzik are students themselves, they relate well to the program's students.

"These three young men have been wonderful examples of leadership, dedication, and caring in the lives of the students they tutor," Doane said. "The students love them, and we are thrilled to have them with us."

Anyone interested in becoming a tutor for the Rossville Tutoring Program can contact Doane at (901) 340-6653.

Photo by Mrs. Lucy Doane



Kevin Szymkowicz, Richard Twardzik, and Clint Montgomery stand with four of the students they tutor at Germantown Baptist Church.

Check and Mate

Eighth-grader **Nathan Vogt** plays his role much like a general, moving his soldiers with military precision to trap his opponent's king. He knows he has only one more move before he can declare "checkmate," the word that means victory. He waits patiently, sees his opportunity, and takes it. With a respectful grin, he shakes his opponent's hand and walks away a champion.

Vogt is the new Memphis City Chess Champion for the Scholastic Chess Junior High School Division. Vogt, the current top-rated junior high player in Tennessee, went undefeated in all six rounds of the competition.

"I was happy to win the city championship, but the reason I competed in this year's city championship was not for my own individual status," Vogt said. "Instead, it was to help with my teammates and try to capture the championship."

His team came in second and included five other MUS students who played well in the tournament and received honorable mention. Freshman **Ashish Nathani** placed ninth, and freshman **Corey Clay**, eighth-grader **Amit Shah**, and seventh-graders **William Lamb** and **Andy Sorenson** won three of their six rounds, tying for tenth through 19th place.

Vogt was in kindergarten when his father, Mr. Brian Vogt, taught him to play chess. He started competing in the first grade and, since then, has won the City Championship five times and the Grade-Level Championship six times. He has won the Tennessee State Scholastic Championship three times, and in 2007, he placed fifth at the National Elementary Championships.

"I like the strategy and problem-solving aspects of the game," Vogt said. "Chess teaches me how to concentrate."

He currently coaches several elementary students, but he is also focused on achieving his personal goal of a rating of 2100, which would categorize him

as an expert-level player. His plan is to achieve that rating by the time he graduates from MUS.

The tournament was held Saturday, January 31, in the MUS Campus Center Dining Hall and was sponsored by the Memphis Scholastic Chess Club.



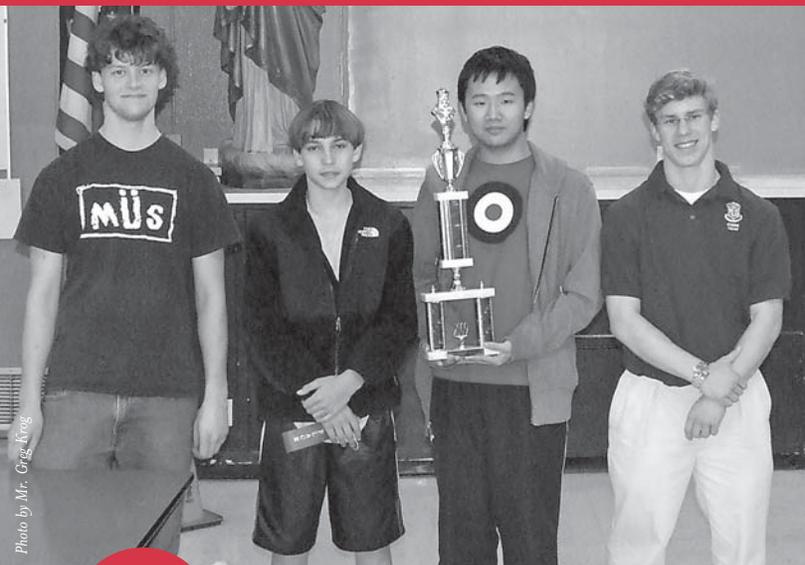
Memphis City Chess Champion Nathan Vogt

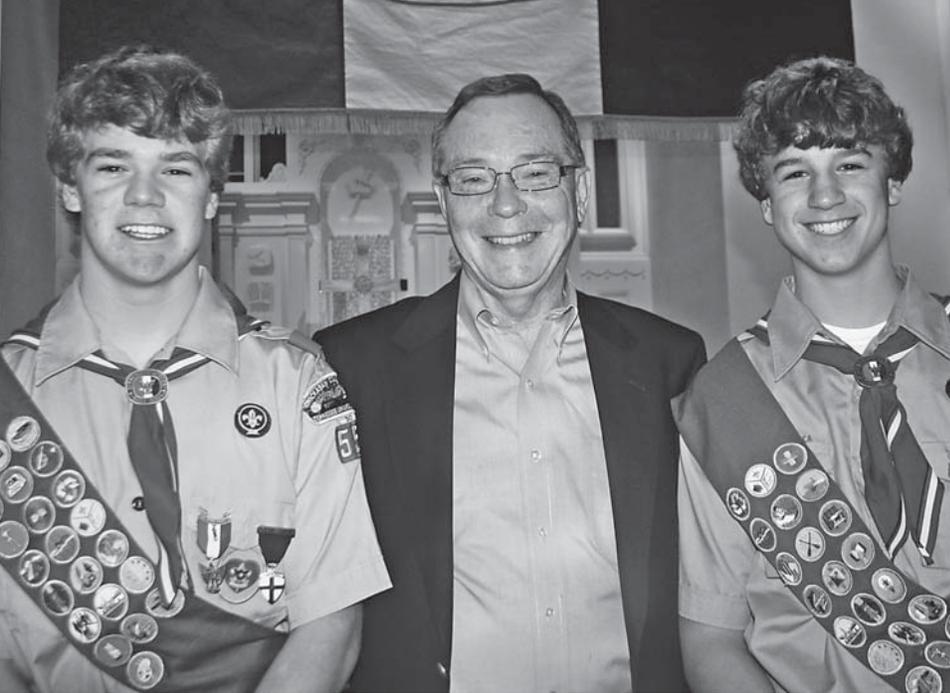


Andy Sorenson competes in the Memphis City Chess Championships.

The Upper School chess team, consisting of junior Parker Wilson, eighth-grader Nathan Vogt, senior Evan Mah, and sophomore Forrest Baty, won second place in their division in the regional qualifying chess tournament on March 7. Both the Lower School and the Upper School chess teams advanced to the state competition.

Coach Evan Mah, eighth-grader Amit Shah, and freshmen Corey Clay and Ashish Nathani, along with fellow Lower School chess team members freshman Shiven Samant and seventh-graders William Lamb and Andy Sorenson (not pictured), came in second place in the Regional Qualifying Chess Tournament on March 7.





John Edwards, Mr. Ellis Haguewood, and Joe Morrison at the Eagle Scout ceremony

Owls and Eagles

What do Neil Armstrong, Steven Spielberg, and former President Gerald Ford have in common with MUS sophomore **John Edwards** and freshman **Joe Morrison**? They all earned the Eagle Scout rank, the highest achievement in Scouting.

On January 4, both Edwards and Morrison had their Eagle ceremony at Second Presbyterian Church, where they spoke about each of the 12 Scouting laws and what Scouting has meant to them.

"I felt honored at the ceremony," Morrison said. "A lot of my friends and family were there, so I really enjoyed showing them what I accomplished."

Edwards agreed and added he was happy that his grandfather, Mr. John Adamson, who is also an Eagle Scout, attended the ceremony.

"It was a proud moment for both me and for my family," he said.

According to the Boy Scouts of America's National Council, only 5 percent of Scouts achieve the Eagle Scout rank. Edwards and Morrison had to fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, as well as pass several tests. They also had to earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which were required, including First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, and Family Life. In addition, they had to choose between Emergency Preparedness and Lifesaving and Cycling, Hiking, or Swimming. Edwards earned his rank last fall on November 5, and Morrison earned his on December 11.

"While getting these badges, I learned how to budget time, money, and resources, which will be useful in today's economy," Edwards said. "I also toured the local FBI office, interviewed a Shelby County commissioner, and created a fire escape plan for our home."

Each badge holds special meaning to the Scout who earns it. Even though it is the individual Scout who is tested, learning the skills is a communal effort involving Scoutmasters, fellow Troop 55 members, friends, and relatives. That was never more apparent for Morrison than when he earned his favorite badge.

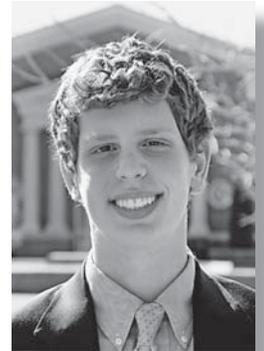
"My Aviation badge is the most meaningful to me because my grandfather taught it to me directly," Morrison said. "I got to go in a plane and learn how to fly."

It was Morrison's grandfather, fellow Eagle Scout Mr. Tom Garrott, who inspired him to join Scouts when several of Morrison's friends decided to join.

"My grandfather always talked about how glad he was that he did Scouts, so I became one myself," Morrison recalled. "He is always talking about how great it is to be an Eagle Scout, so I know that he is proud of me for accomplishing my goal."

MUS Prepares Student for International Leadership Role

Junior **Evan Kline** stood at the podium, surveyed the crowd, and was amazed at the number of faces he saw. He also was surprised that he wasn't nervous. In fact, he felt confident as he took a deep breath and started his speech.



Evan Kline

The speech Kline gave was to more than 400 fellow B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) members at the 2009 convention in Long Branch, NJ, in February. It came at the end of his campaign for BBYO international vice president. Kline ran a tough race against opponents from Ontario, Canada; Charlotte, NC; Milwaukee, WI; and Washington, DC, and he came out the winner.

"I felt both honored and humbled when I won," Kline said. "In my speech, I presented my ideas and my goals, and the membership liked what they heard. I'm excited and looking forward to starting my term and bringing those ideas into action."

BBYO is a pluralistic, leadership-oriented Jewish youth movement for teenagers. Kline got involved with BBYO when he was a freshman because of the opportunity for teens to learn leadership skills and perform community service.

As the international vice president, Kline will work with regional vice presidents across the United States and Canada to help them plan educational, social action, community service, and athletic programs and training them so they can help teens in their regions and chapters. In addition, he is also in charge of planning the 2010 International Convention, which will be held next February in Dallas.

"MUS has prepared me for this leadership role by emphasizing those principles," Kline said. "Without the experiences I've had here, I don't know if I would have accomplished as much as I have in BBYO."

Kline isn't the only MUS student who holds a leadership position with BBYO. Junior **Josh Feler** is the regional secretary/treasurer, freshman **Nathan Feler** is a chapter community service/Judaic vice president, sophomore **Noah Hanover** is a chapter membership vice president, and freshman **Jake Greenstein**, sophomore **Joey Notowich**, and junior **Ryan Saharovich** are all chapter vice presidents. About 30 other MUS students are members of BBYO.



NINE STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

The PSAT/NMSQT may seem like an obscure acronym, but to seniors throughout the country, it represents the possibility of thousands of dollars in college scholarships.

The acronym stands for the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, the test that determines National Merit Scholarship Finalists. This year, nine MUS students are among those who have qualified for this national honor. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has recognized

MUS seniors **Johnny Carson, Robert Duffley, Michael Edwards, Lowell Hays, Mathew Jehl, Harrison Rea, John Riggins, Matthew Shelton, and Robert Vestal** as 2009 National Merit Finalists.

These MUS students were among the more than 1.5 million juniors in 21,000 high schools across the country who took the test in 2007.

“Because Memphis University School is dedicated to academic excellence and because these test scores are widely regarded as a measure of academic prowess, these students have brought honor to MUS as well as to themselves,” Headmaster Ellis Haguewood said.

