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MUS TODAY





MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
Founded 1893

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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Claire K. Farmer



From the Editor

I'm sure it was just a coincidence. My husband and I traveled to Miami in January in search of some sun and relaxation. I made an appointment in the spa and arrived promptly for my assigned time. An attractive young woman was there waiting for her appointment, too. "Ms. Neal, Ms. Lazarov, we're ready for you." Ms. Neal and I were then whisked away on a tour of the facilities and ended up sitting in the sauna together.

MS. NEAL: This is the most amazing sauna I've ever seen. The lights are so cool. And that piece of rock in the middle of the room looks like kryptonite.

ME (*thinking Ms. Neal is very friendly and hip*): Yep. Is this the first time you've been to this hotel?

MS. NEAL: Yes, I work on a TV show in New York. The whole cast was invited, but I was the only one who could get off work.

ME (*thinking she must work for the local morning news show*): What show?

MS. NEAL (*answering coolly*): *Law & Order: SVU*.

ME (*recognizing who she really is*): Oh my God, you're the woman attorney! I can't believe it! What's your name?

MS. NEAL: Well, I'm Diane Neal, but I play ADA Casey Novak.

And then we head to the steam room.

Well, I'm thinking, here I am, making friends with Casey Novak, both of us wrapped in towels, while I'm wrapping up the next issue of *MUS Today* in which the cover story is none other than our own version of *Law & Order*. A coincidence?

Just as ADA Casey Novak prosecutes criminals on TV, **Kirby May '94**, **Dean Decandia '93**, **Paul Hagerman '92**, **Emmett Hall '67**, **Cavett Ostner '93**, **David Pritchard '85**, **Rob Ratton '96**, and **Bo Summers '94** serve the citizens here in the Mid-South as ADAs in the Shelby County District Attorneys Office. On the other side of the courtroom are the public defenders: **Eric Elms '91**, **Rob Gowen '90**, and **Sanjeev Memula '92**. And behind the bench is Judge **Chris Craft '69**; or the recently retired Judge **D. J. Alissandratos '66**; or **Dan Michael '72**, who serves as a juvenile court referee. We even have a cop or two in the mix. Read *Law & Order: MUS* on page 3 – maybe I'll send Ms. Neal a copy to share with her co-workers.

But of course there's more...not the least of which is **Coach Jerry Peters'** first state championship and a celebration of 900+ wins coaching the MUS Basketball Owls. How did he achieve these milestones? The short answer: he genuinely cares about the young men he coaches. He teaches boys that teamwork trumps personal triumph and to always "do what's right" in life – then success will come naturally. Coach Peters is the perfect role model for what he teaches. Just ask the hundreds of fans – students, parents, and especially alumni – who traveled to Nashville to cheer the Owls to victory. This overwhelming support was a tribute to Peters who was in the hospital in Memphis recovering from a minor stroke. His fans and his team were not going to let him down.

I think **Dick Fisher '72** got it right in his "Viewpoint" column: people at MUS *care* about other people. *MUS Today* pays tribute to those who care about MUS: the men and women at MUS who care about being positive role models to our students; and those who graduate from these halls to become leaders, good men who care about others, our communities, and our world.

Debbie B. Lazarov

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CORRECTIONS:

After last issue's story, "Traveling through Time," **Bob Heller '65** called to say that Bo Olswanger, pictured on the MUS BOMB Tour, attended Whitehaven High School. **Norman Blake '74** received several calls from former classmates pointing out that it was he on the far left of the Switzerland photo, not **Nathan Hightower**. He called us to confirm, "Hey, that's me waving." Apologies to Norman, whom we understand was the impetus for the 1974 trip with Mr. Hatchett.



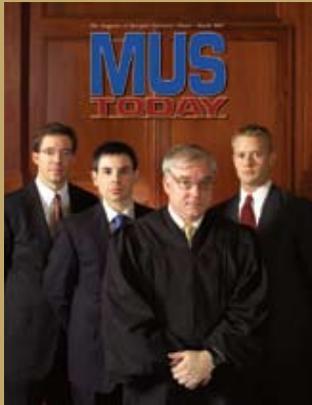
We also heard from **Adam Brinkley-Svanberg '99**, who is living in Moscow, Russia, and working in investments. The article, "Where in the World is MUS?" touched on many alumni living abroad but surely there are others. Please let us know where you are and what you're doing!

Finally, we apologize for putting golfer **David Tashie** in the wrong class; he actually graduated in 2004.



Camp information and application are available on our website, www.musowls.org, or call 260-1300 for a brochure.

MUS TODAY *contents*



ON THE COVER
Representing law and order:
Kirby May, Dean Decandia,
Chris Craft, and Eric Elms –
story starts on page 3. Photo
by Jack Kenner.

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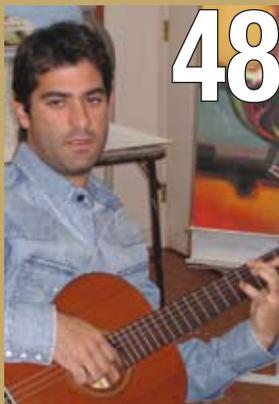
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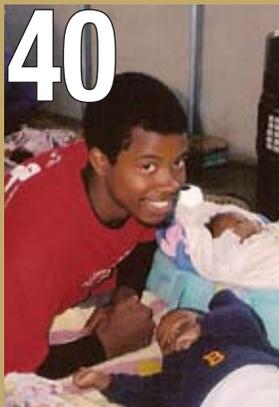
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Headmaster's Message

by Ellis Hagewood

“...THE CORRECTIONS OF DISCIPLINE ARE THE WAY TO LIVE.”
(Proverbs 6:23)

MUS is unashamedly a school of “law and order,” a place where adults create a just environment that does not allow the strong to take advantage of the weak, a place where ideas can be communicated without being shouted down, a place where rules are respected and enforced for the good of all. Of course, as Thoreau says at the beginning of his essay on *Civil Disobedience*, “I heartily accept the motto ‘That government is best which governs least.’” At MUS, we too want the fewest rules possible because we believe that the fewer rules a school is forced to make, the better the possibility for cultivation of self-discipline and self-control in our students. Thoreau takes this premise to its logical conclusion when he continues, “That government is best which governs not at all: and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.” The key phrase, of course, is *when men are prepared for it*. We’re not there yet, but our Honor Code, our curriculum, our school culture, and our extra-curricular activities aim at inculcating strong moral character *within* our boys, not merely imposing it from without.

Perhaps the best definition of “education” I have ever heard came from William Bennett at an International Boys’ Schools Coalition conference in the summer of 2005. He said, “Education is the cultivation and enhancement of wit and character.” By *wit*, of course, he means intellect in all its forms. Our mission at MUS echoes that definition, though in different words, when we aver that we are “dedicated to academic excellence and the development of well-rounded young men of strong moral character.” However, neither academic excellence nor strong moral character can develop without attention to discipline. What we seek to produce eventually is a student who *wills* himself to do that which he *should* and *must* do rather than what he might *want* to do.

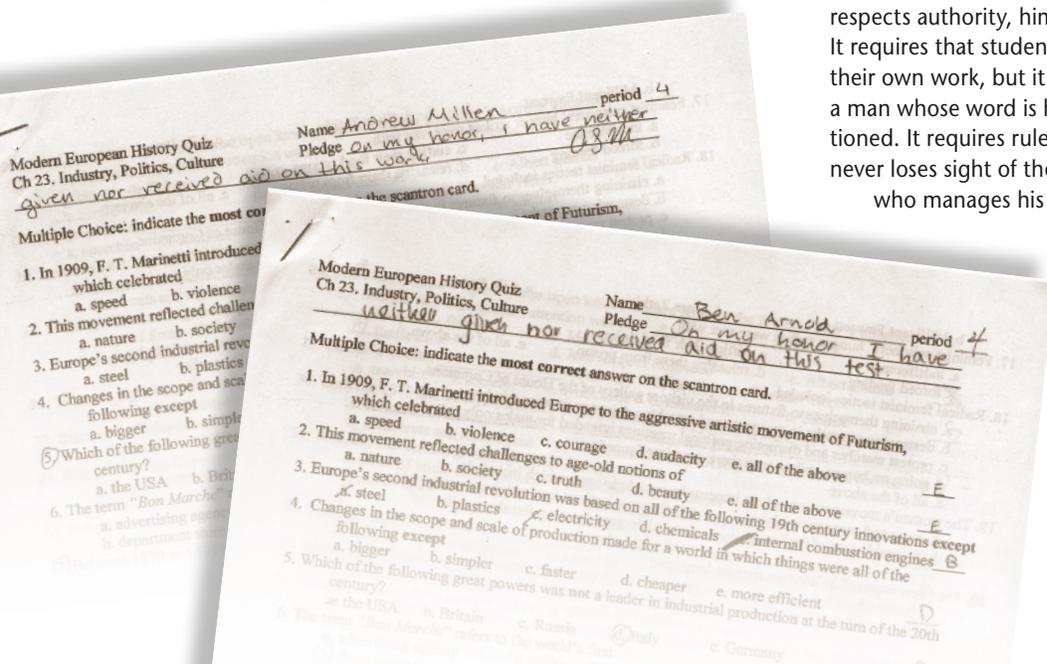
What may seem unimportant, even oppressive to a ninth-grader, can pay dividends later in a man’s life, as Thomas Mann wrote, “Order and simplification are the first steps toward mastery of a subject.” For example, the study of traditional grammar can make one a better writer. A recent letter to English teacher Norman Thompson from one of his long-since-graduated ninth-grade students, now finishing a Ph.D. in economics, illuminates the thesis: “Mr. Thompson, I owe you my appreciation. I now find myself in graduate school with a rare skill that I am constantly using to help my students and colleagues who, while very intelligent and capable, have received almost no formal grammar instruction. At the age of 13, I had no idea how important the skill was that I was learning; had I known, I am sure that I would have taken it more seriously, but I am very thankful for the advantage that I have in my current profession.... I often tell my students that I am on their side, but that I am primarily on the side of their 40-year-old selves, the ones who will wish that they had worked harder in my class.”

At MUS, we try to keep our boys engaged in activities that enhance wit and character. But we understand that self-discipline in boys will not develop in a school devoid of adult-imposed law and order.

Our version of law and order requires every student to take courses not only that colleges think important but also that the adults at MUS think important. It does not neglect what Emerson called the “rudiments” – grammar, memory work, computation skills, historical facts, maps, and tables – but it never loses sight of the ultimate goal: thinking and writing cogently, analytically, critically; combining and ordering thoughts to make sense of the *why*. It requires a dress code, punctuality, accountability, proper parking – but it never loses sight of the ultimate goal: a student who respects authority, himself, his fellows, and their property. It requires that students pledge that the work they submit is their own work, but it never loses sight of the ultimate goal: a man whose word is his bond and whose honor is unquestioned. It requires rules and order imposed by adults, but it never loses sight of the ultimate goal: a self-disciplined man who manages his life and his emotions well, who motivates himself to take the noblest

course of action, even when it opposes his desires. That’s the MUS brand of law and order.

Students write their pledge of honor at the top of each test they take.





Paul Hagerman, Rob Ratton,
Kirby May, Bo Summers

LAW & ORDER: MUS

by Caitlin Goodrich

“In the criminal justice system,
the people are represented by two
separate yet equally important groups....”

The Scales of Justice

Executive Assistant District Attorney Jack McCoy enters the courtroom, a small entourage of beautiful – but very serious and professional – people in perfectly tailored suits in tow. Every seat in the house is filled. All eyes rest on McCoy as he makes his way up the center aisle, a sliver of light catching the silver in his hair. He is calm. Focused only on the trial at hand. The judge calls the court to order, and in a matter of minutes – and with the help of several surprisingly pointed questions and a couple startlingly revealing remarks, McCoy reduces the murderer/rapist/drug dealer on the witness stand to a sobbing/seething/silent convicted criminal. McCoy’s work for the day is done. Justice has been served. He heads back to the office where he is congratulated by his colleagues on yet another big win.

Dramatic? Yes. Compelling? Absolutely. Realistic? Not quite.

Eight MUS graduates currently serve as assistant district attorneys in the Shelby County District Attorney's office. Ask **Dean Decandia '93**, **Paul Hagerman '92**, **Emmett Hall '67**, **Kirby May '94**, **Cavett Ostner '93**, **David Pritchard '85**, **Rob Ratton '96**, or **Bo Summers '94** to describe a typical day on the job, and they'll paint a picture of a life very different from that created by ADA McCoy and the rest of NBC's *Law & Order* gang.

Of course, every ADA has had his own *Law & Order* moment or two – a time when the right words just fell into place, when a life-altering piece of evidence was revealed, when justice prevailed – but for the most part, these busy guys are just trying to get through the day.

“ADAs are normally confronted with enormous case-loads,” May says. “I’m involved in the prosecution of hundreds of cases per week. It’s allowed me to hone my trial and negotiation skills, but it can be a challenge.”

The same goes for Public Defenders **Eric Elms '91**, **Rob Gowen '90**, and **Sanjeev Memula '92**. “I often have 70 cases going at a time,” Elms says. “It’s manageable, but we’ll always be busy due to the high crime rate in Memphis and the fact that we’re understaffed and under-funded.”

With such heavy case loads, Elms, May, and their colleagues are in court on a daily basis. They learn to think on their feet, to sufficiently prepare for trial in a short period of time, to multi-task, to effectively tell a story. “Having patience is the most challenging [part of my job],” Decandia says. “The overwhelming volume of criminal cases does not allow for speedy closure or resolutions in many cases.”



Dean Decandia



Eric Elms



DEAN DECANDIA earned both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Memphis.

PAUL HAGERMAN received his B.A. from Vanderbilt University and his J.D. from New York University. He and his wife, Jennifer, have a 10-month-old son, Jack.

EMMETT HALL has a B.B.A. from the University of Mississippi and a J.D. from the University of Memphis.

KIRBY MAY is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he also earned his J.D. He and his wife, Windy, have a 2-month-old daughter, Brooks.

CAVETT OSTNER received his B.S. and J.D. from the University of Denver. He and his wife, Megan, have two daughters, Rose Marie and Savannah.

DAVID PRITCHARD is a graduate of Millsaps College and received his J.D. from the University of Memphis.

ROB RATTON is a graduate of Hamilton College with a J.D. from the University of Iowa. He and his wife, Katie, have a 7-month-old daughter, Sara Katherine.

BO SUMMERS has both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Mississippi.

ERIC ELMS has an undergraduate degree from Rhodes College and a J.D. from the University of Memphis.

ROB GOWEN earned his undergraduate degree from Loyola University and his J.D. from the University of Memphis.

SANJEEV MEMULA received a B.S. from Washington University and a J.D. from the University of Missouri.

Drugs, domestic violence, DUIs – these guys have seen it all, and several have had a hand in creating the legislation and procedures that keep the citizens of the Volunteer State in line. Elms began his career as a research analyst for the Tennessee State Legislature. His focus was on mental health, particularly developmental issues. But he soon became frustrated with large policy matters. It often takes years for legislation to be enacted, and he wanted to be able to see the results of his work.

As a psychology major at Rhodes College, Elms hoped to enter “a helping profession on a micro level. I wanted to work for the marginalized, the indignant criminally accused,” he says. So Elms left Nashville, enrolled in law school and now works in the drug felony unit of the Shelby County Public Defender’s office. It’s not an easy job, but Elms finds fulfillment in the fact that he offers many of his clients a second chance. “It’s challenging to see the

reality of wasted lives and to interact with brilliant individuals who have been brought up in communities and cultures where they accept prison as a given. I try to show these people that they can break the cycle and become successful members of society. They can change the scripts of their lives.”

May has done his share of life-changing as well. As a member of the Shelby County District Attorney General’s office, he’s served as a prosecutor in the General Session and the Domestic Violence Unit and currently works in Criminal Court. But it was May’s work as lead prosecutor of the DUI Prosecution Task Force from 2003 until late 2006 that changed the way drunk drivers are brought to justice in Shelby County.

“The DUI Unit is part of a federal grant that seeks to deter impaired drivers by the expedited prosecution of pending matters and by educating law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, and the general public,” May explains. “As the lead prosecutor, I had to create the procedures and protocols, coordinate litigation in numerous criminal courts, and manage a small staff. I was also able to develop numerous presentations for judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officers.”

But why, you might ask, do these men work so hard to find solutions to problems that may never be resolved? They say it's all part of their desire to serve the communities in which they live. "I recently attended a fundraiser at The Peabody for the Shelby County Drug Court," Elms says. "They showed a film that featured people who had come through the Drug Court, entered rehabilitation programs, and are now functioning, successful, and contributing members of the Memphis community. One of the men in the film was a former client of mine."

Talk about a *Law & Order* moment – only better.

MUS's Finest

Interstate 75 begins at a Park & Ride lot in Baltimore, Maryland, and winds its way through the Pennsylvania countryside and into West Virginia. There it crosses the Ohio River before driving a straight line through Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, and into the heart of Colorado. In Denver, I-75 meets I-25, a stretch of pavement that cuts a jagged path from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Buffalo, Wyoming. The two roads carry agricultural goods from Denver, Colorado's distribution center; they bring workers to support the energy and mining industries; they announce the arrival of tourists intent on exploring the gateway to the Rockies. But with these travelers and truckers come drug-toting members of the Mexican

mafia from Southern California and New Mexico, and Gangster Disciples from Chicago. The gangs meet in Denver and its suburbs, home to a large population of Hell's Angels, a group notorious for its involvement in illegal activities.

The convergence of these rival parties creates an environment ripe for violence and has made Denver the place to be for drug traffickers west of the Mississippi.

Enter **Ryan Ehrhart '91**. As a student at Colorado College, Ehrhart had planned



Ryan Ehrhart on the job in 1995



Steven Bicks ready for hazardous duty

to take the MCAT and enroll in medical school post-graduation, but an internship in the forensics department of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation changed his mind.

"Following my internship, a friend told me that the Sheriff's office was hiring 20 people and dared me to take the test," Ehrhart recalls. "After four days of written exams, physical tests, and a session with a lie detector, I finished second out of 500 candidates. I figured I should take the job and started at the Police Academy four days after graduation."

Ehrhart, one of the youngest law enforcement officers in Colorado at the time, began his career at a maximum security prison. He then spent a year on patrol, policing the dealers and criminals of Colorado Springs' darker side. He worked the night shift while earning his master's degree in public administration with an emphasis on business at the

University of Colorado and soon advanced to the rank of detective and SWAT team member.

As a first responder to the scene of a crime, Ehrhart witnessed his fair share of “typical police stuff.” Frequent encounters with methamphetamine – a highly addictive psycho stimulant drug popular as a result of the relative ease with which it can be “cooked up” at home – revealed to Ehrhart a culture completely different from any he had known before. Suicides, shootings, rapes, and deaths were every-day occurrences.

“I found a bomb in a car at a routine traffic stop,” Ehrhart says. “And I was decorated with a state medal for lifesaving after cutting down a guy who had hanged himself. On a job like that, you become jaded. People have guns and knives and do crazy things. My goal was simply to go home every night.”

While maintaining a positive attitude toward work – and the world in general – proved difficult at times for Ehrhart, he took comfort in the fact that he was often the only hope for many of the people he encountered. “Despite the challenges of the job, it really came down to one person helping another person,” he says. “That can be a very rewarding experience.”

Ehrhart enjoyed the fast-paced, adrenaline-pumping life of a law enforcement officer, but when he was stabbed on a call, he began to reconsider his career choice and “explore other options.”

A job offer from Morgan Keegan pulled Ehrhart back to Memphis in 1998. Now in his ninth year at the company, Ehrhart was recently promoted to the position of managing director, and he and his wife, Michele, celebrated their one-year anniversary in October. In his spare time, Ehrhart enjoys duck hunting, working out, golf, and traveling. He maintains his connection to the world of cops and robbers as a member of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, an independent, nonprofit organization that offers perspective, advocacy, and facilitation to the community and criminal justice system to implement model crime/fear reduction strategies. “We’re basically a think tank,” Ehrhart says. “We’re concerned about the crime in Memphis and we’re trying to do something about it.”



Steven Bicks’ ’76 concern for crime and the wellbeing of his community developed not as a result of personal experience or a life-long dream to go into law enforcement. He simply fell into the field somewhere on his “never-ending quest for solvency.”

Bicks’ pursuit began following his graduation from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Armed with a degree in archaeology, he set out for Alaska to try his hand in the fishing industry. After the salmon season ended, he journeyed to Anchorage looking for the most inexpensive way out of the state. As it turned out, the cheapest airline fare was a \$99 standby seat to London.

From the capital of the United Kingdom, Bicks rode a bicycle through England, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Egypt before landing in Israel where he stayed for seven years. He took a job at the Archaeological Survey of Negev and spent his days dig-



Bicks indulging in one of his favorite pastimes

ging on the Biblical site at Kadesh Barnea and other Roman-era excavations. “According to the Old Testament, Moses struck a rock at Kadesh Barnea and water sprang forth,” Bicks explains. “The site and nearby plateau were covered with the evidence of human habitation. On the plateau, you literally walked through a Bronze Age settlement to climb into an Iron Age fort built on top of a Stone Age hunting site. We worked from sunrise to sunset, and we were so focused on the project that we often forgot to eat. We were all heartbroken at the end of the dig. It was the best job I ever had. No one wanted to leave.”

But the Israeli government gave Kadesh Barnea back to Egypt, and Bicks returned to the U.S. in 1988. He traveled to California to see a friend, only to find himself broke and unemployed in Sacramento. As luck would have it, Bicks saw an ad for a position with the Sacramento County Probation Department. “The pay was good, and I wasn’t getting rich selling beer,” he recalls. He took the job. A year and a half later on his quest for financial stability, Bicks became a sheriff’s deputy. “Probation officers and deputies do about the same job,” he says. “But deputies make more money.”

Bicks was assigned to a county jail as a custody officer and met his future wife, Ginger, on the job. “She was an officer, not an inmate,” he says.

After four years working in the jail, Bicks rotated out on patrol and “pushed a car” in the ghettos of south Sacramento County for six years before being promoted to detective in the Elk Grove Police Department, where he worked for another six years. “I don’t recall planning on settling down [in Sacramento], but somehow I wound up with a wife, two kids, a dog, and a mortgage.”

He and his family live in Carmichael, California. His favorite pastimes are underwater photography, diving in the Caribbean and the Pacific, hiking in the back country of the Sierras and, on an irregular basis, “taking out a bag of sticks and venting [his] frustration on some poor, unassuming golf course.”

Bicks currently works as a detective in south Sacramento County, investigating felony assaults and property crimes. He recently joined the Explosive Ordnance Detail (EOD). “Invariably people question my sanity when I mention I work the bomb squad. Insanity aside, EOD was a nice bump in pay... and chicks dig the bomb suit.”

Bicks acknowledges that his job is not for everyone, but he enjoys the challenges it presents. “Even after 18 years, my

heart races every time I go through a door to arrest someone, every time I do a felony vehicle stop, and every time I go down range on a suspicious device,” he says. “The images of pulling friends from burning cars, holding a young informant as he dies from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, trying to revive dead babies from crack houses – those images will stay with me forever.”

Both Ehrhart and Bicks credit a portion of their success to the education they received at MUS. “You have to write well to be a detective,” Bicks says. “Mr. Boelte, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Haguewood were the best English teachers I ever had. No, let me rephrase that. They were the best teachers. Few in college were as good.”

Ehrhart, a recipient of MUS’s highest honor, the Faculty Cup, agrees. “MUS is blessed to have excellent teachers like Dr. Harkins and Mr. Eikner. The school was good about teaching us how to write and speak concisely, how to communicate. It’s a skill that helped me excel in law enforcement and in the business world, and I’ll be forever grateful.”



While in Baghdad, Rob Edwards found himself among the U.S. troops operating out of a former palace of Uday Hussein, which was also home to this captive lion.



ROB EDWARDS REPORTING IN

Most people find one job is enough to keep them occupied throughout the day, but for **Rob Edwards '89**, a single career just doesn't cut it...so he has two.

We last spoke to Edwards in the spring of 2005, when he was still fresh off a plane from Baghdad following a tour of duty with the Mississippi National Guard. As a member of the Military Police and an Intelligence officer, Edwards and his team ran a High Value Detainee Facility (HVD) in Baghdad, where notable residents included Chemical Ali, Abu Abbas, and Saddam Huessin. He was sent to Fallujah during the first offensive there but returned to Baghdad to supervise security for members of the new Iraqi government. And he somehow found time to collect \$3,000 worth of school supplies for local children and learned to make prosthetic limbs.

The pace of life hasn't slowed for Edwards since returning to Tupelo, Mississippi, and his multiple roles within the Tupelo Police Department. A former detective, Edwards now serves as an Internal Affairs officer, a full-time instructor at the North Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Center, and the Professional Standards officer in charge of rewriting the department's policy.

Needless to say, Edwards has learned a thing or two about law enforcement – not to mention the human condition – in his years of service. “I have found that bad guys have the same motives no matter where you go,” he says. “They have the same warped idea of reality, and they chase their own selfish needs.”

