



TODAY



TOP OF HIS GAME

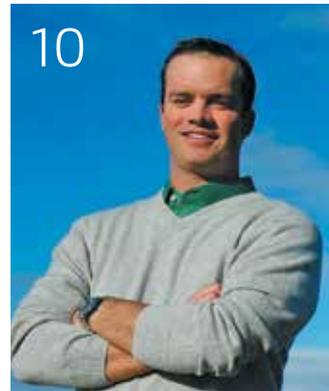
MIKE MCCARLEY GUIDES
GOLF CHANNEL TO ITS
BIGGEST YEAR YET



Ken Farmer's production company, Wild Dogs International, presented video collage artist Marco Brambilla's installation *Creation (3D)* at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in Manhattan in 2013. On page 5 Farmer '03 talks with Faculty Emeritus Andy Saunders about life after lacrosse and Latin at 6191 Park Avenue and creating what he calls "immersive installations of light, sound, performance, and projection."



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MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
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ON THE COVER



When injuries sidelined Mike McCarley '93 from participating in triathlons, the competitive athlete was determined to stay engaged in sports. In this issue we follow the path that took him from the NBA to the Olympics to NBC Sports to Golf Channel. Photo courtesy of *Golfweek*.

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Past-Life Reflections

*“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.”*

– Thomas Merton

Going through some papers in my parents’ home this spring, I came across a journal I wrote my senior year in high school. It was a classroom assignment, and one I did not relish – a point that was the subject of several entries. I must say now, forgive my whining, Mrs. K., for the diary opens a window to my 17-year-old self, and that era comes rushing back.

It was a time of some struggle for our family – my dad had lost his job, and he was living apart from us doing consulting work. Mom was keeping things going at home, juggling life with five children and preparing for a likely move.

My words handwritten on notebook paper reveal some aspects of the family situation, including our joy in Dad coming home at Christmas. To surprise him I insisted that all the tree ornaments be handmade, and I enslaved my younger brother and sisters stringing popcorn and cranberries and stitching felt ornaments.

The overriding theme of the journal, however, is uncertainty about my future. Where would I go to college? How would we pay for it? What would I study? I took long runs in the pastures surrounding our Central Texas home to ponder such quandaries.

Forestry was my aspiration at the time. A friend and I took a road trip to Louisiana Tech University to explore the program there, only to meet with the professor’s discouraging words about the dearth of jobs and low pay. He also told us it was a male-dominated profession, and seemed to imply that there was good reason for that. We were appalled by this, of course, and on fire to prove him wrong. But that indignation – along with my romanticized notion of a career among the trees – soon cooled. It wasn’t the right fit.

It is timely that I went on my reverie this spring, when our seniors are facing similar decisions about where they will go and what they will do. There is no shortage of angst about securing that perfect match that will launch a young man into the studies and career of his dreams. To be sure, these are important decisions, but it seems that life – Providence to me – has a way of leading us by the right road, as Thomas Merton says in his prayer, “though I may know nothing about it.”

When I look back at the twists along my road, I now see many difficulties and disappointments as blessings. Several alumni profiled in this issue likely would agree that their seeming detours turned out to be the right road after all.

After a pair of hip surgeries sidelined **Mike McCarley ’93** from top-level triathlon competition, he signed on as an assistant in his university’s sports information office. Over the years his efforts – and opportune associations with influential mentors – led to roles with the U.S. Olympic Committee and NBC Sports. Now he oversees Golf Channel as president of golf with NBC Sports Group.

Oral surgeon **Steve Maroda ’75** was disappointed when, as a resident at Georgetown University Hospital, his trip to East Africa with a medical and dental team was cancelled because of instability in the area. In 2012 he accepted an invitation from his son, **Andrew Maroda ’09**, to participate in a medical/dental trip to Ethiopia. “The seeds for my service had been planted but were left unattended for 30 years,” Steve says. Now providing dental care to Ethiopians in need has become an annual mission – and “a spiritual experience.”

When his urban planning career seemed to be more about planning and less about doing, **Ken Farmer ’03** and friends started creating their own community-building projects in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Now his company produces over-the-top exhibitions of light, sound, and performance that range from concerts and fashion shows to entire streetscapes.

As for my family, Dad found a position in North Florida and bought a little house on a bayou where we swam and skied and had many joyful family reunions over the years. On a whim I took a reporting course in college that resulted in several class assignments that served as writing samples when I applied for – and landed – my first newspaper job. My resume did not include the fact that I could barely type. I spent many early mornings in the empty newsroom painstakingly hunting and pecking my words, handwritten on notebook paper, into the system.

I am grateful even for this clerical obstacle in my path and now for the chance to type – quite adequately, I might add – about the roads and detours you Owls have taken in your lifetimes. We always enjoy learning and sharing your stories, so please keep them coming. And if you kept a journal for a class, you just might want to dig it out, relive past journeys ... and express your appreciation for the assignment.

Thank you, Mrs. K.



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Heart *to* Art



New York City streets become the canvas for Ken Farmer's art production company, Wild Dogs International. In this installation for the New Museum's IDEAS CITY event, his team closed a block in SoHo to feature all-night installations from 16 multimedia artists.

Exhibition Producer Ken Farmer Curates Eclectic Conversation with Mentor Andy Saunders

BY LIZ COPELAND



ask **Ken Farmer** '03 about his memories of Memphis University School, and sooner or later he is bound to tell you about watching **Andy Saunders** lick chalk off his fingers. More on that later, but according to Farmer, his experiences with the opera-singing theater, science, and even mechanical drawing teacher helped unbutton his perception of a button-down world.

Saunders' multifaceted, unconventional persona may even

have contributed to his student's career, creating avant-garde events and exhibitions of light, sound, performance, and projection at museums, fashion shows, concerts, and on streetscapes.

In his diverse work, Farmer has curated a series of site-specific projections by 15 artists for the 174-foot facade of the New Museum in New York City. He has transformed Washington, DC's, legendary 9:30 Club for its World's Fair-themed 35th anniversary celebration. And he has collaborated with London-based artist Conrad Shawcross to transform an automobile assembly-line robot into an elegant kinetic sculpture accompanied by a live performance at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris. After working in a partnership for several years, Farmer has formed his own New York City-based company, Wild Dogs International.

When we contacted the curator/producer/artist about a story in *MUS Today*, he suggested, as you might expect, an unconventional approach – a conversation with Faculty Emeritus Saunders. Following is an excerpt from their free-form phone exchange, touching on art, theater, literature, ambition, character building, and Saunders' appetite for calcium carbonate.

Andy Saunders: I saw examples of your work, which is extremely impressive. It reminded me of what were called Happenings in New York City in the '60s. Artists were trying to create new environments with art and performances. It seems the work you're doing is a direct descendant of this – except that it is technologically so much more advanced and sophisticated. You're trying to create an environment that produces a particular feeling.

Ken Farmer: The intersection of technology and emotion is a core aspect of my approach. The work really becomes provocative and meaningful when the technology isn't so blatant, but rather a tool used to elicit a visceral feeling. It's like when you look at a great painting,

you may look at the brush work and the style, but fundamentally, it's about the direct connection that you have with that work of art.

AS: What I'm reminded of is Wordsworth, in the *Preface to Lyrical Ballads*, when he's talking about the idea of the sublime. It's like when someone goes to a waterfall and says, 'Well, that's really awesome,' but somebody else says something that indicates to them it's ineffable, it's transcendental.

KF: Mr. Saunders, it's incredible that you mention Wordsworth because I was thinking about what lessons have come out of MUS, and it reminds me of something that Mr. **[Flip] Eikner** '77 drilled into our heads ... the notion

of spontaneous, what is it, spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling?

AS: That is the phrase, yeah.

KF: And that is just an incredibly powerful way of describing what I'm striving for.

AS: It's something that can't be quantified. It's just something that happens to you when you're looking at a great work of art or when you're listening to a poem or to music.

KF: This is at the core of the value of art, and it comes in many, many forms.

AS: What insights led you to go this direction?

KF: It's been an interesting road. At MUS I took just about every art class

available, including independent studies – and had amazing mentorship from people like [art instructors] Mr. **[Curt] Schmitt** and Mr. **[Peter] Bowman**. They gave me the freedom to try things, to get outside the box, and that started to ingrain an interest in the arts.

At Colorado College I pursued Urban Studies, which was born out of an interest in the controversy over future development on the Memphis waterfront. Considering what it meant to privatize the waterfront really got me thinking about the potential of public spaces and quality of life in the city.

After college I started working for Project for Public Spaces, a New York nonprofit supporting community-driven design. I worked there for a few years, but I got a little bit jaded – there was a lot of planning without a lot of action.

AS: Welcome to the bureaucratic world.

KF: Yes, exactly. In response to that, some of my friends who were working in complementary fields – architecture, industrial design, art – and I started a group called DoTank: Brooklyn, a play on think tank. We were a weekend-warrior kind of group, living in an industrial but rapidly gentrifying part of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. We found discarded shipping pallets on the sidewalks, took them apart and made Adirondack chairs, creating seating around the neighborhood.

The next project was a 100-foot-long, shipping-pallet table underneath an elevated expressway in Brooklyn. A few hundred people came out for an open, pop-up dinner. And then we scaled up again and closed off a block in the neighborhood to create a pop-up park.

We were looking at how these temporary, low-cost actions could make significant changes in quality of life. Obsessed with scale, we turned to projection to create an ephemeral intervention throughout a neighborhood. So we did this festival in October of 2010 in an isolated waterfront neighborhood in Brooklyn. We had 50 artists producing installations ranging from building-scale to handheld. Simply through word of

mouth, the festival attracted over 10,000 New Yorkers.

At that point I still had my day job, but based on the success of the festival, the New Museum contacted us to do some big installations. I went from being a weekend warrior to working with some of the top contemporary artists. I realized I needed to create a company and do this full time. Over the years, the projects

try to create iconic moments, to create something that is live, that is memorable, that is here and now. Those are strong moments for each individual but also as a collective experience.

AS: Your work is actually countering the cultural phenomenon of people in a theater using their cell phones, which irritates the hell out of me. They aren't using that event as a way of connecting



Photo by Alan Howell

Farmer credits Saunders, among other MUS instructors, for inspiring him to pursue a profession in art and design.

have diversified, and I'm now doing fashion shows, stage design for concerts, installations with museums.

AS: Where do your commissions come from?

KF: The funding comes from grants, arts organizations, companies, public-sector and private developers.

AS: It strikes me that a lot of what you have done is an attempt to create connection, to create community, to create a feeling of being together, being one.

KF: That's a really good point. The notion of sociability being mitigated by technology – I think we're all grappling with [that] as a society now. Recently, I saw an article about how parties aren't happening as much anymore because kids are staying home and communicating via [social media]. Through my work I

with the people who are in the event. It seems to me like that is an essential feature of theater, connecting people to whatever is going on – certainly that was the purpose of the ancient Greeks.

KF: Yeah, absolutely. And I'm really trying to break that frame a little bit, of the actors on stage and the audience as passive voyeurs. I recently did a project in DC with a band from New York in collaboration with a local high school drum line. I called it a Nomadic Performance. The idea was that the drum line would be scattered throughout the site, kind of enveloping the audience and almost herding them toward the central performance point.

AS: It seems to me your purpose here is exactly what drew me to theater initially. And that was getting people involved.

I've certainly been to a number of plays in which I did not feel like a voyeur. I really felt as though I were a participant in the drama onstage.

KF: I think you're right about that. I think about the Shakespearean notion of catharsis. You can be sitting in your seat watching yet still having an incredibly active and dynamic experience.

AS: When that happens, it becomes an ineffable experience, an experience that you can cherish, relish, and enjoy forever.

KF: I've got to check my literary reference for Mrs. **[Elizabeth] Crosby** and Mr. **[Norman] Thompson**. Is it OK to attribute catharsis to Shakespeare?

AS: All kinds of writers have used catharsis throughout the years – including

over us, clothes covered in chalk, licking the remaining dust off his hands. He would respond to our shock with a quip along the lines of, "What's the big deal? Everybody needs calcium." In an abstract way, that ties back to a key element of my education – creating the space and learning structure that works for you and your interests.

LC: Based on your experience, what is your advice to current students?

KF: I was thinking back on MUS and what makes it such a privilege to attend. I think truth and honor, the school's motto, are such critical life lessons at the core. And there's a push to be a well-rounded person. But I think that, at least in my own experience, it's easy to fall into a siloed trajectory – you strive to succeed in academics and maybe also athletics, but I have a lot of admiration for the students who are able to merge excellence in the academics, athletics, arts, and student life. I was 'too cool' for theater, pep band, and that's a big regret. MUS provides tremendous resources for cultural engagement. I would strongly encourage students to push themselves beyond their comfort zone to really take advantage of these offerings. You know, once you get out of school, you're probably not going to be the starting quarterback for the rest of your life.

AS: I think MUS has been good about hiring different kinds of teachers, and the curriculum exposes the student to a lot of diverse ideas.

KF: MUS gives students the feeling that they have the tools to achieve whatever they desire. That has instilled tremendous ambition in me and influenced the way I approach life. It's absolutely critical. In addition to the aesthetic foundation we've touched on, I learned leadership and competitiveness in sports through amazing mentors like [lacrosse coaches] **Elliott Dent**, **Pat DiMento**, and [cross country coach] **Joe Tyler**. And servant-mindedness from [then-religion instructor] **Clay Smythe '85**. I remember anecdotes from Coach **[Jerry] Peters**

reminding us that we need to get some hay in the barn – don't cram too much. And more philosophical lessons, like Mr. Eikner talking about the birth of romanticism, and the spontaneous overflow of feelings, and emotion recollected in tranquility [Wordsworth].

AS: Well, I've been retired for five years, but MUS was a great place to work. And a primary reason it was a great place to work was because of students like you. There were many guys who were good students, and you have gone on to be good people.

KF: I think it traces back to the fundamental values that transcended at MUS and as much as anything else, that's about community, character development, and being well-rounded. It doesn't end when you graduate. There are relationships and lessons that continue. The longevity of the relationships created at MUS is remarkable – and critical to Memphis, as well. Memphis is still my hometown and will remain a core part of what I do, who I am. So I think that we were all lucky to have this experience.

AS: I think you're right to use the word character. Education is about helping the young man or young woman develop good character. There are situations that help us develop character – whether it's in sports, in theater, in art, in student government, working on the annual. The activity doesn't matter as much as the values instilled.

KF: That leads back to my strong desire to encourage students to pursue a range of activities so that they can have a diversity of engagement. They're going to need it later in life.

LC: Ken, you were in a business partnership, and now you are on your own. How is that going?

KF: Before, I was working more in a creative capacity, rather than a managerial capacity. Mr. Saunders knows when you get into something like a theater production, oh, man, there are so many different roles you have to play, from



Wild Dogs International, Farmer's company, recently designed the 35th anniversary exhibition for the 9:30 Club, a legendary music venue in Washington, DC.

Shakespeare – but I think we would attribute its origination to Aristotle and his discussions of the effects of Greek tragedy on audiences.

Liz Copeland: Ken, what are your memories of Mr. Saunders? What prompted you to suggest this interview?

KF: One memory that comes to mind is Mr. Saunders wiping down the chalkboard and licking the chalk off his fingers. We were these young, seemingly well-behaved boys feigning decorum for fear of lunchroom duty. And you have this dynamic of Mr. Saunders, towering

therapist, to accountant, to being on a ladder. And I'm still doing all of those to some extent. There's not a job I do that I'm not on a ladder at some point, and then liaising with a client at another. Being able to cope with this high-intensity juggling act, I think, traces back to my diversity of experience. At graduation I received the art award and the service award, and we had won a state championship in lacrosse the night before.

AS: I remember that. Well, I tell you, however far you rise, continuing to work in the trenches keeps you honest, right?

KF: And you've got to do it. You can create all kinds of technical schematics, but when it's time to start implementing some kind of wild idea that exists in your head, you have to get your hands in there.

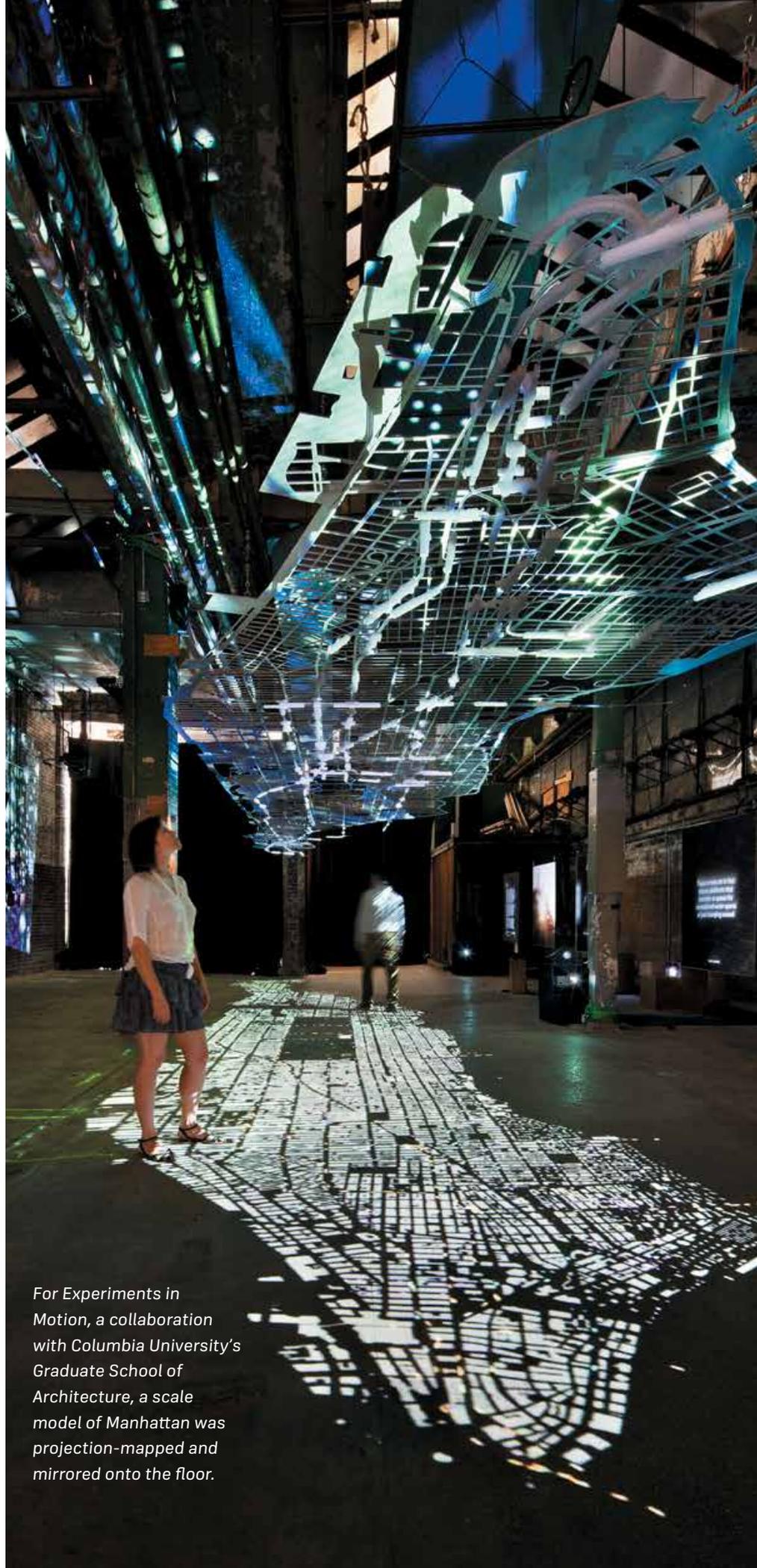
AS: Ken, what is your most memorable project?