The semifinalists, including 12 MUS students, were announced last September and then narrowed to 15,000 finalists. According to the National Merit Corporation, to become a

finalist, these students demonstrated outstanding academic accomplishments, were endorsed and recommended by the Upper School principal, and earned SAT scores that confirmed the students’ earlier performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. They were judged on their academic record, the school’s curriculum, two sets of test scores, written recommendations, extracurricular activities, and a written essay. From there, only 8,200 finalists are awarded merit scholarships.

“I am genuinely proud of what these students have accomplished,” Headmaster Haguewood said.



(front row, from left) Lowell Hays, Matthew Shelton, Harrison Rea, and Mathew Jehl (back row, from left) Robert Duffley, Michael Edwards, John Riggins, Robert Vestal, and Johnny Carson



Senior Robert Vestal earned second place in the English-Speaking Union’s Shakespeare Monologue Contest in February at Theatre Memphis. Vestal performed a soliloquy as Benedick from *Much Ado About Nothing* and Sonnet 14. Students from 14 schools participated in the competition.



(front row) William Hoehn, Srujan Jampana, Matthew Gayoso, William Lamb, (back row) Mr. Loyal Murphy, Scott Sanders, Garret Sullivan, and Jared Ashkenaz are some of the Lower School mathletes who competed Saturday, January 24, in the fifth annual Mathcounts School Competition. The Math Department hosted more than 100 students who came to campus for the competition. Hoehn was chosen to represent MUS in the final round of competition and was awarded the second-place medal.



Junior Will Taylor and sophomore Mason Soun won Book Awards from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) annual Latin translation contest. This year, students had 45 minutes to translate a passage from the Roman historian Livy. Participants were not allowed to know the passage beforehand or use a dictionary during the translation. Taylor and Soun are the only winners from the Mid-South region and two of four winners from Tennessee.

CASE CLOSED

Senior **Mustafa Motiwala** sat in the witness stand with tears in his eyes as he spoke about the trauma of having his hands duct-taped together by the defendant. His account of the crime, the lawyers, and the witnesses looked real, but nothing was as it seemed. Everyone, including Motiwala, was playing a part in this year's Mock Trial case.

Mock Trial is an annual state-wide competition sponsored by the Tennessee Bar Association. Competing high school teams were given a fictitious criminal case involving an aggravated robbery at a smoothie store. Students took on the roles of the prosecuting attorneys, the defense attorneys, and three witnesses for each side.

This year, 24 local teams, including the MUS Red Team and the Blue Team, spent two weeks arguing the case against each other with the goal of becoming one of the last two teams to compete for the city championship.



Nicholas Rouse and Clint Montgomery practice for Mock Trial competition in the Wunderlich Auditorium.

Although neither the Red nor the Blue Team advanced that far, the Blue Team earned the opportunity to argue in the consolation round on Wednesday, February 18.

Team captain and senior **Robert Duffley** led this year's Red Team and won the Best Attorney Award in every single round in which he competed. Along with Duffley, seniors **Mathew Jehl**, **Brandon Parrish**, and **Matthew Preston** were the Red Team's attorneys. Preston, a three-year Mock Trial veteran, participates because he says the lessons he learns from Mock Trial are invaluable and he relishes competing.

"In Mock Trial, a person has to be quick on his or her feet during the trial to outwit the competition," he said.

Outwitting the competition is also important for the witnesses, who have to interpret and play their roles differently in order to throw off the opposing team.

Both senior **Drew Cornaghie**, representing the Red Team, and sophomore **Anand Patel**, representing the Blue Team, played defense witness Lou Cobb, owner of the dry cleaning business next door to the smoothie shop. Both won the Best Witness Award for their performances, but each had a very different spin on the character.

"I played Lou Cobb as a very 'fresh-off-the-boat' Indian immigrant," said Patel, who wore suspenders and styled his hair to look like he had a comb-over.

Cornaghie took a completely different approach by interpreting Lou Cobb as an elderly, Southern gentleman. To further sell his character, Cornaghie donned large glasses, a gray cardigan, and a cap and walked with a cane.

"I saw him as older and soft-spoken, mainly because I can imitate that kind of voice and I thought it would be fun," Cornaghie explained.

Playing defendant Jessie Chandler was senior **Rhobb Hunter**, a first-time participant who said he was surprised by the amount of acting Mock Trial requires.

"The acting isn't just memorizing a script and reciting your part after another," Hunter explained. "After you memorize the affidavit, the answers are completely up to the actor who just has to stay within the boundaries of the affidavit. Mock Trial requires acting and quick thinking."

The defense witnesses were Cornaghie and senior **Wesley Shannon**, who took on the role of the exterminator who, unfortunately for his credibility, sees nothing except bugs.

The prosecution's witnesses testified that the defendant committed the crime. Witnesses included seniors **Rahul Kumar**, who played the alleged victim; **Jim Moore**,



Matthew Preston, Jim Moore, Fadi Assaf, Mathew Jehl, Wesley Shannon, Rhobb Hunter, Drew Cornaghie, Robert Duffley, and Rahul Kumar in the courtroom

who played the role of the sincere and believable, though a bit sloppy, investigating officer; and **Fadi Assaf**, who won the Best Witness Award for his portrayal of witness Amari Wilson. Assaf took on the persona of a Rastafarian, complete with a Jamaican accent.

Next year, Mock Trial will be in the hands of this year's Blue Team, which is predominantly freshmen and sophomores, most of whom were new to Mock Trial. The Blue Team made it to the final four in competition. The attorneys were junior **Nigel Isom**, sophomores **Clint Montgomery** and **Trip McLaren**, and freshmen **River Morris** and **Nicholas Rouse**.

Freshman **Morgan Hunt** had the unique challenge of playing two roles in competition and earned Best Witness Awards for both roles.

"For the prosecution, I played Amari Wilson, who claims he could see everything, despite not having his glasses on at the time of the robbery and having a burlap bag over his head," Hunt said. "For the defense, I was the defendant, who was 'framed' for aggravated robbery."

Along with Hunt, prosecution witnesses included Motiwala, who won a Best Witness Award, and the investigating officer, played by senior **Turner Morehead**. The defense witnesses were Patel and junior **Ian Turner**.

Montgomery, who is next year's team captain, said he believes Mock Trial gives students valuable skills that will be useful in the future.

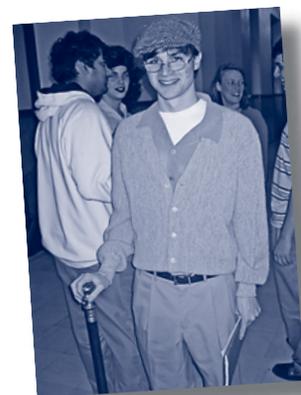
"Mock Trial augments your charisma and thinking skills, and also it helps a person understand how the legal system works," he said.

The two teams couldn't have gone as far as they did alone. Along with Mrs. Elizabeth Crosby, the Mock Trial faculty advisor, helping both teams maneuver through the legal system were three practicing attorneys who served as coaches. Mr. Jim Robinson '68, Mrs. Lynn Thompson, and Mr. Newton Anderson donated about 50 hours to help prepare the two teams.

Crosby said she is proud of everyone on the team and is looking forward to competing again next year.

"Everyone on the Red Team is a senior, and I'll miss them all next year," Crosby said. "However, because of their good examples of skill and the hard work they did for months teaching and helping the younger students develop, they are leaving the school with a strong team and tradition in place. I'm looking forward to next year with the fastest-improving team I've ever seen."

Photography courtesy of the yearbook staff



Drew Cornaghie dresses up as an elderly gentleman for his Mock Trial character.

The Art of the Matter

Seven MUS students recently experienced something most artists hope for but never achieve. They saw their art on display in a museum.

Senior **John Battle**; juniors **Joseph Amagliani**, **Spencer Fong**, **Sam Harris**, **Louis Jackson**, and **Eli Wilder**; and eighth-grader **Marshall Sharp** had their art displayed at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art from January 24 to February 8. The exhibit was part of the Mid-South Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, an annual juried student art exhibition presented by the Brooks Museum League and the Brooks Museum to honor exemplary student art.

Fong, whose submission was one of the few self-portraits, said he'll never forget his first look at his art hanging in the Brooks.

"When I saw my art on display, it really surprised me," he said. "I did not know that I could create something as interesting as I did."

At the awards ceremony on January 31, Battle and Amagliani received Gold Keys in printmaking; Fong, Harris, Wilder, and Jackson received Silver Keys in printmaking; Sharp won a Silver Key in sculpture, and senior **Walt Wepfer** received two honorable mentions.

The students who won in printmaking said they realized their work stood out among hundreds of other submissions on display because theirs were the only prints. Battle said he thinks this is one reason why MUS should continue to teach printmaking to art students.

"It's important that we learn a large range of art styles, and printmaking is different from any other style," Battle said. "At the museum, people would ask us about it as if it were something they had never seen."

Mr. Grant Burke, an art instructor, teaches printmaking at MUS and submitted the students' work to the competition.

"To have eight works of art chosen out of the class is really rewarding," Burke said. "I wish we could have submitted more. The seven guys who had their art displayed at the Brooks definitely deserved the recognition. They have really represented MUS well, both through their work and through their character."

Regional Science Olympiad Medal Winners

Gold Medal Winners

Amphibians and Reptiles: Seamus Fitzhenry and Elliot Slovis

Bio-Process Lab: Nicholas Rouse and Mark Sorensen

Dynamic Planet: Srujan Jampana and Andrew Renshaw

Road Scholars: Andrew Renshaw and Tejvir Vaghela

Scrambler: Francis Carlota and Ben Taylor

Silver Medal Winners

Anatomy: Thornton Brooksbank and Andy Sorensen

Crave the Wave: Drew Hutson and Garret Sullivan

Dynamic Planet: Bennett Mercer and Amit Shah

Ecology: Matthew Gayoso and William Lamb

Elevated Bridge: Jake Eissler

Environmental Chemistry: Connor Goodwin and Will Morrison

Physical Science Lab: Taylor Martin

Reach for Stars: Aditya Shah

Science of Crime Busters: Francis Carlota and William Lamb

Trajectory: Amit Shah and Ben Taylor

Wright Stuff: Michael Green and Taylor Martin

Write It, Do It: Connor Goodwin and Aditya Shah

Bronze Medal Winners

Amphibians and Reptiles: Michael Green and Trey O'Bannon

Anatomy: Bennett Mercer and Trey O'Bannon

Bio-Process Lab: Michael Green and Morgan Hunt

Crave the Wave: Shaan Jiles and Edward Simpson

Environmental Chemistry: Shaan Jiles and Zain Virk

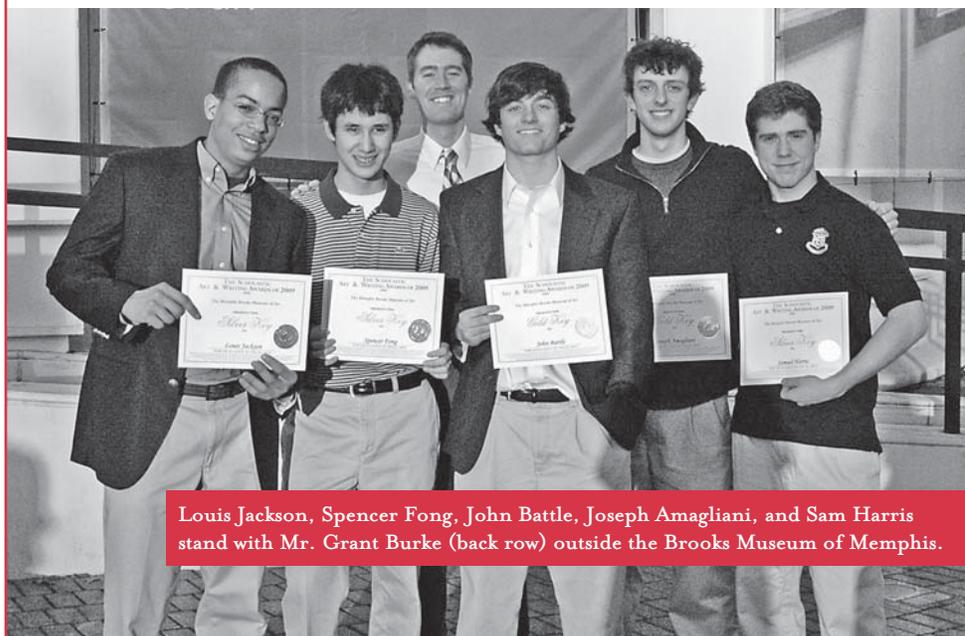
Pentathlon: Nicholas Rouse and Mark Sorensen

Road Scholar: Taylor Martin and Garret Sullivan

Robotics: Srujan Jampana

Scrambler: Jake Eissler

Write It, Do It: Seamus Fitzhenry and Elliot Slovis



Louis Jackson, Spencer Fong, John Battle, Joseph Amagliani, and Sam Harris stand with Mr. Grant Burke (back row) outside the Brooks Museum of Memphis.