But it's not the criminals Edwards has encountered that have had the greatest impact on his life. “The soldiers and officers you meet over the course of your career affect you most,” Edwards says. “I have met many true heroes who wear the blue and have been an inspiration to me. When your life depends on the person to your right or to your left, you have a tendency to get close and stick together.”

Edwards has also found that family serves as a source of encouragement. “Kimberly, my wife of 14 years, has been extremely supportive, and I've gotten a lot of strength through her. And my three boys all want to be soldiers and law enforcement officers. They just wonder why I'm not a fireman, too.”



Warming the Bench

For the Honorable **Chris Craft '69**, interacting with individuals accused of violent crimes is part of his daily routine. "On any given day, I'll have between 100 and 110 offenses on the docket – everything from small thefts to murders and violent sexual assaults," Craft says.

In Memphis, a city where the number of violent crimes is more than three times the national average, to choose a career as a judge might seem a dangerous and ultimately discouraging decision. But for Craft, pursuing criminal law was not a choice; it was a calling.

As an underclassman at Vanderbilt University, Craft had originally planned to become a minister. His plans changed, however, when he transferred to the University of Memphis, married his college sweetheart, and took over his family's 2,800-acre farm and cotton gin.

Surprisingly, Craft's duties on the farm proved to be the impetus behind his interest in law and the court system. "Our farm manager died soon after I moved back to Memphis, so it fell to me to bail several of my farmhands out of jail every weekend," he recalls. "I became acutely aware that the helplessness of those living in poverty without basic education stood in stark contrast to the resources of those who could afford a private education with all its perks and advantages. I felt called to help those who couldn't afford high-priced legal counsel. I knew that's where I could make a difference." So he decided to forgo the ministry and enrolled in the University of Memphis's Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Craft earned his J.D. in 1978 and worked as a defense attorney and assistant district attorney for 16 years until Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter appointed him a

criminal court judge in 1994. Since then he has been re-elected to three consecutive terms and received the Outstanding Service Award from the Memphis Bar Association last year. He is the presiding judge for Shelby County, serves as an adjunct law professor at the University of Memphis and assistant dean of the Tennessee Judicial Academy, chairs the Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee, and holds membership on several other judicial committees.

"I enjoy making order out of chaos," Craft says. "Although sometimes I do have frustrating days and disappointing defendants, I am in a position to empower victims to take charge of their lives and am able to bring resources to the table that break the cycles of poverty and crime that plague so many offenders. I really do love my job. I would never want to do anything else."

Craft credits much of his success to the instruction he received at MUS and, in particular, the influence of the Honor System and teachers John Murry Springfield, Leigh MacQueen, and Bill Hatchett. "The lessons these three men taught me translated into the importance I place on my legal writings and rulings, the strict demands I lay down for defendants of whom I require change for another

chance, and the perspective and balance I need to keep from letting all of this get to me when things don't seem to make a lot of sense."

Outside of work, Craft spends much of his time at Second Presbyterian Church where he has been a member for 34 years and currently serves as an elder and Sunday School teacher. His wife, Susie, is senior legal counsel and first vice president of SunTrust Bank; his son, **John '97**, is campus minister at UT Chattanooga and recently welcomed a son, Christopher; and his daughter lives in New York where she works for Teach for America, a non-profit organization that recruits college graduates to teach in inner-city schools.



Chris Craft on the bench and pictured below with his family – wife Susie, daughter-in-law Leigh, and son John – at the baptism of his grandson, William Christopher





The Honorable D.J. Alissandratos '66

has always been a busy, busy guy. As a student at MUS, he was a member of the football team, the Pep Club, the annual staff, and the *MUSE* staff. He earned his pilot's license in 30 days at age 19 and immediately bought a \$1,200 airplane. In 1970, he graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in psychology, philosophy, and sociology, married his sweetheart, and enrolled in law school at the University of Memphis. While working toward his J.D., he served in the Sheriff's Reserve; and just a few years down the road, he made history as the youngest judge ever elected in the state of Tennessee. Needless to say, Alissandratos was not your typical 20-something.

Here's the story: after graduating from law school and passing the bar exam, Alissandratos and a friend founded Alissandratos & Wiener, a firm specializing in both civil and criminal law. But in 1976 the number of city courts was increased, creating new divisions for specific offenses – traffic violations, misdemeanor and preliminary hearings for felony offenses, city ordinance violations. "The courts were really rough and tumble," Alissandratos recalls. "There was little dignity. Lawyers didn't have much respect for the system, and I believed all courts deserve dignity and respect." So he decided to take matters into his own hands. "I tried to find good people to fill the available judicial positions," Alissandratos says. "I couldn't find anyone, so I decided to run."

And he won – but not without controversy. His opponent claimed that Alissandratos, at 27 years old, was too young to run for a seat on the city court bench and sued. The judge found in Alissandratos's favor.

Alissandratos served as a city court jurist until 1978 when he decided to pursue a position on the Chancery Court. Rather than dealing with criminal cases, the Chancery Court takes on matters of constitutional law, breach of contract, and domestic relations cases. Alissandratos believed the work would be intellectually challenging and was excited to win the election. But the opposition struck again. His challenger sued, claiming Alissandratos was too young to sit on the Chancery Court, which required that judges be at least 30 years old when taking the bench. Alissandratos was elected on August 7, 1978, turned 30 on August 13, and took office on September 1. The judge again ruled in his favor.

The job on the Chancery Court lived up to Alissandratos's expectations. Not even six weeks after taking the

bench, a highly publicized case involving a teacher's strike appeared on his docket. "The case could have been an extremely stressful experience," Alissandratos recalls. "But I found I was very comfortable dealing with it; I enjoyed the challenge of it. I realized I'd found my place."

Difficult cases continued to cross Alissandratos's desk over the course of his 28 years on the court, all of which reaffirmed his belief in the importance of the American system of justice. "I've learned over the years that the system boils down to much more than a matter of right versus wrong," he says. "It's really a matter of who has the last say-so. There's still a human element to the court system; it's a matter of opinion."

As a result of that human component, Alissandratos doesn't mind when his decisions are challenged or reversed. "I just have to rest assured that I did the best I could do and used sound judgment," he says. "I came to the opinion that my job was to preside over the civilized, speedy resolution of disputes, and I did my job."

Not surprisingly, speed was something for which Alissandratos was known in the courthouse. In fact, his docket was so current that he could often try a law suit within 30 days of when the lawyers had finished preparing their cases – a feat almost unheard of in the Tennessee judicial system. "I used to tell the lawyers I worked with that just because we're professionals doesn't mean we have to be disorganized. There's no need to waste time."

Alissandratos knows all about time, and he recognizes when it's time to move on.

One would think that with retirement, Alissandratos would have more time on his hands, more time to waste. But even before announcing, at the age of 58, that he would not seek another term on the court and retiring this past fall, Alissandratos had plans to stay busy. "One of the things I enjoyed most about being a judge was helping people bring final resolutions and peace to their problems – maybe not joy and satisfaction, but peace. Finality is comforting." So Alissandratos has signed on to continue performing mediations for Resolute Systems, a company that hires retired judges specifically for that purpose. And with a 95 percent settlement ratio as a judge, it's safe to say that Alissandratos will be one of Resolute's most successful mediators.

But that's not all he has on the docket. Alissandratos will recruit clients for UBS, a high-wealth asset management firm, and will also continue to sit on cases when the



D. J. Alissandratos

opportunity arises. "I've had the privilege to be in public service for this long; why wouldn't I want to continue to help if given the chance?" he asks.

Alissandratos also hopes to sneak a little travel into his retirement but plans to spend a significant amount of time with his wife Jane (not to mention the horses and donkeys) on their ranch in Tate County, Mississippi. "We bought the place in 1988, and we've seldom heard an airplane there," he says. "We've got tractors and other farm equipment, but we seldom use them. God takes care of the place – and it's a beautiful spot. I have a small rearview mirror in life – I don't look back. I just enjoy it. So that's my plan. I'm just going to continue to enjoy it."



"There hasn't been a day in my life when I've wanted to walk away from my job," says **Dan Michael '72**. That's a bold statement, especially when the job in question requires hearing and deciding juvenile cases for the state of Tennessee. But Michael's absolutely positive that there's nothing he'd rather do.

Michael attended the University of Memphis following his graduation from MUS, but he wasn't the typical college freshman. "I married my childhood sweetheart that year," he recalls. "And by that point, I'd been working at my father's gasoline service station since I was 13 years old. We became business partners when I was a senior in college. You could say I was a little different from the rest of my classmates."

Michael earned a degree in philosophy but continued to work with his father, eventually owning and running two of his own service stations. He watched as the business changed and major oil companies forced private franchises like his own out of business. The industry shift motivated Michael to return to school. He enrolled in the University of Memphis's Fogelman College of Business & Economics and began working toward his M.B.A.

While he enjoyed his coursework and loved being back in the classroom, Michael began to doubt his choice of study. "I discovered that I was really interested in law – well, law and communications," he says. "I approached the dean and asked if there were some way I could earn a joint degree. He wasn't as enthusiastic about that idea as I was." So, at 37 years old and just 10 academic hours short of his M.B.A., Michael withdrew from business school, took the LSAT and became a law student.

"By that point I had two children and was still running two service stations," Michael says. "It was a busy time, but I

loved it. My professors reminded me that education was fun – something I had learned from teachers like Ellis Hague-wood at MUS. For me, juggling school and work and family was exciting, although if you ask my wife, you might get a different perspective," Michael says with a laugh.

In his second year of law school, Michael decided to volunteer for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a national nonprofit organization that recruits advocates for children in the juvenile court system. He underwent intensive training and found he enjoyed the interaction with children so much that he enrolled in a criminal law class in his final year. The course required that Michael participate in an externship program in which he defended and prosecuted juvenile offenders.

The juvenile court judge at that time, the Honorable Kenneth A. Turner, took a particular interest in Michael's work on the court and offered the recent graduate a position as his legal counsel, while also requesting that Michael maintain his involvement in CASA. Shortly thereafter, Michael bid farewell to his service stations and focused his attention on law, eventually becoming executive director of CASA as well as chief legal counsel for Judge Turner. As

if his plate weren't already full, Michael began to serve part-time as a juvenile court referee in 1997. With approximately 26,000 cases in a given year, the sole elected juvenile court judge has a difficult time hearing all the cases that must be decided, so Judge Turner appointed six referees to represent him in cases that he is unable to try. "I wear the robes, sit on the bench, and essentially act as a judge," Michael says.

In 2005 Michael was appointed a full-time referee. "There's no such thing as a typical day,"

Michael says of his relatively new position. "I hear cases dealing with everything from child support and custody rights to juvenile delinquency and murder. There are some days when I'm frustrated that the system doesn't work for a certain child, but I know that this is my opportunity to make a difference."

So what's next for Michael? His term as a referee will last another seven years; "And then I'll wait to see whether I'm reappointed or not," he says. "If I'm not, I might just have to go get another doctorate." He laughs. "We'll see what my wife, Debby, has to say about that."

Formerly director of public relations for MUS, Caitlin Goodrich works in Atlanta for Jackson Spalding, an independent communications management firm. She graduated from Rhodes College in 2004 with a degree in English and served as an intern in MUS's Communications Department while in college.



Dan Michael

JUDGE BEJACH LAYS DOWN THE LAW

by John E. Harkins, Ross McCain Lynn Chair of History

Lois Dillard Bejach, Class of 1904, was born in Moscow, Tennessee, in 1886 and moved to Memphis in 1900. He graduated from MUS, Vanderbilt University, and Harvard Law School, after which he returned to Memphis to practice law. Within two years he was elected to the state House of Representatives, where he authored a statute widely known as the “Bejach Law.” This law gave Tennessee’s married women the right to keep and control their own property, rather than having it pass legally to their husbands’ control.

During the First World War, Bejach served as a lieutenant of field artillery in France. He later retired from the U.S. Army Reserve Corps, having reached the rank of major. Upon his return to Memphis, he served in the state Senate in 1921 and again in the state House in 1923. Obviously aligned with the E. H. Crump political organization, Bejach served as Shelby County Attorney from 1924 to 1933. Then Governor Hill McAlister named him to serve on the bench as Judge of Chancery Court in Shelby County. In 1954, Governor Frank G. Clement elevated Chancellor Bejach to the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Judge Bejach had a reputation among Shelby County attorneys for having a “mind like a steel trap” and for getting straight to the heart of any legal issue in his court. While they thought him somewhat stern in his judicial robes, they considered him pleasant, even jovial, when he was not on the bench. Bejach retired from the judiciary in 1968 at the age of 82, declaring that he was the most senior judge serving in a court of record in the state of Tennessee. He also told the press that he had saved the taxpayers about \$125,000 by not having retired 14 years earlier when he first became eligible.

In addition to his distinguished career in making, defending, and adjudicating the law, Lois Bejach also had a wide variety of social and community-building involvements.

The judge was active in First Methodist Church, the Shriners, the Masons, the American Legion, and several other military orders. Moreover, he was deeply involved in state and local history. He served on the Tennessee Historical Commission and was active in the Tennessee Historical Society and, especially, in the West Tennessee Historical Society (WTHS). Judge Bejach and Dr. Marshall Wingfield, pastor of the First Congregational Church, were the driving forces within WTHS for more than two decades. Their spouses were also seriously involved in local history and contributed articles to the WTHS Papers (the Society’s annual journal) during that time.

Lois and his wife, Willena Roberts Bejach, were ardent and accomplished bridge players and anglers, active at the Horseshoe Lake Hunting and Fishing Club. In fact, they became romantically interested in one another as appreciative partners at the bridge table. Mrs. Bejach, who also held a law degree, was a leader in various hereditary and patriotic groups, like the United

Daughters of the War of 1812 and the Daughters of American Colonists. (With no mention of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, does such an omission suggest that her ancestors might have been Tories?)

The Bejachs were socially prominent and enjoyed entertaining. They had three children and a number of grandchildren, upon whom they lavished time in retirement.

Judge Bejach died in early April of 1979, at the age of 93. His career and civic contributions exemplified the sort of commitment and achievement that one expects of an MUS alumnus. Although he attended the original MUS in the early 1900s, one suspects that Lois Bejach would feel very comfortable with and be proud to subscribe to the Community Creed instituted by students of the new MUS about a century after he had graduated.



Lois and Willena Bejach at their 25th wedding anniversary party in 1959

Griff Jenkins reporting from the field of battle

General Raymond Odierno
and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North



A Front-Row Seat to History

by Griff Jenkins '89

Every generation has defining moments and events. For the previous one, it was the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War. For us, it is the reality of terrorism that came to our shores on 9/11 and the war in Iraq. And while there are diverse opinions on these recent events, I have been privileged to have a front-row seat to some of the most amazing chapters of these stories.

As a contributor, producer, and cameraman for FOX News, I have had the opportunity to witness and document these events "up close and personal" – from behind the camera, in front of the camera, and behind a radio microphone. I have been embedded in the war in Iraq on three separate occasions – during the initial invasion of 2003, later that fall as the troops closed in on Saddam Hussein, and most recently with the Marines this past November in Fallujah. I went to Ground Zero and the Pentagon in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. I've traveled to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and seen the men that the United States government considers some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world. I have interviewed Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as well as anti-war activist Jane Fonda,

who recently returned to the national stage. I have witnessed Medal of Honor ceremonies and visited the trauma wards of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. And I have covered numerous peace rallies in Washington, D.C., and Crawford, Texas, and developed a relationship with peace mom Cindy Sheehan.

Only history will tell what impact these events will have had on our lives. I would not want to draw conclusions now, but rather offer my observations as I have lived through them. The threat of terrorism is as real today as it was on September 10, 2001, and yet the situation in Iraq is "dire" according to the newly confirmed general in charge, General David Petraeus.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was at home in our Georgetown townhouse watching the *Today Show*, holding my 12-day-old daughter, when the first plane struck the World Trade Center. I could not believe what my eyes were seeing. But once it set in, I turned to my wife, handed our daughter to her and said, "I'm going in to work. I have no idea when I will be back."

I recall seeing the billowing smoke across the Potomac River driving to work when my cell phone rang. It was

Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, who was desperately trying to get into the city to get on the air [North's nationally-syndicated radio show]. He had been aboard a Northwest flight due to land at Reagan National Airport just minutes apart from the time of the impact, and he had seen from the sky the carnage of the plane that hit the Pentagon.

In the spring of 2003, I was embedded with Marine Medium Helicopter Unit HMM 267 as Oliver North's cameraman. At that time, I had been in a few firefights in the Gaza Strip, but nothing like this. This was war, and I was about to take the same risk that every brave soldier, sailor, airman, Guardsman, and Marine out there faced. A dangerous and determined enemy was on the other side of the Kuwaiti border, and once we took off, we knew there was no turning back until we got to Baghdad. In 100-degree heat, we wore the same chemical warfare suits and body armor that the troops wore. The bullets and bombs were real and often threatened our safety. But the *esprit de corps* that exists among United States military forces gives one enough confidence to take the gates of hell if need be.

There were incredible battles along the way, all of which we won, and countless acts of daunting courage and heroism on the part of our troops. And

Sean Penn and Jenkins at a peace rally in Washington, D.C.



U.S. troops working with Iraqi troops in Fallujah



Jenkins surfing in Costa Rica



Sergeant Kopera, one of many unsung heroes Jenkins has encountered



I soon learned that the secret to good war coverage comes down to this: it's not about you, it's about them. No matter how exciting the fight becomes or catastrophic the post-battle damage is – the story is about the men and women with the dirt, blood, sweat, and tears on them that matters most.

America had been very successful and effective in driving the Taliban out of power in Afghanistan. Now, in another dangerous land, these same troops were performing remarkably as we sped toward Baghdad and the famous statue of Saddam Hussein was toppled. Words cannot describe what it is like to bear witness to the incredible bravery and true grit of our troops. We truly have the most professional, dedicated, and intelligent military on the planet.

I'll never forget standing in the Commanding Officer's quarters at Saddam Hussein's Palace in Tikrit in November of 2003 – the headquarters of the Army's 4th Infantry Division. North was interviewing the man whose troops would ultimately capture Hussein in that famed spider hole just weeks later. General Raymond Odierno told us that day that they were very close – and he was right. Which is perhaps

part of the reason that General Odierno is today the number-two guy in charge on the ground in Iraq. And if there was any doubt of Odierno's resolve, it's worth noting, too, that I had a chance to offer my sympathies to the general at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on the day he visited his son, who had lost a limb fighting in Iraq.

Today, we are in a very different fight in Iraq. There is neither an organized army on the battlefield nor a dictator still alive to threaten our aims. And the dangers our troops face on a daily basis resemble the guerrilla warfare of Vietnam. I often describe the war in Iraq now as two separate conflicts. In Baghdad, sectarian strife between Sunni and Shia extremist elements greatly deteriorates the security situation. In the Anbar Province, west of Baghdad in Ramadi and Fallujah, a Sunni insurgency has been aided by Al Qaeda elements to wage a war against us. And now we have credible information that unfriendly states such as Iran and Syria are playing a part in both places.

The Marines in Fallujah with whom I spent the better part of November 2006 face incredible threats of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), and the accuracy of determined sniper fire while attempting to bring stability to the region and facilitate the training of Iraqi forces and police units. I lived with the Alpha Company of the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, on the Fallujah Peninsula for two weeks. Every night from the rooftop of our Forward Operating Base, I could see the infamous bridge where America had been horrified to see the badly burned and disfigured bodies of the Blackwater Security men hanging. And I was given the nickname "whoosh-bang" during my stay after a very close call with an RPG attack on our vehicle that earned me that title (*Whoooooosssh-BAAAAAANG* is the sound RPGs make, and if you are lucky enough to survive it, you won't soon forget it!).

I came to refer to the work of Alpha Company as *CSI: Fallujah* because it can only be described as a high-tech police operation. Commanders there refer to it as "4th Generation Warfare." The aim of the enemy is to break our will by causing the most casualties possible while remaining in stealth. There are few major battles anymore, and the greatest threat to our troops comes



Fallujah at sunset

from surprise attacks – IEDs remain the biggest killer. In our unit from the Midwest, we had an intelligence unit made up of a few sharp men known as “the Hobbits.” They got their name because the tallest among them stood at a whopping 5’4”. But the work they do is invaluable to the mission. They created a sophisticated database of all the bad guys in the area with photos, family trees, known addresses, and tribal affiliations. To gather constantly updated information, the Marines conduct daily “Census Operations” by going door-to-door and spending time among the population. So the front line of this war has become every patrol that leaves the base.

In 2003, I was frightened to fly in a helicopter into a blaze of bullets and rockets; but for me, it was much more terrifying riding in armored Humvees looking for roadside bombs or trip wires for our vehicle to roll over, or going into homes where we were not sure whether the residents inside were friends or foes.

Yet, despite the perilous task they face, these Marines perform their daily duties with as much motivation and proficiency as the warriors of the invasion had exemplified. And I could not have been more impressed or proud of them in the way they adapted to a drastically different battlefield. What

really struck me was that these Marines had not lost the single most important thing that makes America great – compassion for the human spirit.

On one occasion, a sergeant with whom I became pretty close was leading a fire team in a running gun battle when an innocent Iraqi woman was shot in the crossfire from insurgent bullets. Realizing the risk of going after the woman under the threat of sniper fire, Sergeant Kopera chose to rescue her. The fleeing enemy maintained fire on Kopera, but he successfully evacuated her to a Marine hospital unit, and today she is alive and well. Tragically, Sergeant Kopera was shot in the head by a sniper several weeks later on another patrol. He was evacuated to Germany and is now recovering in a hospital back home. Not surprisingly, his relatives tell me that he longs to be back in his unit with his men.

It was originally said about the Marines at Iwo Jima, but it can certainly be said in Fallujah of the men of Alpha Company – “Uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

I am encouraged to see the advanced training of the Iraqi forces and police units. Although, Iraqi Army officers told me when I was there that they were not yet ready to take the fight over and stand on their own. I often wonder whether I will be back there in a year with a different group of equally impressive, brave men and women wondering why we didn’t get it right?

Polls show that the American people have grown increasingly disappointed in the way the war in Iraq is going. President Bush remains defiant in America’s goal of bringing about a

stable and independent Iraqi democracy. But the change of hands in Congress would suggest that our will to remain there is waning. Some even suggest that the recent “troop surge” is the last chance to turn things around. Resolutions are being drafted daily to condemn the war, and hearings have begun to question the President’s authority over his continued war powers. If the Democrats choose and succeed in de-funding the war, a very new chapter of history will begin to unfold. The most important question being: Will such actions make America safer or less safe from the threat of Islamic radicalism?

We are truly living in interesting times. Yet one thing remains reassuring and constant: Whenever Americans and our troops have been called upon in the face of great adversity, they have answered the call with selfless dedication and indefatigable determination.

And perhaps what’s most interesting of all is that this is just the beginning.

Griff Jenkins '89 is an on-air contributor for FOX News and frequently appears on The Big Story with John Gibson, Hannity and Colmes, FOX weekend news programming, and all FOX News talk radio programs. He graduated from Ole Miss in 1993 with a degree in English and has been in the news business for the last 12 years. When Jenkins is not covering world events, he can be found surfing in Costa Rica – his favorite pastime and an unlikely hobby for a Southern boy. He and his “most understanding” wife Kathleen live in Washington, D.C., with their daughters, 5-year-old Madeline and 1-year-old Mackenzie, and their Jack Russell terrier, Elvis. You can read his blog at www.griffnotes.com. 



Soldiers on foot patrol in Fallujah



Photo by Julia Counce

Matt Bakke (center) assumed head coaching duties during the state playoffs and kept the team focused on the task at hand.

How the 2006-07 Basketball Owls Became STATE WINNERS

PREPARATION PREPARATION PREPARATION

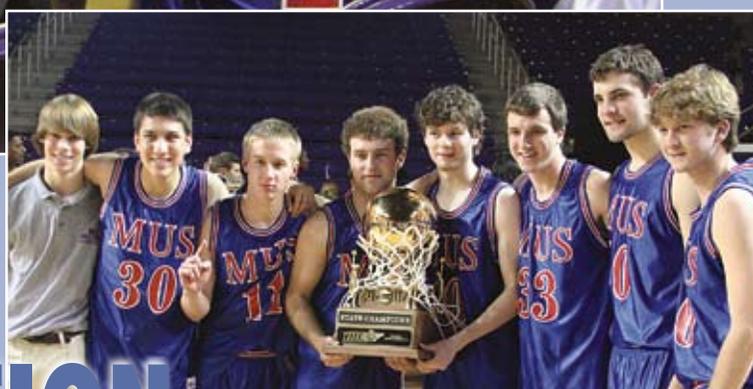


Photo by Linda Mello

For seniors William Harris, Naveed Mirza, Elliott Cole, Philip May, Louis Amagliani, Stephen Counce, John Stokes, and Adam Bomar, this was a great ending to their last season.

The saying has become one of the most overused clichés in sports. Athletes at all levels seem programmed to use the axiom when they are interviewed after a contest. The sports viewer often knows the adage is coming even before it is actually uttered.

“We have had to overcome so much adversity this season.”

But sports adversity has different meanings to different people. To some, it simply means that a team lost several close games during a season or had to endure poor officiating in one important contest.