KF: One of the biggest highlights would be a project I did last year in Camden, NJ, where we had a black-light basketball tournament in a neighborhood that *Rolling Stone* magazine had referenced as the most dangerous in the country. It was called Camden Night Gardens. The championship of the tournament featured local high school all-stars playing against the police department team. This was a rivalry that might even go beyond MUS vs. CBHS. The high school kids were losing in a hard-fought game, but they came back to win and beat the police with a buzzer-beater 3-pointer. It was an incredible moment.

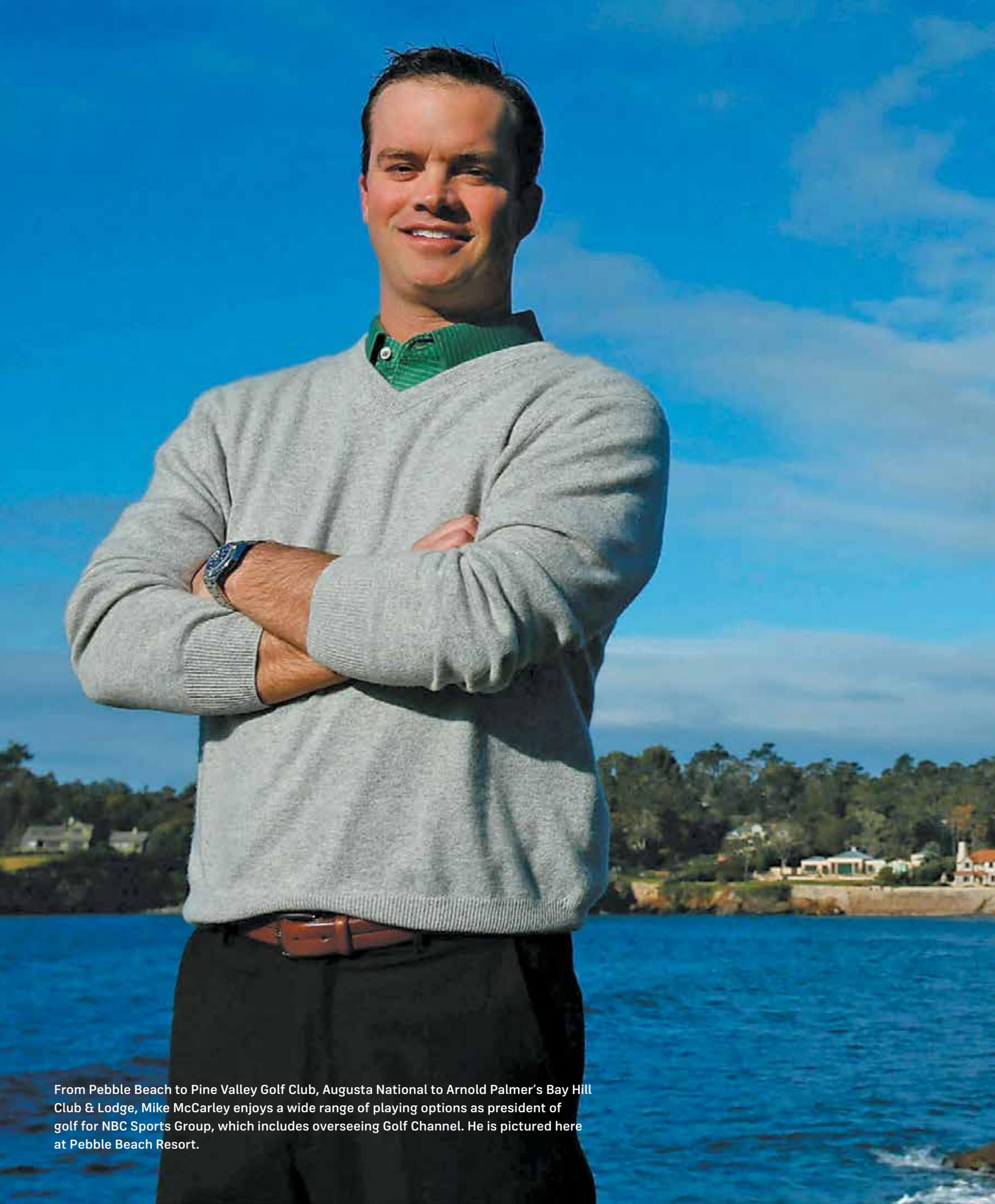
AS: Sounds great. More about a part of our culture that we need to maintain – and that's the feeling of community, the feeling of being connected.

.....
And with that, student and mentor disconnected, for now. Saunders went off to Germantown Community Theater to continue building his latest set, and Farmer returned to his Brooklyn studio to continue building Wild Dogs International. ■

For more examples of Farmer's work, check out wilddogsinternational.com, or contact him at ken@wilddogsinternational.com



For *Experiments in Motion*, a collaboration with Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, a scale model of Manhattan was projection-mapped and mirrored onto the floor.



From Pebble Beach to Pine Valley Golf Club, Augusta National to Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Mike McCarley enjoys a wide range of playing options as president of golf for NBC Sports Group, which includes overseeing Golf Channel. He is pictured here at Pebble Beach Resort.

LINKS TO SUCCESS

Powerful Mentors Helped Shape NBC Golf President Mike McCarley's Career

BY JEFF SHAIN

Back when a teenaged **Mike McCarley '93** spent all his free time training for triathlons, he recalls being taken aback when the guy everyone pegged as a rising star told him he was leaving the sport.

"I remember talking to Lance Armstrong in 1989 at the USA Triathlon National Championships when he was 18 years old and I was 15 years old," says McCarley, now President, Golf, NBC Sports Group, which includes Golf Channel. "He told me he wasn't going to do triathlons anymore and shift completely to cycling. It's kind of interesting to look back on. Wow, if I only knew then what I know now."

Indeed, Armstrong's rise and fall

provided sports headlines for more than a decade – overcoming cancer, the seven Tour de France titles, the lifetime ban for doping. As for McCarley, the exchange might have been the first instance of what he calls the "Forrest Gump thing" that has helped shape his career in the business of sports.

Remember bits of the movie where Gump shows a young Elvis how to shake his hips, stumbles upon Watergate, inspires John Lennon to write "Imagine," and starts the running craze?

For McCarley, a college gig of keeping stats for visiting broadcast teams included an NBA preseason game with the Lakers and the team's beloved, long-time announcer, the late Chick Hearn. That helped lead to a job with the Dallas Mavericks. He later

joined the USA Triathlon staff, getting the Olympic assignment that never came as an athlete.

Ascending the ladder at NBC Sports, McCarley spent time absorbing wisdom from pro-football Hall of Famer John Madden and Emmy-award winning sportscaster Jim McKay before former NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol took him under his wing. Now in his sixth year at Golf Channel, McCarley counts none other than golf legend Arnold Palmer as a trusted advisor.

"They're unique ways to learn," McCarley says of spending time in the company of legends. "I understand that I've been very fortunate to be surrounded by some pretty interesting people at the right times of my career."

Of course, McCarley still has had to make the most of the opportunities in front of him. That bold “Football Night in America” label NBC builds around its Sunday NFL broadcasts? McCarley helped bring it to life in 2006.

yourself to how you did yesterday, or last week, or the same day a year ago.”

At the same time, numbers can’t be everything. If there’s one thing McCarley has learned along his career path, it’s that relationships are invaluable – a point driven

one knee – the “Tebowing” pose – to greet him. The crowd ate it up. Not 10 minutes later, producer Keith Allo and McCarley, who often sits in the TV production truck for high-profile programs, decided to extend the show. Allo then whispered into his star’s

“I’VE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE TO BE SURROUNDED BY SOME PRETTY INTERESTING PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIMES OF MY CAREER.” -MIKE MCCARLEY

It was the same blueprint for a broad marketing strategy to lure non-sports fans to NBC’s biggest events that was developed for the Olympics – presenting around-the-clock coverage for some of the most-watched events in U.S. television history. Not only did that strategy help NBC elevate the Olympics to new heights, but it also helped the network set a Super Bowl viewership record, the highest Kentucky Derby ratings in 20 years, and most-watched NHL action in nearly four decades.

Since joining Golf Channel in February 2011, McCarley has guided the network to its most-watched years in two decades of existence. Despite a cold start to 2015 when Tiger Woods was both ineffective and injured, the year wound up being the second most-watched ever as Jordan Spieth and Jason Day took center stage.

“Thankfully the transition from Tiger to these young stars didn’t last very long,” McCarley says.

All of which prompted *SportsBusiness Journal* to feature McCarley, 42, three times on its annual “Forty Under 40” list of top young executives and name him to its Hall of Fame. He now stands No. 8 on *Golf Inc.* magazine’s ranking of the “Most Powerful People in Golf” – ahead of Donald Trump and U.S. Golf Association CEO Mike Davis.

“If you’re a competitive person, this is a great business to work in because you do get that ratings scorecard every day,” McCarley says. “You can compare yourself to your competition; you can compare

home by Ebersol, who became a mentor.

“You should take the time to get to know people on a personal level,” he says. “Not because at some point it’s going to benefit you in business, but because it’s the right thing to do. Dick was big on that.”

With relationships comes trust. And that trust sometimes allows a person to take a gamble that pays dividends.

McCarley recalls a dinner conversation in late 2011 with David Feherty, the analyst/funnyman from Northern Ireland whose now-acclaimed interview show had just completed its first season. McCarley saw the potential for more.

Feherty had an informal standup routine that he did casually at various stops, telling stories of his days as a European Tour pro. McCarley suggested they incorporate that, along with guests, into a live special. Feherty’s response, laced with his familiar Irish lilt, was as panicky as it was short. “Mike, no!” he said.

“C’mon, you’re going to be great. I promise,” McCarley replied.

“I don’t want to get fired,” Feherty said. “And I don’t want *you* to have to fire me.”

Eventually, McCarley talked Feherty into doing the show – though there was a second moment of panic when he told Feherty it would be during Super Bowl week. But the show went on, set for one hour with Tim Tebow – at the height of Tebow-mania – and Fuzzy Zoeller headlining the guest list.

When the former Heisman Trophy winner was introduced, Feherty dropped to

earpiece: “We’re going to two hours.”

“It was terrific,” McCarley says, “and we’ve now kind of made it a franchise.”

More than that, really. Last fall, Feherty parted ways with CBS, where he’d spent two decades as an on-course analyst, to cast his lot entirely with Golf Channel and NBC. The deal not only includes an extension of his Emmy-nominated show *Feherty*, but further entertainment projects to be developed.

McCarley says: “You push people out of their comfort zone a little bit by letting them know you have confidence in them, and you believe in them. Tell them you think they’re going to succeed – and if they don’t, they can always come back to what they were doing. Looking back at it now, I see that my parents always gave me that type of support, and it helped instill a spirit in me to never be afraid to fail. It may be one of the best lessons I’ve learned.”

McCarley has taken a quite a few steps outside his own comfort zone. After graduating from MUS, he chose the University of Arizona without much of a plan.

“Why Arizona? The short answer is I was chasing the sunshine,” he says. “The long answer is it was the winter home for a lot of the best triathletes around the country and North America. They’d go and train there, so I thought it’d be a good place for me.”

While McCarley ran cross country for MUS, his real focus was the triathlon. Mornings would find him in the pool at 6 a.m., often followed by a run. Only after

that would he slip into his first class of the morning. Weekends were often spent traveling, leaving school early on a lot of Fridays.

“The school was great about giving me time to do that,” he says, noting that his schedule taught him early on how to be disciplined with his time.

McCarley also served on the Student Council and recalls days when Mr. **Ellis Haguewood** would step back from a particular discussion to remind everyone that their decision was going to affect people.

“He gave small lessons in leadership along the way,” McCarley says. “That’s something that didn’t necessarily stick with me in those days, but it really helped reinforce some important learnings – especially for my role now.”

A career choice, though, wouldn’t come until his sophomore year at U of A. “I had no idea,” he said. “I was focused on sports.”

As two hip surgeries took a toll on his competitive career, McCarley started looking for ways to remain in sports. He became an assistant in the university sports information office, which led to the stat-keeping and spotter jobs for visiting broadcast crews.

“I would show up in the press box – a lot of times in flip-flops and shorts – and was getting great experience,” he said. “I was working alongside some really interesting people, really understanding how this business starts to come together.”

A contact with the Lakers led him to an interview with the Dallas Mavericks, where he spent a year before being told he ought to find a job somewhere else. It wasn’t personal. His boss, Kevin Sullivan, pointed out there wasn’t much room for McCarley to grow within the organization. McCarley latched on with the U.S. Olympic Committee, which assigned him to help USA Triathlon prepare for the sport’s Olympic debut in 2000 in Sydney, Australia.

Two years later, Sullivan called. He was moving to New York to work for another outlet – he couldn’t say which – and needed to hire someone with Olympics experience.



McCarley counts golf legend Arnold Palmer, founder of Golf Channel, as a mentor and trusted advisor.

“And without knowing who the company was, without knowing what the job was, I said yes,” McCarley says. “I didn’t know how much it paid, I didn’t know when it started, I didn’t know where I was going to live. But he was such a good guy and had been a great mentor for me.”

The company turned out to be NBC Sports, where Sullivan headed up media relations. McCarley joined his staff and soon caught Ebersol’s eye.

“I really don’t know why, even looking back on it now,” he says. “But he and I became very close.”

When McCarley was mulling over whether business school would help further his career, he says Ebersol closed that door with one sentence: “Nah, just stay here and get your MBA from me.”

“It was his way of saying he was giving me a unique opportunity,” McCarley says. “And from that moment on, I pretty much had a seat next to him in most of the really exciting things that NBC Sports was doing at the time.”

It didn’t hurt to draw on some of the other relationships that came his way.

McCarley already had spent the better part of a year as McKay’s primary contact in the months leading up to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. McKay had been ABC’s seamless Olympic host for a generation, and NBC had given him a small on-air role as a way to close his career.

Later as NBC launched Sunday Night Football, McCarley spent more than a few road trips on Madden’s bus – the former coach had stopped flying years earlier.

“John Madden and Arnold Palmer share a quality that they are as genuine as it gets,” McCarley says. “What you see is what you get. They treat people well, whether the cameras are on or not.”

No discussion of Golf Channel can go very long without some mention of Palmer. The 86-year-old icon was golf’s first TV star, endearing fans with a go-for-broke style that won four Masters and three other majors.

He’s also one of Golf Channel’s founders, joining with Alabama businessman Joe Gibbs in a 1995 venture that had potential, if not a lot of programming.

“They didn’t know exactly how to make

“IF YOU’RE A COMPETITIVE PERSON, THIS IS A GREAT BUSINESS TO WORK IN BECAUSE YOU DO GET THAT RATINGS SCORECARD EVERY DAY.” -MIKE McCARLEY



Before heading up Golf Channel, McCarley learned the television business from Dick Ebersol of NBC Sports.

it a reality, but it became one,” McCarley says.

Comcast eventually bought the network, then acquired NBC Universal, which gave Golf Channel even greater resources. That’s when McCarley moved from New York to run the newly combined golf business for NBC Sports in Orlando, where he now lives with his wife, Amy, and their four children, ages 7 and under. And last year Golf Channel televised 189 tournaments, ranging from the PGA Tour to other world tours to the NCAA championships.

Palmer still drops by the studios once in a while – thanks to McCarley, the closest reserved parking spot bears Palmer’s famed signature. More often McCarley will drive over to Bay Hill Club & Lodge for the occasional lunch meeting.

“He’s absolutely terrific,” McCarley says. “He has been nothing short of everything that you want from a founder.

Not only does he offer his services, but he does it in a way that is only helpful. And he is absolutely genuine about it.

“If I call him and ask him something, he gives me his opinion. If I call him and really need him to do something, he does it.”

This year, two new ventures have the network poised for perhaps its biggest year yet. In July NBC Sports Group takes over broadcast of the Open Championship, golf’s oldest trophy. One month later the sport makes its return to the Olympics after a 112-year absence. McCarley will be working on his 10th Olympics in Rio then.

Golf Channel also will add to its original programming with a 30-year retrospective of Jack Nicklaus’ stunning triumph at the 1986 Masters, following on the success of its “Arnie” trilogy two years ago.

“It’s an exciting time,” McCarley says.

Now, if he can just get out on the course

more. He gets all the prime invitations – Pine Valley, Augusta National, Cypress Point – but a shoulder injury stemming from his triathlon days has cut his rounds severely in recent years.

McCarley underwent surgery in January, and he was still wearing a sling when he sat down with *MUS Today*.

“When I finally get this fixed,” he says, “I will be playing more than I ever have.” ■

JEFF SHAIN WRITES ABOUT GOLF FOR *THE ISLAND PACKET* IN HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC, AND OTHER OUTLETS. HE PREVIOUSLY SPENT 18 YEARS IN FLORIDA AS GOLF WRITER FOR *THE ORLANDO SENTINEL* AND *THE MIAMI HERALD*.