Photo by Mr. Jerry Gallick
Joseph Amagliani shoots the ball as Whit Thornton guards.

Junior **Joseph Amagliani** stood on the free throw line and knew the fate of the varsity basketball team rested with him. If he made both shots, it would force the game into overtime and give the Owls a chance to play in the sub-state tournament. He pushed those thoughts away and sunk his first shot. With one to go, Amagliani looked unfazed by the pressure. He shot the ball and heard the gentle swoosh as the ball passed through the net.

Riding the momentum, MUS cruised to take the win, 64-55, end the CBHS season, and advance to the sub-state round.

"I knew my teammates were counting on me to make the shots,"

Amagliani said. "At that point, our season was on the line, so I just really wanted to concentrate and put them in for my team. Following the shots, we had built up so much momentum that we had some extra energy in overtime that got us the win."

The 2008-09 varsity basketball team completed its season in late February as the players finished third in the regional tournament and advanced to the sub-state round of the Division II-AA playoffs in Nashville. Although the season ended when the Owls fell to eventual state-champion Ensworth, MUS had a solid year, finishing 17-14 overall.

The team was led by six seniors. **Will Benton, Jordan Brown, Robert Counce, Dylan Cunningham, Virgil Deanes,** and **Taylor Reed** led the team in most statistical categories and provided leadership throughout the season. Senior managers **Coleman Kimbrough** and **Mathew Jehl** were invaluable this season with their service and dedication.

Underclassmen also played a significant role on this year's team. Juniors **Stephond Allmond, Amagliani, Barry Brunetti, John Michael Hoyle,** and **Mitchell Thompson,** and sophomores **Whit Thornton** and **Ivan Denson** contributed throughout the year, and freshmen managers **Corey Clay** and **Jack Stukenborg** also provided good support.

The Owls started off the season with two impressive victories, defeating SBEC and Catholic by an average of 43 points per game. Their first loss came in the first game of the Turkey Shootout, a two-game competition that pits two Mississippi schools against MUS and CBHS. A very good Madison-Ridgeland squad defeated MUS Friday evening, but the Owls rebounded the next day to handle Hernando and to improve to 3-1.

In their next stretch, MUS would struggle as their roster was still adjusting with several key players returning after football season. The Owls lost four of the next six games, but victories over Pope John Paul II and Bolton showed MUS had the potential to excel.

At 7-7 heading into 2009, MUS hoped to build momentum before beginning the region season. Taking on Arlington on January 2, the Owls' final game before the region schedule started, MUS played well to defeat the Tigers, 52-48.

Varsity Basketball Team Shoots and Scores

The squad opened the region schedule against St. Benedict and began well, beating the Eagles handily by 16 points to improve to 9-7. Unfortunately, the Owls would drop their next three region games. Despite those losses, MUS picked up two non-region wins as they defeated Tipton-Rosemark and the FCA Nighthawks.

MUS notched its second region win after the FCA victory as they defeated St. Benedict once again. The Owls built off that victory as they also easily handled St. George's. With the win, MUS improved to 13-10 and was primed for the toughest part of the schedule.

Despite losing two of their final three region games, the Owls were extremely competitive. Two close losses were sandwiched around the biggest win of the season, a 56-51 road triumph over defending state champion Briarcrest.

The Owls ended the regular season at 15-12, 3-5 in the region, and were the fourth-seeded team headed into the West Region Tournament. To advance, the Owls would need to finish in the top three of the tournament.

After an opening-round victory over St. Benedict, MUS advanced to take on top-seeded ECS. Despite a close game, the Owls eventually fell, 63-58, and had to win the

third-place game to continue their season. Their opponents would be very familiar: CBHS.

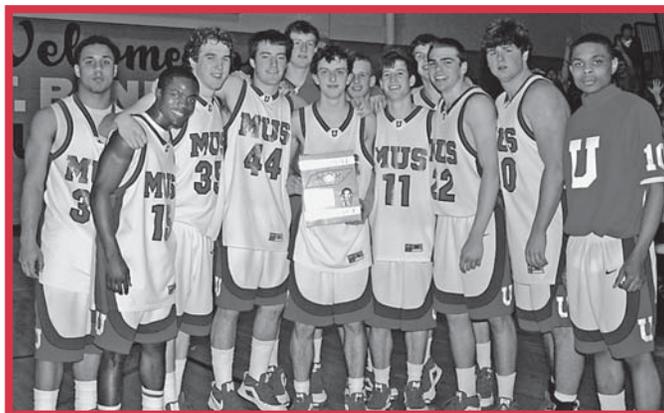
The Owls trailed much of the second half against the Purple Wave by as many as 11 points early in the fourth quarter. CBHS continued to lead throughout the quarter and actually held a seven-point advantage with more than 20 seconds remaining as the CBHS crowd chanted and celebrated. But following two Reed free throws and a Reed three-pointer, that lead was just two points with nine seconds remaining. After an MUS foul with just over seven seconds remaining, a CBHS player missed a free

throw, and the Owls took advantage. As Amagliani penetrated for a game-tying shot, he was tripped and fouled as the buzzer sounded, which gave Amagliani the opportunity to shoot the game-tying free throws.

Although Coach Jerry Peters, Coach Matt Bakke, and Coach Mark Counce said they will miss their eight seniors, they said they look forward to coaching the returning players.



Photo by Mr. Jerry Gallick
Taylor Reed jumps to dunk the ball as Jordan Brown runs forward.



Varsity basketball players Barry Brunetti, Stephond Allmond, Robert Counce, Will Benton, Whit Thornton, Joseph Amagliani, Mitchell Thompson, Jordan Brown, John Michael Hoyle, Taylor Reed, Dylan Cunningham, and Ivan Denson stand with their west region tournament plaque after the CBHS game.





VARSITY WRESTLING TAKES DOWN ITS COMPETITION

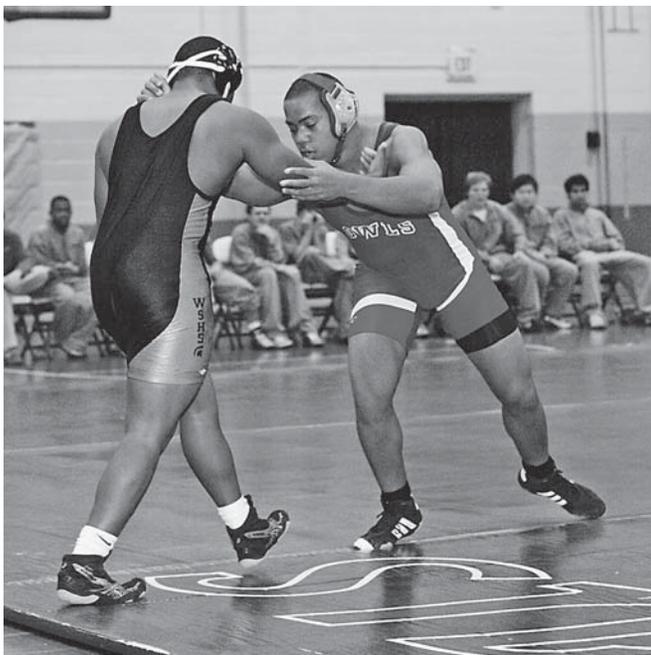


Photo by Mr. Jerry Galik

Jon Mitchell and his opponent in a clinch hold.

The varsity wrestling team took the competition to the mat and came out victorious with a record that led to an impressive post-season run at the state tournament in February.

The season, which ended with the Owls winning nine of their 12 matches, got off to a good start in late November as the team performed well in the Blackhorse Invitational held at Houston High School. When the dust settled, two Owls left with medals. Senior **William Alexander** finished in fourth place, and junior **Bo Hale** finished in sixth place.

The team then began its dual-meet season at home against Arlington and White Station, defeating the Tigers by a

score of 54-19 and the Spartans 48-33. Alexander and seniors **Barret Folk** and **Andrew Maroda**, sophomore **William Reid**, and freshmen **Carson House**, **Morgan Hunt**, and **Chris Morgan** all went undefeated for the evening.

In December, the team traveled to Huntsville, AL, and put forth a strong showing at the Buckhorn Tournament, finishing with a match record of 3-1. The team was able to win its pool, but lost a close match that could have gone either way to the host school.

The Owls competed against Collierville High School in January and pocketed some impressive victories. House finished third with a strong win in his consolation finals match. Freshman **Eli Goldstein** earned a fourth-place medal, while Maroda finished third when he pinned his opponent in the consolation finals. Alexander closed the night for the Owls with a second-period pin against his opponent from Houston High School to bring home the lone championship for the Owls.

After a successful trip to a tournament in Atlanta, the team headed to the TSSAA Division II state individual championships in Chattanooga, TN, where two of the Owls' 12 wrestlers finished in the top six of their respective weight classes. Folk finished in sixth place in the 135-pound division, and Alexander finished in third place in the 152-pound division. Three other wrestlers, Maroda and seniors **Kyle Brown** and **Jon Mitchell**, all won matches to contribute to the team's ninth-place finish.

Head Coach Shaun Gehres was proud of the team's progress over the course of the season.

"Despite the youth of the team, with five freshman starters, the team made great showings at all tournaments," Gehres said. "Their hard work and dedication led them throughout the season."

This year's captains received awards at the wrestling banquet. Folk received this year's Most Improved Wrestler Award, Maroda received the Spirit Award, and Alexander received the Most Valuable Wrestler Award.

The 2008-09 varsity team included Alexander, Brown, Folk, Goldstein, Hale, House, Maroda, Mitchell, Reid, seniors **Fadi Assaf** and **Jim Moore**, juniors **Klaus Garcia** and **Andrew Gardella**, and freshmen **River Morris**, **Jack Shawkey**, and **Markus Williams**. Team managers were juniors **James Arnold** and **Ryan Turner**.



Photo by Mr. Jerry Galik

Andrew Maroda shakes hands with his opponent before the match begins.

News From the Dunavant-Wellford Tennis Center



Mr. Dean Petty

When some people hear the name “Petty,” they may think of racing, but around the Dunavant-Wellford Tennis Center, the name will soon be synonymous with tennis. That’s because Mr. Dean Petty is the new head tennis professional.

“I am ecstatic about having Dean join us at the center,” said Mr. Phil Chamberlain, center director. “His professionalism, experience, and understanding of players make him an outstanding addition to the school.”