To the 2006-07 MUS varsity basketball team, adversity means something totally different. Like so many squads, this team did face injuries to key players and tough, close losses to region rivals. They even had to face Briarcrest in the region-championship game on the Saints’ home court. Yet the Owls persevered and ultimately claimed a berth in the state tournament, their third consecutive state appearance.

Just when they thought that the difficulties were behind them and all was right to pursue their goal of winning a state title, a situation arose that no one ever expected. The most stable fixture at Memphis University School, **Coach Jerry Peters**, who had never missed a game in 43 years of coaching, would not be traveling with the squad to Nashville because of a minor stroke that affected him the morning of departure.

Throughout his career, Coach Peters has stressed consistency, stability, and unity in his players, and his teams are drilled about keeping an even demeanor on and off the floor. Yet, at the most critical point in the season, the steadiest member of the program, a constant on the MUS bench since 1964, would be absent from his regular seat during the state tournament.

It would be very easy for the Owls to lose their focus and crumble under the pressure of the tournament because of the absence of their coach. The loss of consistency and instruction as well as anxiety about his welfare could easily affect the players and their performance.

Yet Coach Peters and his staff had already done their job, and though he would be missed, he knew that his players were prepared to overcome this adversity, just as they had beaten all other odds all season. Coach Peters knows this group very well as several players are four-year lettermen, and he believes that they are special. To him, it is the character that each young man displays that makes this team special.

So without their head coach in Nashville, the Owls took the floor against Pope John Paul II in the first round of the state tournament.

MUS initially looked nervous and struggled early, leading by only one point at the half, 23-22. But in the second half, **Coach Matt Bakke** and **Coach Mark Counce ’77**, who were filling in for Coach

Peters, seemed to calm the players down, and, as they had in so many crucial games during their careers, the team made enough plays to ensure the 53-37 victory.

With the win, MUS advanced to the semifinals against McCallie the next evening. The Blue Tornado came into the contest with a gaudy record (25-4) and a 6'7", 275-pound center, but none of that mattered to the Owls. Just as Coach Peters has always taught, if they played their game and executed, they would be fine.

Winners of six consecutive games heading into the semifinals, the Owls were confident. Coach Bakke and Coach Counce, using suggestions from Coach Peters after he had watched the Pope John

The 65-54 victory over McCallie advanced MUS to the state-championship game, a round they had never reached in school history. Their opponent in the title tilt would be St. George's, which knocked off four-time defending state champion Brentwood Academy in the quarterfinals and sports two of the best players in the nation.

But, regardless of the opponent, there was no way this MUS team would lose on this day. Co-captains **Elliott Cole** and **Louis Amagliani** simply would not allow it.

Cole had a tremendous first half, scoring 24 points and hitting shots from many areas on the floor. His three-point field goal as the first-quarter ended cut the St. George's lead to 19-12 and ignited a 13-0 run that saw the Owls take a 22-19 advantage with 6:20 left in the half. MUS would not trail again against the larger, athletic Gryphons.

St. George's tried to get back into the game in the third quarter as they sought to trim the 37-26 halftime deficit. But every Owl seemed to contribute as the lead kept increasing. MUS led at one time by 27 points (63-36) before ultimately taking the 70-50 victory and securing the school's first-ever state basketball title.

"It's unbelievable because we really have put in a lot of work," rejoiced senior **John Stokes**. "Guys like Louis and Elliott, who just play basketball, they've spent so many hours in the gym with this dream all along. To have it come true, it's awesome."

Cole's 31 points and 8 rebounds earned him Most Valuable Player honors, while sophomores **Ferrakohn Hall** (below left) and **Robert Counce** (below right) were named to the All-Tournament team. But every Owl was a part of this title run.

The seven seniors deserve much of the credit for many different reasons. First, they



As the season progressed, the players began to meld, and the fans began to fill the bleachers. The whole group seemed to gather steam as they entered regional playoffs. MUS ultimately won the region title by beating Briarcrest, a team that had beaten MUS twice during the regular season. The team was on a roll and headed for state playoffs! They never imagined that one of them would be sidelined and have to miss the action. Displaying their regional plaque are (left to right) Louis Amagliani, Taylor Reed (22), Ross Montague, John Stokes, Will Pryor, Kevin Gray (15), Adam Bomar, Coach Jerry Peters, Naveed Mirza, Stephen Counce, Philip May (5), Ferrakohn Hall, Robert Counce, Elliott Cole (11), Dylan Cunningham, and Jordan Brown (4).

Paul II film in the hospital, came up with an excellent game plan, and the players were ready.

MUS never trailed after the four-minute mark of the first quarter as they forced 27 McCallie turnovers and continually frustrated their opponent using a zone press and several half-court zone defenses. And while they looked nervous in their first tournament game, all the players seemed to have a certain confidence in this game. They began to play with a swagger as they knew that they were the better team. In fact, they seemed to gather strength from Coaches Peters, Bakke, and Counce – *not* from Coach Peters' absence. Coach Bakke put it best when he stated that they did not win *for* Coach Peters but actually "*because of* Coach Peters."

McCallie Head Coach Dan Wadley knew that his team was overmatched.

"That's the worst whipping we've had all year," said Wadley. "They were well-prepared. Even though their head coach [wasn't] here, they did exactly what they've been taught. They executed, and they had a sense of urgency more than we did. ... My hat's off to them because they deserve it."



Photo by Linda Mello



Photo by John Russell/Associated Press

are all good basketball players, led by Cole, who is one of the best shooters in school history. Also, Amagliani, the Most Valuable Player of the region tournament, provided much of the toughness for the squad and is as competitive and hard-working as anyone who has ever worn the MUS uniform. These two captains – along with senior teammates Stokes, **Philip May**, **Adam Bomar**, **Naveed Mirza**, and **Stephen Counce** – all contributed immensely on the court throughout their careers.

But more important, these young men brought character to the squad, the only trait that would allow them to overcome their adversity. These seniors provided an excellent example to the younger players both on and off the court. Knowing that young men of integrity wore the “U” on the floor this season made this team very enjoyable and easy to support.

The underclassmen also recognized and learned from the seniors, and their roles were essential for the success achieved this year. Junior **Kevin Gray** and sophomores **Jordan Brown**, **Taylor Reed**, Counce, and Hall contributed so much to this championship



Photo by John Russell/Associated Press

Elliott Cole was the leading scorer in the game with 31 points and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Following the playoffs and a week of spring break, everyone was back at school, including Jerry Peters, who was presented the game-winning ball and a standing ovation during Monday chapel.

with their play, their hustle, and their serious approach to the game. They will now be expected to carry on with the same integrity as demonstrated by the seniors.

Coach Peters knows how special this group is.

“I never gave up hope on this team,” said Peters. “Earlier we struggled, but we kept going forward. The guys kept their heads up; the young players matured; and the result was we won our last eight games by double-digit scores.

“Winning the state was a credit to our players and coaches. They did a marvelous job.”

Coach Bakke recognized how the players united and responded to the situation.

“It was the players who did it. They were so great, resilient, focused, determined. Coach Peters always says it's up to the players; it's their game; and they were ready. Everybody on the team contributed. It was a true team effort.”

Coach Counce was also proud of the players for their performance at the state tournament.

“I thought our players maintained their focus under difficult emotional circumstances. They played with great passion and enthusiasm in all three games at the state tournament. They applied the lessons Coach Peters had taught them during the course of the season: move on offense, don't be in a hurry, pressure on the ball. The seniors supplied the determination and unity that our underclassmen followed. The players' love and concern for Coach Peters while we were in Nashville was a reminder of what is good and right about athletics at MUS.”

However, though he would echo Bakke's and Counce's sentiments about the players, Coach Peters deserves much credit as well. He and his staff prepared this team and have established the consistent, respected program that is MUS basketball.

Bakke spoke about his feelings for Peters: “I was happy for Coach Peters. He deserved this after all these years. He prepared us in every way, and I am so happy to bring the trophy home to him. We went up to the hospital after the game Saturday night to present him the trophy – it was emotional but very satisfying. I was in the locker room when he determined he couldn't go to the tournament. That was one of the most devastating moments of my life. We wanted to win this so badly – losing was not an option.”

But this championship is not simply for the players and coaches. The students stayed behind this team all year, even through some of the difficult losses. Their support was tremendous at the state tournament as the Owls fed off their enthusiasm.

Coach Peters' former players also revel in this title. The current players and staff know that this championship is for the alumni as well. In fact, many former players attended the state tournament so they could be a part of this run. Some even went to great lengths to experience the victory. Former Owl **David Montague '82**, who is currently in China, had his brother relay play-by-play of the last three minutes of the championship game over a cell phone. He wanted

to be a part of this title, as did so many other former MUS players.

And **Richard Burt '99** wrote us from Chicago: “Coach Peters deserves a championship ring more than anyone. I only wish it had been the team from '98-'99 who could have won it for him. One of the great aspects of Jerry Peters' coaching style is the preparation he instills in his players. From the get-go he prepares you for the year, not for individual games – so you either have it or you don't – which is why he's the best at turning semi-athletic young men like me into decent basketball players. I learned a lot from

Jerry and will never forget the experiences from my senior year.”

Many might think that a state championship now satisfies Coach Peters' ultimate goal and validates the MUS basketball program. But Coach Peters does not measure success with titles. Regardless of the outcome at state, this team had a successful year because of how they represented the school and themselves. The state title was simply a bonus, one that could not have been achieved without hard work and character. Because of the leadership and integrity of the coaches and seniors, the team met each obstacle and overcame, even after the surprise absence of their head coach. They truly made the MUS community proud.

Coach Bakke put it best at chapel following the tournament when he affirmed, “It's great to be an MUS Owl!” 



900 *Faculty Profile* and Counting



Jerry Peters and his wife, Ruth, are overwhelmed by the fans waiting to celebrate his 900th win.

Peters Reaches Another Remarkable Milestone by Steve O'Dell

John Wooden didn't do it. Adolph Rupp didn't do it. Dean Smith didn't do it. Not even Bobby Knight, the winningest coach in NCAA history, has done what Coach Jerry Peters has accomplished: winning more than 900 basketball games as a head coach. Coach Peters claimed his 900th win as head basketball coach for the MUS Owls on December 2, 2006, against Father Ryan. Being one of the top three winningest coaches in Tennessee high school basketball history is quite a feat, and to accomplish that feat at one school is nothing short of remarkable. The milestones Coach Peters has accomplished in his 42 years as head basketball coach for the Owls are unmatched, and they just keep coming – 500 wins, 600 wins, 700 wins, 800 wins, and now 900-plus wins.

Looking at the records set by Coach Peters makes one realize the dedication of the man who *is* Owl Basketball. The Owls went undefeated in regular-season play with a final record of 23-3 in 1970. They posted 24 consecutive wins in 1973 and ended the season with a 27-2 record. The Owls were sub-state champions in 1978, 1982, and 1985. They have claimed 7 regional championships, 16 district championships, 26 20-win seasons, and one state championship. Coach Peters will be the first to point out, however, that records are nice, but the growth of the young men who helped achieve these records is his greatest accomplishment. "Of all the honors I have received, the biggest honor has been to coach at Memphis University School," says Coach Peters.

“Early in my sophomore year I was doing fine academically but was struggling in basketball. While I was playing on the varsity team, my production fell to four points and three rebounds a game...quite a drop. I went to see Coach Peters. He shared with me that he was most pleased with my progress and encouraged me to keep working. Seeing that I was still dejected, he said, ‘Kevin, let me tell you. You need to remember that in this world there will always be fellas who score more points than you and who get more rebounds than you. But you will also find folks – boys at this school – who would give anything to have your spot on our basketball team. The key for you to be happy is to be the very best that Kevin can be. Don’t worry about others, but just do your best. Make your best effort. And then go to bed knowing you have done all you can do.’”

– Kevin Russell ’81

Jerry Peters, the son of Harold and Isabel Peters, was born in Illinois but has spent his life as a Memphian. He attended Volland Elementary, Snowden Junior High, and Central High School and went on to graduate from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) after a stellar athletic career in basketball and baseball for the Lynx. Coach Peters was inducted into the Rhodes College Haygood Hall of Fame in October 2006.

After graduation, Peters enjoyed a brief time as a reporter for *The Commercial Appeal* but found his calling in 1960 when Colonel Ross Lynn hired him to teach government and mathematics while coaching track, cross country, and eighth-grade football. His days on the football field gave way to days on the basketball court. It is clear why 42 years later, the Owls have one of the greatest high school basketball coaches in the United States. Jerry Peters teaches about life, not just basketball. “What really made Coach Peters special was his uncanny ability to get the most out of you, as either an athlete or student. I am absolutely convinced that the values he espoused would have made

him successful in any sport he might have coached or any class he taught,” according to Board of Trustees Chairman **Trow Gillespie ’65**. Gillespie played on Coach Peters’ first varsity basketball team in 1964, his son **Paul ’01** played on Coach Peters’ 800th-win squad, and son **Stuart ’04** took Coach Peters’ government class.

The recognition of his feats at MUS goes far beyond just 900 wins on the basketball court. Jerry Peters, the teacher, is a winner as well. In 1990, Coach Peters was awarded Honorary Alumnus status for 25-plus years of service to MUS. In 1997, he was awarded the MUS Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2000, the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools honored Coach Peters with the Hubert Smothers Award for “distinguished teaching and dedicated service to his school.” In 2003, he received the Jean Barbee Hale Award for Outstanding Service for living up to the standards set by Jean Hale: loyalty, responsibility, dedication, and commitment to excellence in service to the school. In 2006, Jerry Peters was named to the A. Robert Boelte, Jr. Chair of Excel-



Jerry Peters coached his first varsity team in 1964-65. The team finished 24-4 with outstanding players such as (left) Trow Gillespie (32) and Tim Whittington (54). Above, Buddy Best, David Jones, Tom Berdeja, Gary Stevens, and Jimmy Ogle were members of the 1969-70 team. This team, the first to be called the Buzzards for their scrappy ferocity, compiled 23 straight wins before losing in tournament play. Peters (right) displays his typical sideline composure in 1972.



“My most lasting memory and character-building situation from MUS occurred in 1966 while playing on the basketball team for Jerry Peters. One afternoon after a lengthy and difficult practice, he announced that the team was going to run the cross-country course, which circled the perimeter of the school. He also said that he was going to run the course with us, and that anyone who he beat would have to run the course again. I believe Coach Peters ran cross country for Rhodes (Southwestern then), so this was a potential problem for me, already being tired and definitely one of the slowest on the team. We started out the run with Coach giving us a head start. The team soon spread out, as the faster team members moved ahead. I found myself at the rear, followed only by Coach Peters, with a long way to go. For the rest of the course, which seemed miles and miles long, he followed five feet behind me, never passing but never letting up, all the while saying, ‘Petty, you’re fat. Keep running.’ He never passed me, but he definitely pushed me faster than I would have run on my own. This 41-year-old event seems like yesterday, and I will never forget Coach Peters’ ‘character-building’ exercises.”

– John Petty ’67

lence in Teaching. The chair recognizes outstanding work in the classroom and significant contribution to the school community.

With all the accolades for academics and athletics he has received, Jerry Peters’ greatest honor has to be as husband of Ruth; father of **Jeff ’79**, **Judd ’81**, **Jon ’84**, and **Jason ’88**; and grandfather to eight grandchildren. Jeff Peters, a member of the 1979 team with a record of 30-2, says it best. “My dad is arguably the best high school basketball coach in America. However, I most often hear stories from alumni about the ‘life lessons’ he taught them, versus what defensive or offensive strategies he utilized on the court. My three younger brothers, Judd, Jon, and Jason, also played basketball under my dad and witnessed the mentoring that he offered his students. My mother certainly knows my dad’s effect on these young men for over 40 years, through her undying commitment to both MUS and

to my dad’s coaching career. She is the key to his success. My father has made a lot of young men better basketball players. But his real victory is making them better fathers, better husbands, better businessmen, and better citizens as a result of their relationship with my dad. I am quite proud of his 900-plus wins, but I am as proud of the fact that he has positively touched the lives of so many students who have walked the halls at MUS and their families.”

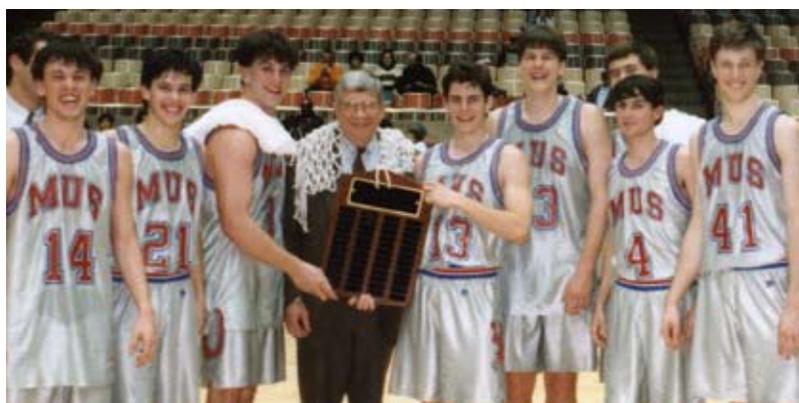
Breck Bolton ’79, who played for Coach Peters from 1977-79, proves that Jerry Peters is a mentor for coaches, players, and men. “I have had two cancers and, though I live out of town, Coach Peters has worked to keep up with me and to call me while I was going through treatments – although my cancers were many years after having played for him. He even brought me one of my old playing jerseys from our 1979 team, hand-delivered it. At the time I had been gone for 15 years. Where does he keep those things?



The 1978-79 team won the district and the first-ever regional title for the school, ending with a 30-2 record which is the highest winning percentage of any team. Team members were (front) Phillip McNeill, Breck Bolton, Tim Guyton, Chip Parrott, Jerry Martin, Jeff Peters, (back) Jimmy Allen, Scott Patterson, Kevin Russell, Brad Bolton, and John Ogle. Pictured right, the 1997-98 team won the Carbondale Tournament, the Ross M. Lynn Tournament, the regional title, and envisioned a state title. But the season ended in the quarterfinals with a record of 29-3, making them the third winningest team in school history. Surrounding Coach Peters were team members A Thompson, Michael Black, Richard Moore, Brad Wiedman, Foster Smith, Patrick Akin, Robert Faber (behind Akin), and David Willson.



Jim Barton (left), pictured with Headmaster Gene Thorn in 1985, is the only player in the school’s history to have his jersey retired. He and his 1984-85 teammates completed a 31-5 season taking district and regional titles and a sub-state win. The team became the first-ever to reach state semifinals, losing 54-50 to Knoxville Austin-East, who went on to win the state title.



“I kid Coach Peters that he has softened, and he denies it.... But let me tell you, it is true. Let me take you back to the fall of 1978. I am a freshman, and we are in ‘Phy-D’ for basketball. It’s the last session – a Friday afternoon. We did weight training, then a three-mile run. That in and of itself was a good two-hour workout. And we thought we were done. Then Coach Peters says, ‘I am seeing some agony...and I am seeing some hills.’ Yes, he takes us to run ‘agony hills,’ which were a group of long, gently sloping hills located where the soccer field is now. The different runs were about 150-200 yards in length, and we ran 26 of them! Took over an hour! I still remember words from Lane Carrick ’76, Jim Watson ’76, and others that I surely cannot repeat here!”

– Breck Bolton ’79

He has been a true friend as well as a coach and mentor. I am thrilled to see him enjoy the success he has had. I remember when Dean Smith got the college record – all his former players wanted it for him much more than he. It’s the same for Coach Peters. There is such appreciation, admiration, and respect for him. I am just grateful to have been one of the many to have benefited from my years with Coach.”

One of Peters’ more recent players agrees with Bolton. According to **Andrew Hanover ’03**, “Coach Peters is one of the most caring, charismatic, organized, and knowledgeable men I have ever been around. I enjoyed playing for him, but the meetings in his office after practice and just talking about things going on in life are the times I remember and appreciate the most. Coach Peters is a great man.”

With 900 wins and counting, things have certainly changed during Coach Peters’ time coaching. For instance,

basketball shorts have gotten longer in 42 years (just check out team photos on opposite page), gymnasiums have gotten bigger (remember the summer days in Todd-Snowden Gym without air conditioning?), there are two Coach Peterses running free throw drills around town (900 is quite a legacy to live up to at Lausanne, Jason), and dunks aren’t just seen on SportsCenter any more (thanks, Ferrakohn).

Thankfully, Coach Peters has no plans to retire, and 1,000 wins are coming fast. Thank you, Coach Peters, for giving everyone the chance to celebrate victories for 42 years on the court and in life.

Steve O’Dell is a former editor for The Commercial Appeal and is currently the Community Relations Coordinator for Hutchison School. He considers it quite an honor to pen this article and hopes “my feeble attempt to laud this humble legend will be worthy of his feats.” 🏀



In 1976 the varsity basketball team finished with a 23-7 season. The seniors from that ’76 team reunited to celebrate Coach Peters’ 900th win and honored him with a dinner at Lane Carrick’s house. Pictured here are (standing) Gib Wilson, Sam Varner, Mark Morris, Lane Carrick, Steve Hickman from Columbia, South Carolina, Rob Heard, (seated) Jim Watson from Atlanta, Georgia, Coach Peters, and David Preston from Kansas City, Missouri. As Coach Peters recalled numerous stories and details of that season, he was later asked how he was able to remember with such clarity events that happened 30 years ago. Coach quickly replied, “Oh no – it was just yesterday.”



In his fifth year as head coach at Mira Costa, Henry Myar (left) is encircled by his Mustangs. Mark Counce (above) coached at ECS for seven years and then moved to Cordova High, taking them to the AAA state tournament in 2002 before returning to MUS in 2004 as teacher and assistant basketball coach.

“Do Things Right” Resonates on Many Courts

by Steve O'Dell

THE IMPACT OF MUS HEAD COACH JERRY PETERS ON THE BASKETBALL LANDSCAPE STRETCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. FROM CALIFORNIA TO NORTH CAROLINA, FORMER OWL BASKETBALL PLAYERS ARE HONORING THEIR COACH AND MENTOR BY FOLLOWING HIM INTO THE COACHING RANKS. THESE ALUMNI COACH, EITHER PROFESSIONALLY OR AS VOLUNTEERS, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF COACH PETERS AND THE EXPERTISE THEY GAINED WHILE PLAYING UNDER HIM. THESE FORMER PLAYERS ARE FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEVELS:

Henry Myar '68
Mark Counce '77
Kevin Parker '84
Paul Reaves '84
Tim Wise '85
Jeff Ruffin '87
Jason Peters '88
Dax Torrey '94
David Willson '99
Webster Cannon '02

MANY OTHER ALUMNI COACH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES IN RECREATIONAL OR CHURCH LEAGUES.

Henry Myar '68 is the head basketball coach at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, California. Having played basketball for four years and run track four years at MUS, Myar had plenty of time to learn and understand the game of basketball from Coach Peters. But more important, he learned about life. After graduating from the University of Virginia, Myar took a position with PriceWaterhouse in Los Angeles. But being a basketball coach was still a dream. “I’ve always told people that coaching is the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done – except financially. But it is really rewarding. I always wanted to be a coach. My high school coach was very influential in my development as a young man. I wanted to pass that on, and when the opportunity [to coach at Mira Costa] came, I took it,” Myar said in an interview with a Manhattan Beach newspaper after becoming a head coach.

Mark Counce '77 sits alongside Jerry Peters every game, joining Coach Matt Bakke as fixtures next to the man, the legend. Much like Henry Myar, Counce learned the game of basketball by donning the Owls’ red and blue as a sophomore, junior, and senior at MUS. After earning his B.A. from the University of Arkansas and an M.Ed. from the University of Memphis, Counce returned to MUS as a math instructor from 1983-93. With 10 years of educational experience under his belt and life lessons firmly in place from Coach Peters, Mark spent seven years at ECS and four years at Cordova High School before coming back to MUS in 2004. During Counce’s tenure at Cordova, he coached varsity basketball, winning the District 14 AAA Coach of the Year award in 2001. Much like the Peters clan, the Counces play a vital role in the MUS community. Counce’s wife, Angela, is the school’s administrative assistant for athletics; sons Stephen '07 and Robert '09 played for their dad and Coach Peters on this year’s varsity basketball squad; and son Andrew and daughter, Julia, are diehard Owl fans.



Under the direction of Assistant Coach Paul Reaves (standing) and Head Coach Kevin Parker (kneeling), the MUS eighth-grade team went 18-4, finishing second in the Shelby League tournament this year.



As a player, Tim Wise (left) set an MUS record for most assists in a season with 309. He has been head basketball coach at his college alma mater for the past four years. Only in the second year of varsity play, Jeff Ruffin (below, far right) and his young St. George's team made it all the way to the state playoffs but could not stop the more seasoned MUS team from taking the title.



Photo by David Minkin

Kevin Parker '84 brings his talents to the Owls' coaching staff as coach of the eighth-grade MUS hoopsters. If there seems to be a common thread here, it is the amount of time these men have spent with Coach Peters – and Parker is no exception. An Owl cager from his freshman through senior years, he was the captain of the 1983 squad. Parker volunteers his time to the school as coach and by day is the environment of care director for Lakeside Behavioral Health System. He is married to Lauren and is the proud father of Luke, Matthew, and Courtney.