Wanted: Information on '80s Civil Rights Interviews

BY JOHN E. HARKINS, PH.D., SCHOOL ARCHIVIST AND HISTORIAN

More than two years ago **Doug Sims '83** came by the Archives Department to look into videos recorded when he was a student and worked in the school's television studio. His interest, knowledge, and action got us started identifying and digitizing videotapes. In doing so we encountered a number of surprises, including the fact that we no longer had the equipment to work with 3/4-inch tapes. Doug furnished what was needed and got us started.

We also discovered a mysterious 1983 recording of three prominent local civil rights leaders – Frances Coe, Vasco Smith, Jr., and J. O. Patterson, Jr. – talking about the progress of race relations in Memphis during the '50s and '60s. When asked about the civil rights turning point, each of the three interviewees described it in relation to his or her primary area of interest (see details below).

We have posted this unedited interview footage on the MUS YouTube channel (bit.ly/1RXmyxs) and would greatly appreciate learning more about the project and its creators. Who conducted it? Did it have any MUS faculty or administrative participation or encouragement? Was it part of a larger project? If you know the story surrounding these videos, please contact me at john.harkins@musowls.org.

The political contributions of Coe, Patterson, and Smith, plus a recap of their interviews are described in brief below:

FRANCES E. COE

Frances Edgar (Mrs. R. Lawrence) Coe (1910-2003), an elected member of the Memphis City School Board from 1955 to 1979, speaks in her interview about the non-violent school integration process that began in 1961. Coe, who also served as president of the Tennessee School Boards Association, provided a vital voice for racial integration of the city's public schools. In addition she served as chair of the Memphis



Courtesy of Memphis Public Library & Information Center

War on Poverty Committee, and she was an active participant in the local League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the Junior League, and the YWCA. As the most progressive of the school board's then all-white membership, she attempted to reach across the racial divide. In spite of her efforts, the city's African-American community embarked on a campaign of Black Monday boycotts of schools to draw attention to educational and socio-economic discrimination. A class-action lawsuit later brought about racial integration of the city schools. Because of her work, the school board's administrative office building was named in her honor in August 1984.

JAMES OGLETHORPE PATTERSON, JR.

Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr. (1935-2011) also speaks about the powerful effect of the Black Monday boycotts of schools. The non-violent activities and death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he says, were pivotal in the fight for civil rights. Patterson had careers in business, law, politics, and the Church of God in Christ (COGIC). He served as a state representative, state senator, Memphis City Councilman,



and as a delegate to several Democratic National Conventions. He was one of the first three African-Americans to serve on the Memphis City Council, and as

its chairman he served as interim Memphis mayor for 20 days. Consequently, he was the city's first African-American mayor. He ran for mayor in the ensuing special election but was defeated by Richard C. Hackett. He was consecrated a COGIC bishop in 1985 and spent the rest of his career in various aspects of church work. His grandfather was COGIC's founder, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, and his father was COGIC's first international presiding bishop, J. O. Patterson, Sr.

VASCO A. SMITH, JR.

Dr. Vasco Smith (1920-2009) speaks about African-American political empowerment achieved in pre-1960 civil rights efforts, including a 1955 voter registration drive and black candidates running for public office. Smith – a dentist, Air Force veteran, successful politician, and major civil rights advocate – served



on the Shelby County Board of Commissioners from 1973 to 1994, being the first African-American to serve at large on the commission. His impact on Memphis and Shelby County was even more profound because his wife, Maxine Atkins Smith, served as executive secretary of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP for decades. She also served on the Memphis City School Board, and she organized and directed protest marches and sit-ins. The Smiths pushed voter registration, filed lawsuits, raised money, and helped get other African-Americans elected to public office. Shelby County Government named its administration building at 160 North Main Street in Vasco Smith's honor, and Southwest Tennessee Community College named a center on East Shelby Drive in Maxine Smith's honor. ■

SPREADING SMILES

Steve Maroda Finds Mission Serving Ethiopians in Need

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE



Villagers wait to see the visiting medical team.

H

undreds of people begin lining up at dawn outside the schoolhouse-turned-dental clinic in the remote, mountainous village of Dube Bute, Ethiopia. Small children sit next to the very elderly. It will be a long day, but they are patient. Living as they do without regular access to health care services, they know this medical visit is one they cannot miss.

Pressure cookers used to sterilize instruments are already hissing on tables outside the makeshift clinic. Inside, light streams through large windows into two classrooms that will quickly fill with patients. Tables lined up against chalkboards are filled with bags of American medicines and trays of gleaming instruments. Native translators in green T-shirts receive final instructions about how to help calm nervous patients, many of whom will be experiencing dental care for the first time.

In the middle of it all, Memphis oral surgeon Dr. **Steve Maroda '75** gets ready to work alongside some 10 other health care volunteers from around the United States. The doctors and nurses in scrubs all wear headlamps; they will need them to examine teeth, because there is no electricity. No overhead lights, no suction, and only local anesthesia for extractions. The team is delighted to have five portable dental chairs, which they successfully passed through airport security upon arrival. These will remain in the village for next year's visit.

The scene is a stark contrast to Maroda's Germantown practice, where he has up-to-date medical equipment at his fingertips, not to mention electricity and clean, running water. There he might do five surgeries a day. On this mission, organized by EthiopiaSmile, it is not unusual for each doctor to do 20 surgeries a day. The group will see 200 patients before driving out at dusk, happy to get a good night's rest in a nearby hotel before returning the next day to do it all again for the rest of the week.

LIKE SON, LIKE FATHER

Maroda, the father of **Stephen '08** and **Andrew '09**, made his first trip to Ethiopia

in 2012 at Andrew's invitation (see next page). Four years later Maroda is a seasoned veteran when it comes to preparing for the almost 17,000-mile round trip he has taken annually to this African country nine time zones away.

"You get lots of shots, of course," Maroda says. "You pack everything you need for two weeks in one bag that goes on board the plane with you. Everyone is also allowed two 50-pound bags that get stowed underneath, and that's what you hope the customs airport officials don't look through or send through x-ray scanners. They will confiscate any commercially viable items that could be resold in country, such as eyeglasses, shoes, computers, or extra phones. It's a tricky time at customs, and a few \$20 bills [offered as a] friendly bribe can help get us through."

On a typical trip the team packs those big bags with diapers, formula, clothing, shoes, and any other requests that have been made in advance by the orphanages

EthiopiaSmile, founded by Arlington, TX, orthodontist Dr. Moody Alexander and his wife, Emily, after the adoption of their first child from Dube Bute, is a loosely organized group of friends coming together to love and serve the people of Ethiopia, primarily by caring for their health needs. Since the inception of the project, significant quality-of-life improvements have been made in Dube Bute, including the construction of a bridge to the village, an elementary schoolhouse, and 27 fresh water wells.

they will visit, plus all the medicines, anesthetics, disposable supplies, and instruments they will need.

The annual mission trips begin with a flight out of the United States to Addis Ababa, population 3 million. The team generally spends the first week of the trip in the city, visiting orphanages and charities to



Photo by Kristin J Photography

Maroda says the team begins work in the capital city of Addis Ababa, treating widows in need, children at orphanages and schools, "anywhere we're invited."

treat people in need. One of the highlights of the most recent trip, in January, was an invitation to visit the Missionaries of Charity complex founded by Mother Teresa and treat people there. After the urban phase of the mission, Maroda says, the team is always eager to get out of the city and head south to begin the second week of the trip in their "MASH unit" in the village of Dube Bute.

Despite improvements in recent years, poverty remains a constant in Ethiopia, especially in the rural areas. The country ranks 174th out of 187 countries on the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index. Villagers in Dube Bute live at the subsistence level, and daily activities revolve around gathering water and tending livestock and crops.

"It's not unusual to see two oxen yoked together with one man plowing behind," Maroda says. "Most people outside the city walk or ride in overloaded donkey carts. It is a step back in time... it's biblical."

With no electricity or cell phone service in the village, "you are literally off the grid," says Maroda, whose wife, Julie, accompanied him for the second time on the trip in January. "But the people are so welcoming and caring, it's unreal. They sing us into the village when we arrive."

Midway through his first trip, Maroda

knew he would return. “It’s really a spiritual experience. Every morning we start with a little prayer time where we [remind ourselves], you can’t come blowing in like an American, wanting to fix everything. It takes about three days to get out of that [mindset], because you can’t fix everything. We tell the first-timers to stop and take a deep breath. We humble ourselves to serve, to meet an unmet need. You have to empty yourself, and let it go.”

Andrew Maroda, now a first-year student at the University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio, has fond memories of the 2012 trip to Ethiopia, when he served as his dad’s dental assistant. “He

had to learn that I didn’t know what his assistants who’d been working with him for 20 years knew!” Andrew says. “But it was really cool to work side-by-side with him. His heart has gotten really excited about it, and now it’s a way that he’s found purpose, [a way] he can give back, and engage the skills he’s developed to help people. I hope we will be able to do it together again some day.”

There should be more opportunities, as Steve Maroda says he plans to continue serving through EthiopiaSmile. He hopes his experience will inspire others to give in similar ways. “We all have unique talents and gifts that we should share,” he says.

“You can’t do everything, but you can do something. It doesn’t have to be in Africa. It can be in your backyard, or Binghamton, or wherever you are. Just do something!” ■

□

For more information, visit
ethiopiasmile.com

See photos from the most recent trip on Instagram: #ethiopiasmilevi

On Facebook: Ethiopia Smile

On Vimeo:
vimeo.com/153667395 - “Dube Bute Clinic, 2015” Setting up clinic in village (Steve Maroda at :45)

A Dream Fulfilled

BY STEVE MARODA '75

My dream of serving on a foreign mission team was born some 30 years ago during my time in Washington, DC, when I was a general practice resident at Georgetown University Hospital in the oral surgery department. Our world-renowned faculty encouraged each of us to broaden our own training and our horizons, and I became interested in short-term foreign medical mission care. I planned to join a team of dental and medical students and residents who would accompany several faculty members on a two-week trip to east Africa. But the trip was cancelled due to political instability and safety concerns. This was the time of the great famine in Ethiopia that inspired the Live Aid Concert in 1985.

*So the ‘seeds’ for my service had been planted but were left unattended for 30 years, until the spring of 2012. My son **Andrew**, then a college junior at Vanderbilt University, asked me to join him on a medical/dental mission trip called EthiopiaSmile.*

His girlfriend (now wife), Emily Archer, had invited us to join her family friends, the Alexander family, on a mission trip to Ethiopia to serve and treat the villagers of Dube Bute and widows and orphans in the capital city of Addis Ababa.

Since then, I have been on the past four trips. We have had teams ranging from 40 to 60 people who come [from across the U.S.] to serve the beautiful Ethiopian people. We primarily provide dental care to relieve pain and primary medical care for common skin and eye ailments. The teams have been composed of four to 10 dentists with at least one physician, dermatologist, and nurse (and once, a veterinarian). We are assisted by the remainder of the team members, who provide logistics, medical support, children’s activities, and pastoral training.

If you would like to know more about the trip, please feel free to contact me at (901) 754-8002 or gtownoms@aol.com.



Photo by Kristin J Photography



Clockwise from top left: Andrew Maroda, left, and his father, Steve Maroda, on their trip to Ethiopia together in 2012.

Andrew Maroda, center back, and his wife, Emily, center front, served as the catalyst for Steve Maroda's first mission trip.

Maroda wears a headlamp to check the teeth of a patient in their "MASH unit" clinic in the village, where there is no electricity.

A traditional round, thatched roof hut dwelling in Dube Bute

Maroda describes Ethiopia in simple terms: "Beautiful people and beautiful country." He says the village boys are always happy to see American visitors.



Photo by Kristin J Photography

Rob Baird Comes Into His Own



Photo by Greg Giannukos - El Ojo Photography

Rob Baird at Whisler's cocktail bar, a popular East Austin venue for live music.

Look out, Austin: **Rob Baird '05** is back. After a sojourn in Nashville, TN, where he worked for a year with the Carnival Music record label, Baird has returned to his wheelhouse and is eagerly anticipating the release of his third album, *Wrong Side of the River*, this May. With a full slate of shows scheduled in support of the release, Baird is also working on songs for his next CD, as well as producing records for other artists.

"Life is moving!" he says with a laugh. "It's good. I can handle it."

Most of all, Baird is happy to be back in Texas after his year away. "My Nashville journey!" he says. "I really felt like a fish out of water [there], and thought, this isn't who I am. So it has been nice to come back to Austin, which

is my favorite place in the world, and be with my friends."

Baird ended up recording his latest album with his regular band in a garage studio in north Austin. "I've recorded with studio musicians before, but these are the guys who've played live with me for three years, and it's fun to have a group so talented that we were able to do all of it," he says. "I think it's more authentic. There's more blood, sweat, and tears in the game."

Baird says this album better defines what he's been trying to do all along. Now 29, he's had some time to grow up and refine his vision. "We cut a couple outside songs from friends in Nashville, but the rest of it I wrote," he says. "A lot of it [comes from] real-life situations that inspired me. Leaving Nashville and coming back home was a big deal for me,

and it really came out in the music."

While Baird's first albums may have placed him in a classic-country category, he identifies the sound of *Wrong Side of the River* as true Americana. "You can hear the grit when you listen to [Americana], and we definitely have a lot of grit in this music."

Besides working on his own music and performing – he has about 75 shows on the schedule in support of the new LP – Baird is excited about continuing to work on other artists' recordings through Rattle Trap Studios in Austin. "I've gotten into the production game, and it's a really nice balance with being on the road. I'm getting to scratch that itch more often, which is kind of fun. I've got other projects in the works, and hope to finish up songs for my fourth record after this one comes out."

"Ain't Nobody Got a Hold on Me," the lead single from *Wrong Side of the River*, was released in the fall and is available now on iTunes.

"It's definitely my favorite [album] to date, and I think it accurately represents what I've wanted to do my entire career," he says. "I think we finally got to the place where this is making sense, art-wise, and I'm really excited about it."

For more info on Baird, his music, and upcoming shows, visit robbairdmusic.com.

Young Alumni Record First CD

The band is young, and the name is Jenette McKurdy. Not to be confused with the actress, Jennette McCurdy, a singer and songwriter in her own right, best known for her role as Sam Puckett on the Nickelodeon sitcom *iCarly*.

"There's no particular meaning

behind the name; we just thought it was funny," says guitarist and singer **Nicholas Manley '15**.

Manley and his Class of 2015 bandmates, **Jerry Oates**, **Jim Waggoner**, and **Joseph Preston**, and St. George's senior Harrison Schutt started playing music together almost two years ago. They booked their first show last spring, and had recorded their first album, self-titled *Jenette McKurdy*, by the end of the year.

"Our friend and mentor Ty Garvey, the bassist from the [indie] band Jonezetta, recorded and mixed the album for us, and we couldn't be more grateful for all the hard work he put in to make it happen," says Manley, who sings all of the songs on the album except for one. "Jerry plays guitar, Harrison plays bass and sings, Jim plays drums, and Joseph plays keyboards. Our music has a pop, indie-rock feel, and we're excited to have it out there for people to listen to."

Manley, Oates, and Waggoner are now freshmen at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Preston is enrolled at UCLA. They figured they would be through playing together once everyone headed to college, but they keep getting calls to perform.

"We filled up the small room at

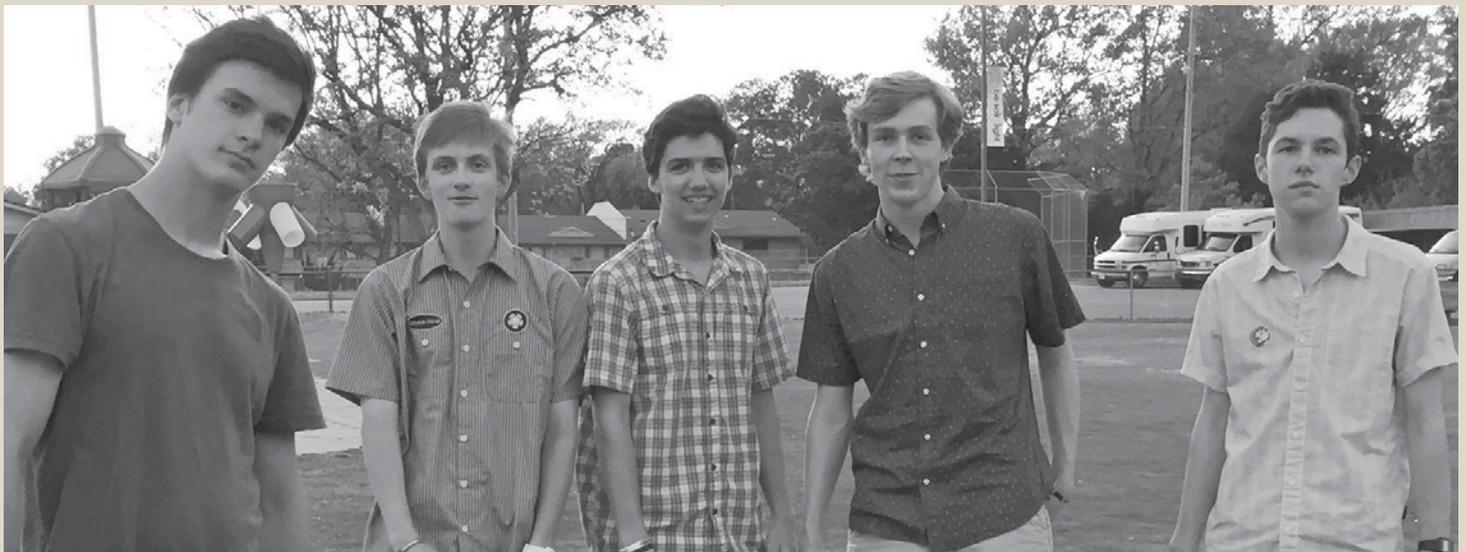


Jenette McKurdy's first self-titled release

the Hi-Tone at our show last summer, so the owner asked us to play again at Christmas, which we did," Manley says. "We also played for a Valentine's bash in Chattanooga with a band called Rock Eupora."

With the world of possibilities ahead, Manley can't predict how long Jenette McKurdy will continue, although he feels sure they will all keep playing and singing, one way or another. "If we keep getting asked to do things, we're not going to say no!"