Petty, the 2005 United States Tennis Association National Champion in the 5.5 division, has extensive experience working with junior tennis players. He worked as the junior tennis director at Memphis Country Club where he coordinated their junior development programs and directed their junior tournaments.

Petty said he is excited about the opportunity to work with MUS and Hutchison students.

“I know the traditions and history behind the programs are amazing, and I feel blessed to be a part of such great schools,” Petty said.

GOLF COACH LOOKS TO DRIVE TEAM TOWARD CHAMPIONSHIP

The varsity golf team had an exciting 2008-09 season with eighth-grader **Zach Olsen** being named the new Tennessee State Golf Champion, the youngest in state history, and the team placing second in the state.

The excitement continues during the off-season as Mr. Cliff Frisby, father of senior **Drew Frisby**, has been named the new head coach of the varsity golf team. Frisby is already a familiar face, having served as acting coach for several matches throughout the season, including the state championships. He was also the volunteer assistant coach under former MUS Head Coach Greg King, who is the new director of the Mirimichi Golf Course in Millington, TN.

“I hope to bring continuity to the team by continuing with the groundwork laid by Coach King,” Frisby said. “I feel very confident with the returning players that we’re going to make a good run at the state championship.”

Frisby, a 30-year member of the Professional Golf Association (PGA), has been the director of the United States Junior Golf Tour since 2001. He currently works as a financial consultant for Hilliard Lyons, LLC.

Headmaster Ellis Haguewood announced King’s departure and Frisby’s appointment to the varsity golf team. “His vast knowledge of the game, his steady demeanor, and his commitment to excellence make him an ideal coach for our boys,” he said.

Director of Athletics Bobby Alston said he is confident the golf team will be in good hands with Frisby.

“MUS has a proud tradition in the sport of golf. Much of that success is due to the many fine coaches we have had over the years,” Alston said. “Recently, we have been very blessed with the outstanding leadership of Ronnie Wenzler and then Greg King. Cliff Frisby is cut from the same mold, a true gentleman and sportsman who has given much of his time and energy over the years to promote junior golf.”



Mr. Cliff Frisby



Photo by Mrs. Angela Counce

Senior Colin McDonald holds the St. Michael’s Cup he had just defended after defeating a Christian Brothers High School fencer during halftime of the MUS vs. CBHS basketball game on February 3. After scoring the first touch, the CBHS fencer scored three straight points. McDonald came from behind to tie his opponent 4 to 4 and then made his winning touch.



Alexander Kaltenborn swims the backstroke.

Photo by Mr. Jerry Gallik

What started in childhood as preparation for summer beach vacations has turned into record-breaking competitive swimming that will hopefully take MUS junior **Alexander Kaltenborn** to college on scholarship and eventually to the Olympics.

During the 2008-09 varsity swim season, Kaltenborn broke eight school records, including the 100-yard breaststroke, which he reset twice, the 500-yard freestyle, the 50-yard breaststroke, and three team relay events. In the 200-yard medley relay, he and his relay team of seniors **Johnny Dillon** and **Forrest Wortham** and junior **Peterson Wellford** broke the record twice.

When it comes to the school records, Kaltenborn is happy his name is in the record books. When he started swimming with the

him in classes as a way to prepare for vacations to the beach. He kept improving, and, ultimately, he and his five siblings started swimming competitively. With the help of a swim coach, he got even better.

Kaltenborn also competes and trains with a city team, Memphis Tiger Swimming; however, at MUS, Kaltenborn said it's all about the team.

"My teammates are good sportsmen, and we all support each other," he said. "I was pleasantly surprised by that because competitive swimming can have some intense rivalries between swimmers. There isn't any of that competitiveness between teammates at MUS."

Kaltenborn also said he hopes swimming will take him to college on a scholarship and then to the Olympics. Although he has broken school records, he said he knows he has to improve even more to accomplish both goals.

Kaltenborn Sets Sites on Records and the Olympics

team, he wanted to break as many records as he could, but he said it became more important to focus on the team after his sophomore year. That's why the records he broke with his relay teams mean the most to him.

"The 200-yard medley relay wasn't just me," Kaltenborn said, "Building on what Johnny and Forrest started, Peterson and I came on board, and, together, we all swam our best and gave it everything we had."

Kaltenborn, who has been swimming since he was 6 years old, said his parents enrolled

"There's a time standard that you have to make to qualify to swim in Olympic trials, which they hold before the Olympics," Kaltenborn said. "For me, in the 100-yard breaststroke, it is a time of 54 seconds. My goal at the end of my MUS swim season is 58 seconds, so, if I can cut four seconds in a year, it would be fantastic. I can prepare to swim in trials, do my best, and only hope, in a few more years, to be able to get up to the point that I can be top two in trials."

And while he's working toward his long-term goals, Kaltenborn may just break a few more records.

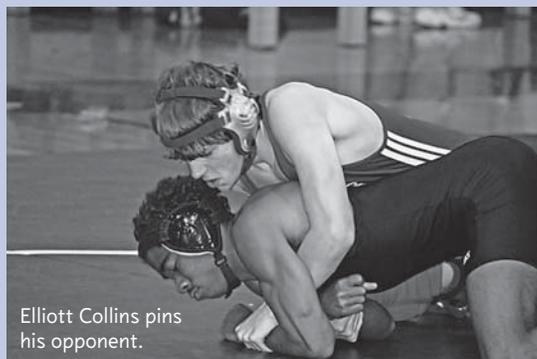
JV and Freshmen Wrestling Roundup

The junior varsity and freshmen wrestlers had a no-holds-barred approach to their season as they posted some impressive victories.

The junior varsity team was led this year by juniors **Klaus Garcia** and **Nigel Isom** and

sophomores **Avery Tosi**, **Billy Simco**, **Elliott Collins**, and **Chris Carter**. The team had a great showing at the junior varsity championships, bringing home some hardware after a long day of wrestling. The wrestlers worked hard all season and were rewarded for their efforts.

The freshmen wrestlers had an outstanding showing at this year's city championships. The Owls came home with three championships and three fourth-place finishes. The first-place winners were **Carson House**, **Eli Goldstein**, and **River**



Elliott Collins pins his opponent.

Morris. Both House and Morris pinned all of their opponents and Goldstein pinned his last two opponents. The fourth-place finishers were **Chris Morgan**, **Markus Williams**, and **Jack Shawkey**. This was a great showing for the guys and for the program.

Varsity Swim Team Awards

Most Improved: James Davies and Taylor Jordan

MUS Spirit Award: Tucker Witte

Most Valuable Swimmer Award: Johnny Dillon

Coach's Award: Forrest Wortham

The goal was set years ago, passed down from swimmer to swimmer, and finally realized: The varsity swim team is the new Shelby County Swim Champion.

This year, there were 36 swimmers on the varsity team, by far the largest in Shelby County. All of the team members committed to giving the season everything they had in hopes of beating the CBHS swim team for the first time in history. They did and they finished with a 79-8 regular season record.

There has been a swim team at MUS for the past ten years. The first year, the team



Varsity swim team seniors (front row, from left) Tucker Witte, Johnny Dillon, Forrest Wortham, (back row, from left) Robert Threlkeld, Robert Vestal, and Turner Morehead display their championship trophy.

placed fourth overall in Shelby County; the second year, they placed third. For the past seven years, the Aquatic Owls completed a second-place finish, always losing to CBHS, until January 31 this year.

During the season, six MUS

records were broken, several more than once. Of the three relay events, two records were

reset. The 200-yard medley

relay team of **Johnny**

Dillon, Alexander

Kaltenborn, Peterson

Wellford, and Forrest

Wortham broke the

record the first time at

the county championship

and then again at the

state championship meet,

finishing with a time of

1:43.95. The 400-yard

freestyle relay team of

Dillon, **Tucker Witte,**

Kaltenborn, and **Crews**

Wellford came within

3/100 of a second of

beating the record at the

county championship and finally

broke it at the state championship

with a new time

of 3:30.54.

Aquatic Owls Turn the Tide

by Mrs. Laurie Clark, Varsity Swim Coach



The varsity swim team

Two individual records were reset at the county championship as well. Crews Wellford broke the 200-yard freestyle record with a new time of 1:51.74, and Kaltenborn reset his own 500-yard freestyle record with a new time of 4:53.20.

Every MUS swimmer who entered to score at the county championship not only scored, but scored high. Individual scorers included seniors Dillon, **Robert**

Threlkeld, Robert Vestal, Witte, and Wortham; juniors **Daniel Clark,**

Chase Harriman, Kaltenborn,

Emmett Montgomery, John

Straton, and Peterson Wellford;

sophomores **Tony Bui, James**

Davies, Taylor Jordan, Andrew

Kennedy, Jonathan Kim, Ethan

Landau, Aaditya Malhotra,

and **Richard Twardzik,** and freshmen **Michael Green** and Crews Wellford. Relay

swimmers included senior **Turner Morehead;** juniors **Jake Abston, Steven Bell** and

Adam Crow; sophomores **Taylor Bates, Aditya Biswas, Michael Galligher,**

Conor Miller, Clint Montgomery, Mason Soun, Drew Thibado, and Grant

Vogelfanger; and

freshmen **Obaid Anwar,**

Charles Belina, and

Will Forsythe.

Earlier this season,

Kaltenborn set not only the

MUS record, but also the

Shelby County record in

the 50-yard breaststroke

with 28.80 (see article

on page 14).

Leading up to the

county championships, the

team competed in several

invitational meets. At the

Germantown Invitational

on December 13, the

Aquatic Owls competed

against nine other teams and won the first-place trophy. From the Excel Invitational on

January 10 in Nashville, the team brought home a second-place trophy. At the McCallie

Invitational on December 6, swimmers went up against 28 teams, including the Tennessee

and Georgia past state champions. The team placed sixth at this meet.

A record number of 14 swimmers represented MUS at the state meet at the

University of Tennessee in Knoxville. During this meet with its more than 100 schools and

almost 1,000 athletes, Kaltenborn continued his record-breaking season and set a new

MUS record in the 100-yard breaststroke, swimming 1:00.66.

The season was a great success in part because of the association between MUS

and the Ric Nuber YMCA, which allowed the team to have a home pool.



Photo by Mr. Jerry Gallik

John Straton



Photo by Mr. Jerry Gallik

Emmett Montgomery

It's a Freshmen Full-Court Press

The freshman basketball team took school spirit to a new level when they stepped up to play two games for the junior varsity team.

Because of the varsity football team's success this year, the junior varsity basketball team was temporarily left without enough players. Rising to the challenge of playing against older opponents, the freshmen defeated both SBEC and Treadwell.

They then went on to win their next six games, which included home victories over Germantown and Lausanne and road wins at St. George's, Arlington, Collierville, and Ensworth High School in Nashville.

Their first setback of the year came in game nine as MUS fell to David Lipscomb in Nashville, but the Owls won their next nine contests, defeating teams such as Collierville, St. Benedict, Harding, St. George's, Briarcrest, Germantown, Lausanne, and Christian Brothers High School, which was the CBHS Purple Wave's only loss of the season.

However, CBHS avenged that loss in the final game of the season as they defeated MUS in a very close game. Regardless, the team completed a very successful season as they finished 18-3, including the two junior-varsity victories.

Led by Coach Joe Tyler and Coach Grant Burke, the team was made up of **Toby Baker, Britt Colcolough, Daniel Cunningham, Justin Dorning, Chris Eddings, Danny Galvin, Wil Hergenrader, Vincent Lee, Carlton McCord, Christian Patterson, Henry Valk, Nicholas Vergos, Jerrick White, and Andrew Wilensky.**



Britt McGuire takes his shot as Terrence Cole holds his position.