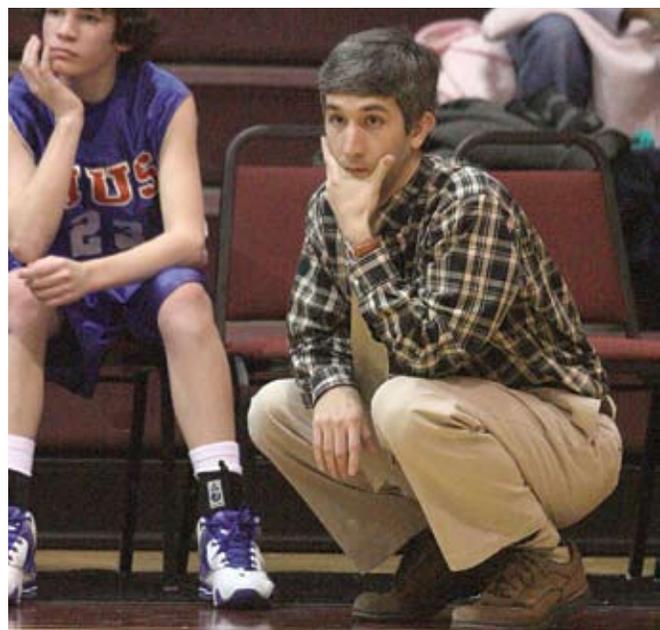
For the past five years, **Paul Reaves '84** has also been a volunteer coach with the MUS eighth-grade team. Reaves was on the MUS varsity squad in his sophomore and junior years, playing on the 1983 team that gave Coach Peters his 400th win. Reaves is the district vice president for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. He and his wife, Anne, are the parents of ten-year-old Ben.

Tim Wise '85 took the knowledge imparted by Coach Peters to the next level as head basketball coach for the Millsaps College Majors in Jackson, Mississippi. Wise has been the head coach for the Majors for four years and was an assistant at Millsaps for five seasons. A Millsaps graduate, he was a four-year letterman in basketball and golf for the Majors and still holds the career assist mark with 552. Would Coach Peters have it any other way? Teaching and coaching the “right thing to do,” Coach Peters enjoys a good pass as much as two points. An Owl hoopster for four years, Wise was also a captain of the MUS baseball team, played golf for four years, and was a member of the four-wheel drive club and professional wrestling club during his formative years at MUS. Wise started his coaching career at St. Benedict in 1989 before joining his mentor, Coach Peters, at MUS in 1992. In 1997, he joined the staff of Cordova High School as head boys' basketball coach and golf coach. Wise and his wife, Rachel, have three children, Luke, Anna, and Allison.

Jeff Ruffin '87 is the head basketball coach for St. George's Independent School in Collierville and has brought national attention to his school's young program. Having had a varsity team for just two years, St. George's has an impressive 43-17 record, and Ruffin's team made it all the way to the state tournament this year, losing to the MUS Owls in the championship game. About the state tournament, Ruffin says, “The whole weekend was surreal. Obviously it's a weekend I'll cherish and remember forever. The Owls performed extremely well, and I was very happy for MUS, Coach Peters, and Coaches Bakke and Counce.” A graduate of Mississippi State University and the M.B.A. program at the University of Memphis, Ruffin began a t-shirt business in Starkville and managed a golf equipment store before returning to Memphis as a sales representative and coach of the eighth-grade basketball team at MUS. A four-year basketball player for the Owls, he joined fellow MUS graduate **Jason Peters** on the squad that gave Coach Peters his 500th win in 1987. Ruffin's relationship with Coach Peters plays a large part in determining how he handles some coaching decisions. According to Ruffin, “My relationship



Photo by Action Photo Service



with Coach Peters has gone from coach/player to coach/assistant coach to two coaches competing against each other. He is such a great mentor – just a couple weeks before the state tournament I sat in his office discussing our two teams. I’ve learned a lot from him – organization, being prepared, working to make each player better off-season and bringing them all together as a team during the season.” Ruffin is coaching a highly regarded and recruited junior, Elliott Williams, and Jerry Peters has been through similar times with Owl stars such as **Jim Barton ’85** and **Michael McLaren ’01**. Ruffin and his wife, Karin, live in Cordova. They have a one-year-old daughter, Caroline.

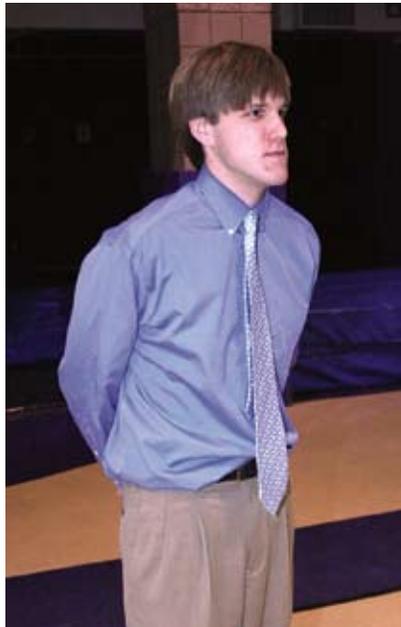
Jason Peters ’88 has a last name synonymous with Memphis high school basketball – he has embraced the name and enjoyed success on the basketball court as a player, a son, and a coach. The youngest Peters gets to learn from his mentor and his dad at the same time, and it is clear that he listens and understands. Jason is the head basketball coach and athletic director for Lausanne Collegiate School.

A son and a coach can explain the impact of Jerry Peters on a person’s life better than any writer. “Having played at MUS and worked at my dad’s summer basketball camp for many years, I gained an understanding of his techniques to help individuals reach their potential as players. While some other coaches may go about building their teams in a different fashion, Dad puts a great deal of time and hard work into the development of each player. I sincerely feel that each season there are guys who play a significant role on his team as a result of being taught the game in a particular manner, who would not even see the court at other schools.

“His way of running a team is the result of consistently studying the game of basketball. Whether it is speaking at and attending coaching clinics, reading articles and books on the subject, or simply watching games on TV, my dad has never lost his desire to learn, and that is probably why he has been successful for so long. I consider him to be an encyclopedia of basketball and refer to him from time to time as I coach my teams. For example, for weeks I will attempt to figure out a way to help my team improve

by moving players to different roles or emphasizing different things on offense or defense. We then watch a game film together, and Dad has the insight to instantly provide sensible advice. In this respect, one of the things that has enabled him to be a successful coach is that he is a very intelligent person. An important component of my dad’s basketball teachings is the belief that players should overlook individualism for the common good of the group. My dad has been fortunate to coach some outstanding high school players, but frankly, MUS does not inherit much of the raw talent so prevalent in Memphis. Despite this, the team-first attitude that he instills has allowed MUS basketball teams to be successful throughout the decades against opponents, in many cases, with far superior athleticism and natural basketball ability.”

Jason Peters was the captain of the MUS squad in 1988. He is married to Buffy and was the last of the Peters boys to graduate from MUS following **Jeff ’79**, **Judd ’81**, and **Jon ’84**. Who does his mother, Ruth, cheer for when it’s father versus son? The Owls, of course, according to Jason.



Starting from the left: Jason Peters (kneeling), athletic director and boys basketball coach at Lausanne, has won four district championships and two regional championships in nine seasons.

In his third year with the MUS seventh-grade team, Dax Torrey coached his 2006-07 players to a 14-7 season and a runner-up finish in the Christmas Blue Streak Tournament.

At MUS, David Willson was one of the most honored players — All-Tournament selection for the Ross Lynn, Carbondale, and regional tournaments; first-team All-District, All-Metro, and All-State; Division II West Tennessee Player of the Year; and finalist for the Division II “Mr. Basketball” award. He’s now coaching at the college level. Under the first-year direction of Webster Cannon, CBHS’s freshman team went 18-5 and won the district title. Along the way, they beat MUS twice (*how’d that happen?*).

Dax Torrey '94 follows in the footsteps of many other MUS players under Coach Peters and is coaching at his alma mater. Along with his duties as teacher and sports information director, Torrey also coaches the seventh-grade basketball team. A cum laude graduate from Vanderbilt University, he went on to earn his M.A. at the University of Memphis. Torrey was a three-year basketball player for the Owls and was a four-year member of the “Short Basketball Players Club” at MUS.

David Willson '99 is the assistant basketball coach at Elon University in Burlington, North Carolina, and remembers Coach Peters and his phrases quite fondly. Willson recalls, “Do things right.” Every player who has worn an MUS uniform probably heard Coach Peters use this phrase more than once. To an MUS basketball player, the meaning and power of this statement does not come from the words, but from the person who utters them. Coach Peters’ life exemplifies this phrase. At MUS, basketball players are blessed with a coach whose highest priority is to develop them into young men who consistently seek to do the right thing. That is why MUS teams are consistently

regarded as the most fundamentally sound teams in Tennessee. The fact that he demands excellence from his players shows that he cares for them.

“Probably the greatest lesson that I learned from observing Coach Peters is to keep things simple. Coach Peters never clutters his life with the unnecessary. He wants to love and provide for his family, he wants to teach history and government, and he wants to coach basketball. When I was a player, I knew that very few issues could distract Coach from our team; therefore, I knew that my teammates and I were important to him. This meant the world to us. My concept of the coaching profession is in large part shaped by my experience as a player for Coach Peters. I am grateful for the opportunity to play basketball at MUS for a legend,” he adds.

Willson, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, coached at the College of William & Mary before joining the Elon staff. As a senior at MUS, he averaged 19 points and 9 rebounds, was a finalist for the Tennessee Division II Mr. Basketball, and was named West Tennessee Player of the Year. Willson and his wife, Anne, live near the Elon campus.

Webster Cannon '02 is the freshman basketball coach for MUS archrival Christian Brothers High School. A graduate of Rhodes College, Cannon teaches World History at CBHS along with his basketball duties. A four-year Owls player, Cannon was on the squad that brought Coach Peters his 800th victory. Cannon follows his father, **Henry '68**, and brothers, **Nelson '96** and **Tyler '99**, as MUS alumni.

Jerry Peters has made a huge impact on the basketball nation. He has mentored coaches across the country, has led by example, and has “done things right.” One has to look no further than the benches of former players and current coaches he mentored to see the mark of a true legend. 

Portrait Honors Roy Bell's Significant Contributions to MUS



Trustees, faculty, staff, and friends of the school gathered in February for the unveiling of a portrait of Roy E. Bell, Jr. Bell was the third chairman of the Board of Trustees of the new MUS, serving as chair in 1981 and 1982. His portrait, along with those of other board chairmen, will hang permanently in the Loeb Conference Room as part of the Chairman Portrait Series. Headmaster Ellis Haguewood, MUS board chair **Trow Gillespie '65**, and trustee **Ben Adams '74** paid tribute to Bell at the event. In his remarks, Haguewood characterized him as a "faithful steward of the legacy of academic excellence and leadership" at MUS.

Roy Bell served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1973 to 1987. In the 1970s he served on the Finance Committee, as Advance Gifts Chairman of the \$1.2 million capital campaign to build the McCaughan Science Center, and as vice chairman of the board for three years before taking over as chairman. While Bell was board chair, MUS saw the construction of the headmaster's house on Massey, students took advantage of the state-of-the-art lab equipment in the newly opened science building, the Hyde Library was updated,

the Clack Dining Hall was renovated, the school underwent the rigorous re-accreditation process by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Annual Fund giving reached \$100,000 for the first time. At the end of his tenure as board chair, then-Headmaster Gene Thorn lauded Bell for his many contributions: "The school has continued to make steady progress in offering a top-quality education for its students, and under your guidance we have had sound policy-making and planning to improve the physical facilities, strengthen our academic program, and increase substantially the endowment, to name a few."

Bell continued to make a remarkable impact on the school after his term as board chair ended. In 1984, he was named the general chairman of the MUS Campaign for Endowment, which raised more than \$2 million specifically for the school's endowment. It was the first endowment campaign the school had undergone since 1954 and was instrumental in securing funds for faculty salaries and scholarships. Bell and his wife, Jan, were founding members of the Thorn Society. He was a member of the Trustees Division, the first leadership group in developing the Doors to New Opportunities campaign. The Trustees Division raised nearly \$9 million from the board and honorary board in 1997-99 during the early stages of the campaign.

Bell is the father of **Roy Bell III '76**; father-in-law of **Ben Adams '74**; and grandfather of **Ben Adams '01** and **Scott Adams '02**.

The portrait of Roy Bell is by well-known artist Loryn Brazier of Richmond, Virginia. Ms. Brazier graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a concentration in illustration and commercial art. She is an alumna of the Master-Artist program at the Santa Fe Institute of Art. Her portraits are included in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery; federal and state courtrooms; corporate, governmental, financial, and religious institutions; and universities and private homes all over the country. Her work will now hang in the prestigious collection of Memphis University School.

The Chairman Portrait Series was established to pay tribute to the school leaders who created and sustained the tradition of excellence at MUS. Portraits of the first two board chairmen, **Alexander W. Wellford, Sr. '30** and **Robert G. Snowden**, already hang in the Loeb Conference Room in the Campus Center. The next portrait, to be unveiled in 2008, will honor **William P. "Buddy" Morrison**. The Chairman Portrait Series honors individuals whose leadership, loyalty, and commitment to excellence

have made MUS what it is today.



At the unveiling, Roy and Jan Bell are surrounded by their children, Kathy Adams (left), Roy Bell III, and Margot Roberts (right).

Here He Comes!

Springfield Honored by Alumni Executive Board

The Alumni Executive Board unveiled the second painting in the Faculty Portrait Series at a ceremony in November. This year's portrait honors John Murry Springfield, who taught math at MUS for 31 years, beginning in 1958. During his early years through the 1960s, he taught a variety of courses, including seventh-grade grammar and composition, eighth-grade mathematics, geometry, algebra, music appreciation, and humanities. He conducted a seventh-grade choir, played the piano in daily chapel services and for yearly graduation exercises, and even served as faculty advisor for a folk singing group one year. He was chairman of the Fine Arts Department and, later, chairman of the Mathematics Department. In 1966, Colonel Ross Lynn put him in charge of all clubs with responsibilities for supervising activities and providing advisors.

He became the first principal of the Hull Lower School in 1970, a role that secured him indelibly in the memory of so many alumni. An avid musician, he wrote the music for the *MUS Alma Mater* and collaborated on the *MUS Fight Song*. Mr. Springfield, who gave so much to MUS as a teacher and mentor during his tenure as teacher and principal, continued to give to the school after his death in 1989 by leaving a legacy in his will that established the MUS Distinguished Teaching Award to honor outstanding faculty members.

The Faculty Portrait Series honors MUS faculty members who have demonstrated significant service to the school. At the ceremony, Alumni Executive Board President **Johnny Pitts '76** explained that the board will unveil one portrait per year, with each of the paintings hanging permanently in the Campus Center Dining Hall. The alumni board and the administration deemed a portrait series a significant way to honor faculty members who have made a remarkable impact on generations of MUS students; the criteria for inclusion in the portrait series are that the faculty member served the school for a minimum of 15 years and that he or she be retired or deceased. Pitts explained, "With the many changes in the appearance of the campus over recent years, these portraits will serve as a constant reminder to alumni, students, faculty, and friends that although the school may look different, it is the faculty who have always been the consistent and primary reason for MUS being the great school that it is." This is the second portrait in the series, following that of Leigh MacQueen last year.

Friends and family of Springfield, including his brothers Jim and Lomax, gathered at the ceremony to honor one of MUS's most beloved figures at the revealing of the portrait by artist David Goatley. Headmaster Ellis Haguewood, English instructor Terry Shelton, and Jim Springfield paid tribute to the former teacher and principal.

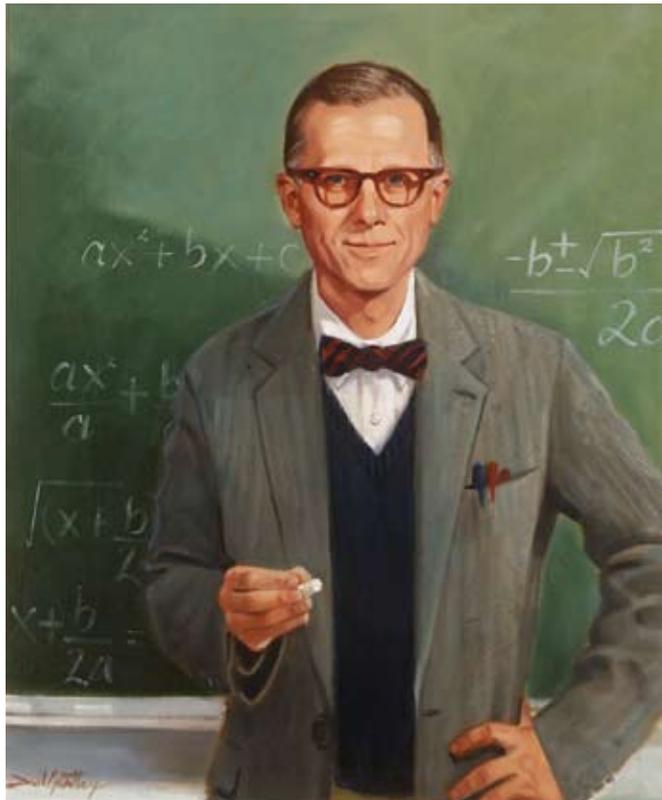
Both Haguewood and Shelton shared great stories and humorous remembrances of John Murry Springfield. Said Haguewood, "He once told Mrs. Joan Ryan, Lower School secretary, that when he retired, he planned to write a book entitled *Here He Comes*, an allusion to

the common cry that he heard from Lower Schoolers about his seemingly ubiquitous presence." Shelton echoed this notion. "He was reputed to have supernatural powers because of his apparent ability to be everywhere at once. Mischievous boys would see him on one side of the Lower School and race to the other side, only to find Mr. Springfield already there, ready to spoil their 'horseplay,' as he invariably called it. The students always wondered what 'horseplay' was. Horseplay?"

Speaking about Springfield, Haguewood noted, "I would describe his personality and management style as 'strength under control.' I recall him as true, unpretentious, and sincere – a man of unmitigated integrity. There was never any affectation, always the self-discipline of a man who knows who he is and what he must do."

He cited the words of other MUS faculty members: "Dr. [John] Harkins said, 'John Springfield was a classic professional teacher of the old school. He was firm but fair, an inspiration to many students. Moreover, he provided balance and harmony among his colleagues. He was beloved by his fellow teachers and aloof from faction.' Bob Boelte recently commented, 'John was a gentleman of impeccable integrity, a scholar, musician, and unpretentious educator and believer. He was the classiest early master of the new MUS. He truly cared for his charges in the Lower School, guiding them as an Old School teacher and moralist.'"

After telling several anecdotes about Springfield, Shelton closed his remarks with the idea that, "He was a man hard for me to disagree with. For two reasons, I think. First, because I respected him so much. Second, because I strongly suspected that he was probably right, even if I couldn't see how. John was a model of what we hope MUS boys will become, exemplars of that same selflessness, that discipline, that sense of right. He was the incarnation of the school motto: Truth and Honor."





Frank Langston '02

Lisa Grayson

Bryan Jones '80

Laurie Benton

Mike Johnson

George Skouteris '80

Phonathon Targets



For three weeks last fall, the Halperin and Gillespie Rooms were filled with parents and alumni sharing in the goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the Memphis University School Annual Fund. MUS is the first Memphis-area independent school to have a \$1,000,000 goal in unrestricted annual giving.

Led by dedicated Phonathon chairs **Lisa and Louis Jehl '80**, the parents achieved a record-setting year. Parents enthusiastically showed their support for MUS by pledging more than \$105,000 in unrestricted giving.

Over a period of six nights, 93 MUS alumni continued the long-standing tradition of calling their former classmates asking for support of current and future students. While reconnecting with classmates, the alumni raised \$182,796 in pledges.

All dollars raised for the Annual Fund are used throughout the campus to enrich the experience of students and faculty. The generosity of last year's donors allowed us to develop new molecular biology and electronics labs, update our wireless network, improve Hyde Chapel and the McCaughan Science Center, remain competitive with teacher salaries, offer more than \$1 million in need-based financial aid to 23 percent of the student body, and much more.

If you haven't already made a gift to the Annual Fund and want to help the school reach the \$1,000,000 goal, you may do so on the secure website, www.musowls.org, or mail your gift in the attached envelope.



MUS ANNUAL FUND

PARENT PHONATHON VOLUNTEERS

Joey Beckford
Laurie Benton
Jan Blount
Tina Bowie
Cynthia Cross
Bruce Cunningham
John Dillon '74
Lysbeth Francis
Lisa Grayson
Janet Haltom
Nancy Hays
Marilyn Hergenrader
Steve Hergenrader '77
Larry Higginbotham

Michael Johnson
Glennie Klug
Veazey Krausnick
Andy Malmo
Julie Maroda
Mark Massey
Suzanne Massey
Mack McCaul
Kay Mirza
Abby Montsinger
Bruce Moore '77
Liz Neel
Dee Dee Pera
Sally Perry

Missy Rainer
Marilyn Reinhardt
Chris Sanders
Crissy Smith
Leigh Ann Stevenson
Phil Stevenson
Carol Stewart
Dorrie Szymkowicz
Kimbrough Taylor '84
Neil Utkov '77
Scott Wellford '69
Cheryl West
Susan Wortham

ALUMNI PHONATHON VOLUNTEERS

1960
Met Crump
Alex Wellford
1961
Scott May
1962
Jerry Bradfield
1964
Bill Quinlen
1965
Rick Miller
1966
Chuck Smith
1967
Lance Minor
John Pettey
Walter Wills
1968
Bruce Hopkins
Terry Wilson
1969
John Keese
1970
Steve Bledsoe
Hunter Humphreys
1971
Philip Gould
Jess Wesberry
Phil Wiygul
1972
Denby Brandon
Oliver Cobb
Russell Day
Joel Hobson
1973
Cecil Humphreys
Wise Jones
1974
John Dillon
Mark Ruleman
1975
Lee Marshall
Kevin Reed
Henry Stratton

1976
Steve Barton
Mott Jones
1977
Steve Hergenrader
Bruce Moore
1978
Cecil Godman
Chip Grayson
Joe Morrison
George Sousoulas
1979
Fleet Abston
Collie Krausnick
1980
Hopie Brooks
Bryan Jones
George Skouteris
1981
Rob Hussey
1982
Thornton Brooksbank
Scott Crosby
John Dunavant
1984
Bob McEwan
Drew Taylor
1986
Wesley Grace
Andy McArtor
1987
Jonny Ballinger
Bo Brooksbank
John Russell
1988
Dan McEwan
Fred Schaeffer
Jon Van Hoozer
1989
Paul Barcroft
Billy Frank
Pat Hopper
Peter Knoop
Dan Shumake

1990
Coors Arthur
Buck Dunavant
Jonathan Rowe
1991
Darrell Cobbins
Jeff Coons
Brett Grinder
Trey Watkins
1992
Brooks Brown
Dow McVean
William Tayloe
Brandon Westbrook
1993
Gil Uhlhorn
1994
Ben Clanton
Kirby May
1996
Robert Dow
Jason Higginbotham
1997
Reynolds Hillyer
Trey Jones
Byron Brown
1998
Rob Humphreys
Matt Saenger
Don Drinkard
Jason Lewin
1999
Chip Campbell
Norfleet Thompson
2000
Ryan Miller
Michael Liverance
Oscar Carr
John Winford
2001
Brian Eason
2002
Wesley Phillips
Frank Langston

Why I Give

by Louis Jehl '80

Why do people give to the Annual Fund? I've always given to MUS and to my college. Even when I could only afford to give \$50 or \$100, I believed it was important to give something back. Somewhere along the way, someone told me that people who came before me gave to capital campaigns and annual funds so it would be possible for me to enjoy facilities, faculty, and activities that my tuition would never have covered. As one of five children, I realized early on what those people's donations meant to my father, as he struggled to send his five children to MUS and Hutchison and the colleges of their choice.

Partly thanks to our educations and the values our schools helped teach us, Lisa and I have been blessed with many gifts, not the least of which are two wonderful sons, Andrew '07 and Matthew '09, who are having a remarkable experience at MUS. As tuition has risen and college costs approach rapidly, we've come to realize how important alumni and parent support for the Annual Fund is to MUS. Because of this, we've made it a priority to increase our support for the Annual Fund each year.

We are fortunate in many ways, but Lisa and I know that having the financial resources to send our boys to MUS and support the many programs, facilities, and faculty that benefit from our Annual Fund gift is a blessing that we are very fortunate to have. Both as an alumnus and as parents, we hope our gift can help make a difference in the lives of so many boys that benefit from the MUS experience.



Louis Jehl is chief financial officer of the Carlisle Corporation. He earned a B.S. from Washington and Lee University. Lisa Jehl is a senior vice president at First Tennessee Bank with a degree from the University of Missouri. They are members of the Thorn Society, board members of the MUS Parents' Association, and the 2006-07 Phonathon Chairs. Louis Jehl is a member of the Alumni Executive Board.