Listen to Jenette McKurdy on Spotify: [bit.ly/McKurdy](https://open.spotify.com/artist/bit.ly/McKurdy)



From left, Joseph Preston, Jim Waggoner, Harrison Schutt, Nicholas Manley, and Jerry Oates

YOUTHFUL SPIRIT

Folk Brothers Distill Vodka with Home-Sourced Ingredients and Under-30 Zeal

BY RALPH ELLIS

Photos by Alan Howell



The heart and soul of Pyramid Vodka stands inside a cavernous brick building in north Memphis, glowing in the afternoon sun and surrounded by smaller vats and tanks. Made of stainless steel and copper, the 22-foot-tall still is where water and mash are cooked and transformed into liquor. **Alexander Folk '07** calls it “the mother ship.”



The young entrepreneurs behind Pyramid Vodka, from left, brothers Alexander and Winston Folk

Pyramid Vodka launched in November 2014 and quickly became a recognizable brand around Memphis, thanks to old-fashioned hustle and networking by Alexander, the chief executive officer, and his brother and business partner, **Winston Folk '05**, the chief operating officer. (Winston attended MUS for seventh and eighth grade.)

Their company, Big River Distilling, is a small operation with only five employees, all under 30. Their casual enthusiasm fits the River City's growing craft beer and artisanal food scene.

“We wanted to do something that was exciting for young people to look forward to,” Alexander says.

The brothers have roots in the Memphis food and beverage

scene. Their grandfather, Humphrey Folk, started Folk's Folly Prime Steak House. The brothers worked there during summers and college holidays.

Alexander attended the University of Alabama and studied restaurant and hospitality management, figuring, “I'd graduate from college and work in a restaurant and go from there.”

He did, in fact, spend a year managing Itta Bena, the fine-dining restaurant located above B.B. King's Blues Club on Beale Street (**Tommy Peters '73** is president). But he kept thinking about a trend he had observed in college.

“People were gravitating toward microbrewers,” he says. “Nobody here was doing it with micro-distilleries.”



“FROM THE TIME WE GRIND THE CORN UNTIL THE TIME IT GOES IN THE BOTTLE, IT’S 10 TO 14 DAYS.” -ALEXANDER FOLK

What does Pyramid Vodka taste like?

Company CEO **Alexander Folk '07** describes it like this: “We look for a very subtle nose to it,” he says. “It’s a little sweeter than most vodkas and a little smoother.”

Tastings.com’s description is more expansive: “Bright, clear color. Bright, nutty aromas of pistachio nougat and gelato, hazelnut latte, and toasted coconut with a glycerous, bright, dry-yet-fruity, medium-to-full body and a tingling, medium-long green apple custard, cajeta, pepper spices, and chalk finish. A wild-and-wooly spirty vodka with a lot of charm.”

The traditional way to drink vodka is neat, without ice or water. There are many

cocktail recipes to be found on the Pyramid Vodka website and Facebook page.

Folk’s favorite drink is a Basil Sour. Here’s how he makes it:

1.5 ounces Pyramid vodka

1 ounce fresh lemon juice

1 ounce simple syrup

Muddled basil

Shake with ice

Pour into a rocks glass and garnish with a lemon wedge and a sprig of basil.

Cheers!



Locally made Pyramid Vodka has won awards in international spirits competitions.

Winston, who had served in the Coast Guard and worked for the offshore oil industry, joined Alexander for the dive into the micro-distilling industry.

They spent about two years studying how to make vodka, filling out government forms, acquiring operating space, and purchasing equipment. The networking came easy because, as Winston says, “Memphis is a big city with a small-town feel.”

Financial backing came from Richard and Cannon Smith, sons of FedEx Chairman **Fred Smith '62**, and about 20 other investors.

Why did the brothers decide to make vodka, rather than whiskey, the spirit more closely associated with Tennessee? For one thing, it’s faster. Vodka doesn’t have to be aged for years in barrels.

“From the time we grind the corn until the time it goes in the bottle, it’s 10 to 14 days,” Alexander says. They do their own bottling and labeling at their plant.

Another reason, per Alexander: “Vodka is what lends itself to the natural resources we have access to.”

He’s talking about the corn from nearby Arkansas, which is used to make mash, and the city’s clear and plentiful water from the Memphis aquifer. Most vodka producers in the United States use base alcohol shipped from Indiana that is flavored with charcoal filtering and local water.

The Folk brothers took a different route, deciding to make vodka from scratch. “It gives us full control over the product,” Alexander says.

The centerpiece of the Pyramid operation is the still, which was manufactured in China based on Winston’s design and shipped to Memphis for assembly. Learning to make vodka that tasted good was a trial-and-error process.

Despite the newcomer status, Pyramid Vodka is already winning plaudits from the spirits industry, having earned silver medals at competitions in Denver and Los Angeles and the platinum medal at the Spirits International Prestige Awards. Big River was also recently named Tennessee Vodka Distillery of the Year at the New York International Spirits Competition.

The company has raised its local profile by sponsoring community events, including the Moon River Music Festival, and by serving Memphis Grizzlies fans at the Pyramid Vodka Studio inside the FedExForum. Numerous restaurants and bars in Memphis pour Pyramid Vodka, and it’s sold in area liquor stores. Right now the company is producing about 400 cases of vodka a month.

What’s next? The company is offering tours, and the Folk brothers hope to start contract distilling for other brands. They plan to expand east and place their product in other cities. Nashville is their first target.

That means more work by the Folk brothers – something Alexander anticipates with arguably youthful fervor.

“In this business,” he says, “the younger the better.” ■

RALPH ELLIS IS A FREELANCE WRITER BASED IN DECATUR, GA.



Hutch Brings Taste of the South Out West

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

After almost 16 years working in other people's restaurants – in the South, on the West Coast, and abroad – chef **David Scott King '94** went on hiatus in 2012 to contemplate the future. With his wife's strong encouragement ("Actually, it was more like insistence," King says), the time finally seemed right to open his own venue. He had found the perfect location in uptown Oakland, CA, an artsy, eclectic area that reminded him of the Memphis Cooper-Young neighborhood, and he had negotiated a favorable lease agreement. He even had the concept worked out – Southern comfort food, a little something different to tempt palates in Northern California.

What he didn't have was a name that would bring it all to life. That's when his wife, Cindy May Sum Lui, reminded him that his grandfather, Byron Monroe Hutchison, taught him how to eat oysters and sip bourbon. "He was what I'd call a *bon vivant* – he just loved food and drink and fellowship. And so my wife said, 'If you're thinking about some kind of Southern oyster and whisky bar, and you don't name it after him, you're an idiot!' His nickname was Hutch, so that's what we did."

Now, almost three years since its opening, Hutch bar & kitchen is thriving, and King is enjoying the opportunity to be creative and in control of a restaurant all his own, in a region he has always considered a gastronomic mecca.

"Everyone follows the common mantra of California fresh – using seasonal, regional produce, humanely raised animals, and sustainable fishing," King says. "My sous chef and I get email alerts every night about what's available the next day, what fisherman have pulled out, what specials the meat purveyors are pushing. Produce reports also come in every week, and we build specials around [all of] that.

There's definitely a bounty in the area, and that's what's most exciting for me."

With seating for 50, Hutch is located in a narrow, industrial space that manages to seem wide open and cozy all at the same time, thanks to great lighting and lots of wood furniture and accents, including the original redwood ceiling. Oakland blacksmith Jon Sarriugarte created the 10-foot wide custom chandeliers based on photos from Turkish mosques that restaurant architect Benjamin McGriff had visited on his honeymoon. The focal point of the restaurant is the bar, and the focal point of the bar is the whiskey. With more than 100 brands of American whiskey at the ready, patrons can easily find something to sip on. True aficionados can even join Hutch's Whiskey Club. There's a wide range of craft



Hutch is a joint venture for David King and his wife, Cindy May Sum Lui.

cocktails with interesting titles, including the Curl of the Burlatron 3000 (a reference to Burl Caine, the pseudonym King used as bass player in one of his early bands).

King's regionally inspired Southern comfort food includes fried chicken, deviled eggs, bacon-braised collards, and a number of dishes that are paired with Delta Grind cheese grits, such as his Louisiana-style shrimp creole or his Memphis-influenced fried catfish. "One of my personal favorites is a local farm trout that we cure with a little bit of bourbon," King says (see recipe). "And of course we are known for raw oysters; we sell more Pacific coast oysters than anything else. The varieties we offer just depend on what I think is freshest and closest to home."

King exercised his creative side as far back as high school, when he served as co-editor of *The MUSE* and began playing bass and singing ("Screaming might be a better word for it," King says) in a band called Skycow alongside Class of 1994 friends **Hal Bartlett**, **Duncan Herrington**, and **Jay Sansing**, and **Elliott Ives '96**. Later, he played in Rabid Villain with **Jeff Burch '94**, **Blake Rhea '94**, and Ives.

In transitioning to food as his creative outlet, he points to many influences, but particularly to Ben Smith, chef/owner of Tsunami in Memphis, who hired King in 1998 after he graduated from Rhodes. "I consider him my mentor," King says. "He hired me as a total greenhorn to work in the pantry as *garde manger* [cold foods chef]. He's a great guy."

In San Francisco, **Ryan Prewitt '94**, now the James Beard Award-winning chef of Peche in New Orleans, worked with King for some time at a creole-Caribbean restaurant called Erzulie. King followed that with a stint at Bay Area chef Craig Stoll's acclaimed Delfina, several

restaurant gigs in Copenhagen and Thailand, and a brief return to Memphis (Automatic Slim's and the Grove Grill) before settling again in San Francisco to help open a barbecue restaurant called Southpaw.

Now running Hutch with the help of Lui, who handles the back-office duties, and a small but hardworking team, King is grateful to be in year three with his restaurant and optimistic about the future. "That's kind of a milestone in this industry," he says. "I feel fortunate to have passed that mark."

King is also grateful for his 18-month-old son, William Blake King, who has already spent a fair amount of time in the restaurant, and for the foundation he received at MUS. "The whole reason I got to go to school there is because my other grandfather, William Scott King, worked for [MUS donor] Margaret Clack Askew, who offered to pay the way for my dad [William Scott King, Jr. '66] to attend. It's hard for me to verbalize my appreciation. It's a very special place."

Looking ahead, King has talked to a few investors about opening a

Memphis-style barbecue restaurant. "Just a real simple, counter-service kind of place with only four or five items on the menu," he says. "Although one thing I've learned is that booze doesn't spoil and food does. Plus the profit margins – especially on spirits – are huge. So maybe my next step should not be food-focused ... it may be a bar!"

Hutch bar & kitchen
2022 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 419-0622
hutchoakland.com



Bourbon-Cured Trout with Crostini and Fennel Salad

"It's important to build relationships with your local fishmongers and ask them what is fresh, and specify what you need. For this you need a filleted and cleaned trout fillet. Salmon may be substituted, but it will require a longer curing time." – David Scott King

1 pound trout or salmon fillet
Dry Cure (recipe follows)
Bourbon
Crostini (recipe follows)
Fennel Salad (recipe follows), drained
Mustard Vinaigrette (recipe follows)

Pat dry fish fillets and thoroughly rub with Dry Cure on both sides of fish. Tightly wrap fillets in plastic wrap, place in a large plastic bag, and refrigerate for 24-48 hours. Remove and unwrap fish and gently rinse off dry cure, then pat dry. Place fish in large plastic bag, add your favorite bourbon to cover, gently squeezing air out of bag. Refrigerate another 24-48 hours, turning occasionally. Remove fish, pat dry with paper towels, and slice fish thinly. On small plates, top marinated, drained fennel salad with sliced trout and drizzle with

mustard vinaigrette; garnish with fennel fronds and serve with crostini. (Or serve all atop crostini.) Serves 4 as a generous hors d'oeuvre.

DRY CURE

1/2 cup kosher salt
6 tablespoons raw cane sugar
1 tablespoon ground toasted* coriander seed
1 tablespoon ground toasted* fennel seed
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/2 teaspoon ground toasted* white peppercorn

Combine dry cure ingredients in a small bowl. Makes about 1 cup. (*Note: toast spice seeds and peppercorns in dry skillet over medium heat until fragrant.)

FENNEL SALAD

2 bulbs fennel, sliced thinly; reserve fronds for garnish
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
2 oranges, juiced
Kosher salt and ground white pepper to taste

In a medium-size bowl, toss fennel with cider vinegar and orange juice. Allow to marinate for 30 minutes. Add salt and white pepper to taste.

MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE

1 clove garlic, smashed
1/2 shallot, roughly chopped
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
4 tablespoons Zatarain's Creole Mustard or stone-ground mustard
7 tablespoons canola oil
3 tablespoons olive oil

Place garlic, shallot, and vinegar in blender or processor and blend. Add mustard and blend again. Combine oils together. While the blender is running, drizzle in oil in fine stream until desired consistency. Makes about 2/3 cup. Refrigerate unused portion for future use.

CROSTINI

1 fresh baguette cut in 1/2- to 3/4-inch slices
Softened butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread baguette slices with butter on both sides and place on baking sheet. Bake until golden brown, turning once, about 15-20 minutes.



Beyond Belief

David Jackson Shares Gifts of Faith, Knowledge, and Compassion

Putting a successful career in teaching aside to answer a call to ministry was a move that required both courage and faith. Fortunately for Religion Department Chair Dr. **David Jackson**, who did just that after his first eight years at MUS, he has both traits in abundant supply.

Jackson began teaching here in 1974, when he joined the staff to serve as chair of the Religion Department. With a bachelor's degree from Harding University, a master's in theology from Harding School of Theology, and a doctorate in ministry from Abilene Christian University, Jackson quickly became an essential part of the school community, teaching a wide range of biblical, ethics, and comparative religion classes. But after several years he felt compelled to follow a different path, and ended up leaving MUS in 1982 to serve as a minister, first at a church in Jackson, MS, and years later in Knoxville, TN.

Jackson did not expect to go back to teaching. So when the opportunity to return to MUS emerged after almost two decades in ministry, he saw it as a plan directed by forces beyond his control.

"I never dreamed I'd be back at MUS; that had never even entered my mind," Jackson says. "But [by 2005] I was feeling stressed, really more than I realized. When **Ellis [Haguewood]** called and said, 'I need you back in the same position you had 23 years ago. Are you available?' it was just perfect."

Sometimes, for those with faith as strong as Jackson's, life's twists and turns lead back to a place that feels like home.

CARING FOR A COMMUNITY

Now 11 years into his second tenure here, Jackson brings the maturity and wisdom that comes with years of experience and the perspective that life's hardest lessons impart. Beyond teaching religion courses, Jackson also serves as both



Dr. David Jackson brings a wealth of experience to his role as chaplain and Religion Department chair. "I think it's absolutely vital to be genuine," he says.

chaplain (the school's first) and spiritual guide for students and faculty members. In 2013 he received the Distinguished Teaching Award.

"I enjoyed ministry thoroughly, but at this stage of my life, I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be," Jackson says. "It's a privilege ... to find a career path where you can do what you feel you were put on Earth to do."

Jackson, who holds the Robert J.

Hussey, Sr. Chair of Religion, teaches Comparative Religions and Old and New Testament and coaches the varsity bowling team. He is also responsible for scheduling Wednesday chapels. Several times a year he takes the opportunity to make thought-provoking presentations himself, such as a recent talk on the importance of being your brother's keeper.

"In picking chapel [topics], I try to be sensitive to what's going on in the school



Three Life Lessons Worth Sharing

David Jackson grew up as the oldest of four siblings in a tight-knit family, and his parents had a powerful influence on his life. “They didn’t say, ‘Here’s what you do,’ Jackson says. “It’s how they lived.” By observing their actions, he learned several important principles.

A GIFT YOU MAKE FOR SOMEONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SOMETHING YOU BUY.

“In fourth or fifth grade, I made a card for my mother,” Jackson says. “I just took a piece of construction paper, drew a rosebud on the front, and wrote something about Mother’s Day inside. She was very appreciative of it, and that made an impression on me. But what really let me know [its] significance is that about five years ago, she showed me that card. She still has it, and it meant so much to her. I’ve found this with my daughter. There’d be gift-giving times when she didn’t have any money, and I would say to her, ‘I’d much rather have something you made.’ Those things are the most meaningful.”

DO THE RIGHT THING, REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

Jackson spent much of his childhood in eastern Virginia. In the early ’60s, at the height of the civil rights movement, his father was serving a church located in the midst of several military locations. While the military was integrated, society at large still was not.

“One night we went to one of the bases because a church family had invited us to dinner. This happened all the time so for me it was unremarkable, except that we went through the guard at

the gate and that was neat. This family had a boy who was about my age, so we played before and after dinner. Then we went home and nothing [more] was said about it, but years later, I heard my parents talk about what that night meant to them. The man was a lieutenant colonel, African-American, and that was the first time either of my parents had been to a black family’s home for dinner. My dad grew up in northern Alabama in the rural countryside where society was segregated, and my mother grew up in central Kentucky, farming. Same thing – segregated. That night, we came and went, and it was nothing special to me. But to hear them talk about it [later], my dad’s fear about what the reaction of the church might be ... They handled that with such grace, it didn’t even register to me that it was anything unusual. Sometimes you don’t know what the consequences [of an action] are going to be, but you do it because it’s the right thing to do.”

DON’T DO SOMETHING JUST FOR THE MONEY.

Jackson was living with his parents and siblings in Kentucky when his father told the family they were moving back to eastern Virginia to honor a commitment he had made to a small mission church. “It was a hard move for me because that was the end of my sophomore year,” says Jackson. “In fact, the whole family didn’t want to move. But my dad had given his word.”

Because the church there was so small, others questioned the move and how Jackson’s father would be able to support the family on a very small salary. Jackson recalls his father saying, “The Lord will just have to provide.” As it turned out, with loans and scholarships, Jackson was able to go to college. His sisters were able to attend too, thanks to the generosity of a family friend. “It was covered!” Jackson says. “I learned from the faithfulness of my parents that you don’t ever decide something for the money. That’s just not the most important thing.”

community,” he says. “So the ideas can come from anywhere and everywhere.”

Upper School Principal **Barry Ray** says Jackson’s talks always make him think, although Jackson’s primary focus is the young men sitting in the chapel seats.

“Dr. Jackson puts the students’ best interests at the forefront of his interactions with them, and he’s really good at helping them continue their growth spiritually, regardless of [their] religious background. I think he’s a great role model.”