JV Basketball Wrap-Up

Led by Coach Matt Bakke and Coach Mark Counce, the 2008-09 junior varsity basketball team defeated talented squads and improved as the season progressed.

The team finished 12-6 overall and was comprised of **Norfleet Abston, Terrence Cole, William Cross, Ivan Denson, Henry Dickinson, Matthew Harriman, M.J. Isbell, Alex Jarratt, Jordan Keese, Jack Klug, Britt McGuire, Wells Prather, Nathan Prosser, Ian Stockstill, and Whit Thornton.**

The Owls defeated teams from Kingsbury, Nashville Pope John Paul II, Father Ryan, Harding Academy, Arlington, St. Benedict, Tipton-Rosemark, the FCA Nighthawks, St. Benedict, St. George's, Evangelical Christian School, and Cordova.



Carlton McCord



Photo by Coach Laurie Clark

Members of the Lower School swim team gather around Coach Whitney Clark during the presentation of their trophy to the school.

Lower School Swim Team Makes a Splash

by Ms. Whitney Clark, Lower School Swim Coach

The Lower School swim team had an amazing 2008-09 season, which culminated in their winning the Shelby County Middle School Championship for the first time in three years.

The swimmers were dedicated, worked hard, and showed their determination at each practice. The team started the school year swimming an average of half-mile practices and ended the year doing workouts intended for the varsity team.

Their work paid off. Leading to the championship, the team improved tremendously throughout their regular season and won third-place in the Memphis Area Middle School Invitational last December 13.

The Shelby County Championships were held February 7, and the Lower School swim team competed against 11 other schools. When the final scores were posted, MUS earned 405 points, 92 points ahead of the second-place team.

To reach their goal, the swimmers competed in races necessary for the team to accumulate the maximum amount of points they needed to win the meet. That meant some team members swam races they would not have chosen; however, they said they did it for the team and out of pride for their school.

Several individuals stood out at the meet. The 100-yard medley relay team of eighth-graders **Nedas Jakstas, Chip Ogles, and Sam Moore** and seventh-grader **Thornton Brooksbank** finished with an outstanding Lower School record with a time of 1:00 and a first-place finish for the team. Eighth-grader **Peyton Klawinski** placed fourth in the 50-yard freestyle, and seventh-grader **Eli Ostrow** placed fourth in the 200-yard freestyle.

Several team members made major improvements during the season. Eighth-grader **James Belina** swam the 100-yard individual medley at the beginning of the season and took six seconds off his time by its end. Eighth-grader **James Burnett** dropped a total of seven seconds off his 200-yard freestyle time throughout the season, and both seventh-grader **Jake Eissler** and eighth-grader **Buckner Hasenmueller** took five seconds off their 50-yard freestyle times. Eighth-grader **Andrew Renshaw** and seventh-graders **Reed Harrison** and **Sam Ostrow** worked hard and showed their commitment throughout the season.

The entire team, including eighth-graders **Kyle Gossett, Daniel McGowan, Austin Pretsch, and Blake Smith** and seventh-graders **Josh Douglass, Seamus Fitzhenry, Jones Hussey, Jackson Roberts, Tate Solberg, and Luke Stallings** contributed to the exciting win and the title of Middle School Champions.

Eighth-Graders Keep the Ball Rolling

The MUS eighth-grade basketball team played through four overtimes in the semifinals of the postseason tournament before being defeated by only two points, ending their season 11-7 through a very challenging schedule.

Led by Coach Trey Suddarth, the team included **Derrick Baber, Matt Bolton, Colin Donoghue, John Lewandowski, Eric Mabry, Caleb McCoy, James Rantzow, Hurston Reed, Jordan Rogers, Jake Rudesill, Bobby Scott, Will Whitley, and Jonathan Wilfong.**

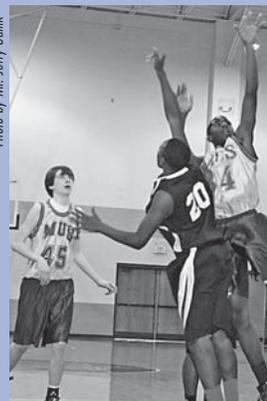
The Owls began the season in the Turkey Holiday Classic as they battled Southwind Middle School, a very talented team. Despite staying close throughout, they could never overtake the Jaguars and fell in the opener.

They learned from the loss and went on to win three of their next four games, including wins over St. Louis School, Briarcrest, and St. Francis. The Owls ended the regular season by winning six of their last seven games as they defeated league rivals Briarcrest, Harding, and St. George's during that span. With these wins, MUS claimed the No. 2 seed as the team headed into the postseason Shelby League Tournament.

In the semifinals, the Owls faced third-seeded St. George's. Although MUS led much of the game, the Gryphons tied the contest to force the game into overtime. The teams would actually need three additional overtimes to determine a winner, but ultimately, St. George's would prevail, winning 50-48 and ending the Owls' season.

Even though they did not reach their ultimate goal, these eighth-graders earned valuable experience and will be looked to in the future to contribute at the varsity level.

Photo by Mr. Jerry Galik



John Lewandowski watches as Will Whitley leaps to shoot the ball.

TALENTED SEVENTH-GRADE OWLS HAVE UNDEFEATED SEASON



Photo by Ms. Terry Bolton

Seventh-grade basketball team members (front row, from left) Bailey Buford, Reggie Anthony, Lucas Crenshaw, Sam Fowlkes, (back row, from left) James Prather, Chris Galvin, Andrew Counce, Trey Moore, Blake Fountain, and Renn Eason

The MUS seventh-grade basketball team made history this year when they finished their season undefeated, something no other Owl seventh-grade team had ever done.

With its 48-20 victory in the finals of the Shelby League postseason tournament, the Owls claimed the championship and finished the year 22-0, unprecedented for seventh-grade basketball.

The team included **Reggie Anthony, Bailey Buford, Andrew Counce, Lucas Crenshaw, Renn Eason, Blake Fountain, Sam Fowlkes, Chris Galvin, Trey Moore, and James Prather.**

The season started in late November when the Owls played in the Turkey Holiday Classic, a jamboree that pitted public middle-school teams against private middle-school teams. The Owls' opponent was a very talented Southwind Middle School squad. After a slow start, MUS settled in and cruised to a 57-25 victory.

The seventh-grade basketball team was rarely challenged during the regular season as they won their 20 regular-season games by an average of just less than 29 points per game. In fact, they won every game except one by double-digit margins. Opponents included Collierville, Ridgeway, and Southwind Middle Schools, Briarcrest, Evangelical Christian School, FACS, Fayette Academy, Harding Academy, Lausanne, St. Dominic, St. Francis, St. George's, St. Louis, and Tipton-Rosemark.

As the top seed in the league, MUS took on Briarcrest in the semifinals of the Shelby League tournament and advanced by defeating the Saints, 42-23. In the finals, the Owls played well and handled their ECS rivals to claim the title.



Mr. Willie Hollinger and Mr. Fred Taylor change out an old bulb with a new energy-efficient one.



MUS SAVES MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Memphis University School is saving money and helping the environment by implementing small changes that make big differences throughout the school.

“We always want to be looking for cost saving measures, especially in this economy,” said Mr. Rankin Fowlkes, director of business operations. “Some of that can come from lowering the energy we use, but we also want to be good stewards of the resources we’ve been given, whether it’s money or our environment.”

The school has been implementing procedures that follow the energy audit recommendations done by the Allen & Hoshall firm in 2007. Completed projects include building an automation system to control the HVAC in most buildings as well as replacing 17 air conditioning units, all between 15 and 20 years old, in the Sue Hyde Sports Center. The new systems use less energy and save money on gas and electricity bills. The two HVAC units in Humphreys Hall were also replaced with new higher efficiency units and controls.

The school also installed programmable thermostats that can cut heating and cooling bills by 5 to 20 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. These thermostats change the temperature automatically, depending on whether school is in session, ensuring a comfortable temperature for students and faculty and conserving energy.

Several of the recommendations are ongoing, including replacing out-of-date fluorescent lights with new T8 lamps with solid state ballast, a type of fluorescent lamp that reduces power consumption up to 40 percent and is setting new standards for low power consumption and low life-cycle cost. The T8 lamps also produce illumination that more closely resembles natural light, are lightweight, and operate without the “hum” of the traditional fluorescent light.

According to facilities manager Mr. Willie Hollinger, almost all of the older bulbs have been phased out, which doesn’t just benefit the school, but also benefits the community.

“The newer bulbs don’t contain mercury like the older fluorescent tubes,” he said. “This made safely disposing of used bulbs difficult and added waste. The new T8 bulbs last longer and are safer for the environment.”

The school is also replacing incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL). According to ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, a CFL bulb uses about 75 percent less energy and lasts ten times longer, saving the school about \$30 per bulb over the bulb’s lifetime. They also produce less heat, making them safer to operate, and they help cut energy costs associated with cooling the school.

“Anytime you can feel heat, that’s wasted energy that you’re paying for,” Hollinger explained. “These bulbs not only conserve energy, but they cut down the risk of fire.”

Other additions include installing heat pumps in the new science building classrooms and recycling printer ink cartridges and cardboard. The Green Owl Club recycles paper as well.

Another way the school saves money and uses natural resources is by eliminating the need to use city water for landscaping and maintenance. MUS has a well on campus that collects rain water and is used to water the lawns, trees, and shrubs. If water is used for irrigation purposes, MLG&W charges an extra sewer fee in addition to the cost of the water, both of which MUS does not have to pay because of the well. The school uses city water for domestic purposes, including the cafeteria, water fountains, and restrooms.

“It’s always been our philosophy to be good neighbors, so we always want our campus to be attractive,” Hollinger said. “If we can maintain the beauty of our campus while saving money and helping the environment, it’s a win-win situation.”

Another change Hollinger is preparing for is a program for recycling scrap metal left over from replacements or repairs. Also, the school will continue to implement the other changes recommended by the energy audit.

A teenager will get her wish granted this year thanks to the creative thinking and hard work of senior **Drew Cornaghie** and the MUS Civic Service Organization (CSO).

The CSO held its first ever Wish Bowl tournament on January 31 to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the premier wish-granting organization for children. More than 80 students, faculty, and alumni competed in teams of five, and dozens of spectators came to watch, support their favorite team, and help the CSO.

“There was a goal I wanted to achieve,” Cornaghie said. “We didn’t just achieve it; we got more participation and money than we expected, which is absolutely fantastic. We could not have done this without the hard work and participation of so many people, including the alumni, who were led by Mr. Johnny Ballinger ‘87.”

Cornaghie started working on Wish Bowl last April after he was named CSO president for the 2008-09 school year. One of his goals was to sponsor an event that unified faculty, students, and alumni.

“It occurred to me that everyone loves bowling, so why not have a tournament that is a fundraiser and brings multiple groups together,” Cornaghie said.

He first contacted Ms. Kelly Frazer at Billy Hardwick’s All Star

Lanes to arrange the details and then promoted the event in *MUS Today*, on the MUS Web site, and throughout the school.



Colin McDonald doesn't let his grass skirt get in the way of bowling a strike.

CSO Strikes it Big With Wish Bowl

For \$15 per bowler, teams could enter and compete for prizes and bragging rights. Those efforts were so successful that a week before the event, the maximum number of teams had already entered the competition. To bring in even more revenue, the CSO also charged spectators a \$5 fee. Between teams and spectators, they raised \$1,800, exceeding their financial goal for the event.