Your gifts in honor of special friends or in memory of loved ones directly enable young men at MUS to receive the best education available. Memorials to Memphis University School support the Annual Fund program. Families of those whose memories are honored will be notified by an appropriate card with an acknowledgment to the donor. We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts to the school:*

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*Includes gifts received November 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007

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Lewis Smith '00, Rhett Smith

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In Memory of



Robert Galloway Snowden

On December 13, 2006, MUS lost one of the great men in the history of the school. Robert Galloway Snowden, member of the MUS Board of Trustees from 1954 to 1981, passed away at his Memphis home at the age of 89. When the charter application for the new Memphis University School was made to the State of Tennessee in 1954, it appeared above the signature of Mr. Snowden. He recommended the location at Park and Ridgeway, where the school occupies 94 acres. He was also chairman of the first Building Committee, overseeing construction of the new MUS.

In addition to his duties as chairman of the Building Committee for 24 years, he served 13 years as vice chairman of the board from 1965 to 1978, at which time he succeeded **Alexander Wellford, Sr. '30** as chairman. During his tenure as chairman from 1978 to 1981, Gene Thorn became headmaster, the school celebrated the 25th anniversary of its reopening, and the \$1.2 million McCaughan Science Center was built. At the unveiling of Snowden's portrait in January 2006, board chair **Trow Gillespie '65** said, "For 27 years, no single board member spent more time promoting the welfare of MUS."

Even after his retirement from the board, he continued to play a leadership role at MUS. As a member of the Steering Committee and a major donor to the Doors to New Opportunities campaign, he helped raise \$21 million to build the Dunavant Upper School and the Campus Center, refurbish Hull Lower School, and add to our endowment. At his portrait unveiling, **Ben Adams '74** remarked, "Mr. Snowden, in your capacity as a trustee, chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, vice chairman of the board, and finally chairman of the Board of Trustees, you exhibited leadership, sound judgment, and a real concern for the future of our school. The entire MUS community appreciates your courage to face issues squarely, your loyalty, and the part you played in helping stamp 'excellence' on every aspect of Memphis University School."

Snowden was a great asset not only to MUS but also to the city of Memphis. He made a significant impact on the local real estate industry as president of Wilkinson & Snowden Developments, and he was chairman emeritus of Colliers Wilkinson Snowden. He began his real estate career with Russell S. Wilkinson in 1945 and, over a period of 15 years, built approximately 4,000 houses throughout Memphis, Biloxi, Mississippi, and Columbus, Mississippi. After he became an industrial developer in 1961, his career included land development, general contracting, and speculative development in Airport Industrial Park and MIAC Business Park, including 40 industrial buildings in Memphis. In 1995, Snowden was given the lifetime achievement award from the Memphis Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, an honorary society for the advancement of land economics.

Always working to develop a better Memphis, Snowden served as president of the Home Builders Association of Memphis, Memphis Uniport Association, the Downtown Association, and as a director of National Bank of Commerce, Mid-South Title Company, Lincoln American Life Insurance Company, Future Memphis, the Memphis & Shelby County Port Commission, and the I-69 Committee. Additionally, he served on the boards of the Memphis Cotton Carnival Association, The Memphis Belle Association, Memphis Zoological Society, Historic Elmwood Cemetery, Sunshine Home for Aged Men, Trezevant Manor, and the Fire Museum of Memphis. He was a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club and a vestryman at Calvary Episcopal Church, of which he was a lifelong member. In 2000, he and his sister, May Snowden Todd (mother of **Hardy Todd '67**, **Snowden Todd '70**, and **Carroll Todd '72**), donated family-owned land in Southaven, Mississippi, for the establishment of Snowden Grove Park, site of the nation's largest youth baseball complex.

Snowden leaves his wife, Flo; his son and daughter-in-law, **Bayard '68** and Lisa Snowden; three grandchildren, Harriet Snowden, **Robert G. Snowden II '03**, and Catherine Ferris Trahan, and her husband, Tim, and their sons Adam and Connor; and his former son-in-law **Doug Ferris '63**. MUS owes much to Bobby Snowden, and we offer our deepest condolences to his family.

CREST & CORNERSTONE

"Estate planning represents the best form of deferred planned giving and is a significant way in which I have chosen to support MUS. My support ensures that current and future students will continue to enjoy the benefits of an MUS education, which encompasses not only academics but also athletics and future participation as alumni."

— Jim Varner '73

You can ensure the future of Memphis University School, benefit generations of students yet to come, and link your name permanently to MUS with a gift through an estate plan.

The Crest & Cornerstone Society recognizes individuals who have ensured the future strength of the school by including Memphis University School as a direct beneficiary of a variety of estate plans, including will provisions, charitable remainder trusts, and life insurance policies.

If you would like more information on how a gift to MUS may also provide income for life for you or your loved ones, result in a current income tax deduction, and reduce estate and capital gains taxes, contact the Office of Development at 901-260-1350.



Carving Out a Niche

by Gaye Swan

One of the strengths of MUS is the school's ability to bring out and encourage a myriad of different talents and gifts in its students. Over the years, *MUS Today* has featured a wide range of graduates, from the usual (military officers, CEOs, teachers, entrepreneurs, authors) to the more unique (a professional clown, a cycling champion, a journalist embedded with the military in Iraq). In fact, with such a wide range, it is rare to find three alumni working in a unique field in the same city, but not in the same place or for the same company. Furniture making is such a field, and we are pleased to feature interviews with three local artists who practice the craft: **Stephen Crump '66**, **Elmore Holmes '86**, and **Will McGown '87**.

Stephen Crump has strong ties to MUS. His father, **Charles Crump '30**, is the school's oldest living alumnus and was a driving force behind the reopening of the new MUS; Stephen and his brothers, **Met '60** and **Philip '62**, followed in their father's footsteps. After graduating from MUS, the youngest Crump received his B.A. from Rhodes College, then earned his A.A.S. (associate of applied science) and B.F.A. from The School for American Craft, Rochester Institute of Technology. He is the owner and sole employee of Stephen B. Crump Studio Furniture. Crump has always enjoyed working alone (with occasional help in transporting a finished piece). "I delivered my first piece of commissioned furniture in 1972," he says. "To this day, I still create one piece at a time, each one an original design."

What led you to a career in furniture design/making?

I was interested in sculpture and took classes at the old Art Academy [now Memphis College of Art] as a teenager, then at Rhodes as a college student. I fell in love with pottery but found that clay is too fluid a medium for me; so, I decided to combine functional design with a suitable medium such as wood. My major at Rhodes was actually anthropology, though I was mainly interested in what was then called "primitive art." I am still inspired by indigenous art as well as the spare functionality of Shaker, Asian, Scandinavian, and vernacular designs.



This page by Stephen Crump: (top to bottom) *Co-Captains*, bent and dyed wood; *Hall Tree*, steam-bent walnut and ash wood; *Ark*, gilded and painted wood

Opposite page by Elmore Holmes: stick Windsor chair

What do you find most fascinating and most rewarding about working with wood?

Everyone loves wood, and most people have had a rewarding experience working with it, even at the most basic level. Let's face it – it is a gorgeous, natural material! Furthermore, it's possible to create wooden objects with a tremendous range of sizes, functions, and styles – from musical instruments to furniture, from boats and houses to sculpture and other art.

How do you see this industry as a whole growing or changing in the next few years?

As furniture making continues to grow in this century, we will see an increase in environmental responsibility on the part of makers – that is, seeking renewable and alternative sources for raw materials. I should point out that furniture makers use not only wood, but also metals, glass, plastics, fabrics, and fibers, both natural and synthetic.

What kind of customer seeks out your designs?

Generally, people who collect art and whose taste is not determined by mainstream or traditional expectations.

What is the most popular type of piece that you make?

Probably tables, since there is such latitude in designing them beyond a more-or-less smooth, level surface. Comfortable seating, on the other hand, is much more demanding. I don't usually build storage pieces or do millwork.

What is the most unique or unusual piece you've made?

Perhaps the tea chest for a nuclear submarine. In 1989, the *USS Tennessee* was commissioned in Connecticut, and the National Ornamental Metal Museum here in Memphis created a sterling silver tea service for the captain; the irony of the civilized custom of taking tea aboard a vessel sporting weapons of mass destruction is considerable! Anyway, I built a chest of West Tennessee sassafras wood to contain the silver.

How do you feel your days at MUS prepared or encouraged you for this career, and for life in general?

I'll have to say that one of my most enjoyable classes as a new student at MUS was geometry! I use it all the time now. I'm grateful for the solid foundation I received at MUS, and I'm happy to know that there is now a Department of Fine Arts.



After MUS, Elmore Holmes received a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and earned an M.A. from Columbia University. He chose his woodworking career with the support of his family. "My father and mother taught me, with their actions as much as their words, what is truly important in life: honesty, loyalty to family and friends, service to others, the value of community," he explains. "And they encouraged me to pursue whatever made me happy, regardless of its financial rewards or its status in society."

What led you to a career in furniture design/making?

I have always been fascinated by the raw material from which everyday products come. And here in Memphis, the raw material for woodworking is all around us. We are fortunate to live in a place where the variety of hardwood species is among the richest in the world.

A Swedish woodworker named Jögge Sundqvist once said, "It's very common for people to separate the things they do from the things they need. It's very uncommon that people take a raw material to make a thing, and then use it." Like most people, I want to have a nice home full of nice things, but I want to play more of a role in creating my environment than simply doing some job I hate to earn the money to go down to the store and buy it.

What is the most popular type of piece that you make? What is the most unique or unusual piece you've made?

My bowls are popular, and they are somewhat unique in that they are carved with an axe, adze, and gouges rather than turned on a lathe. That's not to say my bowls are any more impressive than turned bowls – my mother-in-law, Joan Kelly, for instance, is a bowl-turner, and she does breathtaking work. It's just that there are quite a few bowl-turners in this region, while I'm aware of hardly anyone who carves bowls like I do.

Meanwhile, my first love is making stick Windsor chairs, and more and more that is becoming my specialty. A "stick"

Windsor chair is a Windsor chair whose legs and spindles are shaped with axe, drawknife, and spoke-shave rather than turned on a lathe. They tend to have a slightly rustic, folk-art look, yet are elegant enough for almost any home or office. I like Windsor chair-making because it demands a variety of skills, and since different wood species are suited to different parts of the chair, it gives me a chance to mix-and-match woods and really showcase the richness of our Mid-South forest.

What do you find most fascinating and most rewarding about your work?

I wake up each morning and can't wait to go to work. It's a very peaceful existence, and yet it's full of intellectual stimulation as well. Every woodworking project is a problem waiting to be solved. Furthermore, my job enables me to address a community environmental issue that has always concerned me. Because we are so blessed with an abundance of trees, the average resident doesn't realize the value of the trees in his yard, and when a tree must come down due to disease or to make way for construction, it usually ends up in a land-fill. As a woodworker, I can use those logs that people leave on the curb for the garbage men. Because bowls and Windsor chair parts are small, I can usually split the logs myself and work the wood with traditional tools and small machines. For bigger jobs I collaborate with my friend, Scott Banbury, who mills lumber from urban trees through his Midtown Logging and Lumber Company.



How do you see your business, Lower Mississippi Woodworks, growing in the next few years?

As a woodworker, I have chosen a simple way of life as much as an occupation. I am the owner and sole employee of Lower Mississippi Woodworks, and I hope to keep it that way. It is a challenge sometimes keeping up with demand – a person who orders a chair from me can expect to wait about six months, and I can't say I like to have to do that. But living life at my own pace is more important to me than whatever additional income I might earn by raising the capacity of my business.

What kind of customer seeks out your designs?

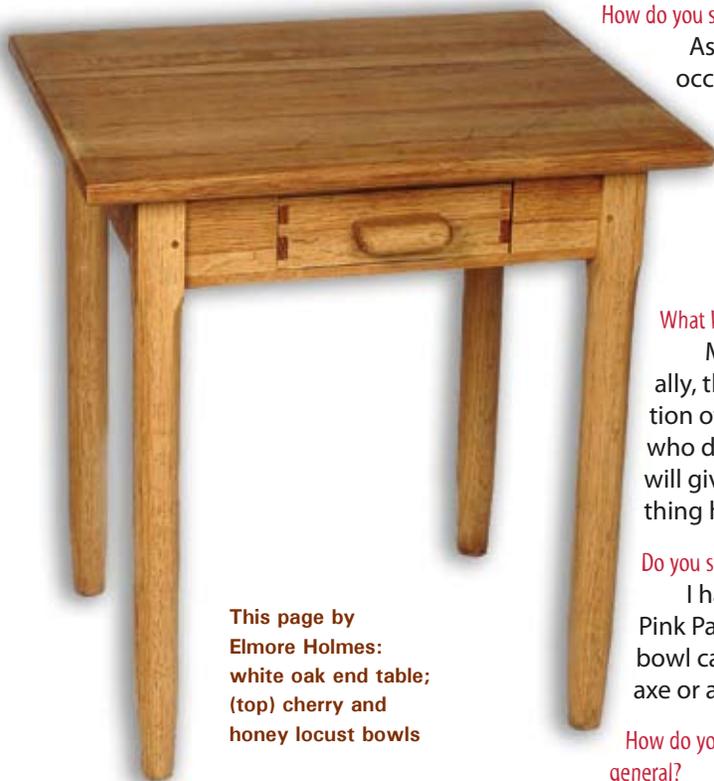
Most of my customers find me through word-of-mouth. Generally, they share my appreciation for the beauty of wood and the function of my simple designs. My work is not inexpensive, but the person who decides to buy from me knows he is investing in something that will give him a much deeper, longer-lasting satisfaction than something he could get from a store.

Do you show/sell at crafts fairs? What have been your experiences there?

I have done the Cooper-Young Festival several times, as well as the Pink Palace Crafts Fair since 2002. This past October, I demonstrated bowl carving at the Pink Palace event. Every time I got going with my axe or adze, a crowd gathered to watch the chips fly.

How do you feel your days at MUS prepared or encouraged you for this career and for life in general?

The MUS faculty is as outstanding as any I've ever been around, with a greater number of influential characters than I could possibly list here. I think almost every teacher I had there made some sort of positive impact. Mr. Jerry Omundson stands out because he took the complex subject of chemistry and, while not exactly making it easy, made me believe I could do it and challenged me to think with intellectual rigor. My experience in his class paid off big as I went through college as a math major. Mr. John Murry Springfield, the Lower School principal in those days, was impressive in his consistency as a disciplinarian and a moral guide.



This page by Elmore Holmes: white oak end table; (top) cherry and honey locust bowls

Opposite page by Will McGown: an oriental bench in purpleheart wood; (inset) Artist Table, canary, maple, padauk, purpleheart, and wenge woods "dripping" through the red gum palette and oozing to the floor

Will McGown, a graduate of Tulane University, got started designing and building furniture in the garage of his grandmother's carriage house. Today he owns McGown, Inc., employing additional artists on a project-by-project basis, although he, like Crump and Holmes, prefers to work alone. "I find that managing employees takes a lot of time and energy away from my real passion, which is the design work," he explains. "It's a challenge to find employees who share my passion for perfectionism, and it's tricky to balance working as an artist, which, by its nature, is solitary, individualistic, and unconstrained by anybody else's schedule or clock, with being a businessperson."

MUS is the proud owner of a trophy case designed and built by McGown. It was commissioned by **Alex Wellford '60** to house the Alexander W. Wellford Leadership Award.



How has your family encouraged and supported you as an artist?

My dad, **Dan McGown '61**, and his father were both architects, so I probably inherited some design gene. My family has been very supportive of my career. When I lived in the upstairs of my Granny's carriage house, I converted one bay of the garage for my shop to start designing and building furniture. As time went by, I accumulated more tools and machines that made the small shop feel

even smaller. I expanded into the second bay, and eventually pretty much took over the entire garage. Granny, my mom, and my aunts were also early clients, not to mention tireless promoters of my work!

My wife, Gigi, is also extremely supportive and encouraging. Although her career as an attorney (she is a partner at Baskin McCarroll McCaskill and Campbell in Southaven, Mississippi, and works with **Mac McCarroll '83**) is completely different from mine, she is always excited to see what I am working on and is a huge help with public relations and other things. Her patience and understanding has been put to the test with late nights, working weekends, and even selling our living room coffee table to a guest who was taken with it (and took it).

What led you to a career in furniture design/making?

I studied architecture at Tulane. While I enjoyed the design aspect of the architecture program, I felt hampered by more mundane requirements that had to be considered in designing homes and buildings. In my last year at Tulane, I took a furniture design class that I loved. It was then that I knew that is what I wanted to do. I felt like I could take the best of what I had gotten out of architecture and really express my creativity at the same time. I designed and built furniture for about five years in the carriage house after I graduated from Tulane. I then took a job at EgglestonWorks, a loudspeaker company, as production manager and did that for several years, but I really started missing making furniture and expressing myself as an artist. In 2000, I bought a warehouse downtown, and I have been making furniture full time in that location ever since. I am very fortunate to get to do something for a living that I love with such a passion.

What do you find most fascinating and most rewarding about it?

I really love the whole process of designing a customized piece of furniture for a client. You basically start with a blank page. Then you start considering the client's needs and use for the space, and how the piece is going to fit with the client's personality and lifestyle. Then, of course, there's the confluence of the client's ideas and my ideas. Sometimes clients have only a vague idea of what they want for the piece, and I'm able to come up with solutions that may never have occurred to them.



There's something so personal about a piece of furniture. As someone who has inherited several heirloom pieces from my own family, I hold dear the idea of creating a piece of furniture that will be handed down in a family throughout generations. The craftsmanship that I employ when building the pieces is old-world, solid wood construction and joinery, and I take that kind of care because it's important to me that each piece of furniture I make can be a keepsake for years to come.

How do you see your business growing in the next few years?

I see my business growing in the next few years in two areas. On the one hand, I plan to continue making custom pieces of furniture for a growing base of clients. On the other hand, I have been developing a business of custom doors for homes. I've found that there is a real interest in Memphis for unique, custom-built entry doors. I enjoy making doors and plan to expand that part of my operation.

What kind of customer seeks out your designs?

The people who have hired me have really run the gamut. Some of my customers have a definite piece in mind and haven't been able to find anything specific enough to match their idea, so they come to me to make it for them. As long as the person's idea is unique, I'm thrilled to be able to help them. I don't do reproductions,

though I'm happy to look at a picture of something they like, find out what they like about it and why they like it, and then incorporate those ideas into a unique piece. The client is so much more satisfied than if I had simply done a reproduction; they are invested in the final design and the piece is much more personal to them.

Other clients come to me with a blank slate, no idea what they want other than the type of furniture (bed, table, etc.). I love those projects, because I really get to know the customers – it's the only way I can come up with a piece that I know will fit into their lives. It's such a personal process; a lot of my friendships have started as client relationships. I also seem to get a lot of repeat business. That's always a great affirmation.



What is the most popular type of piece that you make?

The most popular piece I make is a rocking chair. I made my first incarnation of this rocker when my wife was pregnant with our daughter, Ryan. The rocker has generous proportions and a solid, sturdy feel, yet is contoured for comfort and grace. I named the rocker "Ryan's Rocker," and it was not only a big hit at our house, but several customers saw it and wanted their own versions. I've since made several versions of it, some identical and some with slight variances and have sold them all. If there is any item that I do plan to do a limited production of, it will be the rocker.

What is the most unique or unusual piece you've made?

It is hard to say which piece is most unique or unusual. Besides building one of the nicest trash containers around, I'd pick a piece commissioned by **Albert Alexander '84**. It was called the Soulbox. It was a perch designed specifically for his cat, Soulfinger, so he could look out a clerestory window that was 12 feet off the ground. Albert has been a customer for many years and has been a huge supporter of my work. He is a perfect client because he is always so enthusiastic about whatever we come up with. I've done so many pieces for him and his family over the years that I really feel I've contributed to the overall look of their home. Last year I even did an office suite for him for his office at Wunderlich Securities, which was a first for me. It's really fun and rewarding to have a client like Albert.

Do you show/sell at crafts fairs? What have been your experiences there?

Every year I participate in the Art and Design Fair that's put on by Brooks Museum League at the Agricenter. I get a lot of exposure at that event, and it's always great to meet potential clients there. I also donate pieces occasionally to auctions at benefits like the Junior League's Crystal Ball.

How do you feel your days at MUS prepared or encouraged you for this career and for life in general?

MUS definitely gave me the confidence to pursue designing and building furniture and the confidence to pursue my dreams. Bob Boelte was a huge supporter and friend the whole time I attended MUS and played a large role in my decision to attend Tulane University. The friends that I made at MUS are still my best friends today, and they have always supported and encouraged me in this career.

Gaye Swan is a creative copywriter and frequent contributor to MUS Today. She lives in Memphis with her husband and their 11-year-old twins, a son and a daughter. 



Will McGown: (top to bottom) close-up of joint construction for a mahogany dining table, radical joinery that allows for superior strength and movement; Ryan's Rocker in canary wood; Twisty Table, a confounding image of stiff structure and fluid movement





Standing:
John Witherington
Billy White
Wellford Tabor
Seated:
Jackson Moore
John Palmer
Robert Faber

Banking on Charlotte

by Melanie Threlkeld McConnell

You might say **John Witherington '99** has the world at his feet...literally. Everything he needs to maintain a happy and healthy 20-something lifestyle is within walking distance of his townhouse: grocery store, pharmacy, dry cleaner, restaurants, bars, cultural venues, and work, which, by the way, is in one of the hottest financial centers in the country.



John Witherington

Bright lights, big city? You bet. New York? Hardly. Try Charlotte, North Carolina. This booming North Carolina city caught Witherington's eye after he graduated four years ago from Duke University in nearby Durham.

With economics degree in hand, Witherington surveyed his roadmap for life and found that all roads led south. Charlotte—just 145 miles away—was the perfect fit. “A lot of people from Duke go to New York,” he says. “I wanted a place that was preferably in the South, that was less crowded, less big, and less expensive than New York. Charlotte was all of those. It's also up-and-coming.”

Some may say Charlotte has already arrived. What's the draw? Think green. Both Wachovia and Bank of America are headquartered in downtown Charlotte (blocks from Witherington's townhouse), combining for \$1.7 trillion in

assets and making the city the nation's second largest financial center behind New York (\$2.8 trillion in assets), according to Charlotte's Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau. The city and surrounding Mecklenburg County also are home to headquarters for seven other Fortune 500 companies, including Lowe's and Family Dollar Stores, Inc.

In a three-part series on Charlotte's rise as a financial mega center, *The Pittsburg Post-Gazette* reported last June that one out of every five people in the region works in a finance-related job, “some 32,000 of them for either Charlotte-based Bank of America, the nation's largest financial institution; or Charlotte-based Wachovia, the nation's fourth-largest.” Among those 32,000 are Witherington, an associate bond trader for Wachovia, and five other Memphis University School graduates, including **Wellford Tabor '86**.

Tabor moved to the Big Apple after graduating from the University of Virginia with a degree in history. He then moved to Charlotte nearly six years ago and hasn't regretted the move. “When I'm at the office my job feels very similar to the way I



Wellford Tabor with sons, Russell and Alex, and daughter, Grace, at a recent UVA basketball game

worked in New York,” Tabor, an investment banker, says. “Then I drive 10 minutes home, and I’m throwing the football in the backyard with my boys.”

Tabor is one of eight partners at Wachovia Capital Partners, the principal investment arm of Wachovia Corporation. The company invests equity in private companies to help them grow. “It’s a lot like sports. You’re competing for opportunities. It is a fast-paced transaction environment. You’re working in teams and the score card of success is pretty clear,” Tabor says.

He and his wife, Ann Vandeveld, a Birmingham, Alabama, native whom he met in New York, have found Charlotte to be an ideal place to raise their three children. “In 2000, we were at a decision point – buy a house outside of New York and put roots down or get back closer to home,” Tabor says. “Charlotte has offered us a great mixture of my New York professional opportunity and our desire to raise our children the way we were raised, in the kind of setting we were raised.”

Just down the hall from Tabor, at One Wachovia Center, works MUS alumnus **Robert Faber ’98**, an associate on Tabor’s investment team. Faber, too, moved to New York after he graduated from Princeton in 2002 but found himself longing for the South. “I didn’t know much about Charlotte when I moved here,” he says. “You get to do the same kind of finance that you would in New York but in a city that’s more livable. Charlotte’s a newer city than Memphis. It’s growing at a rapid rate, and it’s full of opportunity.”

Some of that growth is fueled by a young crowd, fresh out of college and embarking on new careers in the banking and finance industry. It’s a good fit for Faber, who is single and shares a house with two fellow bank employees. “It’s very easy to meet people you can relate to,” he says. “The young people population is so transient. In a way it’s like your freshman year of college.”

Life in Charlotte’s financial district is a fraternity of sorts for these MUS graduates. While Witherington, Tabor, and Faber all work for Wachovia, **John Palmer ’93** and **Jay Curtis ’01** work for Bank of America. Their respective buildings are the footprints for an impressive financial mall in downtown Charlotte and have created the city’s soaring skyline, an architectural statement that supports the city’s status as the banking center of the South.