For Jackson, coaching bowling is just as important and meaningful as his

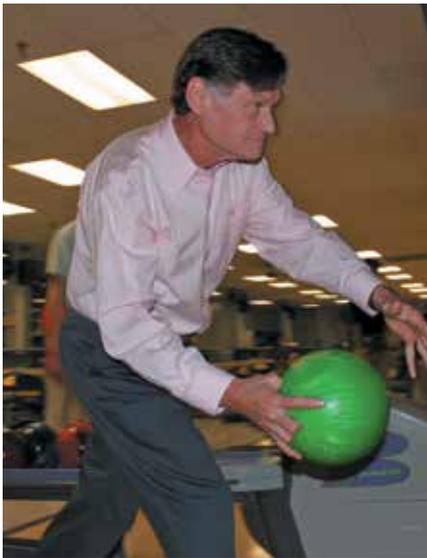


Jackson and future bowling team standouts from the Class of 2018: William Dellinger, Jimmy Morrow, Macon Orr, and Jackson Moody

academic instruction or his Wednesday chapel talks. “Bowling keeps me involved outside the classroom, and I think it’s important for students to see a more well-rounded faculty,” he says.

But it is teaching, Jackson says, that gives structure to his day, and in his second tour of duty here, he feels a deeper sense of doing something that has the potential to pay dividends in the future. “For someone in my role, I think it’s absolutely vital to be genuine,” he says, “to teach and to approach students with who you are – and not some persona you’re trying to adopt – especially when you’re dealing with the Bible, and values, and how to structure your life.”

That authenticity helps explain Jackson’s ability to connect with this community, a place where he believes people really do treat one another like family. He remains profoundly grateful for the support and comfort the school community offered upon the death of his wife, Kay, in May 2015, and



takes further solace in visits with his own family. His daughter, Jill, and two young grandsons live in East Tennessee. His mother and three siblings are in Georgia and South Carolina. He is also close to his

church community at Highland Church of Christ.

Jackson has drawn from his experience of loss in offering comfort to students and colleagues facing equally difficult situations. "I had a student whose father was very ill this year, so I'd just ask every few days how things were going, how his mother was doing," says Jackson. "I think it really meant something to him that I'd walked a very similar path. Sometimes people try to help you by saying, 'I know how you feel,' [although] they don't. But he knew I meant it."

John Richardson '14 cites other strengths that benefited him as a student, including Jackson's willingness to "go against the grain," and his belief in the importance of the opinions of the minority. "Dr. Jackson taught me the personal value of secondary opinions; that is, that minority groups can still have compelling and substantiated arguments, even to the point that the weights of such arguments are,

remarkably, heavier than the highly-represented one," Richardson says. "There is a delicious irony to this teaching because one of the essential implications is that, in order to best think for yourself, you must hear as many external opinions as practically possible."

With the benefit of perspective developed on campus and away from it, Jackson feels blessed by the opportunity to push students a little further, to dig a little deeper.

"I've changed, but I don't think students have changed that much, and certainly the standards of the school haven't changed at all," Jackson says. "I view my role at MUS as being able to have an impact on the future of Memphis and even the world, because these boys will become leaders, all kinds of leaders – some just locally, but some internationally. So if I can get them to think about larger-picture things than just succeeding in terms of [their] bank account and personal status, that's very exciting and rewarding to me." ■

School Earns Top Workplace Honors

Memphis University School received the Top Workplace Award and the Leadership Award in the Education Division of *The Commercial Appeal's* 2015 Top Workplaces program. Headmaster Ellis Haguewood accepted the awards at a ceremony in December honoring the best places to work in the Mid-South. The Top Workplaces are determined based on employee feedback in a survey that was conducted last fall by WorkplaceDynamics, a leading research firm on organizational health and employee engagement.

The school was profiled in a special section in *The Commercial Appeal* on Dec. 6: bit.ly/MUSTopWorkplace.



Barry and Patti Ray attended the Top Workplaces ceremony with Peggy and Ellis Haguewood.



Photo by Lance Murphey

Headmaster Ellis Haguewood will retire after the 2016-17 school year.

Search Process Paves the Way for Leadership Change

In early February Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** announced his decision to retire at the end of the 2016-17 school year. In a letter to the MUS community, Haguewood said he was confident that with his early announcement the Board of Trustees would have time to secure the next headmaster, “one who will take Memphis University School to new and greater heights.”

Board of Trustees Chairman **Sam Graham '80** praised Haguewood’s

leadership. “Through his exemplary service, he has guided our school with uncommon wisdom and prudence and a steadfast commitment to doing what is right and honorable.”

The Board of Trustees Executive Committee met regularly before Haguewood’s public announcement to set in motion the process of recruiting a successor. The first step was to appoint a search committee, which Graham announced at the end of February (see sidebar). The

committee includes a balanced selection of trustees, parents, and alumni, all with proven commitment and dedication to the school.

“We are very fortunate to have a committee that has significant breadth and depth of experience regarding the history and culture of MUS as well as very good experience with independent schools and education,” Graham said.

The board also enlisted Dr. Bill Weary, president of Fieldstone Consulting, to assess



current strengths and opportunities in advance of the search process. Weary, who has provided consulting services to the school in years past, visited campus in March to conduct interviews with a cross section of the MUS community, including faculty, administration, current and former trustees, parents, alumni, and Lower and Upper School students. He presented his findings to the Board of Trustees and Search Committee in March.

“Dr. Weary provided valuable insights on the many ways the school is excelling as well as advice on possibilities for continued improvement,” Graham said.

The Search Committee reached out to representatives from peer schools that have experienced a headmaster transition in recent years and examined proposals from respected search firms who work with independent schools. After a comprehensive evaluation of six national search firms, the committee invited three firms to interview on campus. One firm, Spencer Stuart, stood out and was unanimously selected for its ability to provide a very tailored and customized search approach.

“Their approach is a bit different from other search firms, and we believe they best fit the unique culture and needs of MUS,” Graham said. “A host of top college-prep schools endorse the Spencer Stuart approach. One very valuable reference was **Thurston Moore ’64**, who is the board chair for St. Christopher’s School in Richmond, VA. He reported they had recently completed their headmaster search with Spencer Stuart, and he could not have been more pleased. Thurston is the brother of current trustee **Rick Moore ’63**, and both are sons of Col. **Ross M. Lynn**. Thurston strongly recommended Spencer Stuart, which has led several searches involving the replacement of a long-serving, much-beloved headmaster. They understand how to evaluate internal candidates and treat them with the same care, confidentiality, and due diligence as external candidates.”

To assist in the process, the Search

Committee established a seven-member Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), representing a blend of academic, arts, and athletic disciplines, and long-tenured and newer faculty.

“The Faculty Advisory Committee will contribute experientially based questions centering on candidates’ professional educational leadership experience and overall fit with MUS culture. Academic Dean **Flip Eikner ’77** will serve as the chair of the FAC,” Graham said.

The FAC members, with year of appointment to the faculty, are as follows:

Bobby Alston (1977) - *director of athletics, head football coach, head track and field coach, father of alumnus*

Grant Burke (2008) - *acting chair of the Department of Fine Arts, instructor in fine arts*

Michelle Crews (2012) - *instructor in English, Mock Trial faculty advisor, wife of alumnus, mother of alumnus and current student*

Flip Eikner ’77 (1983) - *academic dean, instructor in English, father of current student*

Jonathan Large (2008) - *Ross McCain Lynn Chair of History, instructor in history, assistant trapshooting coach*

Laura McCormick (2013) - *instructor in science*

Phillip Stalls (2011) - *instructor in mathematics*

Representatives of Spencer Stuart visited campus in late April, giving faculty and administration the chance to offer input and learn about the search process ahead.

“The Search Committee is very inspired and encouraged by the work thus far,” Graham said. “We appreciate the support and wise counsel we have received from the community during this critically important time in the history of our school.” ■

Headmaster Search Committee

Ben Adams ’74 - *former trustee (1990–2010); former chair, Board of Trustees (1996–2004); Alumnus of the Year (2006); father of two alumni*

Rick Broer - *former faculty (1973–1980; 1996–2011); former Lower School principal (1996–2005); former academic dean (2005–2011); father of two alumni*

Jim Burnett ’83 - *trustee (2010–present); Volunteer of the Year (2001); father of two students (7th and 9th grades) and one alumnus*

Suki Carson - *trustee (2008–present); chair, Strategic Planning Committee (2012–present); mother of three alumni*

Glenn Crosby ’77 - *trustee (2011–present); father of two students (9th and 11th grades)*

Sam Graham ’80 - *trustee (2004–present); chair, Board of Trustees (2013–present); chair, Search Committee; father of two alumni*

Mark Halperin ’67 - *trustee (1998–present)*

Musette Morgan - *former trustee (1999–2007); former vice chair, Board of Trustees (2004–2007); mother of alumnus*

Chris Sanders - *trustee (2007–present); chair, Academics Committee; mother of alumnus; spouse of alumnus*

Fred Schaeffer, Jr. ’88 - *trustee (2012–present); chair, Development Committee*

Gary Wunderlich, Jr. ’88 - *trustee (2008–present); vice chair, Board of Trustees; father of alumnus; son of alumnus*



BRINGING HOME THE LAUDS



Happy swim team members in Knoxville after capturing the school's first-ever state title in the sport

Owls Swim to First State Title

The varsity Aquatic Owls claimed the first state swimming championship in school history in February. The win marks the first Tennessee Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association title for any high school from West Tennessee since 1968, when the first TISCA meet was held.

"This is a big accomplishment for these 18 guys who were a part of this," Coach **Bryan Parker** said. "MUS beat Baylor by a score of 344.5 to 295, and we did it without a diving team. The [boys] capped it off by setting the state record in the 400-free relay by 1.16."

MUS swimmers **Henry Keel** of the Class of 2016 and **Christian Berry, Alex Robinson, and Jack McCaghren** of the Class of 2017 were the members of the

state-record-setting relay team. MUS topped the field in two other races: **Berry** in the 50-free and **Robinson, Parker Kaye '17, McCaghren, and C.J. Turner '16** in the 200-medley relay. In addition the Owls set a dozen new school records.

Parker praised the hard work and camaraderie of the team and the leadership of the seniors, led by Team Captain **Henry Keel**.

"We were successful because every single guy on the team had one goal: Win the state championship," Keel says. "Everyone believed in that goal and fed off each other's energy throughout the meet. It was a special weekend that we will all remember." ■

Mathletes Get First Perfect Score in National Team Scramble

The school's math team achieved a perfect score this November on the national Team Scramble math contest, marking the first time since the competition began in 2003 that any team entered has scored 100 out of 100. This year, teams from 106 schools (including a half-dozen internationally) participated



Double-checking answers: **Ohm Patel '17, Chang Yu '18, and Jacob Suppiah '17**

in the test, administered by National Assessment & Testing, based in Seattle, WA. The next highest score was 81.

The Owl team comprised about 100 students, including a few from St. Agnes Academy, who gathered in the Dining Hall after school November 4 and got to work. The 100-question exam encompassed math problems ranging from simple subtraction to basic calculus, all of which had to be completed within 30 minutes.

After brainstorming discussions



Ramiz Somjee '17 proofs a submission by Gus Carter '20.

among Advanced Topics math students prior to the contest, **Patrick Murphy '16** devised and implemented a new organizational system for proofing and scoring that contributed to the success of the event. **Daniel Tancredi '16** helped keep the fast-paced event moving smoothly. Underclassmen **Chang Yu '18** and **Ohm Patel '17** also made valuable contributions, completing more challenging problems as well as proofing calculations and correcting errors that had been overlooked in easier problems before the final answers were submitted.

“I am still stunned by the amazing performance of the MUS math team in achieving the first perfect score in the 13 years of this contest, which is given across the nation and even overseas,” said Dr. **Steve Gadbois**, instructor in math. “It happened because of a fortunate confluence of four factors: an abundance of talent, past experience, an effective new organizational system, and a bit of luck.” ■



National Merit Finalists are, front row, from left, Chandler Clayton, Forest Colerick, Saatvik Mohan, Murray Morrison; middle row, Sam Bartz, Reed Barnes, Grayson Lee; back row, Colin Threlkeld, Patton Orr, Witt Fesmire, and Daniel Tancredi. Gil Humphreys is not pictured.

12 Owls Advance as National Merit Finalists

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation honored 28 seniors earlier this year, fifteen as Semifinalists and 13 as Commended Students. Twelve of the Semifinalists have advanced to National Merit Finalist status: **Reed Barnes, Sam Bartz, Chandler Clayton, Forest Colerick, Witt Fesmire, Gil Humphreys, Grayson Lee, Saatvik Mohan, Murray Morrison, Patton Orr, Daniel Tancredi, and Colin Threlkeld.**

As finalists they will compete for 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million. The NMSC will announce

scholarship recipients from March through May.

To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist and his high school must submit an application detailing the candidate's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. Finalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, provide endorsement from a high school official, write an essay, and earn an SAT score confirming his earlier performance on the qualifying test. ■

Extra! Extra!

CLASS NEWS

'61



From left, Felix and Betty Gayle Laughlin with Hall Cannon and Miles Refo

Betty Gayle and **Felix Laughlin** recently relaxed at Otahuna Lodge outside Christchurch, New Zealand. Otahuna Lodge was the largest private historic residence in New Zealand, built in 1895; it is now owned and operated by **Hall Cannon '95** and his partner, Miles Refo, who have brought it back to life. They bought the mansion and its 30 surrounding acres in 2006, and due to their substantial renovations, the estate has

acquired the lofty status as a Relais & Chateaux property and was featured in *Architectural Digest*. “On arrival we were welcomed with a tour of the mansion with its Queen Anne architecture and interior design,” Felix said. “Later, Miles led me through the extensive gardens, describing outstanding displays of both native and, as he said, exotic (non-native) trees and shrubbery. The property offers expansive views of the magnificent surrounding volcanic mountains, and it is an excellent point of departure for several other exciting ornamental gardens in the Christchurch area. Betty Gayle first discovered Otahuna Lodge on the Relais & Chateaux and Andrew Harper websites. But the article in *MUS Today*, Summer 2014, cinched our decision to spend time there. It was definitely a highlight of our trip.”

'62

Gene Dattel spoke at Baron Hirsch Synagogue in Memphis in January about his experience growing up Jewish in a small Mississippi town, attending

school at MUS, and going on to graduate from Yale and eventually work on Wall Street. The presentation was titled, “Beyond Ruleville: A Delta Jew Discovers the North.”

Many thanks to **Pete Shearon** who graciously agreed to help with the Alumni Phonathon last November. The calling went faster, but neither of us had much success reaching anyone by phone. I guess that tells us we are definitely becoming part of the electronic generation. In any case, Pete and I had fun being with the other graduates and hearing their stories. Do any of you do Twitter or Instagram? Most of my family and friends are texting now. Pete says: “I’m still running and doing everything else. My older daughter is still trying to put the bad guys away; the younger one is now president of her sorority (Tri Delt) at Rhodes. I haven’t talked to [my brother] **Tom [Shearon] '65** lately, although I’m sure he’s still biking, playing his guitar, and skiing.”

That’s inspiring, for although we are not as spry as we used to be, I intend to keep moving

as long as possible. My wife and I joined the Kroc Center last summer and enjoyed their wonderful facilities. We experimented with the water aerobics classes and enjoyed their huge hot tub afterward. Another convenience is its proximity to our Midtown home, which my family has now occupied for over 100 years. (Can anyone top that?) We also joined Calvary Episcopal downtown after visiting for over 10 years. It was hard to leave Idlewild Presbyterian after 70 years! Calvary didn’t waste any time asking me to co-chair the Emmanuel Meal, which feeds about 300 homeless each year the week before Christmas. I also learned to make waffles for the first time at their annual Waffle Shop. Pat and **Nat Ellis** drive in from Collierville for services downtown at Trinity Lutheran; they recently came over to join us for Sunday breakfast at Calvary. They also joined us for an interesting organ recital by the chief organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. Since Pat is an accomplished pianist/organist, she was able to explain a lot of it to me. Pat adds: “In December we visited Nat’s

family who live near Washington, DC. Our niece takes part in the Christmas Revels at George Washington University. It's a celebration of the winter solstice from medieval times and a wonderful retelling of the origin of many Christmas carols and early hymns. We also had the chance to hear the Washington National Chorus at the Kennedy Center performing their annual Christmas candlelight concert. [We had] our annual gathering in Knoxville for the four-day family Thanksgiving feast at our daughter Julie's house, all 18 of us. Our daughters and sons-in-law do most of the cooking, and we get to enjoy the grands – ages 5 to 18. Julie takes off every year to plan this for us. What a gift! She's a busy gal with two children. Her husband, a veterinarian, has his own clinic, and she is a family practice doctor in charge of her clinic and chief of staff at the University of Tennessee Hospital. For Nat and me, our proudest accomplishments have been raising the girls and their brother Eddie (who died in 2007) and being able to enjoy our treasured grandchildren."

A group of us tried to get together Christmas weekend, but many were out of town or indisposed, so it was a sparse crowd that gathered at our favorite location, the attractive home of Canon and **Jamie Hall**, who also hosted our last two reunions. They are the best hosts ever, always gracious to provide a fine meal, as well. **Russell Patterson** brought along a selection of his beautiful (and in my opinion, museum-quality) wooden bowls and other objects. You would have to see them to believe it. They are truly works of art! We knew he had talented

hands from years of surgery, but the artistic side was a surprise to many of us. We hope to see more of his work when we try to get more of the guys and spouses together later this year. Speaking of the spryness I mentioned earlier, **Dan Copp** and much of his family spent Christmas skiing near Santa Fe. He missed seeing **Philip Crump**, but he did see **Tom Shearon**. "We had lunch together in Santa Fe. He took the train up and back to Albuquerque. In past years he's instructed my niece and nephew, Marion and Church Humphreys, at Ski Santa Fe, but he's now retired from the ski instructor life. He still skis, however, and looks tanned, fit, and buff as always, rather like his brother (except for the tan). Stayed at La Posada de Santa Fe, which is very comfortable and convenient to town. Enjoyed the Plaza Cafe, as always. Philip arrived back in town two days after we departed. Christmas is not the best time to enjoy at Ski Santa Fe since it's a very popular ski mountain for New Mexican locals and is therefore quite crowded during school vacations, perhaps especially [last] year since the area had good snow from Thanksgiving through December."