Seven student teams, five faculty teams, and four alumni teams

competed for the best individual and team scores, the overall all-star team, and non-bowling awards for the best name and

best uniform. Each team had a different approach to traditional bowling clothes. One group dressed as 80s rock stars and another wore fly fishing attire.

“We had some really good student-teacher rivalries going on, and we had great prizes, including a Nintendo Wii, to give away, thanks entirely to the alumni,”

Cornaghie said. “They were the ones who donated all the prizes.”

Cornaghie said he hopes Wish Bowl becomes an annual tradition because participation and enthusiasm were high.

“The event was meant to be fun, and I think everybody had a really good time,” he said.



Seniors Andy Stubblefield, Will Nease, John Rutledge, Thomas Ivy, Drew Cornaghie, and Barry Hillyer at Wish Bowl



Faculty members Mrs. Nancy Gates, Mrs. Jenny Fernandez, Mrs. Sally Askew, Mrs. Analice Sowell, and Mrs. Elizabeth Crosby



Jared Davis practices his dunk.



Coach Whit Tenent jumps to block Michael Brennan's shot.

Mr. Rankin Fowlkes drained three-pointers. Coach Matt Bakke sunk clutch free throws. Coach Grant Burke made power moves in the post, and Mr. Darrin Clift shot 100 percent from the floor and sported some serious temporary tattoos.

Faculty proved they can entertain as well as play basketball at the annual Faculty-Senior basketball game, where they defeated the senior team by a score of 46-40.

The game proved to be fast-paced, which could have given the students an edge. It didn't. Faculty matched seniors' speed stride for stride and handled the ball with precision, making excellent passes and working well as a unit.

Senior **Robert Counce**, a member of the Owls' varsity basketball team, coached the seniors and discussed his strategy going into the game.

"The plan was to stop the outside shooters such as Coach Bakke, Mr. Fowlkes, and Coach Burke," Counce said. "However, we also knew we had to keep Coaches Jones and Rogers away from the basket. We could have done a better job, but, overall it was a good game."

Another senior, **Jared Davis**, who played in the game and had an explosive dunk, said he was just happy to take part in the event.

"I had been looking forward to playing in the Faculty-Senior Basketball game since my seventh-grade year, so I was excited just to make the team," Davis said. "We knew we would have to look out for Mr. Fowlkes and Coach Burke, so having the opportunity to block both of their shots made my day. The only thing I would even want to change is the final outcome. But even though we lost, I still managed to have the time of my life, and I think the other seniors on the team would agree."

Coach Dax Torrey made it clear that the faculty did not think it was going to be an easy win, but were confident.

"No question about it – the seniors and their perimeter game were formidable," he said. "However, when push came to shove and the game held in the balance, just like the operator, the faculty answered the call. Experience and beauty always, always win out in the end."

On an obvious high from the win, Burke fit almost every generic sports interview answer into his response to the faculty's victory.

"You know, the kids really weren't that bad," he said. "We just had to go out there and give 115 percent. We had to play our game, not theirs. We came to play. We just wanted it more, that's all. We just have to take it one game at a time. I just want to thank my teammates. On paper we're as good as anyone else, it just comes down to staying healthy and keeping focused. I don't make predictions, but I can tell you this: We'll be ready again next year."

The faculty team included Coaches Matt Bakke, Grant Burke, Mark Counce, Kyle Finney, Johnny Jones, Orlando McKay, Glenn Rogers, Trey Suddarth, Whit Tenent, Dax Torrey, and Joe Tyler, as well as Mr. Darin Clift, Mrs. Jenny Fernandez, Mr. Rankin Fowlkes, Mr. Loyal Murphy, Ms. Lauren Oxner, and Mr. Robert Taylor.

The senior team included **Michael Brennan, Jared Davis, Michael Folk, Graham Jones, Barry Hillyer, Ben Khouri, Coleman Kimbrough, Will Nease, John Riggins, Will Stokes, David Tillman, and Walt Wepfer.**



Robert Counce and opposition team member Coach Mark Counce share a father-son moment before the game.

FACULTY TEAM SCHOOLS SENIORS IN BASKETBALL



Faculty team members (front row, from left) Mr. Loyal Murphy, Coach Kyle Finney, Mr. Robert Taylor, Coach Orlando McKay, (back row, from left) Coach Dax Torrey, Mr. Rankin Fowlkes, Coach Grant Burke, Coach Trey Suddarth, Coach Matt Bakke, Coach Mark Counce, and Coach Johnny Jones gather for a team shot before getting back to work. (Not pictured: Mr. Darin Clift, Mrs. Jenny Fernandez, Ms. Lauren Oxner, Coach Glenn Rogers, Coach Whit Tenent, and Coach Joe Tyler.)

Connecting Through Chemistry

Mrs. Analice Sowell, chemistry instructor, believes her job includes showing students the who, what, and how of chemistry. Now, more than ever, she will be able to show her students why chemistry is important and how it affects their lives.

That's because Sowell has accepted a chair on the Committee on Community Activities (CCA) of the American Chemical Society (ACS), giving her access to resources far outside the textbook and school laboratory.

The ACS, which comprises more than

160,000 individuals, provides its members with opportunities for peer interaction and career development while promoting the advancement of chemistry.

Sowell said she sees definite advantages for her students that come with her being a leader in the ACS.

"By being a member and volunteering both in my local section and at the national level, my curriculum is easily supplemented in all areas," she said. "As a former research chemist, I understand from my industrial career the depth that chemistry plays in everyday life, from the products we use, to the way the body functions. By having colleagues in ACS, I have access to a wealth of scientific knowledge in not only the area in which I worked, but in all areas of chemistry. In turn, I can share the practical applications of that knowledge with my students."

The CCA is responsible for promoting American Chemical Society-sponsored outreach programs and events, including National Chemistry Week and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day. The committee also provides community outreach articles that appear in an ACS newsletter.

Sowell will chair a Theme Team, which will create topics, titles, events, demonstrations, and hands-on activities to promote chemistry to the public. As chair, she will provide leadership for curriculum development, which is built around the year's central theme.

Photo by Mr. Ryan Hollis



Mrs. Analice Sowell and sophomore Wilson Luttrell use data collection software in the lab.



Seniors David Tillman and Evan Mah are two student leaders chosen to speak during the second session of the leadership development seminars.



(clockwise, from left) Juniors Daniel Clark, Drew Karban, Alex Perry, and Palmer Hunt attend a seminar session.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Coach John Cady believes in the saying from NFL great Coach Vince Lombardi that leaders are made and not born. That's why he has set up seminars for students who want to become campus leaders.

"The program introduces the students to some basic concepts of leadership and inspires them to reflect on what makes an effective leader," said Cady, director of student life.

In February, the leadership development seminars, which are mandatory only for those seeking an office on the student council, were presented in three sessions. Each seminar focused on an important aspect of the leadership process. The first covered leadership concepts and highlighted several prominent leadership theorists. Students were then asked to devise their own definition of leadership.

During the second session, a forum of current student leaders answered questions and offered insights into leadership roles they had filled. Forum participants included Honor Council officers, Civic

Service Organization executives, athletic team captains, and publication editors.

For the final session, participants separated into groups and worked together to solve a typical hypothetical problem facing a student organization. The activity stressed the importance of teamwork and cooperation, and students applied fundamentals taught in previous sessions.

At the end of the program, participants completed a self-critique of their strengths and weaknesses in an effort to help them become stronger leaders.

Senior **Robert Counce**, a forum speaker, said he believes the leadership seminars are helpful to younger students who want to become leaders.

"The seminars provide a good opportunity for future student leaders to learn what holding a leadership role at MUS entails," Counce said. "The younger guys get an opportunity to learn first-hand what those jobs involve and demand from the guys who have held that position."



Presidential Perspective

by Carl Krausnick '09, Student Council President



I still remember my “salad days” of sitting in the chapel balcony as an innocent, naive seventh-grader, unaware of what school entailed other than academics. My clearest memories are of Student Council members performing humorous Monday chapel skits and wondering how they remained so poised and self-confident.

Whether you are an athlete or a scholar, everyone wants to find his niche early. I saw the Student Council as an outlet for my leadership skills as well as the best venue for my success – my “niche,” if you will.

Serving as commissioner of social events on the council during the 2007-08 school year gave me an inside perspective on how the system operated. Because the council is elected by the students for the students, its main duty is to provide an entertaining year while protecting every student’s well-being. As president of the council, my main goal was to give back to the institution that has given me so much throughout my time here.

This year’s council has been phenomenal in every way possible, but it’s important to point out that every student council executive and representative has truly worked to his full potential. It’s easy to be elected on certain grounds, but actually carrying out campaign promises is where council members can slip. All of us on the Student Council decided early last summer that we wanted to redeem the name of the council and raise the standard of excellence to a whole new level.

MUS has strong traditions, so we examined the councils of years past and found popular events like Fall Fest and the monthly faculty-student Dutch Treat Dinners and decided to focus on these events. In addition, we brought back the victory dances and helped support the 2008 football state champions.

I am proud of the council as a whole. Although we started the year off in debt, we provided two of the most successful homecoming dances of all time, featuring performers Lord T and Eloise and Al Kapone.

Leading this fine group of young men on the council, who I believe are destined for greatness, has been an excellent learning experience. I’ve been able to develop strong relationships with the faculty and administration, enabling me to be an effective liaison between them and the students.

Helping You Get to Know the Faculty and Staff at MUS

Hoo’s Hoo:



Ms. Laura Bontrager

Duties: She works as a library assistant, which includes Web site maintenance, library displays, research, data entry, book selection, and the newsletter

Years at MUS: Almost three years

Little-Known Facts: Her birthday is Christmas day, and her mother told her when she was very young that the Christmas lights were in honor of her birthday.



Coach Orlando McKay

Duties: He teaches psychology and physical education, and is the assistant coach in varsity football and track

Years at MUS: 11 years

Little-Known Fact: He is a self-taught piano player who can only play Jerry Lee Lewis-style 50s rock and roll. He was exposed to Lewis’ music in college and learned by watching the keystrokes in the movie *Great Balls of Fire*. To this day, he still can’t read music.



Mrs. Rachel Krantz

Duties: She is director of the annual fund, which means she raises unrestricted dollars to support the students and faculty.

Years at MUS: Three and a half years

Little-Known Fact: Her first career goal was to be a sports broadcaster.



Dr. Robert Winfrey

Duties: Instructor in history and social studies

Years at MUS: 23 years

Little-Known Fact: He has a professional coaching licensure from the Scottish Football Association and spent 18 years as a cowboy. He would also like to find time to complete two books he has worked on for decades.

MENTORING MUSINGS

by Mr. Judd Peters '81, Director of School and Community Relations

Junior **Stephond Allmond** sits around a table with the three eighth-graders he mentors. They meet twice a month during lunch as part of the Eighth-Grade Mentoring Program and discuss everything from homework to what school is like in the Upper School. During this meeting, his students ask Allmond how he balances schoolwork with playing for multiple school sports teams. Allmond is pleased the students feel comfortable asking him questions.

“I think it’s important for me to make the kids feel comfortable talking about anything,” Allmond said. “The eighth-graders will know what to expect next year when they enter the Upper School, including how to use their free periods wisely and how to keep a good relationship with everyone with whom they come into contact, especially their teachers and fellow classmates.”

Making good choices, developing meaningful relationships, and balancing life’s activities are three of the issues facing all eighth-grade students. These topics are difficult for an adolescent boy to address on his own and often serve as a source of great stress. Now, however, they aren’t alone in navigating the issues. The Eighth-Grade Mentoring Program is designed to aid current eighth-graders as they transition from the Lower School to the Upper School. It also serves to place seniors and juniors in leadership positions.