But its reach is worldwide, noted Palmer, who works in commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) for Bank of America. “I’m being exposed to the largest institutional investors in CMBS in the United States and Europe,” he says. Palmer, a graduate of Rhodes College and the University of Memphis, moved to Charlotte from New York a couple of years ago. “When I worked in New York I was working 14 to 15 hours a day. Life’s too short. I was looking for balance. Now I have an extra three or four hours a night I wouldn’t have had in New York,” he says.



John Palmer



Robert Faber



Billy White

Billy White ’01 knows those hours all too well. He left Charlotte in January for New York for a two-year investment banking analyst program through Wachovia. Actually, he’s been asked to stay for a third and plans to do so. He spent about 18 months in Charlotte before Wachovia officials invited him to New York. He joined Wachovia in Charlotte after graduating from Southern Methodist University. So far it’s a great fit, he says, even living in New York. “It’s definitely a different energy from Charlotte,” he notes.

White typically wakes at 8:45 a.m., hops on the subway (ten feet from his apartment) at 9:15 a.m. for the 20-block trip to his office at 375 Park Avenue. He works usually until 2 a.m., then returns home via a car service. “An early night would be midnight,” he says. Not surprisingly, he has little time to enjoy New York’s cultural offerings. That’s okay, he says; work is his focus right now. “It’s very exciting,” he says. “Every day is different from the previous day. It’s a very, very strong year for investment banking.” But he also acknowledged that a 20-hour work day is “not sustainable,” even for a 24-year-old.

For Jay Curtis, Charlotte offers the best of all worlds. After graduating from the University of Virginia, Curtis spent six weeks in New York at a Bank of America training program, then moved to Charlotte to continue his work as a CMBS originations analyst. “I think Charlotte is a great place to be. It’s a good combination of metro and large city, and it’s not overwhelming like New York or [Washington] D.C.” He also appreciates the quality of life Charlotte has to offer. “You can live either in an affordable downtown apartment or in a very comfortable neighborhood not far from downtown,” he says.

It’s not all work for these MUS grads, and banking and finance are not the only games in town. Charlotte is home to professional football and basketball teams, museums, galleries, and arts organizations. John Witherington, active in theater productions at MUS as a student, continues that interest in Charlotte. He currently serves as chairman of the board of NODA School of the Arts, a Charlotte non-profit school that provides opportunities to underprivileged children to participate in the arts. He also is a member of Charlotte Succession, an organization for young professional men age 25 to 35 to help develop leadership skills through contacts and meetings with the city’s leaders. “When you move here and when you’re young, you have a lot of opportunity to influence the city, meet the city leaders, that sort of thing,” Witherington says.

MUS isn’t far from the hearts of these young businessmen. They carry nuggets of advice and shreds of memories from MUS with them every day, they say. Jay Curtis’s experience as a tennis player at MUS has helped him “prosper” in a team business environment. Robert Faber *now* is grateful for Mr. Ellis’s daily vocabulary quizzes. “Why was he doing that? It kept us sharp.” And Wellford Tabor appreciates the strong foundation instilled in him to comprehend information, which helps him to make decisions and build relationships with others. “The human interaction with managers, lawyers, and my fellow partners is a big part of what I do,” he says. “And a big part of being successful in

our business is being willing to get back up after you're knocked down."

And that lesson, dear friends, Tabor learned on the football field. "When I was at MUS a few of us had to try to tackle **Andy McCarroll '86** every day in football practice. More often than not, the result wasn't pretty," Tabor says, beginning a tale you just know will have a great ending. "But each time we'd get back up and get after it. Our team got to the state finals where we were playing Austin East (High School). They had a running back named Leroy Thompson who later started for Penn State and the Pittsburgh Steelers. We weren't the biggest or fastest defense, but after three years of trying to tackle Andy anything seemed

manageable. We believed in ourselves and each other and with a little luck, things went our way. We were the first MUS team to win the state title [1985]."

And so it goes, over glasses of beer at a local sports bar, watching the University of Memphis Tigers play basketball on the big screen, these young Memphians think fondly back on their days at MUS and realize many of those moments aren't so far away, maybe just down the hall an office or two or even down the street.

Melanie Threlkeld McConnell is a freelance writer who has written several articles for MUS Today. 

Moore at Home in Charlotte, Too

by Melanie Threlkeld McConnell

Jackson Moore '93 is another MUS graduate living in Charlotte, North Carolina, but he is making a name for himself outside the banking industry. At age 32, he and business partner Jonathan Ishee are furnishing homes all over the Southeast. No, they're not interior decorators, but owners of seven Ashley Furniture Homestores in North and South Carolina.

The two met while earning their M.B.A. degrees at Vanderbilt University and became fast friends. Ishee is originally from Houston, Mississippi. "The last thing in the world either of us ever considered was getting into the retail furniture business," Moore says.

But the two left graduate school early (yes, they completed their degrees) to pursue a business opportunity they felt was too good to pass up. They researched the company and liked what they saw. Ashley Furniture was the largest furniture manufacturer in the world and had a reputation for well-built furniture at affordable prices. In 1997 the company decided to open its own retail stores. In 2003, Moore and his partner opened their first store in Charlotte. "We thought it was the best available market in the Southeast," Moore says. "The Atlanta market was taken, and the big cities in Florida were taken. We saw the expansion potential."

Indeed, the two now own four stores in the Charlotte area and three in the Greenville, South Carolina, market, with plans to open a few more. "It's been great," Moore says. "Our average store has annual revenues of approximately \$10 million a year. Our original goal had been to come to Charlotte and in five years have about three stores and about a \$30 million revenue operation." What has contributed to their success, says Moore, is, "We have a



For Jackson Moore, Charlotte became a great place for his growing company and his growing family.

successful parent company behind us, our business model is great, and we don't hold inventory. Each store has approximately \$250,000 of floor-sample furniture, and we sell from these samples."

Moore is well aware of the other MUS graduates who live in Charlotte. He lives down the street from Wellford Tabor and just two miles from John Palmer, his best friend growing up in Memphis. "I think it's a great city. It's a pretty city, and it's clean. It's large, but it doesn't feel much larger than Memphis," Moore says. "It's a good place to raise a family, and I love the proximity to the beaches and the mountains."

Moore and his wife, Margie, are the parents of a one-year-old son, Jake, and are expecting another child in April. "I have a deep appreciation for my MUS education. I feel like MUS just prepared me so much, had me well prepared for further education and, I guess, the real world."

COVETED MOREHEAD SCHOLARSHIP PAYS OFF

by Philip Blackett '03

Harvard or Carolina? Ivy League or ACC? To most people, choosing between these two schools is easy. I wish I could have said the same four years ago. I never would have thought that I would sacrifice a dream I held for so long for something even better. My senior year at MUS was on cruise control after receiving an acceptance email from Harvard University, welcoming me to the Class of 2007. Life could not have gotten any better. Senioritis seeped through my veins, paralyzing my mind from second semester classes, as I awaited graduation day and later orientation at Harvard. However, this dream was never realized, and I am actually glad to say that attending Harvard is now a dream *deferred*.

In the middle of the spring semester my senior year, I was nominated by MUS to apply for the prestigious John Motley Morehead Scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This four-year scholarship not only paid for tuition, room and board, and student fees but also provided a laptop during freshman year and engaged scholars on an extensive summer enrichment program full of global travel and memorable experiences to last a lifetime.

When Dr. [Emily] Baer told me about this scholarship opportunity, I reluctantly accepted the nomination. In April, the week after my final interview at Chapel Hill, I came back to Dr. Baer facing a dilemma – accept the Morehead or attend Harvard in the fall. After a number of heart-felt conversations with my family, friends, and MUS/UNC alumni, I was still undecided. It took a phone call from **Mr. and Mrs. J.R. “Pitt” Hyde III '61** to calm my fears and persuade me to take a chance on Carolina. Ever since that night, I have never regretted my decision. Accepting the Morehead Scholarship was, by far, the best decision I have made in my life.

My Morehead experience commenced shortly after graduation when I was flown from Memphis to the Pacific Coast of Washington to engage in three intensive

weeks of sea kayaking and mountaineering through Outward Bound. This was the “Outdoor Leadership” theme of the summer enrichment program (each summer had a certain theme). This program tested my limits of comfort and instilled a level of self-awareness and confidence that thoroughly prepared me for my first year at Carolina. Nothing could get my adrenaline pumping more than kayaking alone in the ocean, knowing that there were mammoth whales, porpoises, and sharks lurking underneath me. Living the life of a rugged backpacker, I truly knew that I was in *their* environment as I reflected in solitude within a tent on a mountainous area surrounded by bear tracks and frequented by curious deer. The highlight of the experience was feeling like I was on top of the world after scaling a staggering, snow-topped mountain.

After a personally fulfilling summer of self-discovery, it was time to act on my God-given purpose of helping to improve the standard of living for others, particularly those struggling in the Third World. For my “Public Service” summer, I ventured into South Africa and Lesotho to tutor students in English and math, as well as to promote HIV/AIDS awareness through Operation Crossroads Africa. Stationed in the rural village of Ha Ntlama in Lesotho, I collaborated with a number of college students to teach a variety of subjects in dilapidated schools that severely lacked government funding. After each day of classes, my group engaged in community development work and worked on a stage drama starring the young people of the village. The production, presented for the community, illustrated the misconceptions about and severity of HIV/AIDS.

While in Lesotho, I lived under the same dire conditions as everyone else in the village, lacking electricity, taking bucket baths, and walking miles back and forth to go to school each morning. In the end, I spent a week traveling with my group throughout South Africa, where Cape Town emerged in my eyes as one of the world’s most beautiful cities. This summer proved instrumental in fostering a strong humanitarian desire to give back to my global community, regardless of whatever career I pursue.

In the summer before my junior year, I wanted to take a closer look into international business, particularly how multina-



tional corporations function abroad. I subsequently used my “Travel/Study” summer to embark on a journey to Brazil where I studied the impact of multinational corporations in developing countries, using FedEx Express as a case study. Based in São Paulo, I interned under the managing director of the Mercosul District for FedEx (founded by **Fred Smith '62**). Along with conducting my research study, I discussed marketing and segmentation plans for the Latin American and Caribbean region with marketing specialists and assisted the managing director on regional marketing analyses regarding company expansion within Brazil. This was my first summer on my own in a foreign country, and I had no prior comprehension of Portuguese. Yet, I took advantage of what Brazil had to offer, exploring São Paulo after work and spending a week traveling to Salvador da Bahia and Rio de Janeiro, where I considered hang-gliding off a mountain

as a typical day of fun. Coming back to Carolina, I finished my research study, which would become part of a two-part study entitled *Globalizing the Amazon: How Foreign Multinationals Fostered the Gradual Economic Development of Brazil*.

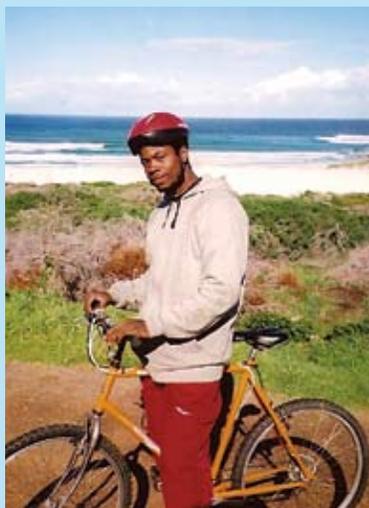
I had become so intrigued by the concept of international business that I wanted to pursue it further during the spring semester of my junior year. Another benefit of the Morehead Scholarship is that it will fund a semester's worth of study-abroad expenses. I spent that semester studying international business and trade at American University in Washington, D.C., which included a three-week excursion throughout China to see first-hand how international business affects economic development from the lens of a foreign country. From the rustic yet traditional Beijing to the modern and



Americanized Shanghai, my class traveled to over ten cities during our trip, visiting businesses such as Microsoft and Baidu, as well as certain ministries of the Chinese government to hear their stances on globalization and its impact on China's rapid development. Once back in America, I completed my second major research study, in which I critically analyzed the prospects of a free-trade agreement between the United States and the Southern African Customs Union (inclusive of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland).

Prior to my senior year, after months of tireless interviewing and daily investment research, I interned with Goldman, Sachs, & Co. in New York City for my "Enterprise" summer. Working within

the investment bank's Global Investment Research division, I was a fixed-income analyst, responsible for writing research reports on investment-grade corporate bonds covered in the retail and technology industries. As a political science and economics double major, the world of finance and investments was completely foreign to me, but the thrill of working on Wall Street made it all worthwhile. Though the learning curve was challenging, I thoroughly enjoyed the work, understanding how credit markets and Wall Street, as a whole, work, all the



while networking with colleagues and other analysts within Goldman Sachs, including MUS alumnus **Ravi Bellur '00**. After my ten-week internship, the firm offered me a full-time position as an equity research analyst upon graduation. I accepted immediately.

Now in my last year at Carolina, I feel that I have come full circle. I feel that life cannot get any better than it is right now, just as I did in high school. The Morehead Scholarship has introduced me to the world, allowing me to study fervently whatever my heart and mind desire without worry of

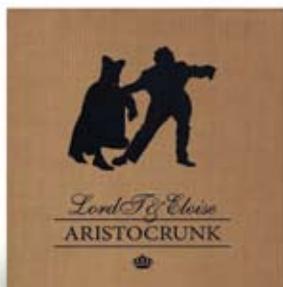
expenses or practicality of major. Being forever surrounded by a gifted community of talented and inspiring student leaders within the Morehead program has released any remaining personal barriers toward achieving professional and humanitarian goals in my lifetime, freeing me to stretch my limits and strive to reach my full potential.

The Morehead program is designed distinctly to help discover the best of each of its scholars, who are dedicated to nothing less than a perpetual commitment to lifelong personal growth through hard work, discipline, humility, and compassion. On all levels, I have grown excep-

Philip Blackett took a different road than he expected and ended up with a life-changing experience – (from left) mountain climbing in Washington State with Outward Bound; taking care of HIV/AIDS orphans in Maseru, Lesotho; bicycling along the coast of Cape Town, South Africa; working with Guilherme Gatti, managing director of FedEx Express, in São Paulo, Brazil; tandem hang-gliding over Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

tionally through my experiences, so much so that I feel like a brand new Philip in comparison to the Philip of four years ago. I have learned to trust myself, listen to my heart, and take risks. Going to Carolina is a risk that has proven exceptionally rewarding – not to mention that I can really enjoy my last year, knowing Wall Street awaits me after graduation. In retrospect, I frankly do not regret my decision to take the Morehead Scholarship over Harvard at all. Do I still wonder about going to my dream school in Cambridge? Well, there is always graduate school.

COVERS



Cameron Mann '96 and Elliot Ives '96

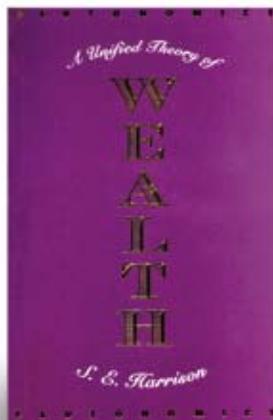
Described by Chris Herrington of *The Memphis Flyer* as “more like a musical performance-art act than recording artists,” Lord T & Eloise appropriate the bling and braggadocio of rap culture and apply it to their “high-concept act – white

blue-bloods rapping about their old-money wealth.” Lord Treadwell (Cameron Mann) dons 18th-century aristocratic garb (complete with powdered wig), while the skin of Maurice Eloise XIII (Robert Anthony) is plated in gold. Add to the mix MysterE (Elliot Ives), a mustachioed shadowy figure who lends his beats to the act.

The first album by the group, “Aristocrunk,” is a lively rap album celebrating the excesses of the irreverently “upper-class” group, with guest appearances by world-famous opera soprano Kallen Esperian, local hip-hop favorite Free Sol, the mischievous merry-maker Muck Sticky, and “King of Crunk” Al Kapone. The songs on the album send up upper-crust excesses and stereotypes, with titles like “Black Limousine,” “Penthouse Suite,” “Cashmere,” and “Sotheby’s.” The video for “Million Dollar Boots,” featuring Kapone, debuted at the Indie Memphis Film Festival in October. Herrington writes, “The[ir] attitude is too approving to be satire, with the result being more self-consciously distanced appropriation of the conspicuous consumption of hip-hop proper than comic critique.”

The group has received much critical praise for its first effort. *The San Francisco Bay Guardian* reviewer said that Lord T & Eloise is “as good, if not better than most of the rap I hear these days...polished, unique, and catchy as hell...funny, relevant, and original.” In a feature article, *The Memphis Flyer* said, “Brilliantly tongue-in-cheek...[they] evoke a flow that draws comparisons to both *License to Ill*-era Beastie Boys and the Chris Parnell/Andy Samberg *Saturday Night Live* skit ‘Lazy Sunday.’” VH1’s “Best Week Ever” recommended, “You should download a few ditties from the dandies, Lord T & Eloise, the world’s first purveyors of Aristocrunk.” Band biographies, tour information, and albums are available on www.lordtandeloise.com and www.myspace.com/lordtandeloise, and the video for “Million Dollar Boots” is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5aEGO1Ueyc>.

A graduate of Tulane University, Mann is the studio manager for Young Avenue Sound recording studio and promotions/distribution manager for the Memphis Records label. Ives, a graduate of Rhodes College, is a musician, recording engineer, producer, and studio owner. Both serve on the Studio Music Program Advisory Panel at MUS.



Shelley Harrison '86

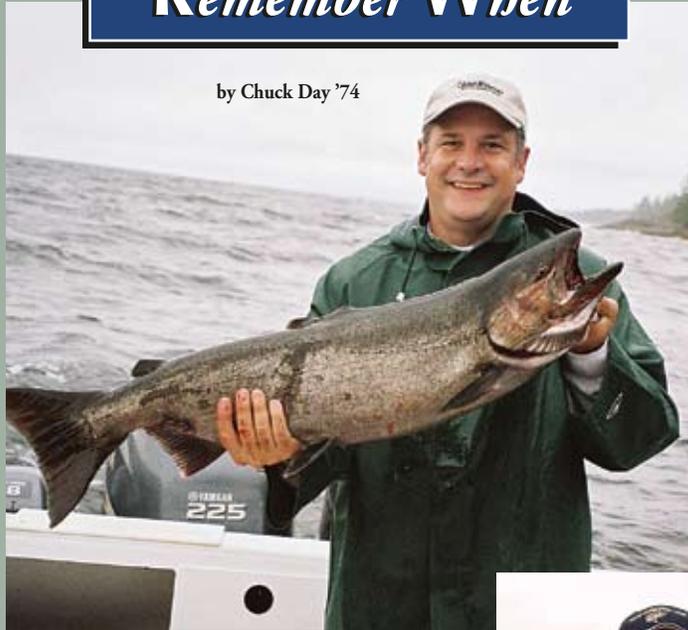
The term “plutonomics” made its debut in the English language back in the 1850s. The root of *plut-* comes from the Greek word for “wealth,” while the *-nomics* ending means “management” – so plutonomics can be taken literally to mean “wealth management.” In his new book, *Plutonomics: A Unified Theory of Wealth*, S.E. (Shelley) Harrison explores the nature of wealth – what it is and how to attain it.

Harrison describes wealth as being made up of four key components: capacity, environment, appreciation, and influence. By understanding these four factors and re-evaluating common attitudes about acquiring wealth, Harrison lays out a plan for his readers to relate wealth to a happy and meaningful life. In order to master wealth in a desired way, he focuses on two goals: preserving capacity and promoting smart decision-making in wealth management choices.

Throughout the book, Harrison attempts to “walk his readers in baby-step fashion from an infant’s first insights to an intellectually rigorous discussion of higher-level wealth concepts,” according to book critic Nicole Roberge. She goes on to say, “A businessperson and attorney, Harrison is also an eloquent writer and philosopher – a great thinker, and it is quite uncommon to find such a combination in the business books of today. In both theoretical content and poetic style, *Plutonomics* delivers an elegant approach to wealth, and its readers – and maybe even the world they live in, if Harrison’s personal comments are heeded – will be better off for having read it.” After graduating from MUS, Shelley Harrison received a B.A. from Stanford University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia. He lives in Los Angeles, where he teaches law, logic, writing, and reading comprehension.

Remember When

by Chuck Day '74



Chuck Day resides in Dacula, Georgia (Dracula without the "r") with his wife, Renée; daughter, Angela; sons, Charles and Harrison; and granddaughter, Autumn. Yes, he is a grandfather. He is the general manager of Manning Brothers Food Service and Supplies in Athens, Georgia. He is a tenor in his church choir and enjoys deep sea fishing, hiking, the North Georgia mountains, and quantum physics. He is shown here with his wife on an Alaskan fishing trip as they compare their catches. He can be reached at chuck@manningbrothers.com, unless he owes you money.



Listening to the closing remarks of the graduation ceremony on that May morning in 1974, I couldn't help but reflect on all that had happened since my arrival at MUS in the fall of 1968. Tossing my tassel across the rented mortarboard and trying not to get anything on my robe was as easy as correctly diagramming a Bill Hatchett sentence – virtually impossible. Out of 84 seniors who were graduating that day, I had been informed by Leigh MacQueen that I was number 42 – precisely in the middle. Perhaps if I had studied those Latin declinations in Grady Garrison's Latin II class, I could have finished at number 41; but on this day, I could only smile and wonder what the future would hold.

A lot happened after my arrival at MUS: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, the war in Vietnam raged on, Richard Nixon was elected with a vice president who looked like he was asleep, Willis Reed and Wes Unseld battled under the boards, some event called "Woodstock" happened, and four kids were shot at a school in Ohio that I had never seen but would hear about in a song written by Neil Young, lambasting the government for their deaths.

One of my first recollections of MUS student life was my seventh-grade English class with Mr. William "Bill" Cannon. Looking back, he could not have been older than 25 or 26, but he seemed like a ruthless curmudgeon. I lived in fear of him. Having come from ECS the year before and knowing that my mother had been an English teacher, I thought that writing a paper on any subject would be a breeze. Boy, was I wrong! When I dared state that the 1967 St. Louis Cardinals was the greatest team ever assembled, Mr. Cannon quickly assailed that preposterous thought. Were that so, they would have beaten Denny McLain, Mickey Lolich, and the 1968 Detroit Tigers. Add to this horror the fact that when instructed to fold my essay and write "Bill Cannon" on the outside (of course it should have been "Charles Day"), I dutifully wrote "Bill Cannon." Perhaps military life or the gallows would have been a better outcome for my midrange life – crushed like a melon at the ripe old age of 13. Mr. Cannon obviously saw the humor in my misfortune but certainly did not see any in my essay. He gave me a big fat "F."

Fighting through "Horrible" Haguewood, "Gregorian" Boelte, "Stormin'" Norman Thompson, and "Weird Beard" Hatchett also

proved no easy task. Hence my rise to mediocrity.

1970 proved to be the year of the Buzzard. Who would have thought that a bunch of classic over-achieving white boys from a tiny all-male school would go undefeated – 22 and 0! And playing on Converse All-Star low-tops to boot! Jerry Peters always has a knack for bringing guys together as a team. Look at Jimmy Ogle '70 and Tom Berdeja '70 as examples. Coach Peters had Berdeja shoot free throws in the strangest squatting-down fashion you could imagine, but it worked.

Ogle was small but could handle the ball like Magic Johnson. They were a sight to watch, especially for some scrawny eighth-grader who thought they were the greatest players south of the Boston Celtics.

In my senior year, I was introduced to the world of art. Not necessarily art appreciation, but the creation of art for art's sake by a new teacher named Bill Fitzgibbons. He was "cool," but at the time

we didn't realize it. He had us use acrylics, stretch our own canvases, silk screen, carve linoleum blocks, pour plaster, and engage in a myriad of other endeavors that allowed a bunch of slightly repressed 17- and 18-year-olds to let loose and see what we could destroy. Not in a bad way, but like sticking your tongue on a 9-volt battery to see what would happen. We had a blast! He even had us enter our art in Shelby County art exhibits displayed at Southland Mall and various spots around town.

On graduation day in 1974, who could have known that in three short months a President would resign, disco would rear its ugly head, and the "Vietnamization," as it was called, would be complete while we watched on televisions all over America? As I approach the start of my second half-century, I remember MUS as a place that gives you the tools to achieve your potential. A place where you can face life's challenges in an environment that allows you to learn that life isn't fair, but get over it! The men and women at MUS give their best to one of the finest institutions in the country and have stuck around long enough to see some of these little squirts like me become grandfathers. I hope the school is around for another century because this country needs leaders like the boys who become men after graduating from MUS.

Marriages

Kepler Knott '87 to Rachel Fuerst on November 4, 2006

Jeff Koehn '89 to Susan Rosenbaum on December 9, 2006

Jason Saenger '94 to Lizzie Shelby on November 18, 2006

Gideon Scoggin '95 to Carly Brown on August 26, 2006

Chris Carr '96 to Tiffany Ross on December 16, 2006

Lee Grimm '99 to Meredith Ellis on December 30, 2006

Ben Adams '01 to Mary Hughes on November 25, 2006

Births

Julie and **Jeff Schlosberg '86**, a son, Dayton Edward, born May 5, 2006

April and **Tommy Payne '88**, a son, Austin Marshall, born October 9, 2006

Meg and **Andrew Sutherland '90**, a son, Andrew Johnson Sutherland, Jr., born August 18, 2006

Elizabeth and **Frank White '92**, a daughter, Margaret Helen, born July 18, 2006

Hastings and **Trent Benitone '94**, a daughter, Kaleigh Jane, born March 16, 2004, and adopted on January 26, 2007

Brooke and **Justin Kaplan '94**, a daughter, Edith Anna, born November 8, 2006

Kelly and **Blake Bourland '95**, a daughter, Libby, born June 13, 2006

Deaths

Ron Callan '90

Hart Dillard '70

Hubert Turley, Jr. '36

'60

Met Crump
Class Representative
metcrump@crumpfirm.com

Alexander Wellford

Class Representative
wellford@midsouth.rr.com

John Bondurant was elected president of the Memphis Cotton Exchange.