Philip, who has lived in Santa Fe for many years, has been traveling through Mexico with his wife, Beverley, who is an architect and writing a book on Mexican churches. In fact, they were in Tlaxcala, Mexico, when Dan was in Santa Fe skiing. Philip writes: "Beverley and I made one last research trip to Mexico over the holidays. She is just about to submit her book on 16th century Spanish Colonial churches in central Mexico, a

labor of love over the last five or so years. She has researched and photographed about 130 churches. I have enjoyed being her chauffeur and visiting so many out-of-the-way locales all over the colonial region. *Fabuloso!* The work will consist primarily of photographs, with text discussing the sites from an architectural viewpoint. It will be published by the University of New Mexico Press sometime in mid-2017. I come away with a deep admiration for Mexicans and concern that the tales of horror have discouraged visitors. It's a wonderful country, with

deep history, gracious citizens, and fantastic cuisine. We are still enjoying living in Beverley's handiwork [Beverley designed their gorgeous new home overlooking Santa Fe] and being only four blocks from grandchildren. Bonuses for living in such a truly wonderful city."

As an aside, very few mentioned seeing my picture in the Annual Report. My "claim to fame" was a total surprise after Annual Fund Director **Claire Farmer** asked me to come out one day for a photo shoot. The thrill at this age for anyone to want a



Featured in The Commercial Appeal's Mid-South Memories on March 28, 2016: A young **Bayard Snowden '68** helps break ground for the construction of a new MUS at Park and Ridgeway on March 28, 1955. Snowden is pictured with his father, Robert Snowden, the building committee chair (center); **George Treadwell 1918**, the Alumni Association president (left); and **Alex Wellford '30**, the head of the new school's Board of Trustees (right).



The Owl, 1966

Homecoming 2016

Class of 1966, mark your calendars for our 50th reunion weekend. We hope you will plan to be in town to celebrate and watch the Owls take on the Eagles of SBA on September 30, 2016. The school will host an alumni golf scramble as well as a luncheon for us. More details to come as we plan our events.

photo of me was too tempting to resist. The one or two who did notice thought that I had either given or raised the entire amount listed under my picture. I can assure you neither was the case! Thanks to the above classmates and wives, and I hope to hear from more of you in the near future. - **Jerry Bradfield**

'65

Al Varner shares that his son, Alexander, was chosen to run on a USA Track & Field national team for the first time. This USA team finished second of 36 countries at the 2015 IAU Trail World Championships in Annecy, France. Al and his wife, Eileen, have enjoyed more traveling since his retirement and are looking forward to Alexander's upcoming wedding this September.

'66

Stephen Crump, an artist, furniture maker, and founder of the Cooper-Young Business Association, was featured in a Q&A in the January 2016 issue of *Memphis* magazine. He talked about his Memphis roots, memories of Midtown, and the Cooper-Young Festival.

'67

John Pettey, managing director with Raymond James & Associates, was recently named to *Barron's* list of "Top 1,200 Advisors" in the country. Pettey also ranked No. 9 overall in the state of Tennessee.

'68

Les Passees presented **Ray Gill** with its Community Leader Award for exemplary service and assistance.

'70

Shelby County historian **Jimmy Ogle** was featured in *The Commercial Appeal* in February; columnist David Waters called him "the Google of Memphis." bit.ly/JimmyOgle

'71

Don Alexander is running as a Green Party candidate in 2016 for Connecticut State Senate in the 30th District. He is a quality assurance engineer at Dymotek Corp., a plastics and silicone injection molder in Connecticut.

Philip Gould and **David Gould '78** opened a new Gould's location in downtown Memphis in January.



Mark Schandorff '71 and his wife, Patsy, attended the Ole Miss - Coastal Carolina University baseball game this spring in Myrtle Beach, SC, and enjoyed visiting with players who share the MUS connection. Pictured from left are Schandorff (Ole Miss '75), **Holt Perdzock '12** (Ole Miss '16), **Michael Fitzsimmons '14** (Ole Miss '18), and **Marc MacMillan '92** (Ole Miss '96), who is in his first season as an Ole Miss volunteer assistant coach and who coached baseball at MUS from 1999 to 2008. Schandorff says, "Holt Perdzock had a big game, going 2 for 4 in an 8-2 Ole Miss victory. Ole Miss baseball is nationally ranked. Holt Perdzock is also known for his huge, bases-clearing triple that propelled Ole Miss to Omaha in the super regional finals two years ago. Michael Fitzsimmons was red-shirted as a freshman and is now just getting some playing time. In a recent game, Michael got two at bats in the late innings in another Ole Miss win, producing a two-run home run and an rbi double. I believe he will be getting more at bats and more playing time as the season progresses. Holt is tearing the cover off the ball - he flat out can hit. MUS can be quite proud of these two young men!"

'73

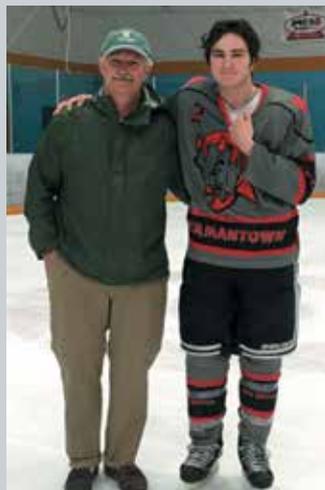
Montgomery Martin, founder of Montgomery Martin Contractors, was recognized in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2016 Building Memphis Awards for his firm's work renovating AutoZone Park, the first substantial updates to the stadium since its construction in 2000. He won in the category of Best/Public Private Project Under \$10 Million for work that included improving the fan experience with an upgraded Home Plate Club level, a state-of-the-art LED videoboard in right field, four-top table seating, additional berm seating, and an expanded concourse. The project was also cited by *Ballpark Digest* as the year's Best Ballpark Renovation in the \$6-\$20 million category.

Tommy Peters reports, "We are very proud that Open Table, the country's leading restaurant reservation system, listed two of our BB King's Blues Clubs locations, Memphis and Orlando, among its top 100 restaurants in the country. We are the only restaurant company in the country with more than one restaurant listed. We are the only restaurant in Tennessee and one of only three in Orlando, which is one of the most competitive markets in the country. This listing is based upon millions of customer reviews, which to me is the best way to gauge a business." bit.ly/100BBKings

'75

Chip Austin is co-owner of the Mid-South Ice House in Olive Branch, MS, the only NHL

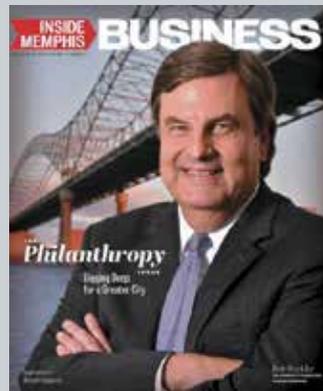
regulation ice rink open year-round in the Greater Memphis metropolitan area. He recently enjoyed celebrating an important regional hockey win with his son, **Webster '17**, who plays for the Germantown Red Devils club team that practices at the Ice House. The team had a 4-2 victory over rival CBHS in the Southern Amateur Hockey Association league championship in March, winning the state title for their division. "It's always good to beat the Purple Wave!" Chip says.



John Marcom has been named senior vice president of strategy and business development for Time Inc. International. Marcom will oversee the overall strategy for Time Inc. International, including new media expansion, multi-platform product development, marketing communications, and mergers and acquisitions.



'77



Inside Memphis Business featured **Bob Fockler** on the cover of its philanthropy issue this winter. He is president of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.

Tom Marshall, principal member of O.T. Marshall Architects, was awarded top honors in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2016 Building Memphis Awards for his firm's work in designing Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid in downtown Memphis. Marshall's architectural and design work was recognized as the best in two categories: Project of the Year and Best Public/Private Project. Marshall's design of Big Cypress Lodge, a 103-room hotel that is part of the Bass Pro project inside the Pyramid, also was recognized recently by *Forbes* magazine as one of the nation's 10 best hotels opened in 2015.

Charlie Oates of Oates Commercial Properties served as broker for the Whole Foods Market - Germantown, recognized in the Best Private Project Under \$10 Million category in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2016 Building Memphis Awards. Sustainability

was a priority, and many of the building materials used came from repurposed products.

'79



Rush Waller, medical director of Methodist-Le Bonheur's adult congenital heart disease program, recently became one of the first cardiologists to be board certified in adult congenital heart disease (ACHD) medicine, after passing the first-ever ACHD Board exam. He is working to build a robust program at Le Bonheur that supports the ongoing and complex needs of adults living with congenital heart disease.

'80

Barry Frager and friends recently hosted "Your Last Holiday Party," a festive karaoke party supporting South Memphis Alliance.

'81

Robert Shy had his knee replaced with a custom knee from ConforMIS March 31. "It's the best and only custom device on the market," he says. "Looking forward to skipping once again."

Greg Thompson was profiled in the *Memphis Business Journal* in November in his capacity as president of LifeLinc Corp., which manages anesthesia practices in 10 states and recently opened a pain management clinic in Germantown.

'82

Steve Lawrence reports that all is well in Heber Springs: "First, let me say that I am writing this on the day that I received word that **Ellis Haguewood** will be retiring. One of my all-time favorites; what a great job he has done. He will be missed! Beth and I are celebrating 23 years of marriage this year and still very much involved in the parenting thing. My oldest, Mary, turns 20 this year and is a sophomore at the University of Arkansas. She is studying nursing and wants to be a nurse practitioner. She is doing well

and loves Fayetteville. Sophie is 14, a competitive swimmer, and obsessed with getting her learner's permit. I also stay involved with my nephews [sons of **Al Lawrence '83**] as much as they will let me. Jesse is a junior at Arkansas State studying business, and Cooper is an airborne ranger at Fort Benning, GA. I am enjoying my 22nd year with Aromatique, serving as CEO. Downtime is spent on the lake during the summer; [we do] a lot of weekend travel in the winter. I keep up with a few classmates like **Bill Lansden**; he and I try to get together a couple times a year. Congrats to him for his big new job at Virginia Tech! **Bill Proctor** is another classmate I try to keep up with when he comes to Heber for the weekend and when we go visit our Razorback daughters in Fayetteville. Never would have guessed in 1981 when we were driving the Death Mobile on campus with

Tim Deaton, Drew Harris '83, Jack Kelley '81, and others that Bill and I would both have daughters going to college together.

Michael Marsh lives in Dallas where he's managing director for healthcare solutions with Jones Lang LaSalle.

'83

Brian Sullivan has joined the board of directors of the Memphis Development Foundation, the nonprofit organization that operates the Orpheum Theatre and the new Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education.

'84

Troy Benitone is the executive director of Hands of Hope Foundation and the directing pastor of Community of Faith Church in Marion, IL.

'87

Jeff Ruffin was named the Best of the Preps Coach of the Year in boys' varsity golf for leading the St. George's Gryphons to the state championship in 2015, their second title in three years. This is his third time to be honored as coach of the year.

'88

Mark Fogelman, CEO of Fogelman Management Group, says the company has established a new regional office in the Orlando area.

'89

Andy Cates outlined plans to transform Mud Island River Park in a proposal to the Riverfront Development Corporation in January: bit.ly/MudIsland-Cates

William Harris is a professor in the English Department at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

This past September **Kenneth Lee** and his wife, Mary, moved into the village of Hopewell, NJ, with their children Reaves, 7, and Annie, 3. Their kids attend Waldorf School of Princeton. In 2014 Kenneth merged his money management practice into Tocqueville Asset Management in New York City.

'90

Commander **William M. (Will) Gotten, Jr.** has been selected by the aviation major command screen board to be commodore of a strike fighter wing, whose mission is to provide fleet commanders with combat-ready strike fighter squadrons. The wing is responsible for the readiness, training, administration, and maintenance support of all AOR Fleet F/A-18A-F Hornet and Super Hornet squadrons. There are only two people handpicked from numerous candidates considered by the board that are chosen for the position as commodore. Will is currently assigned to the Pentagon as a military assistant to Thomas Hicks (the deputy undersecretary of the Navy for management). In an email announcement of the selection,



Photo courtesy Daily News/Andrew J. Breig

Doug Carpenter '82 is reintroducing his advertising agency's services to the marketplace and has rebranded with a new name - DCA - and a new website, dcamemphis.com: "We're not reinventing or rethinking, we're taking the time to repackage ourselves."

his boss said, “This selection is recognition for his devotion to the mission and his operational aplomb. Captain Gotten during his tour as my military assistant has shined as a trusted advisor who [is] always willing to go the extra mile in support of his assignment. Our loss here in the Pentagon is the gain of the United States Navy.” Will, his wife, Jennifer, and children, Claire, 14, and Trey, 12, will be moving to Lemoore, CA, in June 2016. - **William Gotten '60**.

'91

Trevor Benitone recently married Carrie Evans Hanlon, a '93 St. Mary's graduate and local Hobson Realtor. To ensure the nuptials were valid, numerous 1991 grads snuck in the ceremony and/or cocktail reception, including **Will Deupree, Brett Grinder, Jeremy Alpert, Rhodes Scott, Ellis Haddad, Trey Watkins,**

and **Josh Lawhead. Darrell Cobbins** showed for the reception and reminded us all that “the wedding ceremony is like a Monday, my '91 friends, and we all know I don't do Mondays – I show for the primetime, cheers!”

Brett Grinder has been featured in Memphis publications for his involvement in the Crosstown Concourse construction effort. He recently lead a tour of Crosstown for 1991 alumni, including **Will Deupree, Shea Flinn, Ellis Haddad, Bryan Smith, and Jeremy Alpert.** He was also recognized in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2016 Building Memphis Awards category of Best Private Project Over \$10 Million for Grinder, Taber & Grinder's work building downtown's new Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education. Designed to LEED standards, the building includes a state-of-the-art theater, rehearsal hall, and

full-service catering facility.

Josh Poag is developing the \$40 million Graceland West project that will showcase Elvis Presley's automobile collection and movie career while also upgrading the dining options for Graceland visitors.

Rhodes Scott moved to Oxford, MS, with his wife, Betsy, and three children (Tucker, Coker, and Annie) last summer. There were a handful of reasons for the move but the driving factor was family. **Skipper Scott '89** lives in Oxford; **Scotty Scott '83** and Rhodes' parents live in Memphis. Betsy has just about all of her family in the Jackson, MS, area. Rhodes works from home and kept the same job after the relocation. He works for Aspen Dental as the dentist recruitment manager. Tucker, 15, is 6 foot 3, and yes, Coach Peters, he can jam. Coker, 12, is a solid musician and plays piano and percussion. Annie, 9, is brilliant and is a member of Mensa International. Rhodes says, Go, Rebs! According to classmate **Trevor Benitone**, Rhodes, as the former unofficial mayor of Columbia, TN, has now established himself in Oxford as the man to know, but he does not agree that Oxford is a suburb of Memphis.

In lieu of starting his own church, **Graham Sexton** has founded his own radiology practice in Corinth, MS.

David Waddell is back from China, making things happen, and he can often be found growing his investment company in the Nashville market when not in Memphis.

DEATHS



William N. "Nugent" Treadwell '68
February 27, 2016



Robert W. Hummel '70
December 16, 2015



David C. Stewart '70
February 23, 2016



Benjamin L. "Lane" Carrick, Jr. '13
December 24, 2015



In December MUS music instructor **Matt Tutor '91** jammed on Hyde Chapel stage with the B.B. King Blues Club All-Stars. Tutor also spoke during chapel in January about his musical influences and the long-lasting impact of his education. "Without my years at MUS, the best years of my life probably wouldn't have happened," he said. On April 22 he celebrated the release of his CD, *The Barnabas Project: Volume Two*, with a Hyde Chapel concert.

'92

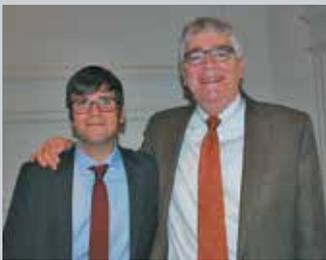
Marc MacMillan, a four-year letterman for the Ole Miss baseball team during the 1990s, has been named the Rebels' new volunteer assistant coach. MacMillan moves into the new position after serving as the team's director of operations over the past two seasons.

'94

John Houseal is on the alumni board at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School.

Ben Doane and his family live near Philadelphia, where he is director of cybersecurity services at SageNet, a company that designs, implements, and manages communications networks.

'96



University of Alabama English Professor **Andy Crank** (pictured with Instructor of English **Lin Askew**) was a guest speaker in chapel this winter. He addressed the myths of Southern culture and urged students to challenge negative stereotypes, especially when they deny or marginalize groups of people. "Be thoughtful about your engagement with regional fantasies. Be open to having

your belief structures challenged, especially about the South. A belief structure that can't broker negotiation is valueless. Being challenged is the soul of a liberal arts education, which is what you're participating in here."

Crank has edited a book of essays on *Gone With the Wind*, which was released in December by LSU Press: bit.ly/AndyCrank

State Sen. **Brian Kelsey**, of the 31st District, announced he is running for Tennessee's 8th District congressional seat that is being vacated by current U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher.

Cameron Mann has a new position in business development and marketing with Memphis-based EdR, one of the largest developers, owners, and managers of high-quality collegiate housing communities. EdR is a self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust (REIT) publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: EDR). In his spare time he's also running Young Avenue Sound, which was recently featured in an article in *The Commercial Appeal*.

'97

David Bowlin recently accepted a position as director of investments with Stifel in Atlanta, GA.

Justin Grinder of Grinder, Taber & Grinder was recognized in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2016 Building Memphis Awards for his firm's work



Alumni participated in the Kick It 5K to Cure Pancreatic Cancer in support of Peggy Drinkard, wife of **Dwight '66** and mother of **Don '98**. Their group, Peggy's Posse, was the top fundraising team in the race, held in early April at Shelby Farms. Pictured front row, from left: Class of 1998 alumni **Matt Saenger, McCown Smith, Jason Lewin, Michael Morgan, Philip Lewis, Michael Black**; back row, **Parks Dixon '69, Justin Lohman '98, Dwight Drinkard '66, Chip Campbell '99, and '98 alumni Don Drinkard, A. Thompson, Michael Taylor, and Lawrence Dow.**

transforming Enoble Business Capital's new headquarters into one of the city's most energy-efficient facilities. He won in the category of Best Renovation or Conversion Project Over \$5 Million.

Will Pace has been named a member of the CPA firm Frazee Ivy Davis in Memphis.