Mentors are matched with two or three eighth-graders, and all eighth-graders and their mentors meet as a large group once a month and discuss that month’s topic. Topics include developing sound relationships with adults and

peers, balancing school life, understanding the effects of their daily choices, and getting involved in school activities.

At the heart of the program are the bi-monthly lunch meetings in the Campus Center Dining Hall where students and mentors discuss the month’s topic and work through the eighth-graders’ issues or concerns. It is an opportunity for eighth-grade students to get advice and insight from

fellow students who have “walked in their shoes” just a few years before.

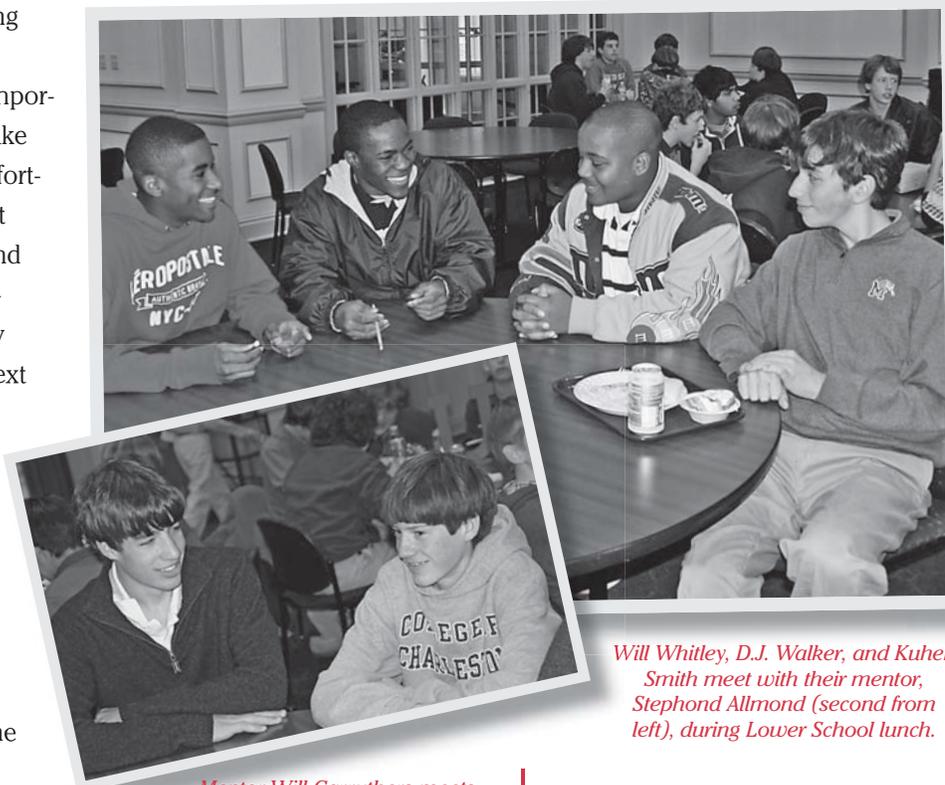
Junior **Will Carruthers** said he thinks the lunch meetings are the most important part of the program because it gives the eighth-graders an opportunity to ask questions.

“We discuss whatever is on the eighth-graders’ minds,” Carruthers said. “They usually ask a great deal of questions. Then, I

talk about our topic, which may be exam preparation or extra-curricular activities.”

The face-to-face interaction in a friendly and encouraging environment allows students to build a relationship based upon trust and common interests. During this time, eighth-graders can explore challenges at school and at home and possible ways to avoid or overcome them. One of the program’s goals is to allow eighth-grade students to look at themselves and become aware that their life challenges are not unique.

Because student challenges are not unique to the eighth grade, the mentoring program will be expanded next year to include seventh-graders and additional Upper School students. The hope is that the Upper School and Lower School will be more closely linked, providing a stronger, better connected MUS student community.



Mentor Will Carruthers meets with Hayes Westlake, one of the students he mentors, during Lower School lunch.

Will Whitley, D.J. Walker, and Kuhen Smith meet with their mentor, Stephond Allmond (second from left), during Lower School lunch.



Where Physics

Meets Philosophy

If a beam of light were to slow down to a complete stop, what would happen to it? How long does it take for us to become consciously aware of an experience? These questions and more are asked and discussed everyday in Mr. Al Shaw's new Modern Physics Class, and the 11 students enrolled in his class are eager to find the answers.



Senior Drew Frisby listens to Mr. Al Shaw in class.

The seminar-style class focuses on some of the most interesting ideas in modern physics and also tackles philosophical issues these topics raise, including special and general relativity, elementary quantum physics, string theory, and cosmology. The class also delves into questions of human consciousness, the problem of perception, free will, and the mind-body problem.

Shaw stressed the importance of offering such a class at MUS and plans to teach the one-semester course during the 2009-10 school year.

"Quite often, there is no chance to teach these topics in a regular physics course because there is simply not enough time," Shaw said. "The subject matter appeals to young people, as the class tries to understand the nature of the world in terms of its fundamentals. The material is very interesting and thought-provoking."

Shaw's students are clearly excited about the

course as well. Citing the advantage of a seminar-style class, in which the mood is more laid back and conversational, senior **Will Benton** said he is thoroughly enjoying the class.

"This class interested me because of the wide range, and, for lack of a better word, obscurity, of the topics that we discuss," he said. "My favorite parts of the class are the lively debates and deep discussions that our class gets into."

Of course, such difficult material provides challenges, as Benton admits.

"By far, the hardest part is trying to understand some of the complex topics we discuss," he added. "Mr. Shaw always does a great job in breaking them down for us."

Another senior in the class, **Cliff Jones**, appreciates the mixture of physics and philosophy.

"We had to begin with some basic philosophy overview, studying the philosophies that had an impact on the modern physicists," Jones said. "Now we are moving into the actual 'meat' of the class – the advancement of physics and the philosophies behind those new theories. This class is challenging because it forces us to step out of our comfort zones and discuss topics that are still somewhat controversial. Everyone has different opinions, and you find that out quickly in the class discussion."



During class, seniors Thomas Ivy and Will Benton use Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, one of the texts for Modern Physics, to participate in a class discussion.



Hyde Highlights

by Mrs. Bonnie Barnes, Director of the Joseph R. Hyde, Jr. Library Learning Center

Reading is a “fantastic” pastime for many of the students at MUS, and the boys help keep the library staff up to date on the most recent offerings in the fantasy genre. Here are a few of the most frequent checkouts featured in the Hyde Library’s recent display, “Fantastic Fiction:”

1. *The Ruins of Gorlan* by John Flanagan (from the Ranger’s Apprentice series)
2. *Raven Rise* by D. J. MacHale (from the Pendragon series)
3. *Watchmen* graphic novel by Alan Moore (illustrated by Dave Gibbons)
4. *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke (author of *Inkheart*)
5. *The Alchemyst* by Michael Dylan Scott (and its sequel, *The Magician*, both based on a character from the Harry Potter series)



Seventh-grader Seamus Fitzhenry picks up the copy of *The Magician* that the Hyde Library ordered based on his suggestion.

Guys Read Program Encourages Faculty and Students to Read

The Guys Read Program at the Hyde Library is growing, and the number of student book clubs has grown from three to six.

The six student book clubs met regularly and were sponsored by Mrs. Nancy Arant, Mrs. Bonnie Barnes, Mrs. Laurie Clark, Mrs. Elizabeth Crosby (see the late winter issue of *Inside MUS*), Mr. Shaun Gehres, and Ms. Vicki Tyler. A faculty book club, led by Mr. Lin Askew, began as well. Combined, the groups enjoyed more than 20 books together.

Book clubs encourage reading, but members read at their own pace and convenience, thereby avoiding stress or pressure and creating pure enjoyment. Here are just a few of the titles the groups enjoyed:

Lower School:

- Redwall* by Brian Jacques
- Beowulf* (four different graphic versions by various illustrators)
- The Bark of the Bog Owl* by Jonathan Rogers
- A Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket
- Acceleration* by Graham McNamee

Upper School:

- The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson
- The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- Life’s Greatest Lessons* by Hal Urban

Faculty:

- Blue Arabesque* by Patricia Hampl
- A Mercy* by Toni Morrison
- In the Beauty of the Lilies* by John Updike



ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Johnny Carson and Drew Cornaghie explored career options in the medical field with their mentor, Dr. Chuck Gilliland '95 (middle).



Roy Fox (second from left) and Sam Sorrelle (lower right) had dinner with Mr. Chip Campbell '99 and Mr. Ben James '99 at the Alumni Connection Dinner. The dinner, held in the Campus Center Dining Hall, was the continuation of the Senior Insights Program and gives seniors the opportunity to come face-to-face with their alumni mentors. The program also connects upcoming graduates with the informal network that exists within the business and professional community and provides alumni with possible employees and interns for their businesses and programs.



Mr. Michael Liverance '00 discussed career opportunities in medical sales with Jared Davis.



Showing Talent for Service

Sometimes the most memorable shows are the ones that offer not only talent but also a variety of entertainment and benefit others as well, and that's just what the MUS students provided at this year's annual Talent Show.

From original songs to upbeat dance numbers, to a group named Air Band, the entertainment kept the audience bouncing. Proceeds from the event, along with those from Wish Bowl, go toward granting a wish for a Make-A-Wish Foundation recipient.



Derek Haynes and Austin Smith

Both events are sponsored by the Civic Service Organization (CSO).

This year, the recipient was 16-year old Shaqinta, who was too ill to attend the event. Shaqinta, however, recovered in

time to enjoy her wish – a shopping spree across Memphis.

Although disappointed that the primary beneficiary of the show could not attend, all the performers worked hard to please the audience. Seventh-graders **Eli** and **Samuel Ostrow** worked the crowd and danced to Michael Jackson's 80's pop hit "Thriller," and fellow seventh-grader **Shaan Jiles** performed as the king of pop himself.

Senior **Derek Haynes**, who won the prize for most original performance, impressed the crowd and the judges with soulful country music.

"Derek needs to try out for Nashville Star," said Mrs. Melissa Saenger, talent show judge. "He has a great voice for country music."

Sophomore **Kenny Johnson's** up-beat dance group, Subculture Royalty, won the Most Entertaining Award. Saenger said she was most impressed with the group's versatility, and fellow judge Mr. Norman Thompson called the group "clear claimants of the trophy."

Uncle Jungle, a band that plays a mixture of jazz, funk, and rock music, won Most Talented. The band includes senior **Carl Krausnick** and juniors **Sam Ferguson, Gabe Ruby, and Harrison Martin**.

Thompson, who has served as a judge for the talent show for many years, said he always looks forward to the show.

"The event is an exhilarating, even inspiring, evening of fun and merriment," he said. "The sheer variety of the show kept the spectators glued to their seats. The cliché 'a good time was had by all' is nonetheless a truism when applied to the Talent Show."

Everyone involved, including master of ceremonies Mr. Tim Greer, who kept the audience entertained with his witty introductions to the acts, was impressed with the variety the students showed this year in comedy, dancing, and music.

"Approximately 50 percent of the acts performed original material, a reflection of the high level of creativity we have in our midst here at MUS," he said. "It was a privilege to host the show, through which the MUS Civic Service Organization raises money for a very worthy cause. Make-A-Wish helps young people see their most dearly held dreams come true, and joining in that effort seems like a perfect fit for MUS students."



ROGERS

LEADERSHIP FORUM

ROGERS LEADERSHIP FORUM SPEAKER FOCUSES ON INTEGRITY

Radio personality Mr. Ben Ferguson stood in the Oval Office trying to process the moment. After meeting with former President George W. Bush, he was asked by a White House staffer if he wanted to take a peek into the president's private bathroom. He did, and he emerged with a towel bearing the presidential seal as a souvenir.