Richard Brumfield and his wife, Nancy, have been retired since 1996 and divide their time between Sarasota, Florida, and Knoxville. Knoxville is the fall home, presumably so they can join the horde of adoring UT football fans. Richard has two new bionic knees and devotes much of his attention to fishing, golfing, and reading. His mother is a resident of Kirby Pines in Memphis and is doing well. Richard and Nancy have four children and four grandchildren, the oldest grandchild being 22. Is that a record for oldest grandchild for our class?

'61

Scott May
Class Representative
sfmay@bellsouth.net

Tom Hutton was honored as a Mid-South Super Lawyer in 2006 for his work in estate planning and probate. He is a partner with Martin, Tate, Morrow & Marston.

'62

Jerry Bradfield
Class Representative
jbradfi293@aol.com

For those of us who don't make the papers or who aren't world-famous like **Fred Smith**, it is up to you to email class news to Jerry for the next issue (including anything you've heard about others). We'd like to hear from you and see you at the reunion.

Stewart Austin has had a construction business in Memphis for many years.

Smith Soars into Aviation Hall of Fame



Fred Smith '62 will be inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) in July. Smith is chairman, president, and chief executive officer of FedEx Corporation, which he founded in 1971. The NAHF honors and recognizes United States citizens and residents who have significantly contributed to advancements in air and space flight. Smith will join 195 other members of the NAHF who changed the course of aviation or space exploration in America. His fellow inductees this year are Walter Boyne, former director

of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum; Steve Fossett, the adventurer with several world flight records; Evelyn Bryan Johnson, the record holder for training the most pilots; and Sally Ride, the first American woman in space.

Smith's inclusion in the Hall of Fame comes after a life-long fascination with and involvement in aviation. He was flying a crop-duster at age 15 and quickly developed both his piloting skills and a keen business acumen. While attending Yale University, he wrote an economics class term paper outlining his concept for a company guaranteeing delivery of time-sensitive material overnight. Upon graduation, Smith enlisted and served two tours in Vietnam with the Marines, including flying more than 200 ground support missions and earning a Silver Star, Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts. After honorable discharge as a captain in 1969, Smith purchased an aircraft maintenance company and refocused operations on buying and selling used corporate jets. In 1971, at age 27, Smith created the Federal Express Corporation and soon began offering delivery service in 25 cities. Today FedEx is an industry-leading \$32-billion, 250,000-employee company serving over 220 countries and territories around the world.

Fry Has Ardent Admirers



Dean Richard Ranta of the College of Communication and Fine Arts presenting the achievement award to John Fry

In November, **John Fry '62** was presented the Distinguished Achievement in the Creative and Performing Arts Award from the University of Memphis College of Communication and Fine Arts. The award recognizes an artist from Memphis or the Mid-South whose career achievement and contributions are clearly outstanding.

Fry is the founder of Ardent Studios, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in October. Ardent has produced a steady stream of hits from such artists as Isaac Hayes, B.B King, ZZ Top, Booker T. and the MG's, R.E.M., Stevie Ray Vaughan, Led Zeppelin, and the Staple Singers. Recently, it has produced recordings by the White Stripes, 3 Doors Down, Cat

Power, the North Mississippi All Stars, Yo Gotti, and the *Hustle & Flow* soundtrack. Fry is a former University of Memphis adjunct professor and continues to serve as a member of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Advisory Council.

In addition to his honor from the university, Fry was named one of the "12 Who Made a Difference" in 2006 by *The Commercial Appeal*. The newspaper celebrated "the John Fry who has donated his time and energy to education, to music-community activism, and to celebrating the past, present, and future glories of the Memphis sound."

After graduating from MUS, Fry attended Christian Brothers University. He and his wife, Betty, live in Germantown. Fry serves on the boards of the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission and the Memphis Music Foundation, as well as the Studio Music Production Advisory Panel at MUS. He is also a board member of the Visible School, a local music and worship arts college.

Dan Copp works in finance in Baltimore, Maryland.

Gene Dattel is still in New York City, where he works as a writer/lecturer.

Nat Ellis has eight grandchildren and counting. He is retired and living in Collierville.

Gary Ford is retired but still travels and enjoys acrobatic flying. He also has land developments in New Zealand.

Jimmy Garner has his own company, Garner Financial, in Dallas, Texas.

Sam Gary is semi-retired but still has his own investment company.

Clay "Jamie" Hall is a retired engineer in Memphis.

John Laughlin is still in the Trust Department at First Tennessee.

Lee McCormick lives in West Point, Mississippi. **Newt Metcalf** owns Green Earth Garden Center in Memphis.

Russ Patterson is a surgeon in Memphis when he is not riding his Harley or spending time with his three grandchildren.

Jimmy Place and **Barney Witherington** are both practicing physicians. Jimmy is in Knoxville, and Barney is in Jackson, Tennessee.

Pete Shearon is an attorney with Bernstein Law Offices in Memphis.

Tom Shipmon, a dentist, just completed his twelfth year of going on mission trips to Peru with United Servants Abroad.

Carlton Smith has a computer business, Remote Internet Corporation, in Memphis.

Cole Wilder is with the Galbreath Company in Memphis.

Dan Work is a certified public accountant in Memphis.

Special thanks to all classmates who have supported MUS this year and in years past, plus a reminder that the reunion class with the biggest percentage increase in Annual Fund giving for 2006-07 will have a special party at Homecoming this year on the Alumni Terrace overlooking the newly renovated Hull-Dobbs Athletic Field. If you haven't sent in your pledge, there is still time. Sixteen have already done so, which already beats last year's record-setting 14. With a few more gifts, we can pass the class currently in first place. We had a fair turnout of locals at the reunion in 2002, but we hope for more participation from out-of-towners this September 28 and 29. We could probably find accommodations in some of our homes if needed. Please plan to join us. The first organizing committee met before Christmas. **Jerry Bradfield, Gary Ford, Clay Hall, Russell Patterson, Dan Work**, and respective wives all pitched in with their ideas. We would appreciate any thoughts from you and will try to make it as appealing a weekend as possible. We plan to meet again in the spring with a larger group to make more definite plans, so send in your suggestions to Jerry.

Did You Play College Football?

If you are an MUS alumnus and went on to play college football, then we need your help! We are compiling a list of all MUS college-football players to be included in the 2007 Football Guide. If you are in that select group, and either your name does not appear on this list or we have inaccurate information about you, contact Dax Torrey at dax.torrey@musowls.org as soon as possible.

MUS COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS

Trow Gillespie '65 - Vanderbilt
 Wiley O'Neal '68 - Vanderbilt
 Haynes McBride '69 - Oklahoma
 Hal McGeorge '70 - Memphis
 Bruce Bolton '75 - Alabama
 Tommy Christenbury '78 - Arkansas
 Conrad McCrary '78 - Ole Miss
 Tim Deaton '82 - Rhodes
 Bill Lansden '82 - Rhodes
 Paul Luttrell '82 - Millsaps
 George Skouteris '83 - Tennessee
 Bill Sorrells '83 - Army
 Mac McCarroll '84 - Vanderbilt
 Jay Steed '85 - Georgia Tech
 Craig Witt '85 - Vanderbilt
 Greg McGowan '86 - Dartmouth
 Andy McCarroll '86 - Vanderbilt
 John Van Hoozer '87 - Richmond
 Ryan Ehrhart '91 - Colorado College
 Tom Hutton '91 - Tennessee
 John Sartelle '92 - Tennessee
 Major Wright '92 - Lambuth
 Jackson Moore '93 - SMU
 Thomas Quinlen '93 - Colorado College
 Lake Newton '93 - Rhodes
 Hamilton Eggers '94 - Rhodes
 Brian O'Sullivan '94 - Colorado College
 Trey Carr '95 - Washington & Lee
 Will Thompson '95 - Virginia
 Richard Moore '98 - North Carolina
 Mark Pera '99 - Auburn
 Wes Scott '99 - Ole Miss
 Thomas Bowden '99 - Millsaps
 Steven Campbell '00 - Millsaps
 Scott Vogel '00 - Memphis
 Ross Rutledge '02 - Millsaps
 David Thompson '02 - Arkansas
 John Phillips '03 - Virginia
 Derek Clenin '03 - Memphis
 John Conrad McCrary '04 - Tennessee Tech
 John David Lawhorn '05 - Ole Miss
 Rob Park '05 - Ole Miss
 Russell Nenon '06 - Wake Forest
 Will Pickens '06 - Davidson
 Max Prokell '06 - Richmond

'64

Bill Quinlen
Class Representative
wlq1975@aol.com

Scott Heppel, ace trout fisherman, has finally accepted that his wife, Carolyn, is a better angler than he is. Both fish a lot, so the body of evidence is substantial. Carolyn's most recent big fish was a 22" brown trout that weighed a hefty 5 1/2 pounds and was caught on the Madison River in Montana.

Rick Howe reports that he is well, perhaps even excellent.

Gordon Kenna is executive director of the Georgia Concrete & Products Association, a prominent construction trade group, proving that there is life after NASA.

Atlanta banker **Sandy Lynn** married his bride, Wendi, on January 5, 2007. He reports that he voted for an earlier date but was vetoed by Wendi, who felt like any engagement short of a year might be viewed as impetuous. After 60-odd years of bachelorhood, what's a few more months anyway?

Thurston Moore is still the big dog at Hunton & Williams, a prominent law firm in Richmond, Virginia. T is angling to bring his 16-year-old son to Memphis sometime soon to go duck hunting Arkansas style, so keep an eye out for our boy on I-40, most likely headed west.

Bill Quinlen appears to be coping nicely with retirement and spends his time hunting, fishing, and traveling with wife, Marion. Their most recent adventures were a very nice boat ride on the Elbe River from Berlin to Prague and a combination wing shooting/mission trip to Argentina. Bill also reports that his grandkids are way cuter than yours.

Van Spear's children, Tripp, Meg, and Julia, recently treated him to a splendid surprise party on his 60th birthday. Van, who says he had always secretly wanted a surprise, was especially pleased that the kids did not somehow figure out how to stick him with the bill for the festivities. Van also reports that he and his wife, Julie, recently became grandparents – twice. Daughter Julia had a son in December, and daughter-in-law Elaine had a son in March. Julie and Van, along with Leslie and **Mac McKee '65**, also recently attended the wedding of Jeff Ross, son of Elise and the late **Bill Ross**, in North Carolina.

Tim Treadwell continues to toil in the property and casualty insurance business at Treadwell & Harry. He would love to cut back some but claims his kids cannot afford for him to retire.

Tim's Midtown cousin, **George Treadwell**, is celebrating the Republicans' recent electoral

drubbing; he particularly relished the Rumsfeld Humiliation. George does not especially love the Dems – he tends to vote the Green or Whig tickets – but six years of the Bushies and their pals in charge of Congress was almost more than he could stand. He is breathing easier now.

Greg Warren resurfaced in Memphis and reports that he is well. At a recent lunch with **Ray Brakebill**, Bill Quinlen, and **Barham Ray**, Greg provided an interesting update on his life and loves – several of those – since he was last seen waiting tables at Friday's in 1972. He can be reached at gcvarren@earthlink.net.

'69

Scott Wellford
Class Representative
swellford@orgill.com

Dewitt Shy was honored as a Mid-South Super Lawyer in 2006. He is an attorney with Burch, Porter & Johnson.

'70

Hunter Humphreys
Class Representative
h Humphreys@glankler.com

Shep Tate was honored as a Mid-South Super Lawyer in 2006. He is a partner with Tate Lazarini Brady & Guerra.

'73

Wise Jones
Class Representative
wise.jones@regions.com

Cecil Humphreys
Class Representative
chumphreys@glankler.com

Harris Quinn was elected to the board of the Memphis Bar Association. He is a partner with the law firm William & Prochaska.

'74

Mark Ruleman
Class Representative
mark@wealthsolutionsllc.net

John Dillon
Class Representative
jdillon@orgill.com

Walker Sims joined the law firm of Martin, Tate, Morrow & Marston as counsel in its new Southaven office.

Gerald Wade joined Commercial Bank & Trust, where he will concentrate on building its private banking operation. He was previously the Memphis market president for Bank of America.

'76

Lane Carrick
Class Representative
lane@sovereignwealth.com

Johnny Pitts received the Volunteer of the Year award from Memphis and Shelby County Optimist Respect for Law Committee. He was also elected secretary of the board of Assurex Global and president of the MUS Alumni Executive Board.

'78

Joe Morrison
Class Representative
morrisonmemphis@comcast.net

Video clips of live performances by **Newt Allen's** band, Doc Allen and the Heartstrings, are available at http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=newton+allen.

'79

Fleet Abston
Class Representative
fabston@turlwave.com

Treat Macdonald was named to the board of directors of the Memphis Area Association of Realtors.

'81

Rob Hussey
Class Representative
rjh Hussey3@comcast.net

Paulo Aur returned to Memphis from Saudi Arabia in 2003. He spent nine years working in accounting for Aramco, the National Oil Company of Saudi Arabia. Paulo is currently a vice president with Servicemaster with responsibility for branch accounting in the Terminix and TruGreen Chemlawn divisions. Recently, Paulo started a new business called Blackline Chauffeurs for all your corporate travel needs in the Mid-South area. Paulo and his wife, Jeanne, have one son, Ford.

'82

John Dunavant
Class Representative
jdunavant@dunavant.com

Scott Crosby was elected to the board of the Memphis Bar Association. He is a partner with Burch, Porter & Johnson.

'83

Porter Feild
Class Representative
pfeild@bjjlaw.com

Trey Jordan, president of Holiday Deli, plans to expand with three stores in Knoxville and one more in Memphis. He will operate these new units as Pimento's Cafe and Market.

'85

Dede Malmo
Class Representative
dmalmo@malmomemphis.com

Don Wiener
Class Representative
don_wiener@adp.com

John Apperson joined Centennial Partners, LLC, as managing director.

'86

Andy McArtor
Class Representative
andy@mcartor.com

Gavin Murrey
Class Representative
gavmurrey@bellsouth.net

Ben Daniel was elected secretary/treasurer of the Memphis & Shelby County Sports Authority.

'87

Jonny Ballinger
Class Representative
jonnyballinger@hotmail.com

Bo Brooksbank
Class Representative
gardnerbrooksbank@earthlink.net

Old friends gathered in Cozumel, Mexico, in November for the wedding of **Kepler Knott** and Rachel Fuerst. In attendance were (pictured below) **Allen Graber**, **Kent McKelvey**, **Kevin Knott '82**, **Stewart Hammond**, and **Marty Felsenthal**. The newlyweds are making their home in Atlanta.



'88

Fred Schaeffer
Class Representative
fschaeffer@memphis.nefn.com

Jon Van Hoozer earned the Certified Mortgage Banker designation from the Mortgage Bankers Association of America. Jon is vice president of Financial Federal Savings Bank.

'90

Philip Wunderlich
Class Representative
pwunder@wundernet.com

Jonathan Berz and his wife, Jenny, have two little ones, Noah and Sarah. Jenny is finishing her training to be a psychologist, and Jonathan is finishing a year as a chief medical resident at Boston Medical Center. And then on to academic medicine...

Washington SmartCEO magazine recently included CEO **Mark Dumas** and his company, SPADAC, on its 2007 Future 50 list of the best and brightest entrepreneurs in the Washington, D.C., area.

Darrin Gulla says he has managed to escape the rat race of PriceWaterhouse Coopers and has taken a position in the economics department at Berry College in Rome, Georgia. **Kristi** and **Daniel Newton** live in Clinton, Tennessee, with their daughter, Vivian.

'91

Brett Grinder
Class Representative
bgrinder@grindertaber.com

Darrell Cobbins
Class Representative
dcobbins@commadv.com

Darrell Cobbins has entered a new phase in his career as vice president of Lehman Brothers/Small Business Finance. He will focus on financing commercial real estate transactions across the country. Darrell was previously senior vice president with Commercial Advisors, LLC. He and **David Waddell** were recently elected to the advisory board of MPACT Memphis.

Ryan Ehrhart is now a managing director of Morgan Keegan & Co., where he is in fixed income sales.

In December, **Shea Flinn** was elected interim state senator from District 30 by the Shelby County Commission. He filled the seat vacated by Congressman Steve Cohen until a permanent replacement for Cohen was elected.

'92

Preston Miller
Class Representative
mill1170@bellsouth.net

Brandon Westbrook
Class Representative
blw@hsrinvestments.com

Daniel Kerlan is living in Atlanta, where he is practicing pediatric dentistry. **Paul Morris** became a director of the law firm of Martin, Tate, Morrow & Marston, so he is in need of clients to justify this promotion. If you have any business law needs, he can be found at www.martintate.com.

Bill Murray completed his work at Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained as an Episcopal priest in February at St. John's Episcopal Church. He is a member of the clergy at St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown.

Frank White left Washington, D.C., in 2001 to work for PriceWaterhouse Coopers in Zurich, Switzerland. In 2003, he quit PWC to go to law school at Boston College. He graduated in May 2006 and took the Massachusetts bar in July (eight days after his daughter was born), which he thankfully passed. He started at Weil, Gotshal & Manges as a corporate associate in September and has been plugging away since then. He and his family live in Medford, Massachusetts. In November, Frank ran the New York City Marathon and is currently undefeated against seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. Lance's 2:59 was 4 minutes slower than Frank's 2:55. Frank says that he owes that victory to Coach Eddie Batey.

'93

Thomas Quinlen
Class Representative
quinletc@yahoo.com

Gil Uhlhorn
Class Representative
guhlhorn@bassberry.com

Tommy Boyle is living in Montana, killing everything in sight and sending me photographic evidence to taunt me. May your waders freeze to the insides of your legs, Tommy.

So You Wanna be a Rock Star?

by Adam Lazarov '02



Imagine the sound

of the cheering crowd in front of you and the vibrations of the bass guitar behind you. The bright lights come up to send heat through your body and reveal the screaming faces – of your peers and coworkers. The instruments increase their tempo to match the beating of your heart as, for a few moments, you shed your outer self and release your underlying persona: rock star. Thanks to the hard work and creative mind of one MUS alumnus, this fantasy can become a reality.

In the mid '80s, the MUS Fine Arts Department left something to be desired in the music arena. Those with a zeal for the art form, like a young **Craig Nadel '87**, were left to search for other means of exploring creativity. What inspiration did not come from his participation in the theater and on the soccer field was given to him in the English Department, through teachers such as MUS staples Ellis Haguewood, Lin Askew, and Terry Shelton. The great works of fiction that have long been a part of the MUS core curriculum enthused Nadel and taught him the significance of opening the inventive mind. He cites one of Mr.

Shelton's curt quips as a creative fuel that he still draws upon; after asking how Shelton was so smart, the wise teacher responded, "I read." This simple declarative statement embodies the power of creativity for Nadel, and, with his young company, Groove Labs, he now has the opportunity to spread this creative energy that he finds so important.

With seven years of business experience behind him, Nadel still had not found "it." His forays into venture capital and consulting gave him the necessary business savvy, but he needed to get away for a while and think through his real goals. Six weeks surfing in Australia did the trick. It was there that he realized the key to finding "it" was combining his passions, and this meant bringing a strong artistic side into his work. His next challenge was finding a way to incorporate art into a sound business model – creativity could not work unless he could figure out how to sell it. He realized something immediately. "Everyone connects to music; everybody wants the chance to be a rock star," he says. Thus, in 2002 in Austin, Texas, Groove Labs was born.

Nadel prides Groove Labs as a company "built on passion that trades in creativity." Its flagship program, Corporate Rock

Stars, allows exactly the type of corporate suits who might lack creativity in their work to experience the joy and thrill of performing under the lights of the big stage. At an event, participants are divided into divisions or teams and paired up with musicians who help them choose a song, craft lyrics, and prepare choreography. The celebration climaxes as each team performs their work in front of the judges and their peers. Groove Labs has been brought into many corporations, including Microsoft, Bank of America, and Memphis's own Northwest Airlines, to share its unique brand of team-building. Nadel calls Corporate Rock Stars a "classic niche, something fun and different." It is not team-building for its own sake; rather participants are given the opportunity to become closer to one another through laughter, music, and a downright good time. What makes Corporate Rock Stars work is the first-class production value that Nadel ensures at each event. Professional lighting and sound systems give participants the opportunity to shine like real rock stars, and world-class career musicians, who have played with the likes of The Allman Brothers Band and Chuck Berry, are the juice that makes the performances electric.

With Corporate Rock Stars off and rolling, Nadel has found time to expand other projects through Groove Labs. Play With The Pros is similar to Corporate Rock Stars in that it simulates the experience of being a live rock 'n' roller. The idea could be considered live-music karaoke, but this would do it a terrible injustice, just as one would not compare listening to a CD to going to a concert. The power of singing a favorite song with real musician accompaniment offers a much more rounded and fulfilling experience. Groove Labs puts on Play With The Pros at any corporate event, private party, or other special occasion where having fun is the key theme.

Nadel has recently put effort into bringing creativity into the world by producing music with the Groove Labs record label, GLabs. Also important to Nadel is using music to get involved in the community. He is interested in starting music-based after-school programs to help keep young people off the streets and finding other ways to allow children to safely explore their creative sides. Nadel knows that music is only one form of creativity, and as Groove Labs expands, he is constantly looking for opportunities to bring in other forms of art. He says that the Groove Labs attitude is, "There's nothing that we can't do."

In light of this, he shares some advice with current MUS students. "The world of entertainment is as powerful as banking,

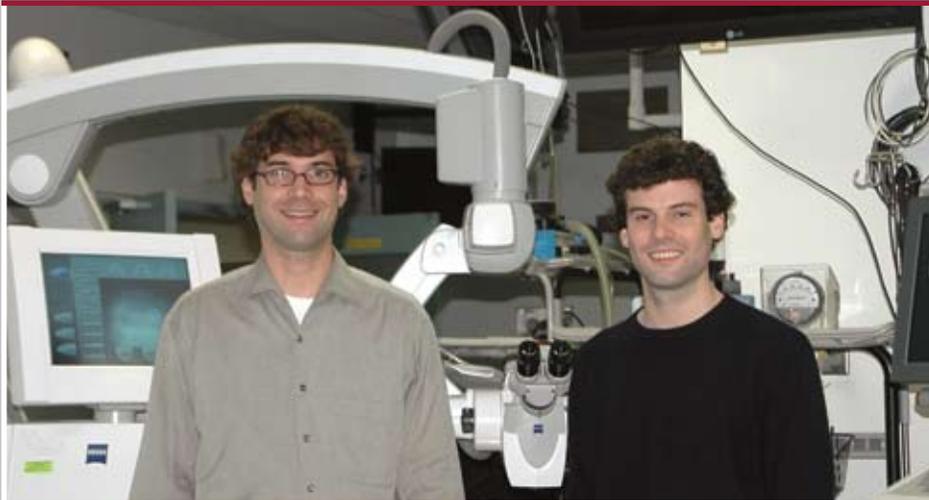


Top: Group rehearsing
Middle: Craig Nadel on guitar
Bottom: Nadel helping a client put her lyrics into the computer.
Opposite page: one group revels in their moment in the spotlight.

law, or anything else. The value of art is immense, and the upside is huge. Pursue your talents." Nadel is excited to see more outlets for this at MUS, as his beloved theater program continues to thrive and the musical opportunities available increase under the tutelage of John Hiltonsmith. Most important, Nadel feels that he has become successful doing something that he loves and something that brings joy and goodness to humanity. As he says, "We need more weapons in the world like guitars and basses and drums." Creativity to him is a beacon, and with Groove Labs, he spreads this light. You can learn more about your inner rock 'n' roller and the services Groove Labs has to offer by checking out the website: www.groovelabs.net.

Adam Lazarov is a 2002 alumnus of MUS, where he was co-editor of The Owl's Hoot. He graduated with honors from the University of Texas with a B.A. in communications in May 2006. He is currently working as a copywriter at carpenter/sullivan/sossaman, a Memphis-based advertising and marketing firm headed by fellow alumni Doug Carpenter '82 and Brian Sullivan '83.

On the Cutting Edge of Medical Research



In a building formerly known as the *old* post office on Cleveland Street resides a unique *new* business, so unique that it is one of only a few research facilities in the world providing state-of-the-art training for physicians worldwide. Yes, worldwide. Physicians from Europe, Korea, China, Africa, Australia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States have passed through the doors of the Medical Education & Research Institute (MERI) in the past ten years. More than 5,000 physicians were trained at the MERI in 2005. Few outside of the medical community have heard of the MERI, and only the logo of a skeleton on the building hints at what this business has to offer our community.