'98

Jay Gardner, a cardiologist with Stern Cardiovascular Foundation, was quoted in the fall issue of *Medical Society Quarterly* about the MitraClip Therapy program, a less-invasive alternative to the standard treatment option of open heart surgery: "This technology is exciting, and I think our patients are going to show increased interest in this treatment."

Philip Lewis has become a member of the law firm Bass

Berry & Sims in Memphis where he advises corporations, partnerships and other entities in connection with mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions, as well as general corporate matters. A certified public accountant with an LL.M. (Master of Laws) in tax, he has significant experience with real estate investment trusts and regularly counsels REITs with respect to corporate and tax issues.

Drew Long and his wife Steffi announce the birth of their son, Max Thomas. So far he's a happy baby (and future bilingual). They have yet to determine if his coos are in his mother's German or dad's English.

'99

Wilson Baird has opened his own custom home and remodel business named FG3 Construction in Memphis.

Richard Burt reminds you that **Will Levy** is set to debut Oak Hall Nashville in the Hill Center in Green Hills this spring. This is good news for our Nashville alumni who for years have been known as the lesser-dressed alumni.

Coach **Logan Taylor**, along with the help of fellow alum **Webster Cannon '02**, won yet another Shelby 7/8 Basketball Championship for Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School.

Neal Weinrich was promoted to shareholder at Berman Fink Van Horn law firm in Atlanta, GA.

'00

Oscar Carr recently earned a master's degree in counseling from the University of Memphis and has joined the staff at the Experiential Healing Center in Memphis where he is a counselor and program manager. He works with individuals, couples, and families with a focus on trauma, substance abuse, depression, stress management, sexual and relationship issues, men's issues, and religious and spiritual issues. He also works with licensed professionals in high-stress jobs with a risk of burnout, including physicians, lawyers, pilots, clergy, and business owners. Previously, he was an attorney at a large Memphis law firm where he helped find solutions for complicated business and personal legal problems.

Constantine Economides has accepted a new job as an associate attorney at Greenberg Traurig in West Palm Beach, FL.

Charley Foster has moved to Helena, MT, to accept a job at Silverman Law Office where he does transactional legal work.

Chris Hamilton serves on the board of directors of Memphis Rise Academy, a northeast Memphis charter school, and he has recently accepted the position of board chairman. He continues to work at General Truck Sales and Service doing legal, accounting, and finance work.

Evan Linder's newest play, *Byhalia, Mississippi*, premiered in January in Memphis at TheatreWorks and was also staged in Chicago, Toronto, and Charleston, SC.

Brian Parks was married to Tatiana Erbstoesser at Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, CA, in October. **Chris Hamilton**, **Scott Fletcher**, **Constantine Economides**, and **Josh Tom** were all there to partake in the wedding festivities. Brian and Tatiana now live in Denver.

Kristi and **John Winford** have relocated to Atlanta from Birmingham, AL. John is with Lee & Associates, a commercial real estate firm, where he focuses on industrial leasing and sales.

'01

Russell Bloodworth has been busy helping restart Walmart Radio.

Chance Carlisle, owner and developer with Carlisle Corp., and contractor **Brett Grinder '91** were recognized in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2016 Building Memphis

Alumni Honored in Building Memphis Awards

In February the *Memphis Business Journal* recognized the city's best building projects through its fourth annual Building Memphis Awards. Six alumni were among the developers, contractors, architects, and brokers who took home awards, including Project of the Year. A panel of five independent judges, which included Jack Morris Auto Glass President and former Downtown Memphis Commission President **Paul Morris '92**, considered numerous factors – including functionality of design, attention to sustainability elements, and number of jobs created – to select the winners in each of six categories.

Best Public/Private Project over \$10M & Project of the Year: Bass Pro Shops, architect **Tom Marshall '77**

Best Public/Private Project under \$10M: AutoZone Park Upgrades, contractor **Montgomery Martin '73**

Best Renovation or Conversion Project over \$5M: Enoble Business Capital, contractor **Justin Grinder '97**

Best Renovation or Conversion Project under \$5M: LYFE Kitchen, owner/developer **Chance Carlisle '01** and contractor **Brett Grinder '91**

Best Private Project over \$10M: Halloran Centre, contractor **Brett Grinder '91**

Best Private Project under \$10M: Whole Foods Market - Germantown, broker **Charlie Oates '77**

For selected photos, visit: bit.ly/BuildingMemphis



Six Men and Five Babies

Alumni from the Class of 2000 brought babies to their holiday gathering, from left, **Roger Soun** with Reese, **Eric Osborne** with Charlotte, **Michael Flynn**, **Collins Rainey** with James, **Sina Yeganeh** with Rory, and **Andrew Shelton** with Elizabeth.

Metcalf Symposium Welcomes Paul McClure

Paul McClure '01 returned to campus in February as the 2016 Metcalf Symposium speaker. He discussed how digital communications technology has affected our lives, focusing especially on its influence on interpersonal relationships, politics, and religion. He encouraged students to be aware of how – and how much – they interact through the Internet and smart phones. When Lower School Principal **Clay Smythe '85** suggested initiating “Phone-Free Fridays,” McClure commented, “You can just feel the anxiety rising in the room.”

A third-year doctoral student in the sociology of religion program at Baylor University, McClure focuses on religious trends and the effects of technology on our religious beliefs and behaviors. He earned a degree in philosophy at Washington and Lee University and for six years taught world religions and ethics at Episcopal High School in Houston, where he also served as varsity tennis coach. He has a master’s degree in theological studies from Regent College in Vancouver, Canada. He said he still considers his “crowning scholarly achievements to be the successful completion of Mr. **Terry Shelton**’s eighth-grade English class and Mr. **Loyal Murphy**’s ’86 AP Calculus class.”

Bubba Halliday '82 and Smythe founded the Metcalf Symposium to encourage student reflection on the great ethical traditions of Western civilization and an exchange of ideas about the arts, humanities, the sciences, civic service, and popular culture – all from a perspective consistent with the school’s Christian tradition. The symposium honors the late Robert M. Metcalf, a businessman, friend of MUS, and former service elder at Second Presbyterian Church.



Clay Smythe, Paul McClure, Coach Bill Taylor, and Bubba Halliday

Awards for the creation of LYFE Kitchen in the former beach-themed Sharky’s Gulf Grill space in East Memphis. They were honored in the Best Renovation or Conversion Project Under \$5 Million category, for meeting the challenge of sustainability in using as much of the existing restaurant’s structure as possible, including siding and metal roofing.

'02

John Adrian has accepted a new position as business manager for academic affairs at the University of Mississippi. He will serve as financial advisor to academic units concerning business matters and University financial and operational policies and procedures. He starts in July and will move to Oxford in June with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, Jack.

'05

Rob Heflin married Alexandria “Alex” Roberts on October 24, 2015, in San Luis Obispo, CA. They reside in Memphis where Rob is a senior consultant with Deloitte.

Worth Morgan is chairman of the public safety and homeland security committee for the Memphis City Council.

Brent Phillips is in health care investment banking with Raymond James Financial in New York City.

Warren Stafford is an associate at Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh in Memphis and focuses his practice in the areas of business

and corporate law, real estate law, health care, and estate planning, probate, and trusts. Prior to joining the firm Stafford worked as a law clerk in the Mississippi Supreme Court for Justice Josiah Coleman.

'06

Daniel Lansky has taken over his grandparents’ Memphis business, Mister Hats, and added a new Nashville location.

Max Prokell shares that his son Jaxtin, 2, has welcomed new baby brother, Jett.

After 10 months in the sales department at Signpost, a local marketing startup in Denver, **Alex Rainer** has been promoted multiple times to reach his new role as sales manager.

Zack Rutland has been promoted to investment consultant at TD Ameritrade in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

'07

West Askew spent two years at GoogleX helping to build their life sciences division (now called Verily), where the mission was to use advanced sensors and analytics to change health care from reactive to proactive. He left GoogleX last May to found FLO LABS, which is a data company for the outdoors. FLO LABS is using connected sensors and machine learning to help people make faster and more reliable decisions about their next adventure by giving them the information they need at just the right moment.



Phillip Flinn flashes a perfect U in the campus courtyard.

Celebrating 10 Years of the U

Anyone who has attended an MUS sports event within the last decade has surely seen a familiar rallying sign for the community – the two-handed U symbol. Football fans are no doubt aware that the sign is also used at the University of Miami. As reported in a 2012 article in the university's student newspaper, cheerleader Bill Tigano first introduced the hand gesture in 1992 for a home football game against Florida State.

So now, you may be wondering, how were the Owls able to make this powerful, iconic symbol their own? Let the origin of our U symbol be shrouded in mystery no more. According to **Phillip Flinn '05**, it came down to creative genius, a really great rap, and an inspiring performance.

In the fall of 2004, as Flinn recalls, his friend **Sloan Abernathy '05**, then vice-president of the Student Council, recruited him to perform a rap for Fall Fest. Flinn, a football and basketball player and president of the Honor Council, was up for the challenge. "We collaborated and came up with a song we called 'White Fleece,' based off the rap song 'White Tee' by Dem Franchize Boyz, and decided it would be funny to dress in white fleeces or sweaters

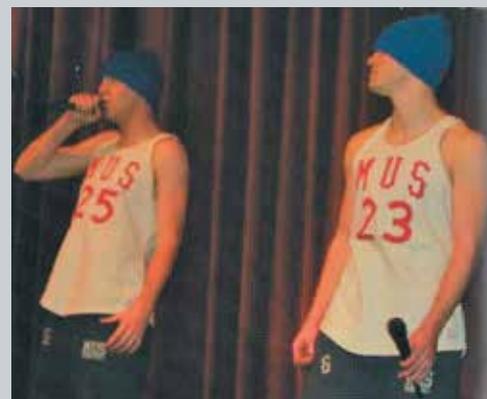
to perform. It was a big hit."

When basketball season rolled around and homecoming festivities got underway, the idea of making another rap emerged. This time, Flinn collaborated with friend **Jimbo Welch '05**, captain of the basketball team.

"We decided to make our own rap for the pep rally to get the crowd going," Flinn says, "so we came up with what we called the 'Buzzard Clap,' after a song by local rapper Yo Gotti called the 'Burna Clap.' We had a couple of basketball players up with us during the pep rally, and a few teachers like Mr. **[Lin] Askew**, and we did this clap to the beat, which didn't really catch on. But along with that, Jimbo and I had the idea to do the U, based off the University of Miami. There are lines in the rap about 'Where the north at, where the south at ...' which we changed to, 'Where the U at!' and put our hands together and held up the U sign. We thought it could be a big thing if it caught on – a little mark of our basketball team and our senior class – if it spread to the student body. We had a great class and a lot of school spirit."

That night at the game, much to Flinn's delight, he noticed students doing the U when the players were shooting free throws. "They would hold it up, then turn it down when the ball went into the basket, and that's how it all started. It just kind of spread."

Today, more than 10 years later, it's common for students to throw up the U at athletic events as well as academic competitions. The 2012-13 Annual Fund mailing was actually a field manual for flashing the perfect U. Lower School Principal **Clay Smythe '85** even teaches new students how to properly display the symbol as part of their Owl Camp orientation every August.



From left, Jimbo Welch and Phillip Flinn channel Yo Gotti at Basketball Homecoming 2005 and prepare to introduce the U symbol on campus for the very first time.

"I love hearing that," says Flinn, now a first-year radiology resident in the University of Tennessee/Methodist Healthcare program. "The U is a short-but-sweet story that needs to be a part of MUS lore since it's something that has lived on.

"I should have trademarked it!"

'07

Miles DeBardeleben has begun his first year as a medical student at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Sisco Larson is on the alumni board at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School.

Chris McDonald was appointed by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve his administration as special advisor for energy policy. Prior to his appointment, Chris received his J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law, was admitted to the Virginia State Bar, and served in a number

of government and political campaign roles. Chris previously worked with McAuliffe as senior policy aide on his 2013 campaign.



Erim Sarinoglu is an assistant public defender in the Shelby County Public Defender's office. He and classmate **Preston Battle** helped prepare MUS students for the 2016 Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Competition this winter.

Miles Tamboli made the annual *Memphis Flyer* list of Hotties, which featured "14 of Memphis' best-looking and most interesting people." Photo courtesy *Memphis Flyer*.



Several alumni collaborated on the Cheez Whizards team at the Grilled Cheese Festival held at the Hi-Tone Café in December, as reported in *The Commercial Appeal*. Team member **Sisco Larson** said, "We started off with Texas toast. Then we put on thick-cut bacon, bologna, Spam, Jalapeño Spam, sharp cheddar cheese, Easy Cheese, Cheez Whiz, and pimento cheese. We also had Velveeta." The double-decker sandwich was champagne-battered and deep-fried, covered in hot sauce, and then garnished with a Twinkie. The crowd reaction? "They actually liked it," Jordan said. Team members, pictured at right, are **Larson, Ben Jordan, Mike Hanna, and Jim Kyle**.

'06

After Christmas **Lance Minor** spent over two weeks traveling through Southeast Asia, riding motorcycles through Vietnam and then backpacking through Cambodia and Thailand. From left, Minor and friend Matt Richardson near the Mekong River in Vietnam.



Photo courtesy Michael Donahue/*Commercial Appeal*



'08

Scott Edwards is an associate in the Atlanta office of King & Spalding and a member of the firm's corporate practice group, where he focuses on mergers and acquisitions, general corporate matters for public and private companies, and capital raising activities. Edwards received his bachelor of science in mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his law degree from Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of the Vanderbilt Law Review.

After graduating from law school in 2015, **Jack Heflin** joined the law firm of Bourland, Heflin, Alvarez, Minor & Matthews in Memphis as an associate attorney.

Scott McClintock is the special projects coordinator for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

Michael Stein was promoted to associate in the real estate structured finance group at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Charlotte, NC. He recently structured and closed the sale of a \$330 million construction facility in the TriBeCa neighborhood in New York. Proceeds were used to finance the conversion of a landmarked office building into a luxury mixed-use project.

'09

Will Anthony is an account executive with Entercom Communications in Memphis.

Mark Beanblossom is a commercial real estate analyst with Pinnacle Financial Partners in Memphis.

Will Carter is a commercial credit underwriter with Regions Financial in Memphis.

Thomas Ivy is an engineer with Turner Construction in Charlotte, NC.

Will Paxton is in Houston where he is a senior analyst at GDF SUEZ Energy North America, working in retail portfolio management for Texas power and gas assets.

'10

Patrick Massey is an energy software consultant at Allegro Development Corp. in Dallas.

Keith McBride attended the United States Naval Academy and later transferred to William & Mary where he played football and majored in economics. He graduated from William & Mary last May and started working as an associate auditor at FedEx in August.

Holman Moores is a junior associate with Ozanne Financial Services in Dallas.

Travis Nauert is on the alumni board at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School.

Peter Rainer is a clerk at the law firm of Farris Bobango in Memphis.

John Straton is an analyst in the public finance group at Raymond James in Memphis.



Mitchell Thompson is in his first year as the defensive back coach at Oberlin College.

He spent the prior two seasons as a defensive intern and outside linebackers coach at Amherst College. He was involved in all aspects of the Amherst defense, assisted with special teams and strength and conditioning, and recruited players from Texas, California, and other states in the southwest region. Thompson was a two-time time Old Dominion Athletic Conference Champion and two-time All-ODAC defensive back at Washington and Lee University.

Jesse Wade has recently been promoted to manager on the customer success team at Main Street Hub in Austin, TX. Main Street Hub has been listed in *Inc.* magazine's Inc. 500 as one of the fastest-growing companies in America for the past two years.

'11

James Akers moved to New York City in November and works in business development at ResiModel. Launched in 2013, ResiModel was created to revolutionize the way deal information is shared and analyzed for the roughly \$250 billion in multifamily dwelling transactions completed in the U.S. each year.

Rob Dickinson is an investment banking analyst at Stifel in New York City.

John Hudson is living in Tempe, AZ, where he is enrolled in the MBA program at Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business. He also works as an account manager for Yelp.

Wilson Luttrell is finishing the Master of Accountancy program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has accepted a job offer from Deloitte and will be living in Nashville this fall.

Ben Roberts visited campus in February and spoke to students during chapel about his work in politics. A recent graduate of the University of Alabama, Roberts has done fieldwork for Ben Carson's presidential campaign and worked for U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher (R-TN) in Washington, DC. He encouraged students to get involved in politics: "Vote. Take part in the process. Let your voice be heard." Next up for Roberts, his MBA.



From left, **John Edwards '11**, **Evan Sousoulas '11**, Roberts, and Barrett Heffington (CBHS '11).

'12

Toby Baker, the Razorbacks' junior punter, served as tour guide during his team's visit to Memphis to play in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. Baker was awarded a scholarship in December at the team's senior banquet.

Drew Stevenson graduates in May from Southern Methodist University with a degree in

'12

Rhodes Senior Teaches Technology

With the help of Google and the Clarence Day Foundation, **Thomas Threlkeld**, a senior computer science major and Day Scholar at Rhodes College, spent last summer teaching middle school girls how to do computer coding through a camp he created called Camp Codette. Profiled on the Rhodes College website, Threlkeld was required to meet with the other nationwide grant winners at Google to discuss the project, which was a particular highlight of the process. Camp Codette attracted more than 70 participants from throughout the city, and planning is underway for this summer's camp, which will expand to include instruction on virtual reality. In other recent news, Thomas and two classmates won the overall prize in the RhodesHack 0 competition for the development of an iOS app that, among other features, allows musicians to find other local musicians to practice with. Read more about him here: bit.ly/ThrelkeldRhodes



Camp Codette 2015; photo courtesy of Rhodes College



finance from the Cox School of Business. He has accepted a job in Little Rock, AR, as an equity research analyst with Stephens Inc.



Ole Miss football player **Ben Still** (far right) enjoyed a Sugar Bowl win with his teammates Alex Givens and Jacob Feely.

Trip Underwood is the president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

'13

Pace Clark placed second with a time of 1:40.80 in the 200 Butterfly at the 2016 SEC Swimming and Diving Championships.



A member of the University of North Carolina men's lacrosse team, junior midfielder **Peyton Klawinski** was tapped for third-team honors on the preseason All-America

Lacrosse team, as announced by *Face-Off Yearbook* and *Inside Lacrosse* magazine. Klawinski had a breakthrough year for the Tar Heels in 2015, starting 13 of 17 games in the first midfield. He was UNC's fifth-leading scorer with 22 points. Klawinski had 19 goals and three assists and scored on 43.2 percent of his shots: bit.ly/Klawinski.