His integrity, however, remained intact as he took the towel with the blessing of the White House staffer.

Ferguson told his White House story when he emphasized integrity to the student body as part of the 2009 Rogers Leadership Forum on February 13. He focused on how important integrity is to achieving one's goals and to effective leadership in his speech titled "Leadership with Purpose."

"Focus on what you want to do and do it with integrity," Ferguson said. "Surround yourself with guys who will always develop your character."

When Ferguson talks, millions of people listen, and they have since he was a teenager. At 13, Ben Ferguson called in to a radio talk show to share his opinions with the host and her

listeners, and, soon after, became the nation's youngest talk radio host, a title he still holds today at 27.

Not every teenager is confident in his future career path at such a young age, but Ferguson emphasized that every student needs to be aware that his behavior now may negatively affect his life later.

Mr. Eddie Batey coordinated this year's Rogers Leadership Forum.

"I chose Ben based on the belief that his youth would connect with our guys and inspire them to act early on their aspirations," Batey said.

After the chapel speech, Ferguson attended a small forum where he could interact with interested students.

Sophomore **Ben Roberts**, who met with Ferguson, said he came away with valuable advice.

"Mr. Ferguson told us that we should express our opinions and stand up for what we believe is right," Roberts said. "The Rogers Leadership Forum and Mr. Ferguson gave me an idea of the responsibility that it takes to be a leader."

The Rogers Leadership Forum is sponsored by the King and Judy Rogers Endowment for Leadership Development at Memphis University School.



Mr. Ben Ferguson

Mr. Ben Ferguson (far right) speaks to (from left) J.P. DeVincenzo, Clint Montgomery, Max Sheppard, Alex Jarratt, and Ben Roberts during an open forum in the Loeb Conference Room following the Rogers Leadership Forum.





MUS Writer-in-Residence Dr. John Harkins recently addressed the Watauga Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution about the early history of Memphis and Shelby County. After his presentation, he presented Jean Williamson (left) and Mary Yarbrough (right) with a copy of his book Historic Shelby County.



Junior Wilson Orr donated blood during the Civic Service Organization blood drive in February. Orr, who organized the blood drive, was one of 21 students, faculty members, and parents whose donations totaled about 19 units of blood to benefit Lifeblood, the Mid-South's regional blood bank.



Look Who's Caught on Camera

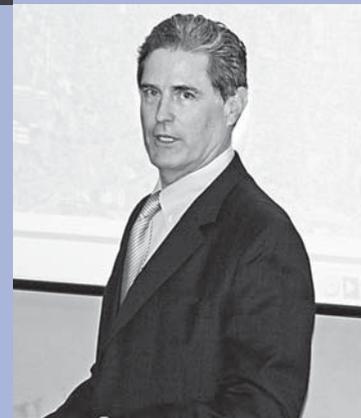


Mr. Bob Loeb, chairman of the MUS Board of Trustees, spoke to the Lower School students and faculty about the redevelopment plans for the Mid-South Fairgrounds. The presentation was part of the Memphis Leaders program.



Mrs. Paula Amagliani, Mrs. Jan Cornaghié, and Mrs. Caroline Orr volunteer their time to collect donations at Wish Bowl.

Mrs. Maria Burke helps Connor Dowling with his dodecahedron while Molitor Ford works on his project. Each seventh-grader created a dodecahedron from a regular pentagon and plain poster board. The polyhedrons are used to teach several concepts in the study of solid geometry beginning with Euler's formula about faces, vertices, and edges. This hands-on assignment teaches fundamental geometry concepts in a unique way.

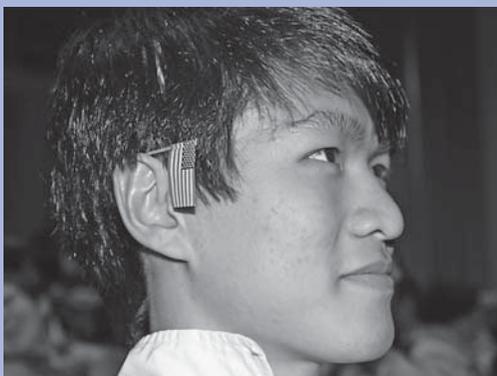


Seventh-grader Andrew Counce meets University of Tennessee basketball Coach Bruce Pearl.

St. Mary's senior Bailey Bethell, eighth-grader Philip Aiken, St. Mary's junior Kendall Hennessy, St. Mary's Assistant Head of School Albert Throckmorton, eighth-grader Selby Austin, eighth-grader Chris Fiedler, St. Mary's senior Natalie Jacewicz, and eighth-grader Sylvester Tate stand together after the four MUS students presented a \$500 check to the St. Mary's Community Fund (SMCF).

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...Mathman? Senior Drew Cornaghié and Mr. Darin Clift embody their superhero personas on a Saturday afternoon.





Senior Tho Nguyen shows off his patriotic side while watching the presidential inauguration day festivities televised in Hyde Chapel.



Photo by Mr. Bill Mann

Eighth-graders William Mann, Fraser Humphreys, Philip Aiken, Andrew Plunkett, and Wil Rainer get warm before running the St. Jude 5K on December 6.



Jerrick White and Michael Edwards worked the barbeque at the Student Council Spring Sports Festival.

CORNER: College Advice for Students

by Ms. Katherine Parr, Assistant Director of College Counseling

COLLEGE



The first of May is known as “May Day,” but, for MUS seniors, it marks two celebratory occasions: the last day of the second semester and the national reply date for college.

The following are some reminders for seniors and their parents:

- Your son should have chosen his college and paid his deposit by May 1. (Do not send more than one deposit.)
- Inform all other colleges that accepted him that he will not be attending.
- Keep the College Counseling Office informed of any college decisions and scholarship offers your son has received.
- Be sure that your senior doesn’t let his grades slide in the final weeks of school. Colleges do see final transcripts.

Both the Junior Questionnaire and the Parent Insights Form are valuable tools that the College Counseling Office uses to know your son better and to help him with his college applications and decisions. All juniors should have completed and submitted their questionnaires and their autobiographies by April 27. Parents must complete the Parent Insights Form, which may be completed on Naviance or on the MUS Web site, by the end of the school year. Parents who prefer to fill out a hard copy will find one in the blue notebook.

Juniors are required to take the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT with Writing at least once during junior year. If your son has not yet taken the ACT or the SAT Reasoning Test, register by May 5 for the SAT on June 6 and by May 8 for the ACT on June 13.

Encourage your son to maintain good grades as the school year ends and to be an active and involved participant in summer activities. If your son is still searching for ideas for the summer, please read the article about summer opportunities on page 31. If you have any questions or concerns about the college application process, please contact the College Counseling Office at (901) 260-1424.

INSIGHTS

Spring 2009 Parent Speaker Series Update

by Mrs. Catherine Schuhmacher, Lower School Counselor



Dr. Christopher Thurber passed around a box of Lindt truffles and directed his audience to eat slowly and thoroughly experience all of the layers and components of the chocolate candy. By savoring each bite of the chocolate, he demonstrated how parents and their teenagers need to slow down and savor life by deriving gratification from one's strengths and using these strengths to feel alive and present in everyday life. By doing this, Thurber said people can discover their top priorities and usually find they waste a lot of time on meaningless activities.

Thurber, a board-certified clinical psychologist, author, consultant, and father who currently works at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH, brought his knowledge to MUS and Hutchison parents in two recent and well-attended programs. He has spent his career working with children and helping

parents and their children better understand one another.

During his lunch-time presentation, Thurber discussed the benefits of positive psychology with the overall goal of happiness and well-being. He also reminded parents and staff how important memories, hope, and optimism are to maintaining a positive outlook. He based much of his presentation on Martin Seligman's book, *Authentic Happiness*, with its self-assessment tools, which also are available

online at www.authentichappiness.org.

Later that night at Hutchison, he presented "Cracking Kids' Secret Codes." Through examples and movie clips, he showed how adolescents do not often mean what they say or say what they mean. For instance, who has not heard the proverbial "fine" after asking a child how his or her day was at

school. That "fine," he said, can mean a number of things ranging from "it was the best day ever" to "stop asking me about my day and stop talking to me."

Why do kids speak in codes? The most common reason may be that they

are trying to protect themselves from uncomfortable feelings, Thurber said, or perhaps they are not sure about how to talk with anyone about a sensitive subject. He said parents who feel their child is not telling the real story are probably right. Decoding a kid's message is done



Dr. Christopher Thurber

best by listening carefully, observing body language, and reflecting what is said. Thurber suggested providing guesses about what your son may mean if you are unclear. Most often, kids will correct parents if they are wrong. The more kids feel that parents are trying to understand them, the more they will share, he concluded.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

by Mrs. Bebe Jonakin, Director of Counseling Services



Learning about government through Presidential Classroom, climbing one of the highest pyramids in the Mayan world on a National Geographic student expedition, and service learning in Paris or Barcelona are just three of the ways students can spend their summer.

For Upper School students looking for summer enrichment, look no further than the MUS Web site. The Kemmons Wilson Leadership Development and Counseling Center has compiled an electronic list of summer opportunities for students, including college and university programs at prestigious schools, leadership seminars, programs abroad, and internships. Also provided is a list of service activities and subject-specific opportunities.

To access the list, visit the Counseling Center's page on the MUS Web site at www.musowls.org. Please contact Mrs. Bebe Jonakin at (901) 260-1335 or bebe.jonakin@musowls.org if you have questions.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Beth Moore

A team of mothers of seniors served dinner to both alumni and senior students at the Alumni Connection Dinner. Organized by Mrs. Beth Moore, Parents' Association senior class representative, the volunteers included (front row, from left) Mrs. Ansie Mah, Mrs. Beth Taylor, Mrs. Terri Fox, Moore, Mrs. Lucy Wepfer, Mrs. Jan Cornaghie, Mrs. Susan Knight, (back row, from left) Mrs. Judy Weatherly, Mrs. Salam Assaf, Mrs. Suzanne Preston, Mrs. Kathy Stubblefield, Mrs. Kelly Cunningham, Mrs. Crissy Smith, Mrs. Cynthia Haynes, and Mrs. Janis Kimbrough.



Mr. Tom Scott, Mrs. Carol Hennessy, Mr. Scott Hennessy, Mrs. Lorraine Wolf, and Mr. Bert Wolf attended the tenth-grade parents' party.



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THE MUS MISSION

Memphis University School is a college-preparatory school dedicated to academic excellence and the development of well-rounded young men of strong moral character, consistent with the school's Christian tradition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 4-8 Senior Exams
- 4-15 AP Exams
- 11 Juniors, Sophomores, and Parents Meeting with new Director of College Counseling
- 14 End of Fourth Quarter
- 15-21 Underclassmen Exams
- 17 Baccalaureate; Graduation
- 19-22 Baseball and Tennis State Tournaments
- 22 Last Day of School
- 22 Soccer State Tournament
- 22 State Track Meet
- 29 Late Registration and Book Sales for Summer School

June

- 1 Summer School Begins
- 6 SAT Reasoning Test and Subject Tests
- 13 ACT Test
- 25 Summer School Ends



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programs

2009

get a kick out of summer

MUS offers a variety of summer programs designed to help current and prospective students build skills, explore educational topics, and have fun. Whether you are seeking activities in athletics, academics, or leadership development, MUS has something for you! For more information on all summer programs, visit our Web site at www.musowls.org or call (901) 260-1300 to receive a summer programs brochure and registration forms.