The MERI provides training to physicians wanting to learn how to use new products being tested by medical device companies. Its goal is to provide the most current information on medical products and procedures to physicians who may then use this new information and training in their operating rooms and offices. The center of operations on Cleveland is a 27,000 square-foot facility that includes three anatomic teaching laboratories, seven research suites, and auditorium equipment with cutting-edge audiovisual systems including a 3-D system for viewing videos.

The MERI, which opened its doors in 1995, was established and has thrived due in part to members of the MUS community. The founder and chairman of the board of the MERI is MUS parent Dr. Kevin Foley (father of **Sean '02** and **Ryan '07**), a neurosurgeon with Semmes-Murphy Clinic. Foley had a vision for a research center where doctors could experiment and learn using actual human tissue. Surgeons would also be able to learn from one another and participate in valuable training programs. The MERI was built through a cooperative arrangement between Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation and Methodist Healthcare, Inc. **Braden Kimball '96** designed MERI's first website and maintained it while a student at Washington University. After graduating with an engineering degree in computer science, Braden was offered a full-time position as information technology director and has worked there since graduation. "It's been a



Combining their computer and audio/visual skills, Braden and Phillip Kimball find themselves in the medical field with a world-wide audience.

great work experience, and the training and education are invaluable," he states. Braden has been involved in setting up and maintaining the computer networks and assisting with training courses, all while attending graduate school. In May 2006, he received a master's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Tennessee.

Also employed at the MERI is Braden's younger brother **Phillip Kimball '99**. Phillip graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2002 with a B.A. and then spent a year in Breckenridge, Colorado, enjoying the slopes and working at a Wells Fargo bank. After making his way back to Memphis and working for another bank, he decided that banking wasn't for him and applied for a job at the MERI. With a background as a musician and sound engineer, he was a natural fit for the audio/visual coordinator position, where he takes advantage of the state-of-the-art equipment. Phillip says, "In addition to all the educational courses the MERI hosts, we are also ground zero for medical device companies' research and development (R&D). Medtronic, Smith-Nephew, Wright Medical, Kyphon, Ethicon, Depuy Spine, and many others test their latest medical implants here. This could range from initial R&D testing to FDA trials. My role in those operations is to film the procedure so that doctors will have a fully interactive DVD to take back to their own practices for review before a case."

Physicians have the opportunity to test new surgical procedures on frozen (not embalmed) human cadavers in the anatomic teaching laboratories. Doctors are able to learn and perfect medical procedures on donor bodies before they perform those techniques on live patients. "It sounds pretty gross, working in a room with cadavers, but the experience and being on the cutting edge of so many new surgeries is worth it," says Phillip. The institute currently has about 1,300 people signed up to ultimately be donors. Additionally, next-of-kin may sign their loved ones up for the program posthumously. The MERI keeps records on the specific research projects in which each donor is involved. Family members may know specifically how donors' bodies are being used to further medical research and potentially save other lives.



An unassuming building near downtown Memphis is the headquarters for work that has worldwide implications in the medical community. Phillip says, "Ultimately, we will be able to stream live video to operating rooms across the street or across the globe in order for doctors to collaborate on difficult cases." The Kimball brothers are able to use technology to make a profound life-saving impact.

Philip McDermott is still teaching English as a second language in Poland.

Tommy (now Tom) Wright, had a baby. Well, actually, his wife did. Anyway, Tom is a father, and the little girl, Abby, is already almost as tall as her daddy. Tom is still in the New York City area, living in Fairfield, Connecticut, and working for Pfizer as a quality control tester on the Viagra production line. It would appear the product works. Tom says his office is about a block from Grand Central in Midtown, so any classmates who find themselves in Manhattan should give him a call.

'94

Kirby May
Class Representative
kirbymay@hotmail.com

Jason Whitmore

Class Representative
avalanchez66@hotmail.com

R.P. Dempsey joined the law firm of Bass, Berry & Sims as an associate.

'95

Gideon Scoggin
Class Representative
gideon.scoggin@banktennessee.com

Will Thompson

Class Representative
wthompson@nfcinvest.com

After some serious prodding from a couple of fellow MUS alumni, **Jake Lawhead** decided to get back into the wellness business by taking over Breakaway Athletics. Jake says he hopes to have each store at least as clean and organized as the Student Lounge circa 1995. Thanks to Jake for sending us that cute holiday card. Who's your friend in the red sweater?

'96

Robert Dow
Class Representative
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Kennon Vaughan

Class Representative
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After nearly five years in South America, **Matt Beem** decided to return to the American South. This past July, he took a position as the Latin America economist and equity analyst for Stanford Financial Group in Memphis. **Justin Conn's** latest recording, *New Blood*, is a collection of 14 tracks that showcases his unique "neo-retro" style. Accompanying Conn on this album are several world-class musicians, including two of his idols: Johnny Neel of the Allman Brothers and Wayne Jackson of the Memphis Horns.

'97

Trey Jones
Class Representative
trey.jones@ey.com

William Brakebill is a client manager with the premier banking and investment group at Bank of America in Atlanta.

'98

Don Drinkard
Class Representative
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Erick Clifford

Class Representative
eclifford@harbert.net

Don Drinkard says, "All is well with me, and I am still working at CBRE. Other than that, I've actually started taking acting classes and just finished up the first series on 'dramatic stage movements.' It's proven to be a lot of fun, and I am actually juggling the idea of getting into Memphis theater."

Harley Steffens joined the law firm of Evans & Petree as an associate attorney.

'99

Chip Campbell
Class Representative
chipcampbell@deloitte.com

Norfleet Thompson

Class Representative
nthomps9@utm.edu

Adam Brinkley-Svanberg has been living in Moscow, Russia, for the past two years, working for URALSIB Bank in equity sales.

Josh Winters is selling corporate insurance for McDonnell Insurance in Memphis.

'00

Michael Liverance
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Ryan Miller

Class Representative
ryan.miller@morgankeegan.com

First Lieutenant **Andrew McConomy** (USMC) deployed to Iraq with elements of the 2nd Marine Air Wing and is the officer in charge of maintenance, ordinance, and supply for helicopter squadrons based at Al Taqaddum airbase in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lt. McConomy is also a Marine martial arts instructor. He is pictured here on the left with First Lieutenant **Gil Schuette '99** when the two met for dinner as Andrew began his deployment

and Gil completed his. The two are not only MUS alumni but fraternity brothers, Wake Forest graduates, and fellow Marines.

Collins Rainey graduated in May 2006 from Emory University with a master's degree in theological studies. He is now a student in medical school at the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

'01

Daniel McDonell
Class Representative
dmcdonell@gmail.com

Harrison Ford

Class Representative
hford@mail.smu.edu

Russell Bloodworth works in Memphis at Wellspring Management, LLC, as an equities research analyst.

Rob Byrd is in law school at the University of Memphis.

Andy Campbell is in his second year of law school at the University of Alabama. He clerked over the summer in Birmingham for the law firms Bradley, Arant, Rose & White and Maynard, Cooper & Gale. He and his new wife, Sarah, are settling into married life like pros.

John Carr is getting his M.S. in finance and accounting at the London School of Economics.

David Frazier has joined Trezevant Enterprises, Inc., as an affiliate broker.

Daniel McDonell is working on his M.S. in environmental and sustainable development at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Brandon O'Mell worked his way up in various positions with Harrah's Corporation in Tunica and is now floor manager at the Wynn Las Vegas.

Jonathan Thomas is in his first year at University of Tennessee Health Science Center for a Doctorate of Physical Therapy.





Kip Gordon is a producer at FOX 13 News in Memphis and was nominated for three Midsouth Regional Emmys for his work with the station. He won in the Promo Campaign/News category for helping make an image/branding campaign for meteorologist Joey Sulipeck at FOX 13 News.

'02

Will Saxton
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Frank Langston
Class Representative
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Adam Lazarov is a copywriter with carpenter/sullivan/sossaman, a full-service marketing communications agency in Memphis.

Field Norris is a financial advisor at Morgan Keegan in Memphis.

'03

Randall Holcomb
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Jamie Drinan
Class Representative
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Ben Alexander is finishing up at Rhodes College, where he is president of the senior class and a member of the Student Senate and the Student Activities Commission. He is also an officer of SAE fraternity and plays varsity tennis along with his younger brother, **Andrew '06**.

Hite McLean was named to the University of Mississippi Dean's Honor Roll, for students with a grade-point average between 3.5 and 3.74.

The Buzzards Land in Memphis

The new Bloodworth Studio at MUS has been rockin' after hours. John Hiltonsmith has been putting the finishing touches on the first single from the (appropriately named) band The Buzzards. Featuring members pictured below, left to right, **Brian Katz '01** (drums), **Robbie Caldwell '01** (guitar and vocals) and **Al Newberry '01** (guitar and vocals), the group is honing its grunge sound in the studio and at live performances.

The trio has played together on and off since high school. While attending different colleges, each continued with his musical interests. Caldwell planned large concert events at Vanderbilt University and played around campus, even with Newberry (a Wabash College alumnus) once or twice. He also took classes in the music department and worked for a music publishing company. Newberry was in various ensembles at Wabash, playing everything from jazz to Ugandan folk music. He ended up graduating with a minor in music. Katz studied some music at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, as well. They all kept in touch, and when they graduated and moved back to Memphis in the summer of 2005, Caldwell had the idea that they start a rock band. Newberry says, "I was always Robbie's musical partner in crime, and eventually we convinced B. Katz to come on board and do percussion."

Katz says, "Even though Robbie, Al, and I played together throughout high school, when they approached me after college about putting a band together to play locally in Memphis, I was surprised. Since music has never

really been a huge passion of mine, I never envisioned myself in a rock band." Nevertheless, he joined up, and they've been playing shows ever since.

At first their singer and bassist was ECS graduate Jonathan Nanney. Nanney eventually left the band, and Caldwell and Newberry took over singing duties. The band uses a changing roster of bassists at their live gigs, that many times includes John Hiltonsmith. So far



they've played primarily in Memphis and St. Louis, including shows at the Hi-Tone, Full Moon Club, Neil's, and "the famous Lemon's."

Newberry states, "I'm a little hard-pressed to describe our style. John says we have a grunge sound, and I usually say we're a rock band with blues influences." The band plans to continue crafting songs, recording, and playing live shows. They intend to record an entire album in the Bloodworth Studio in 2007 and will be expanding their touring to other cities including Nashville. "I really do enjoy playing in front of our loyal friends and family whose support is greatly appreciated. I'm looking forward to what the future holds for The Buzzards," says Katz.

In the meantime, "We're all respectable citizens, much to our own chagrin," jokes Newberry. Caldwell is in law school at St. Louis University, Katz is a financial analyst at First Tennessee in Memphis, and Newberry does clinical research at the UT Medical Group, also in Memphis.

News and information about The Buzzards can be found at their website www.myspace.com/thebuzzardsmemphis.

'04

Elliott Embry
Class Representative
elliotembry@gmail.com**Harris Jordan**
Class Representative
ajorda12@utk.edu

Austin Rainey is a civil engineering student at Clemson University, where he was elected president of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau. He was also elected chairman of the Judicial Board for Clemson and is very active with the College Student Legislature.

Blake Wiedman was named to the University of Mississippi Chancellor's Honor Roll, for students with a 3.75 or better grade-point average.

'05

Sam Sawyer
Class Representative
sammysawyer@mac.com**Kane Alber**
Class Representative
kralber@olemiss.edu

Randall Noel and **Matt Sights** were named to the University of Mississippi Chancellor's Honor Roll, for students with a 3.75 or better grade-point average.

Nelson Rainey has expanded his horizons by going to school full time and going into the building/development business in Oxford, Mississippi. He is completing his first home-building project and is also working on a small condo development. Nelson is majoring in pre-law and economics.

'06

Chad Hazlehurst
Class Representative
mhaz@midssouth.rr.com**Sam Coates**
Class Representative
spc1988@gmail.com

Phillip DeBardeleben and **Reid Wesson** were named to the University of Mississippi Chancellor's Honor Roll, for students with a 3.75 or better grade-point average.

John Klinke was named to the University of Mississippi Dean's Honor Roll, for students with a grade-point average between 3.5 and 3.74.

Eason Exhibits Powerful Images

Michael Eason '03 had a solo art show, *Low Country Boil*, at the montyshane gallery in Memphis this past September. The exhibition featured photographs Eason took in the coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina. He plans to complete a photographic series exploring the different aspects of the area, from the architecture to the culture. *Low Country Boil*, the first part of the series, looks at the architecture in relationship to the landscape.

Many of the images from the show depict the abandoned buildings in the area, so forgotten that they have been engulfed by the landscape. "Daufuskie Shack" (above) was taken on Daufuskie Island, South Carolina. The island was given to slaves after the Civil War, and their descendents still live there today. They are part of the Gullah/Geechee culture, slave descendents whose beliefs are deeply rooted in the African traditions of their ancestors. For the last few decades, developers have wanted to turn the island into a resort community with vacation homes and exclusive hotels. Eason's photographs document the decay not only of the architecture of the island, but perhaps also the decline of an American subculture.

Eason is in his fourth year at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), double-majoring in photography and graphic design. His goal is to work in print graphic design, incorporating his own photography. In addition to the solo show in Memphis, Eason has also been in two group shows at SCAD. His work is in the permanent collection of SCAD.



Viewpoint



Dot, Dick, Dottie, and Bailey at Dottie's graduation from the University of Virginia where "Dad" was a featured speaker

RICHARD L. "DICK" FISHER '72 has served as the treasurer of the MUS Board of Trustees since 1999, having joined the board in 1988. As part of Fisher's accomplishments as treasurer, he coordinated the placement of approximately \$15 million of tax-free bonds to underwrite major improvements to the school's physical plant.

Fisher is president and chief executive officer of Dunavant Capital Management, an affiliate of The Dunavant Group (one of the 400 largest privately held companies in the United States). He began his career with Dunavant Enterprises, Inc. in 1979 and is a member of its Executive Board of Directors.

He received a B.S. with distinction from the University of Virginia in 1976 and a Master of Science in Accounting with distinction from UVA in 1977. While at UVA, Fisher taught several undergraduate accounting courses and, upon returning to Memphis, continued to do so at the University of Memphis. Fisher is also a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Financial Planner, and a Chartered Financial Consultant.

Fisher has authored several finance case studies that have been published in graduate-level textbooks, and he has published articles addressing topics in the areas of financial planning, investment due diligence, and alternative investments. He has also served as a guest lecturer in several prominent M.B.A. programs.

Fisher currently serves as an outside director for Tudor Investment Corporation and as an Advisory Board member of the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia. He is a past chairman of Chrysalis, and he serves as a volunteer at St. Jude's Target House, where he teaches guitar to teenagers who have life-threatening childhood diseases.

Fisher and his wife, Dot, have two daughters, both of whom graduated from Hutchison School. Dottie (24) graduated from UVA in 2005 and is an investment analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York City; Bailey (21) is currently a nursing student at UVA.

by Dick Fisher '72

From the lobby of Starbucks to the most sophisticated board rooms on Wall Street, one question that is constantly being discussed in and around premier organizations is: "What is the organization's 'edge,' and how does that edge differentiate the organization from others in its field of vision?"

In today's ultra-competitive environment, the answer to such a question is evermore important to any organization; MUS, as a leader in its field, would do well to address that question frequently, with a view toward constantly assessing its own performance and sharpening its edge whenever possible.

As I collected my thoughts while drafting this "Viewpoint" article, I first felt compelled to ask myself, "Just what *is* MUS's edge?" Giving the topic further thought, two simple words definitively came to my mind: **MUS cares.**

At first glance, this notion seems to be a fairly intuitive one; however, in thinking more about the "people" side of MUS and why those individuals are such a critical component of maintaining the school's success, I began to reflect on certain words that my Dad passed on to me long ago; they seem to crystallize the importance of just what I'm talking about.

As he shared,

*"Nobody cares what you know,
Until they know that you care."*

We all know that MUS has superlative faculty, administration, coaches, and staff; in fact, their personal and professional credentials are second to none. But even so, in order for MUS's "people" to connect with students and to be truly synergistic with maximizing each student's desire to learn and to excel, there has to be a catalyst. I personally see the caring attitude at the school as the all-important catalyst that allows its faculty, administration, coaches, and staff to meet the students at the point of their own aptitude and developmental spectrums, and this attitude is one that has permeated the school's success over the last 51 years.

As I have continued to reflect upon this notion of "caring," I have repeatedly seen it expressed across my own experiences at MUS, and I continue to witness it today across the lives of many current and recently graduated students with whom I come in contact. Along those lines, perhaps a few personal reflections are in order.

Take, for example, when I recently found myself in an east Memphis restaurant for lunch. From way across the room, somebody called out to me, "You're Fisher, aren't you? I haven't seen you in years, but how are you doing?" Initially thinking that this individual might be one of my creditors, I sheepishly replied, "Yes, I am."

And then it hit me. The man was Herb Cummings, a football coach from MUS teams of the '70s, who I had literally not seen since my graduation from MUS.

Putting aside, for the present, the fact that I regrettably may have looked as thin on top then as I do now (and thus, more recognizable that particular day); and putting aside, for the present, that I possibly stood out in Coach Cummings' long-term memory as holding the MUS record for the most football hours practiced, yet the *least* hours played in games, I had a delightful visit with Herb that Tuesday at noon.

Now, just to be clear, let me say that I was relieved that Herb didn't shake my facemask in the restaurant that day (as he was wont to do in the '70s); but you know, had he done so, I wouldn't really have minded. Why? Because what I walked away from that conversation with was a distinct impression that Coach Cummings did, in fact, very much care about what one of his non-star players was doing with his life after so many years. How great it was to know that Coach Cummings cared back during those 100-degree days on the football field, and he cares even now, some 36 years later.

And then recently, Dot and I found ourselves in Jackson, Mississippi, for a lovely wedding of an MUS graduate with whom we have been lifelong friends. There, after a long drive for many from Memphis, were several members of the MUS faculty and administration, all attending a wedding after Thanksgiving. They were hours away from home on a holiday weekend, simply to support someone who, as a student, had obviously made an impact on them. I was truly humbled by the journey those individuals took, caring enough to be a part of the celebration as a former student begins a very important phase of his life with a fabulous new wife.

And yet another...

I call him "The Professor."

John Hiltonsmith (of MUS's Beg To Differ acclaim) and I both happen to be a bit obsessed with our love for playing and studying rock music and, in particular, that of The Beatles. John and I have met from time to time just to talk about such things, and every so often I receive an email from him with an incredibly introspective comment about how he sees The Beatles' music, or another piece of rock music, in perhaps a new light. John joined MUS long after my time, and we are not even contemporaries; yet his emails, drafted in a spirit of true friendship, are detailed and right on point with the spirit we share over our mutual love of music. John doesn't have to send me any emails, and John probably doesn't really have the time to draft them; but the point is, John *does* send them, because of who he is. Simply stated, he cares.

And last...

Several years ago, I called on one of my English teachers at MUS (a great one from the '70s, who still teaches at the school), and asked him if he would lend a grammatical review and com-

mentary to an essay to be included on one of my children's college applications. This particular individual dropped everything and said he would be happy to take a look *immediately*. Why did he consent to do so? I would submit simply because he cared about providing a bit of independent insight into part of a process that could potentially make a difference in one of my children being accepted into the college of her choice...and it did. Rest assured, that faculty member certainly did not have to give up a Saturday afternoon to do that. But in the spirit of the beloved Mr. Hatchett and the revered Mr. Russell, the red pen came out that afternoon, and the essay was all the better for it...in fact, so is my daughter.

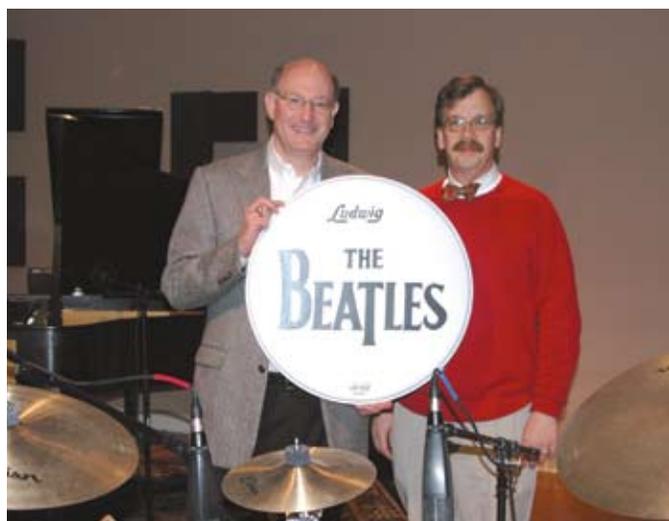
These are but a few personal examples of an incredibly caring MUS faculty, administration, and coaches that come to my mind; no doubt there are countless others which stretch across the minds of our *MUS Today* readership. To see current examples of the same, one need only stroll the halls of 6191 Park Avenue.

Reflecting on what makes MUS so special brings one back to my initial question: **Just what *is* MUS's edge?**

I would submit that it is a *genuine sense of caring about those who have walked the school's halls – past, present, and future – and the well-being of those individuals' families.*

And we graduates?

Well...we, and our families, are thankfully all the better for it.



Dick Fisher (left) donated a replicated piece of The Beatles' history – a bass drumhead bearing the ever-famous logo – to the Bloodworth Studio in recognition of John Hiltonsmith's (right) many contributions to MUS.

At the Young Alumni Brunch: Daniel Lansky '06, Reid Wesson '06, Mason George '06; Clint Cowan '05, Alex Guyton '05, Robert Goff '05; (below) Paul McClure '01, Hunter Mills '01, faculty member Whit Tenent '00; touring new facilities on campus are Will Pickens '06, Nick Skefos '06, Tyler Davis '06, Zach Glover '06



YOUNG ALUMNI GATHER

MUS graduates from the classes of 2000-06 attended the annual Young Alumni Brunch in the Campus Center Dining Hall on December 15 where they were able to see old friends and beloved teachers while enjoying a brunch buffet.

On February 8, MUS and Hutchison School alumni met for the Young Alumni Social at the Blue Monkey. Graduates from the classes of 1994-2002 caught up over hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided by the two schools' alumni offices.

COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

The Alumni Office is planning several regional events this spring. If you live in these cities, make sure that we have your current mailing information so you don't miss out on a good time. Details will be coming soon!

Nashville: April 24

Boston: June

New York City: June

Washington, D.C.: June



At the Blue Monkey: (from the left) Bob Sayle '97, Ben Wunderlich '97, Reynolds Hillier '97, Anna Wunderlich; (above) Eric Batey '01, Michael McLaren '01; John Winford '00, Brent Blankenship '01



Stay informed...

Be sure to give us your current e-mail address so you don't miss any e-invitations or updates on events. Just go to our website, www.musowls.org, and click on this symbol at the bottom of the page.



musowls.org — New and Improved!



The Internet is society's fastest-growing resource. At MUS we understand this, and we continue to offer a premier education by taking full advantage of the opportunities available on the Web. Improving our own website is one way we have capitalized on the benefits of technology. After extensive research into the best upgrades and enhancements, we decided to completely redesign the online home of Memphis University School. The change has increased functionality and ease of use, making the new musowls.org a true portal of information for the entire MUS community.

Our new design puts you only one click away from the news and information that is most pertinent to you. Sections specifically catering to parents, alumni, and students are available at your personal MUS "one-stop shop," where you can find out what you need to know – and more. For instance:

- *Parents will always be in the know with a new calendar function tailored to your family's specific interests, as well as sports blogs that include updated practice schedules, team announcements, and game results.*
- *Alumni can keep in touch with their alma mater by accessing easy-to-download school publications and the most up-to-date information on alumni events and reunions.*

- *Students will be one click away from all the resources that are important to them – faculty homepages, assignments, the lunch menu! New technology for faculty is in the works that will allow for online communication between students and teachers like never before.*

These are just a sample of the new and future benefits that make the MUS website a home for everyone.

What makes these great features even better is that they are easy to find and even easier to use. The new MUS website features an enhanced navigation system that makes finding the information you need a quick and painless process. Members of the MUS online community, from alumni to prospective parents, will no longer have to search. The new system allows for instant access to any page on the site; for example, you can go straight from checking last night's lacrosse score to finding the date of an upcoming SAT with just a single click.

At MUS, we are dedicated to providing the best experience for students, teachers, parents, alumni, and friends. Our new website showcases the attributes that make this a great school and builds connections to even more members of the MUS family. The dynamic new design allows us to continue expanding and improving as we keep pace with the ever-changing demands of technology. Allow us to present the new MUS website. We hope you will use it to the fullest – *enjoy!*



Photo by Linda Mello

HOOPIN' IT UP AT CENTER COURT

This year's varsity basketball team did what no other basketball team in MUS history had done – they won the state championship and added enough wins along the way to give Jerry Peters a career high of 919 wins as head coach of the Owls. But the team had to tackle the state playoffs without Peters, who was sidelined at the last minute and unable to be at center court to share the moment. Read all about it in the State Winners story on page 15 followed by Faculty Profile of Coach Peters on page 18.

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