Christian Sanders was recognized on the University of Memphis's Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester.

Sports Illustrated's Campus Rush website featured a story about **Jonathan Wilfong** and **Andrew Renshaw** and the nonprofit charity they founded almost four years ago, Coaching for Literacy.

'14



Rhodes College sophomore **Renn Eason** broke Rhodes' school record in the high jump with a leap of 2.11 meters (6'11") in the Emory University Crossplex Invitational in Birmingham, AL, in January. Eason's mark ranks him first nationally among NCAA Division III schools.

Paul Stevenson was recently selected to take part in the University of Notre Dame's highly competitive International Summer Service Learning Program. He will learn about international issues/relations and poverty and get a chance to serve others in Brazil this

summer during his eight-week stay with a host family. The program will include work with an outreach organization to help serve the country's poor and disenfranchised.



Tulane students **Tejvir Vaghela** and **Max Meyer '15** caught up with fellow Grizz fan **Billy Orgel '81** to see the Grizzlies beat the Pelicans in December in New Orleans.



Stanford sophomore **Harrison Williams** excelled in the 4x400 relay leadoff spot in the Big Meet vs. rival Cal this April, helping lead his teammates to a sweep and breaking a three-year losing streak in the competition (bit.ly/WilliamsBigMeet). Williams was named Pac-12 Field Athlete of the Week April 5 after winning the Texas Relays decathlon with 7,842 points, the highest score by a collegian or an American this year, and No. 4 in the world. He also placed fourth in the heptathlon at the Indoor NCAA Championships in March, setting a school record of 5,937 points. Here's hoping he is on the road to Rio...

MARRIAGES

Bob Loeb '73 to Mary Seay, Thanksgiving 2015

Trevor Benitone '91 to Carrie Evans Hanlon on February 6, 2016

Jonathan Magallanes '93 to Lauren Whiteside on December 6, 2015

Cory Prewitt '96 to Meg Parker on November 14, 2015

Paul McClure '01 to Kate Bradley on August 8, 2015

Rob Heflin '05 to Alex Roberts on October 24, 2015

BIRTHS

Lindsay and **Will Adams '93**, twins, Louisa Florine and William Franklin, born January 14, 2016

Kimberley and **Neill Ayres '94**, a son, Phoenix Walker, born November 24, 2015

Alysson and **Spencer Reese '94**, a daughter, Willow Rosalind Thèrèse, born December 9, 2015

Rebekah and **Rusty Shappley '96**, a son, Silas Robert, born August 7, 2015

Sara and **Reynolds Hillyer '97**, a son, Samuel Townesend "Townes," born November 11, 2015

Steffi and **Drew Long '98**, a son, Max Thomas

Rachel and **Matthew Ware '98**, a daughter, Abigail Gardner, born January 23, 2016

Ginger and **Frazier Baker '99**, a daughter, Anne Beach "Annie," born November 14, 2015

Betsy and **Brown Burch '99**, a daughter, Lucille Blayne, born December 12, 2015

Meredith and **Michael Lafferty '99**, a son, Cooper Michael, born October 28, 2015

Bridget and **Elliot Pope '99**, a daughter, Louise Patricia, born December 21, 2015

Liz and **Bert Stemmler '99**, a daughter, Isabel Jane, born December 1, 2015

Mari and **Constantine Economides '00**, a daughter, Sora Lia, born June 10, 2015

Ellie and **Eric Osborne '00**, a daughter, Charlotte Jane, born September 15, 2015

Ruth and **Andy Garrett '03**, a son, Harvey Edward, born November 17, 2015

Catherine and **Alex Lawhorn '03**, a daughter, Lucia Elizabeth "Lucy," born September 2, 2015

Sophie and **Price Edwards '05**, a son, Charles Trapp "Charlie," born December 29, 2015

Joy and **Paul Morrow '06**, a daughter, Mayfield Mary, born February 8, 2016

Austin and **Max Prokell '06**, a son, Jett, born July 30, 2015



Owl Counselors at Camp Bear Track last summer: **Andrew Shelton '15** (second from left), **Pierce Jones '15** (third from left), **Ted Fockler '10** (sixth from left), **Cal Edge '14** (seventh from left), **Will Ansbro '14** (eighth from left)

'15

A.J. Hunt's notable performance on the field for Birmingham-Southern College was recognized by the Southern Athletic Association in a post Feb. 15: "Freshman catcher A.J. Hunt had an impressive start to his career, helping No. 8 BSC go 2-1 this past weekend including a win against No. 7 Trinity on Friday. He hit .500 (4-8) over the three games, with a double, an RBI, and a stolen base. Defensively, he made 17 putouts with two assists and no errors, including a huge pick-off against Centenary in the bottom of the eighth on Sunday to help preserve the victory for the Panthers."

Max Meyer is serving two presidencies as Tulane's Sigma Chi pledge class president and the Sharp Hall president. He is a Green Wave Ambassador and writes for the school's online publication, *The Hullabaloo*. Watch for him as an extra in the

movie *Billionaire Boys Club*, scheduled for release this year.



Carlton Orange, a freshman at the University of Arkansas, won the men's 800-meter race at the Razorback Invitational in January with a time of 1:47.38. The finish looked like this. Photo courtesy NWA *Democrat-Gazette*/BEN GOFF

Harrison Schutt, **Jerry Oates**, **Nicholas Manley**, and **Jim Waggoner** celebrated the release of their self-titled CD, *Jenette McKurdy*, in December at the Hi-Tone in Memphis (see Covers article on page 21).

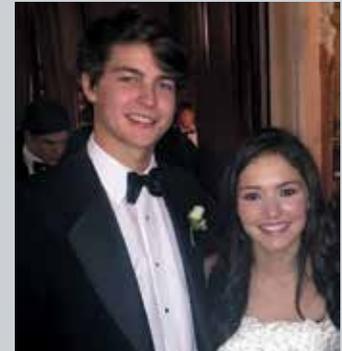
Grant Stevenson, a freshman at University of Arkansas in

Fayetteville, made the Dean's List in the Sam M. Walton College of Business, and he was initiated into the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.



Alumni strengthen SMU men's lacrosse: from left, **Griffin Wilson**, **Myatt McClure '14**, and **Tom Garrott**, after a 17-11 win over Oklahoma this spring. The Mustangs are ranked

25th nationally in the MCLA Division I Coaches Poll.



Cole Adams and **Julia Greenstein** attended the Memphis Junior Cotillion Club Presentation and Holiday Ball in December.



Alumni Owls Got Game

Three former Owl basketball players (spanning six decades!) converged on the court at Rhodes College before a game between Rhodes and Emory & Henry over the holidays. Pictured from left, Rhodes basketball player **Danny Galvin '12**, scorekeeper **Jimmy Ogle '70**, and Emory & Henry coach **David Willson '99**. The common thread was basketball and Coach Jerry Peters: All played for him at MUS. Galvin's team won Coach Peters' 1,000th game in 2012. Ogle's team won Coach Peters' 100th game in 1970. Ogle also played at Rhodes (1970-72), and Coach Peters graduated from Rhodes (then Southwestern at Memphis) in 1960. Coach Willson's Emory & Henry team won the game, 78-68; Galvin of Rhodes had 13 points and seven rebounds. Also spotted in the stands watching the game were **Rick Moore '63**, **Paul Gillespie '01**, **Tread Thompson '01**, and **Webster Cannon '02**.

Class Reps

Send news to your class representative listed below
or to Ann Laughlin at ann.laughlin@musowls.org.

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'60	Alex Wellford.....	awellford@farris-law.com	'96	Nelson Cannon.....	nelsoncannon@hotmail.com
'61	Scott May.....	sfmay@bellsouth.net	'96	Robert Dow.....	mail@robertdow.com
'62	Jerry Bradfield.....	jbradfi293@aol.com	'96	Rusty Shappley.....	wshappley@gmail.com
'63	Doug Ferris.....	dferris@ffcfuelcells.com	'97	Justin Grinder.....	jgrinder@grindertaber.com
'64	Bill Quinlen.....	wlq1975@aol.com	'97	Trey Jones.....	trey.jones@ldcom.com
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'94	Kirby May.....	kirbymay@hotmail.com	'15	Joseph Preston.....	jpres1@ucla.edu
'95	David Bradford.....	dbradford@ssr-inc.com	'15	Connor Wright.....	connor.m.wright97@gmail.com



Young Alumni Holiday Brunch

A morning game of dodgeball was scheduled in December, but when these guys gathered, they decided it would be more fun just to eat and catch up.



Front row from left, Edward Francis '12, Michael Jacobs '15, Xavier Greer '15, Griffin Wilson '15, Salman Haque '14, Jeremy Boshwit '14, Connor Wright '15; back row, Jack Christenbury '15, Ted Helmhout '15, Mitchell Clark '15, Preston White '15, James David Duke '12, William Merriman '15

Emerging Leaders Luncheon

Young alumni welcomed new Memphis City Council members **Frank Colvett '88** (District 2) and **Worth Morgan '05** (District 5) to campus in January for the Emerging Leaders luncheon. Colvett and Morgan talked about their areas of interest and the sense of optimism they feel about the city and its future. They also enjoyed visiting with fellow alumni.



From left, Elliot Embry '04, Colvett, Morgan, and Headmaster Ellis Hagewood



Rob Park '05, Chase Carlisle '03, and Eric Beaty '01



Jack Steffner '09 and Paul Stephens '10



Reid Wesson '06 and John Summers '05



Garrott McClintock '06 and Xander Batey '09



Your gifts in memory of loved ones or in honor of special friends 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:

In Memory Of _____

- A. ROBERT BOELTE, JR.
Ms. Patricia J. Boelte
Mr. Raymond W. Moore, Jr. '81
Dr. and Mrs. Wiley T. Robinson '75
- DAVID BOWIE
Anonymous
- ELNA J. BRUNETTI
Mrs. Julia M. DeBardeleben
- MR. AND MRS. FORREST N. BURNETT
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Burnett '83
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Mr. and Mrs. Chaseton R. Carlisle '03
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Hickman '76
Mr. Jonathan M. Large
Dr. and Mrs. Wiley T. Robinson '75
Ms. Lynn W. Thompson, Mr. Walker C. Thompson '13, and
Mr. Mitchell C. Thompson '10
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Mr. Jonathan M. Large
Ms. Kimberly F. McAmis
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Mr. Carter M. Evans
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- JAMES D. GROAT, JR.
Mrs. Claire K. Farmer
- JOHN F. HILTONSMITH
Ms. Gina G. Webb
- THOMAS GARVIN HOLLINGER
Mr. Perry D. Dement
Mrs. Claire K. Farmer
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew F. Saunders III

- W. THOMAS HUTTON '61
Mrs. Linda H. Hutton
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THE LAST WORD



View From the Teachers' Lounge

by Norman Thompson

“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.” (“The more things change, the more they remain the same.”) This epigram, penned by a Frenchman in the middle of the 19th century, is a universal truth, at least it seems so from my point of view.

In my callow years at MUS, when the world was young and before Time had envisaged the shape of things to come (i.e., the early '70s), the campus and physical plant were very different places. Then, a black hole of Calcutta existed on campus, ironically called the teachers' lounge, a gloomy dungeon, the only light filtering through a begrimed window, because the overhead fluorescent fixture was seldom

turned on as it rendered the lounge lizards visually repugnant, even to themselves. As the faculty then was almost exclusively male, it reminded me somewhat of P.G. Wodehouse's Drones Club. It was, during free periods, inhabited by what P.G. called Eggs, Beans, and Crumpets, and a goodish deal of smoke (then permitted), but, alas, no gin-and-tonics. (Mr. **Jonathan Large**'s present-day classroom is reminiscent of the crepuscular ambiance of that murky refuge, offering brief asylum from students' inventive excuses for having not completed the paper due or read the material assigned.) The lounge was a place “fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils,” as Shakespeare

would have described it. In Wodehouse's Drones Club there was a rule against making speeches. This rule was observed in the lounge, because any speechifier found himself declaiming to an unreceptive audience given to hurling barbed commentary, nasty invective, or exuding total indifference.

The denizens of this place, teachers of the first water, men who forged the traditions and the reputation of MUS, were also characters as memorable as those inhabiting a Mel Brooks movie or a Charles Dickens novel. Among them was a dyspeptic World War II decorated veteran, whose salty (and unquotable) denunciations of certain students and their ineptitudes would sing

his auditors' ear hair. His baleful glance would silence the Pollyannaish optimism of a young teacher, who in his world-weary, experienced view, had not yet crashed into the Wall of Reality. Despite residing in an exclusive neighborhood, he was eccentrically frugal. Once he entered the lounge in a shabby but serviceable overcoat, asking us in attendance to guess how much he had paid for it. All our guesses were high (though very low). "Five dollars at Salvation Army!" he beamed. Later in the semester he entered the lounge, asking me (as I was his only audience) to guess what he had paid for the pants that he was then wearing. Fooled once, this time I guessed "\$2." Grinning broadly (something he seldom did), he said, "Wrong. Free! I found them in the street near my house and changed into them in my van when I got to school."

Another frequenter of this arid oasis was an iconic English teacher, whose portrait now graces the walls of the Dining Hall, along with other legends who forged the brand of excellence that defines MUS. Mr. **William Hatchett** could be seen in the same spot on the couch, his hands clasped across his expansive midsection, his black-framed spectacles on the tip of his nose, cigarette in mouth, smoke filtering up behind his glasses, as he hummed atonal melodies known only to himself. He was a repository of arcane knowledge that he was more than happy to share with such a fledgling teacher as I then was. From him I learned – and came to believe – that Keats was the greatest of the Romantic poets. It was Bill Hatchett who introduced me to the magical, mythic world of Wodehouse. I reveled in his readings of the poetry of Robert W. Service. Where some would see eccentricity in a teacher steeped in the sublime work of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton, but who also thrilled to "The Shooting of Dan McGrew," Bill Hatchett saw none.

Among the many larger-than-life teachers who from time to time inhaled the smoky air of the teachers' lounge was the pipe-smoking chemistry teacher affectionately known as Mr. O. Respected as a teacher and mentor to students scientifically challenged, he was nonetheless a serial purveyor of malapropisms. Despite concealing in his briefcase copies of books with titles like *10 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary*, his public verbal gaffes became legendary. In chapel he once spoke about previous headmaster Mr. **Gene Thorn**, whom he called "Headmaster Emetrius." Another

time, outraged and blustering, he famously described a student prank, saying that the young miscreant had placed a "conundrum" on a classroom doorknob. In chapel he frequently berated students, calling them "yahoos" for their misconduct in the Dining Hall. His sarcasm (and his torturing of the English language) was boundless as he held up forks (silverware was made of metal then) bent into interesting geometric shapes. Attentive listeners in the lounge began to take notes as he spoke, with the tongue-in-cheek intention to publish a book titled *The Sayings of Chairman O*.

Today's faculty also comprises superior teachers whom the casual observer might deem eccentric, as one of them dresses on occasion as a dead ringer for the Incredible Hulk. Another impersonates Sherlock Holmes and has the honor of being a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. Yet another is comfortable in the worlds of Harry Potter and Mr. Spock.

Though the teachers' lounge exists no longer, not much has changed today. Teachers now – including a goodly number of female teachers – forgo their individual offices, in the Dining Hall, and in the "workroom," where coffee is on tap, and snacks are often to be had. The conversation in these places is still, as in days of yore, snarky, arch, and often laden with groan-inducing puns.

Back in the day, as the idiom goes, classrooms were very different places as well. Rooms were vaulted and therefore cold in the winter and hot in early months of the school year. Window air conditioners were noisy and ineffective. One spring day long ago, I had opened a window to let in some fresh air. A new and much improved air-conditioning system had recently been installed, one with overhead ducts and vents. Standing at the chalkboard lecturing, I was interrupted unceremoniously in mid-sentence by an overall-clad workman, who looked neither left nor right as he walked to the window, dropped an extension cord out the window, and left the room. He went into the courtyard adjoining the classroom and loudly drilled a number of holes in the window frame. He then re-entered my classroom, looking neither left or right again, shut the window, unplugged the extension cord and retraced his steps to the courtyard, where he bolted the window forever shut. During the whole of this incident not a word was uttered by the workman, the class, or me. When the weather warmed,

cool air flooded the room. But open windows and spring breezes were a thing of the past.

Today the air conditioning is very effective. On hot, steamy days now the glass in the entrance to the west wing of the Upper School fogs over, and the area is actually chilly. In the summer the AC is so frigid that ladies in the administrative wing often crank up space heaters. So, while much has changed, apparently the discomfort level has remained the same.

The student body, of course, constantly changes. It renews itself completely every six years. And yet it remains the same. One first day of school several years ago, I looked at the new class for the first time and had a *Twilight Zone* experience, for there sat a young man I had taught more than 20 years before. Momentarily non-plussed, I soon realized that this was the son of my erstwhile student. I have long noticed that students, when observed over a span of years, seem to fall into types or categories. Many physically resemble their peers from the past. Many have talents and personalities that are carbon copies of their predecessors. The years go by apace, but the aspiration to excellence by these young men remains the same.

The faculty, too, like all things in this mutable world, changes. Only one teacher on the faculty today was here when I was fortunate enough to be admitted to the MUS faculty. And yet, the standard of excellence in the interim has been maintained or improved. A significant number of present teachers are MUS alumni. One new teacher, a highly accomplished musician, **Matt Tutor '91**, recently spoke in chapel of how he was transmogrified by his tenure at MUS. He testified that his time as a student may not have been the best time of his life, but it made possible the best times and the even better time to come.

So, the more things change, the more they stay the same. What goes around, comes around. Shakespeare speaks of "the whirligig of time," that temporal carousel that manifests the truism that there is nothing new under the sun.

Norman Thompson has been an MUS instructor in English since 1972, and he holds the L. Edwin Eleazer III Chair of Excellence in Teaching.

On one of the four mission trips Steve Maroda '75 has made to Ethiopia, the team brought baseball gear and taught some of the local children, including Samuel Degife, how to play the game for the first time. "We introduced the sport to this mountainous village," Maroda says. "They had never seen anything like this because they are totally off the grid. They have no electricity and have never seen a TV or a 'moving picture.' It's amazing and pure." Read about Maroda's mission work on page 16.





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